

GEORGE JOHN BEATTY WEST

— His Ancestors and Descendants —

Jaco Coetzee

**Oudtshoorn
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Direct all correspondence to the author:
28 Van der Riet Street
OUDTSHOORN
6620

email: marajaco@cybersmart.co.za

This book is dedicated to
our intrepid Irish ancestors
who dared to come to Africa
and established a formidable branch of the
West
on this magnificent continent.

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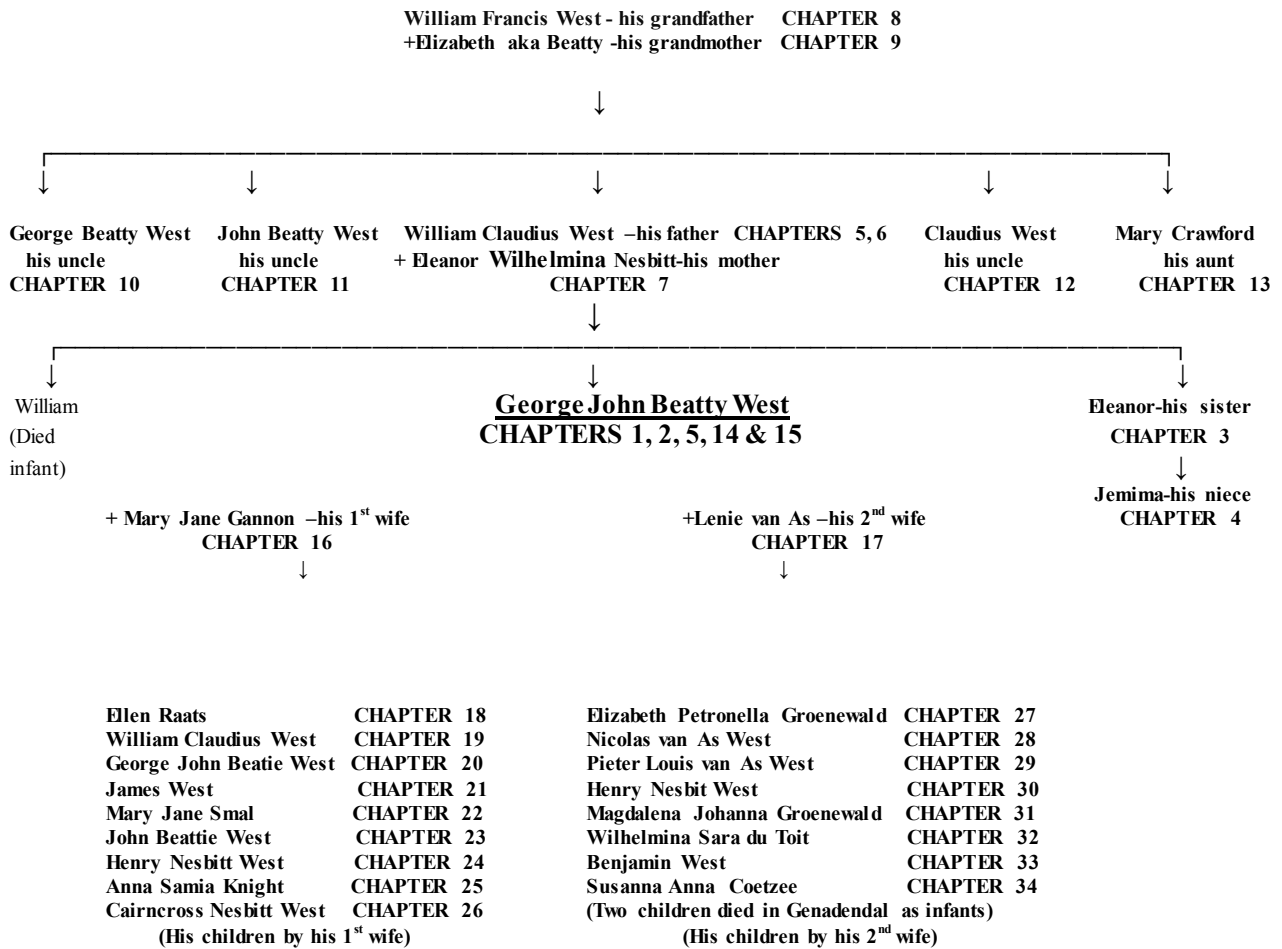
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The internet version and an invitation to the reader

This is the internet version of the book and is still work in progress. The reader is invited to send additional information, to point out errors and to suggest improvements. Send any comments to the author by email: marajaco@cybersmart.co.za

To facilitate regular editing of the document in MSWord, the author removed most photographs from the manuscript, but the idea is to later incorporate these again. Inclusion of photographs creates a very large PDF, which is also difficult to download from the internet. Readers are however invited to also send scans of family photographs to the author. It is ideal to send scans of good quality (resolution of more than 300 dpi) in order to ensure satisfactory reproduction in a future publication. Scanning of photographs with a scanner almost always produce a better copy than taking a photograph with a camera because of the difficulty of ensuring perfect focus and holding the camera steady. (Please identify persons or places on photographs by including a proposed caption. If it can be dated, it will add value.)

It always proves to be difficult to make quick changes to an MSWord document when the text is interspersed with photos. It can be considered to create a West Photo Album separate from this manuscript. The author has copies of many of the letters quoted in this document and also a collection of old West photographs. It would however be wonderful to get copies of other rare photographs.

It would also be great if relevant maps can be created of the counties in Ireland where the roots of the family are found, but also maps of those places in South Africa where the West family settled. Any help with these will be much appreciated.

The author will be delighted to receive more pictures of the children of George John Beatty West – the collection is not complete.

Introduction and acknowledgements

People often asked me: "Why did you do the research of the West family? Was it just out of curiosity? Did you do it for your mother and her brothers and sisters? Was it to help Deon who could not finish the task? Were you looking for your roots to understand yourself better?" I really do not know.

In *Familia* (Vol 5, no 3) Simon du Plooy, the then president of the Genealogical Society of South Africa, expressed in words one of the most common, difficult, at times frustrating and challenging experiences of a family researcher: "*Daar is waarskynlik nie 'n familienavorser wat nie iewers in sy navorsing voor 'n sogenaamde "baksteenmuur" te staan gekom het nie. Daardie koppeling wat nie met sekerheid gedoen kan word nie weens 'n tekort aan inligting maar veral teenstrydige inligting wat, soos verwag kan word, ook deur die afwesigheid van bronne gekenmerk word*". (There probably is no family researcher who never in his research was confronted with a "brick wall". It is that connection which you cannot ascertain because of lack of information and especially contradictory information that, as one can imagine, is characterized by the lack of information). In my late brother Deon's and my research we often encountered many of those "brick walls" but we succeeded in breaking through many of them. However, factors like a lack of money and time remained a challenge.

Most of the West descendants are Afrikaans speaking. Considering more of the family emigrated and are not fluent in Afrikaans, I wrote in English. Since the results of this research, like most genealogical studies, are not final and complete, it has reached a point where other members of the family can now be invited to build upon the foundation that was laid, to make improvements and to clarify uncertainties. If this project stimulates others to this end, I would have reached my goal and Deon and I would have fulfilled our dream. The manuscript is still in a draft format and will be placed on an internet website where all interested parties can access it. It would be great to receive contributions to improve the document and maybe it can eventually result in the printing of a proper West Book with stories and photos for every descendant to enjoy.

George John Beatty West is the ancestor of more than 2 200 South Africans. His descendants include families such as: Badenhorst, Bailie, Bakker, Barnard, Basson, Beukes, Blom, Bosman, Botes, Botha, Brand, Brink, Brits, Brooks, Burmeister, Chalmers, Chambers, Champion, Cockrell, Coetzee, Combrinck, Cooper, Crous, de Beer, de Jongh, de Kock, de Villiers, de Vito-French, Deysel, du Plessis, du Preez, du Toit, Ellis, Els, Engelbrecht, Esterhuisen, Fick, Fletcher, Fourie, Geldenhuys, Gerber, Germishuys, Ginsberg, Greyling, Groenewald, Hall, Halperen, Hamman, Heynes, Hoon, Human, Hvarness, Immelman, Inglis, Jacobs, Johnson, Jordaan, Joubert, Kerwan, Knight, Kotze, Kruger, Kuhn, Labuschagne, Lachenicht, Langenhoven, Lategan, le Grange, le Roux, Malan, Marais, Matthee, McCarthy, Mentz, Meyer, Millar, Millins, Milne, Moffat, Moore, Neethling, Nel, Neugebauer, Niemand, Oosthuizen, Otto, Ovenstone, Palmer, Patterson, Pedersen, Pienaar, Potgieter, Pregnolato, Raats, Reymonds, Richter, Ritchie, Roberts, Roelofse, Roodt, Roux, Rudman, Saayman, Scheepers, Schmidt, Schneeberger, Schoeman, Scholts, Schreuder, Schutte, Sharp, Smal, Smit, Smith, Smuts, Sowden, Sparks, Steenkamp, Sterne, Strauss, Strydom, Swanepoel, Swart, Taljaard, Terreblanche, Theart, Theron, Thiert, Tome, Truter, Uitenweerd, Van Antwerpen, van den Berg, van der Merwe, Van der Westhuizen, Van Heerden, van Rensburg, van Velzen, van Vuuren, van Wyk, van Zyl, Venter, Viljoen, Visser, Warrington, Webb-Stock, Well-Beloved, Wepener, West, White, Williams, Wright and other families in South Africa. There are however quite a number of West families in South Africa with whom I found no

connections. Our research is only about the ancestors and descendants of **George John Beatty West**.

The transcribed letters by his sister Ellen, his father and even the small notes by Ellen's daughter Jemima included in this manuscript and the context in which they were written, gave insight into the great difficulties in which they had to survive both in the Emerald country (Ireland) and here in the Caledon district. It also helped to see where the Irish roots of George can be found.

The letters between George, his son Cairncros Nesbitt and his daughter Daisy give insight into their pro-British attitude during and after the Boer War.

George's youngest son Benjamin died in France during WW1. The correspondence between Benjamin and his family and friends consisting of more than 150 letters, cards, telegrams and photos give us a fascinating view into the life of a family member who served as an ordinary soldier during that terrible war of 26 July 1914 until 11 November 1918.

May the reading of this book inspire you to visit Ireland. It will surely give you better insight of what our West ancestors went through. When in Dublin, you can walk the 600 meters from the New Aviva Rugby Stadium, cross the river Dodder, turn left on Newbridge Ave up to Tritonville Rd, turn left and at the corner of Tritonville Rd and Church Ave, opposite the new Police station you will find the lovely old St Mathews Church on your left. The graveyard is on your right, adjacent to the church. There you will find the new tombstone of William Claudius West, his wife Eleanor Wilhelmina (Nesbitt), aunt Eleanor Swan and their two grandchildren. This new tombstone was dedicated and unveiled after the Holy Communion service on Sunday the 26th of September 2010 by Canon Ardis and Deon Coetzee, the great grandson of our West ancestors under the watchful eyes of two emotional great grandchildren Nicolas West Coetzee and myself.

Put flowers on the grave and let your mind wander. If a few tears come to your eyes, you will not be the first person who have that experience. Your tears will fall on the same soil and become one with that of your ancestors, Eleanore Wilhelmina West born Nesbitt, her daughter Ellen, granddaughter Jemima and other family and friends of the West family. The West family who already visited the small graveyard and attended the Sunday morning service, said it was unforgettable. We three brothers found it an emotional experience during the unveiling of the new tombstone to kneel down in front of the altar, receiving the bread and wine from the Rev Canon Ted Ardis, realizing that it is the same place where our great grandmother knelt with her daughter Ellen during those lonely years after her husband's and Ellen's children's death.

After this and a visit to Kilmainham jail, you as a thirsty descendant of the Irish, must go for a ... yes, a Guinness. There is only one pub in Ireland where you as a descendant of George West can go. It is the 200 year old "*The Bleeding Horse*" on the corner of Upper Camden Street and Charlotte Way. This pub with its black floor is the place where the 19 year old George met his sweetheart and future wife the 23 year old Mary Jane Gannon in 1847. Enjoy the black liquid and let your thoughts go back to Mary Jane, serving the clients while the young George waited somewhere with his Guinness. Let someone take a photo of you with your upper lip covered in white foam of the Guinness, like their great granddaughter Jenny Gray did. From there you walk straight down with Lower Camden Street and stop at 30 Wexford Street, the flat where Mary Jane lived.

I heard the West stories when my mother, her sisters and brothers talked about their Irish family. When I listened to Deon's "library" of knowledge about the Wests and with the help of the

internet and visits to Ireland, the genealogical bug bit me. As I struggled through the masses of information, my West ancestors became human beings and Irish history with heroes and controversial people, became living history.

Two questions people often asked me were: Where did you get the information? Who kept those letters and other precious manuscripts, some of it for 175 years, in such a condition?

Originally the manuscripts were in the hands of George himself. It is not clear what happened to it after his death. Eventually George and Lenie's children entrusted the manuscripts to their youngest sister Susie. After her death it was her son Colas, as an attorney, who kept and protected the letters and manuscripts in his archives for more than 40 years. We appreciate his concern. The West family had the insight not to destroy those manuscripts. Without the safe keeping of it a very important and irreplaceable part of the history of the West family would have been lost. At the time of compiling this manuscript the documents are in my possession. Maybe I should take it to the National Archives in Dublin where there is so much material about our West family.

The research and writing of this book was an enormous and almost impossible task. Thanks be to The Lord who helped me with insight and endurance to complete it. But I am indebted to so many others who enthusiastically helped me to put our West puzzle together.

Mention must be made of George's grandchildren Deon and Colas Coetzee, Delene du Toit and his great grandchildren, the late Cairncross Nesbitt West and Elizabeth Kluger, who over many years have kept duplicates of some lost original manuscripts.

A number of the letters were written in cross writing while others were pieces of brittle paper which made it very difficult to unravel and transcribe. Previously it were Deon Coetzee and Nesbitt West with their magnifying glasses who spent hours and hours unraveling the letters. In the recent months my wife Mara and Alta le Roux of the museum in Oudtshoorn with their magnifying glasses and computers sat for many hours and concentrated to unravel it. To Deon, Mara, the late Cairncross Nesbitt West and all the unmentioned helpers and advisers a very special "Thank You". Without those transcriptions, much information and insights into our West history would have been lost.

Many thanks to Jenny Gray for the duplicates of some of the lost letters and notes made by her father, which she sent me. I also thank the late Eric Smal for his encouragement, photos and other information. His nephew Henry Smal did an extensive work on the descendants of Mary Jane, who was married to Piet Smal. Special mention must be made of Rita Grátsch born Niemand. She is not a descendant of George West but knows much about the 500 descendants of his son John Beattie West and other descendants. I thank her for her continual encouragement and the multitude background information.

A very special thanks to Rachel Smith who lives on Bainbridge Island in the state of Washington, USA. After a search of five years, an unknown person from Canada brought me in contact with her. Rachel is a descendant of Mary Crawford b West, an elder sister of my great grandfather, William Claudius West. Rachel is a living encyclopedia about the West, Crawford, Moore and Beatty Families in Ireland. I found her the person with the most information about the West family of Leitrim, Ireland. Her research about the Beatty family brought me into contact with the work of the Rev Philip Crossle which she obtained from the Rev H B Swanzy, the Vicar of Newry. With the help of those Crossle files I made the breakthrough of where my great grandfather

William Claudius West fits in and where the names of my grandfather George John Beatty West came from.

The hard work of Evelyne Kelly of the Mohill library was of tremendous help. She worked through old newspapers of the 1800's and sent me pages of info about the Wests of Cloone and the news report in 1896 about the funeral of Jemima's husband, John Beatty West in Cloone.

The personnel of the National Archives in Dublin were very friendly and helpful in their assistance and support to work through some of the West files which gave me more information about George Beatty West, the elder brother of William Claudius West.

A special *"Thank You"* to Deon Coetzee. His research since 1980 was done before the time of the internet. It took him hours and hours, hundreds of telephone calls, thousands of kilometers by car, writing many letters and quite a number of visits to Ireland. With our sister Iza, he discovered the tombstone of George's parents. He also did most of the organization about the re-erection of the new tombstone of our great grandparents, William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt next to the St Mathews Church in Irishtown, Dublin. With his endless enthusiasm, sharp memory, strong discipline, endurance and the gift to combine stories, facts, humor and tragedy, he kept the West history alive and encouraged me to put these letters and the West history in writing.

Deon spent his last years with his wife Mary in Athens where he died on the 1st of April 2020 without seeing the final product of *"George John Beatty West – His ancestors and descendants"*.

Jaco Coetzee

Oudtshoorn

South Africa

July 2023

[email: marajaco@cybersmart.co.za]

CHAPTER 1

George, the country child in Cloone and student in Dublin (1827-1847)

Different West families emigrated from the British Isles to South Africa. This research is only about the ancestors and descendants of my grandfather GEORGE JOHN BEATTY aka GEORGE WEST who emigrated from Ireland. George was the second son of William Claudius aka William West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt. He had an elder brother, William West and a younger sister Ellen. William was baptized on the 18th February 1826. It seems that William died as an infant since nothing more is known about him. George John Beatty West was named after his two uncles, George Beatty West and John Beatty West.

George was born on Friday 15th June 1827 at Cloone House in the small village of Cloone in county Leitrim in the North West of Ireland, about 25 km from the border of Northern Ireland. He and his sister Ellen spent their first years with their parents at Cloone House, the big old double storey house which belonged to the landlord of Cloone.



The small hamlet of Cloone. The road, bottom right, is the road to Drumdarkin. The tower on the left, was the tower of the Protestant church with the Catholic graveyard on the left and the Protestant graveyard on the right, next to the incoming road to the tower. The new hexagon Roman Catholic church is on the right. The plot of land on the left of the picture, opposite the street from the Catholic church, with the dark trees and the building with the bright shining roof between them, is the land where the French soldiers camped on the night of the 7th September 1798. *[Photo: Wikipedia]*

The photos below are the only ones I could find of Cloone House. One I found on an old DVD about Cloone and the second one was sent to me by Evelyn Kelly, the librarian of Mohill. She probably found the picture in an old book.



The only two photos I could find of the now demolished Cloone House in the village of Cloone, County Leitrim, Ireland. The one in a DVD about Leitrim and the one below in a book unknown to me.

Cloone House has a very interesting history. On the 7th September 1798 during the uprisings, George's grandparents, William Francis West and his wife Elizabeth lived in Cloone House. That afternoon Humbert, his French officers, 600 French soldiers and a number of untrained Irish freedom fighters reached Cloone and put their two cannons on the hill near the Protestant church, aiming at the houses of the two West Brothers: William who lived in Cloone House and John who lived at Drumdarkin. Father Dunne, the Catholic priest, came to the rescue of the tense situation. Being fluent in French, he explained to the French officers that if they destroyed the Wests' properties, the poorer Catholics would not have any work when the struggle is over. He arranged with the French officers and the West brothers and they wined and dined together at Cloone House where Mr West slaughtered six cattle for the soldiers. They used the gates of the Protestant graveyard to roast the six cattle opposite the street, in front of Cloone House. It is told that while the officers wined and dined, the West girls took the chains with which the cannons were drawn and threw it into a well. The next day when between 20000 and 30000 English soldiers approached them the French could not move the cannons and surrendered.

In 1872 Jemima, the granddaughter of William Claudius West, and her husband John Beatty West, lived in Cloone House. Cloone House was later bought by father Peter Conerey (1933-1939), the popular, and influential Catholic priest, referred to as "The Prince of Cloone". He used it as a place for his band to practice. Later the house was demolished and the new Catholic church was erected in 1970 on the ground, a few meters from where Cloone House once stood.

In the middle of the winter during December 1872, Ellen's husband Pierre Talbot took her to Cloone House where her daughter and son in law, Jemima and John Beatty West, lived. While sitting at the fireside Ellen recalled many childhood memories. In her letter dated December 20th 1872 she wrote to her brother George in South Africa about her visit to Cloone:

"Since I write to you I have been down to Cloone, our old loved home. Pierre took me there to see Mima for a week. I could scarce convey to you on paper the many feelings with which I revisited our once happy fireside. -- Mima to be in her Grandmas place & been her mama seems so strange . . ."
Eleanor called Jemima by a nickname, Mima.

It seems that the about twelve year old George and his family left Cloone for Dublin sometime between 1838 and 1840. I searched in vain but could not determine the exact date when George, his sister Ellen and their parents, William Claudius and his wife Eleanor Wilhelmina left Cloone for Dublin. The reason why his parents left Cloone, as people in Ireland explained to us, was that during the 1800s, the county of Leitrim was a very poor county not seen as suitable for farming. In 1840, with the murder of George's uncle Claudius West, the West family already lived

in Dublin. It seems that George was between eleven and thirteen years old when the family left Cloone House.

In Dublin, William and his family at first settled in Park Rd and later at Harrell's Cottage in Berkley Rd, Sandymount. From Ellen's letter of 25th February 1851 it is clear that Harrell's Cottage was the cottage which belonged to Mr Harrell. *"I do not live far from Mother who is still in the same cottage. But it does not now belong to the Harrels as I think I told you in my last"*.

After the West family left Cloone, George studied at a university but it is not clear at which university or what subject he studied. Some of the Wests studied as surgeons at the Royal college of Surgeons, Edinburgh and a few of them became military surgeons. Others studied at Trinity College, Dublin. The men usually studied either theology, medicine or law. Some of George's children had it that he studied law at either Trinity College or Longford.

The West Family lived in Dublin for about six years when the student George, aged 19, fell in love with the then 23 year old Catholic lady, Mary Jane Gannon who worked in a pub, The Bleeding Horse on the corner of Upper Camden Street and CharlotteWay. It is told that they were married without his parents' consent and knowledge on Friday the 14th May 1847 in the St Peters Church, Augier Street, Dublin. It was the same St Peters Church where his rich uncle John Beatty West MP was previously married. Unfortunately the old church was demolished and replaced with a commercial building.

On a Spring day in May 1847 soon after George and Mary Jane's marriage, his father William, as his habit was, sat at the breakfast table in Harrell's Cottage. He was reading his newspaper. The news of the day was about the large number of Irish who became bankrupt, leaving the country for America and Canada. Then his eyes fell on the news of his son's marriage. It is said that on that morning, the following short conversation took place at the breakfast table between William and his 19 year old student son George:

"George. Are you married?"

George answered: *"Yes Father"*.

At which his father immediately replied: *"George, then you have to leave the country. You can go to one of the colonies. You can either go to Australia or South Africa"*.

The above conversation and the context in which it took place, is the basic reason for George's emigration to South Africa where today, more than 2 000 of his descendants live.

My mother and her sisters and brothers, George's children, told us that the morning after William read in the newspaper about George's marriage with Mary Jane Gannon, he chased his son George away and that there was after that, no contact between father and son. They told us that William was angry because George married out of his class with a commoner, a Catholic woman. However when we look at the circumstances in Ireland during which he was married it becomes clear that there was no money or work for a young Irish couple to survive in the Ireland of the 1847's. I suppose that the advice of his father was the same that every Irishman gave to their sons at that stage namely: *"Leave Ireland and go to America, Canada, Australia or South Africa"*. In his father's letters written in August 1849 and the 3^d of March 1851 there was no trace of *"not on speaking terms"*. On the contrary, it seems as if William was very concerned about his only living son, the young inexperienced 20 year old in the Cape in faraway South Africa.

Many stories were told of how rich the West family were in Ireland and how George's father

chased him away. Mary Jane Esterhuisen, George's granddaughter, put the stories told to us about why he had to leave Ireland, in writing in *"The West Family"*:

"When oupa's father heard of his (George's) intention to get married, he was very cross because Oupa was under age and also my grandmother's uncle who brought her up was Roman Catholic and the Wests were Protestants, but my grandmother was not a Roman Catholic, she was also a Protestant. What his father also had against him and the marriage was that he was entitled to better things seeing that he was the only son - so his father disinherited him – he did not get a penny from his father. In the beginning his father was very rich, but he lost a great deal of money through shares. That is why my mother was so against shares right up to her death".

From the letters of his sister Ellen to him it is also clear that he was not disinherited and that at the end received his share from the inheritance. It also seems that Mary Jane, till her death remained faithful to her Catholic faith. (See Chapter 15.)

When George and Mary Jane emigrated from Ireland, he left his parents and his unmarried sister Eleanore Wilhelmina aka Ellen behind in Sandymount. He and his family in Ireland would never see each other again. We are fortunate to have two letters of his father and some of Ellen's letters to him. She often mentioned the names of relatives and friends who missed him such as aunt Eleanore Swanne who was later buried in the same grave as George's parents, his mother's one sister, aunt Briscoe and her children, his West cousins and Jemima who referred to George as her elder brother. Ellen never made any reference to Mary Jane's family or their Cairncross, Nesbitt or Beatty relatives.

CHAPTER 2

The day the young student married while a nation fled, Friday 14th May 1847

We as his descendants were not aware that George and Mary Jane were married during the darkest days in Irish history and how it affected his family. On **Friday, 14th May 1847**, our West ancestor, the nineteen year old student, George John Beatty West married his beloved twenty three year old Mary Jane Gannon in the St Peters church in Augier Street, Dublin. I doubt it that he married, as it was told, without his parents knowledge as he could not marry at the age of 19 without his parents' consent.

Their marriage took place during the worst time of the Potato Famine. It was also the month during which the Liberator and hero of Ireland, Daniel O'Connell, on his way to the Pope, died in Genoa in Italy. *The Cork Examiner* of the 26th May 1847 broke the news of O'Connell's death as follows: "... O'CONNELL dead! – the only man to whom all turned with a feeling approaching hope, in the midst of national distress and national despair. He dead! – the only man who could tight the sadly-tossed vessel, or infuse life and energy into the despairing crew".

What did the *Cork Examiner* referred to with "in the midst of national distress and national despair" and "the sadly-tossed vessel with the despairing crew"? Potatoes were the staple food for the Irish. During the potato blithe of 1845-1851, also referred to as "The Potato Famine" or only "The Famine", the production of potatoes fell in some counties by 95%. People could not pay rent for their lands and were ejected by the landlords of whom most lived in England. They were also not allowed to use the corn. Many were sent to jail or Australia for stealing corn on the lands so that they and their children could survive.

The Cork Examiner also reported on the 10th May 1847 how a man named Galway was arrested by the police for stealing a horse as his wife and children had had nothing to eat for three days. "He says he was on the look for a sheep, a pig or cow, but was disappointed as those animals are all secured by night, and watched by day " The owner of the horse used the horse "for ploughing for hire". Galway always paid his rent but was sent to prison.

During the five years of the Potato Famine, approximately a million Irish died of hunger and the accompanying diseases and another million emigrated. Some left Ireland in terrible conditions on the ships that brought timber from Quebec, Canada and the USA. They went mostly to America and Canada and to the colonies like Australia and South Africa. There were instances where about 40% of the emigrants died on a ship. Philip Gavin wrote in *The Irish Potato Famine*: "In 1847, 52 000 Irish arrived in the city (New York) which had a population of 372 000".

From May to August 1847, the situation in Ireland was at its worst. Writers such as Cormac Ó Gráda in his book "*Black 47 and Beyond*" referred to 1847 as "Black 47" and the summer of 1847 as "Black Summer". His book gave a good insight of the potato famine of 1845-1851. Others referred to it as "The summer of sorrows". There were other clearances of Catholics from their lands but the mass evictions came during the summer of 1847, the year when George and Mary Jane were married.

In an article "*The Famine*" written by an unknown writer and sent to me by John West of

Gauteng, I read that in the parish of Cloone the population fell by a third. *"Between 1846 and 1851 destitute starving people roamed the countryside surviving on grass and herbs, even the nettles on family graves were preserved for that family's use only"*.

The emigration was not always willingly as some Protestant landlords paid the ship fare of 55 shillings to Canada and 70 to 100 shillings to the USA to get rid of their tenants. With the tenants gone, the landlords could replace the potato farming with corn and cattle farming.

Ireland's population declined by 20% in ten years from 8 175 000 in 1841 to 6 552 000 in 1851. There were no money. To worsen circumstances, a cholera epidemic later broke out in Dublin in which 30 000 people died. In county Leitrim where Cloone is situated, the population fell by 28% from 155 000 in 1841 to 112 000 in 1851.

Some reckon that the potato famine of 1845-1851 in Ireland and the famine of 1959-61 in China when approximately 30 000 000 Chinese died in one year, were the two worst famines in world history. See: *The Institutional Causes of China's Great Famine, 1959-1961* by Xin Meng, Nancy Qian and Perre Yared.

In the documentary *The force of hope: The legacy of Father McGauran: Fever ships*, it is mentioned that during 1847, the year of George and Mary Jane's marriage, 250 000 Irish emigrated from their beloved country. It was the most emigrants for any year in Ireland's history. About 100 000 poor Irish went to Canada. Of these approximately 6 000 died because of the bad conditions on board the so called "coffin ships". On the 17th May 1847, only three days after the marriage of George and Mary Jane, a ship The Syria arrived at Grosse Island, Canada, with 430 fever cases on board. On one single day in the summer of 1847, ships with 1,113 immigrants reached the quarantine station on Grosse Isle on the St Lawrence River in Canada. By the end of May 1847, 40 ships with 10 000 Irish on board were waiting near Grosse Isle. By the end of that summer, August 1847, 6 000 Irish died on Grosse Isle, mostly of typhus and cholera.

Today there is a cemetery and a monument on top of Telegraph Hill on Grosse Isle to commemorate the suffering of the Irish immigrants under the English. The Irish experience of the British is well described in the following Irish inscription on this monument: "Thousands of the children of the Gael were lost on this island while fleeing from the tyrannical laws and an artificial famine in the years 1847-48. God Save Ireland".

On the day of their marriage, that **Friday, 14th May 1827**, an Irish convict ship, the Cambridge anchored in Kingston Harbour near Dublin to take 198 Irish prisoners to Australia. Some of them were found guilty of stealing food and corn for their starving wives and children to survive. Fifteen of these "prisoners" were younger than sixteen, the youngest four: Patrick Delany, John Hore, William Moore and Patrick Palmer were only fourteen years old. For more information read *"Follow the Irish Ship Trail"* by William Gregor the Surgeon Superintendent of the ship.

On that same **Friday the 14th May 1847**, the British Parliament had a long debate about aid for the starving Irish of whom more than 200 000 died during that year of hunger and the accompanying diseases.

During those dark years of The Famine, the Irish experienced the British as not willing to assist them. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, describes that the humiliating way the English treated and looked down on the Irish during the famine was very degrading. The British press referred to the Irish people as *"a beggar at England's gate"* who *"engraved alms from all mankind"*. The

Irish believe that it was not the potato blight as such that caused the million deaths and mass emigration, but it was England who administered the help for Ireland, who was the beggar. Instead of taking responsibility, England and the landlords took the corn from Ireland to England with the result that many Irish died of hunger while others fled their country.

The French sociologist, Gustave de Beaumont, wrote after his visit to Ireland in 1835: *"I have seen the Indian in his forests and the Negro in his chains and thought as I contemplated their pitiable condition that I saw the very extreme of human wretchedness, but I did not know the condition of unfortunate Ireland. In all countries more or less, paupers may be discovered, but an entire nation of paupers is what was never seen until it was shown in Ireland"*.

Philip Gavin mentioned that by December 1846, five months before the marriage of George West and Mary Jane, 500 000 men, women and children were building unnecessary stone roads in Ireland. In March 1847, 700 000 Irish were working on these *"useless projects"*. Between March and June 1847 the British stopped all the working projects and replaced them with soup kitchens. The chapters in Gavin's website *Before the Famine, The Blight Begins, The Great Hunger, Coffin Ships, Financial Ruin, Gone to America, After the Famine*, gives one a good insight of the conditions in the Ireland of 1847 when my great grandfather, William Claudius West asked his son to leave the country.

In the London Times of Saturday April 17 1847 as well as in the Irish newspaper NATION, it was reported that the Sultan of Turkey, Abdülmacid wished to donate £10 000 for the starving Irish. Queen Victoria however asked the Sultan to send only £1 000 as her government only sent £2 000. After the Sultan sent the £1 000 he secretly sent three ships with corn to the harbour of Drogheda. These three ships arrived at the time of George and Mary Jane's marriage in the second week of May 1847. A plaque in Drogheda, unveiled in 1995 by Mr Godfrey, Mayor of Drogheda and Mr Taner Baytok, the Turkish ambassador to Ireland reads: *"The great Irish Famine of 1847 – In remembrance and recognition of the generosity of the People of Turkey towards the People of Ireland"*.

For centuries the British Protestant landlords, the rich people in Ireland, looked down on the impoverished Irish Catholics who were stripped of all dignity. As the British **Penal laws** (1661–1728) impoverished the Irish Catholics more and more, they were even more despised by the richer Protestants.

First there were the four penal laws known as **Clarendon Code** which included inter alia the following acts:

- The Corporation Act of 1661 that required from all municipal officials to take Anglican communion;
- The Act of Uniformity of 1662 that resulted in two thousand clergy forced to resign their livings as they refused to use the Book of Common Prayer which was made compulsory in religious service by this act;
- The Conventicle Act of 1664 that forbade unauthorized worship meetings of more than five people if they were not members of the same household.
- The Five Mile Act of 1665 that forbade certain church ministers to come within eight kilometers of incorporated towns or the place where they formerly lived. They were also forbidden to teach in schools.

After the Clarendon code the following **Penal Laws** were made to further impoverish the Catholic

Irish, namely:

The Education Act of 1695, the Banishment Act of 1697, the Registration Act of 1704, the Popery Act of 1704 and the Disenfranchising Act of 1728. The Popery act determined that if a Catholic landowner died and one of his children had become a Protestant, the latter would inherit all the lands. A Roman Catholic, the former Solicitor General for Ireland, Sir Toby Butler, said to no avail in the Irish House of Commons that this Act was "*against the laws of God and man ... against the rules of reason and justice*".

As the Irish became poorer and poorer, the British landlords, with few exceptions, looked more and more down on them. In Wikipedia in the chapter, "*Popery Act*", we found under "*Catholic land holdings*" the following information: In 1688 Catholics held 25% of land in Ireland, in 1704, 14% and in 1776 the Catholics possessed only 5% of land. Philip Gavin describe on his website, *The History Place – Irish Potato Famine* the situation before and after the Penal laws, as follows: "*In 1600 Protestants had owned 10% of Ireland's land. By 1778, Protestants owned 95 percent of the land*".

Help for the Irish came from as far as America from an Indian tribe, the Choctaws. The Choctaws were removed, displaced and relocated only 16 years before in 1831 after the passage of the Indian Removal Act of 1830. This forced removal of the Choctaws, when many of them faced starvation, is called *The Trail of Tears*. In 1847, the year that the most Irish were forced off their lands, only sixteen years after the Choctaws own forced removal, they, the Choctaws, collected and sent \$170 (R55 000 in 2017) to the starving Irish and their children.

This Indian tribe had many similar experiences as the Irish. The first Choctaw who received his degree in law, James McDonald had much in common with the Irish hero, Daniel O'Connell. Like O'Connell, McDonald believed in reasoning and not violence in solving political problems. Unfortunately he committed suicide in 1831, the year of *The Trail of Tears*.

Ireland never forgot this deed and 150 years after the Choctaws Trail of Tears, eight Irishmen walked the Trail and delivered a donation by Irish president Mary Robinson. The latter was made an honorably Choctaw chief. The Irish Examiner of 19 June 2017 reported that on the 18th of June 2017 the present Choctaw chief Mr Gary Baton and Mr Seamus McGrath, the mayor of county Cork unveiled the six meter high sculpture consisting of nine steel eagle feathers in Bailick Park, Midleton, Co Cork in the presence of a large crowd including twenty Choctaws.

See: *The rise and Fall of the Choctaw Republic* by Angie Debo and "*From the Trail of Tears to the Irish Famine – The Choctaw Nation's gift to the Irish Famine Relief*" by Yvonne C Garrett.

For hundreds of years The Irish have a history of "hard handling" by the English. Wiki Answers in "*Were there Irish slaves?*" mention the following: James II of England sold after his proclamation in 1625, 30 000 Irish as slaves to English settlers in the West Indies. "*From 1641 till 1652 over 500 000 Irish were killed by the English and another 300 000 were sold as slaves and Ireland's population fell from about 1 500 000 to 600 000 in that one single decade*".

Marthinus van Bart mentioned in his book: *Kaap van Slawe* (Cape of Slaves), (p 49) that during the time of Oliver Cromwell, 400 000 Irish slaves or so called "*servants*", were sent to the West Indian Islands and America. About a quarter of them were children. It is said that about 3 000 Irish girls and women were sent to the West Indian Islands and given to the slaves to bear children. After a time they had the choice to leave the Islands and their ebony children and go back to Ireland. Those children would automatically be booked as slaves. It is told that an Irish

slave would cost ten times less than an African slave. A number of researchers disagree with this and wrote that it is not the truth. I could not verify it.

Irish were also sent as slaves and convicts to Australia and even to Iceland. There were slave traders from Morocco in North Africa who kidnapped drunken Irishmen in a pub, *The Algiers* on the South West coast of Ireland and took them as slaves to Morocco.

The potato blight did not distinguish between Catholic and Protestant. It affected the poor Catholic Irish on the lands as well as the Protestants. Both fell prey to the blight, accompanied with the ejections from the lands. With a million Irish who died during the years 1845-1851 and another million who fled and emigrated, there were many bankrupt Irish. Rich people became penniless and had to borrow money to survive.

The West family who at first lived in Sandy House in Park Road in Dublin was not only affected by what happened. They were ruined. They left Park Rd and stayed in Harrell's Cottage in Berkley Rd. In spite of all his efforts, George's father William West could not sell his lands or borrow the £150 which he owed old Mr Keogh. William's rich brother, the advocate and MP for Dublin, John Beatty West, died in 1846, his bachelor brother Claudius who had a drinking problem was murdered in April 1840, Francis his youngest brother died as an infant. It was only his eldest brother, George Beatty West of Drumdarkin and his sister Mary and her husband Rev George Crawford to whom he could apply for help. It seemed however that his eldest brother had enough problems of his own and his sister Mary was a widow herself, not in good health, living with her daughter in Scotland.

Although he possessed property, there were no buyers and George's father had to borrow £150 from Mr Keogh. Because he could not pay back his loan to Mr Keogh he landed in Kilmainham jail in Dublin for a month. Ellen's letter of the 13th June 1849 gave a good description of the situation in Ireland and especially Dublin and the circumstances in which their father landed in Kilmainham jail.

The good works during the Famine done by the Wests was still remembered. In 2008, during the visit of Deon, Colas and myself to Ireland, we met the 90 year old Mrs Houstin near Cloone. In our discussion with her about the West family, she smiled at us and said that as far as she could remember, the Wests were controversial people, but on the other hand they were very good to their tenants and workers. Asking her whether she could remember any of the Crawford family to whom the West family was related, she looked at me and said to my brothers: *"You know, when this gentleman (referring to me) entered my house this morning, I thought it was the Rev Crawford"*.

It seems to me that our Protestant and pro-British West ancestors, had a better relationship with the Catholic Irish than most other landlords. I base my opinion on the following:

- George married a Catholic lady whom he allowed to stick to her Catholic faith. Before she died, he called the Catholic priest of Caledon to do the last rites;
- Jemima, his sister's daughter, lost her unborn child as she overworked herself for the party of the Catholic harvesters on Cloone;
- The Catholic priest gave John Beatty West MP, a letter where he thanked him for what Mr West did for the poor Catholic tenants on his estate and lastly the remarks of Mrs Houstin of Cloone that although the Wests were difficult people, they were very good to their tenants and workers.

The percentage of deaths as a result of The Famine and the fever, was very high among the upper classes in the county of Leitrim, where there were still a few of the West family living. *"Cloone Soup Shop was set up at Drumdarkin Glebe. It was run on funds donated by those who could afford to give a little to help in some way to feed those who had nothing. The local landlords West and White also subscribed to its upkeep. Relief schemes such as road-making were more than likely a feature in the area. The wall encircling what was once the orchard at The Grange was built under the terms of this scheme"*.

The Irish of Cloone were not at all angels. At times there was much tension between some in the community of Cloone and the Church minister and to understand the context of why William Claudius West himself left Cloone for Dublin, one must know the tense circumstances in and around Cloone those years even in the church. On p. 43 David Fitzpatrick in *Class, Family and Rural Unrest in 19th Century Ireland*, describe the following intimidation to the new appointed Rev Alexander Smullen of Anghavas: *"Smullen you bloody heretic. If you do not leave this country we will give you the death of Stretton or West this is to give you notice to be off"*. The death of the West to whom is referred could certainly have been Claudius West, the middle man who was murdered while collecting rent from tenants. He was the brother of my great grandfather, William Claudius West. On p. 45 Fitzpatrick continues that the same captain Rock decorated the gate port of the Protestant pastor Lawrence Fenner with this notice: *"Fenner, I will expect you will not favour any individual against another for if you do I will come and destroy you and your substance..."*

Then there was another notice to the Rev Fenner: *"Fenner you old Rouge that has the country in a state of rebellion. I expect that you will leave this place or if not I will give the usage that I gave Brock in Bullnamuck..... driven a brass of balls through you"*.

Fitzpatrick referred to a number of family tensions as well as tensions where tenants refused to pay their rent to their lessors. On page 59 he referred to the West and Nicholl families. *"Thus members of the Nicholls and West Families appeared both as victims and perpetrators of outrages originating from family squabbles"*

Although there were other Famines and epidemics in Ireland like The Great Frost of 1740-1741, The Cholera epidemic in Dublin and The Famine of 1879, none could be compared with the Potato Famine of 1846 to 1851. Ellen referred in her letters to her brother to these famines.

Music and Art played a big role during and after the Famine. Many drawings and paintings are found to show the sufferings of the Irish in their poverty. Sketches that were very moving to me was the one of the Irish mother with her small children living under a bridge; another where they lived in a hole in the ground and also the one where the family were ordered to leave their house.

There are many Irish songs describing the Irish experiences during their hardships. *"THE FIELDS OF ATHENRY"* by THE DUBLINERS, and the song *"GRACE"*, are very touching about what happened in Ireland. Listening to some Irish famine songs like *"Leitrim (a brief history)"* by Mick Blake on Youtube and watching Ireland's Famine art on the internet, gives one an idea of what the Irish went through during those years.

Friday the 14th May 1847, the day of the marriage of the 19 year old student George John Beatty West and his wife Mary Jane Gannon was one of the darkest days in Irish history.

CHAPTER 3

“My dearest brother”

Ellen in Ireland would never see her brother again



George John Beatty West had a younger sister Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Ellen. It seems that Ellen was, like her brother, born at Cloone House in the small village of Cloone in county Leitrim. She and her brother George spent and enjoyed their first years as young kids in the big double storey Cloone House. During the summer they played on the farmlands and I suppose often visited their West relatives at nearby Drumdarkin. During the long cold winter evenings and rainy days they sat next to the fireside enjoying the fire. Imagine all the stories told along that fireside.

After their parents, William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt, left Cloone, the family settled in Harrell's Cottage, Berkley Ave, Sandymount in Dublin.

LEFT: His sister Ellen. Unfortunately we did not find any photos of either his parents or his niece Gemima or any of his well-known uncles and his aunt Mary.

Harrells Cottage could be the Cottage belonging to a Mr Harrell or a cottage with the name Harrells Cottage or both. Here they stayed until after George and Ellen's marriages.

After George left Ireland, Ellen was the only one left to assist their father William, their mother Eleanore and aunt Swann. She regularly corresponded with him. We are fortunate and thankful that Lenie, George's second wife, my mother Susy and my brother Colas kept and preserved those letters. Without it, very little would have been known about her.

In her letter to George on the 13th June 1849, Ellen mentioned that she stayed with her parents at Harrells Cottage, Berk(ley?) Ave, Sandymount. She wrote to George: *“We are still in old Harrells Cottage. Peter Cooney has left them and gone to Australia last Spring. With all his family. Nothing can exceed the tide of emigration. All the small farmers who can scrape together any little sum which can enable them to quit this wretched country and avoid the landlord. (As you used to say yourself).*

On our visit in 2010, Deon, Colas and I unsuccessfully spent a few hours looking for this house in Berkley Road. The local people told us they were sure it was demolished, as happened to many of the old houses in Sandymount.

Here in Sandymount, The Famine and Cholera Epidemic affected Ellen and her family gravely. Her oldest letter that is preserved is dated 13th June 1849, and gave a very good insight of the effects of The Famine on the West family and their friends in Ireland during that year. It was 25 months after George's marriage that she wrote how things went wrong in Ireland: *“many things*

conspired to prevent my writing as such at least I had something satisfactory to tell".

In this letter she explained in detail what they went through. She referred to the implications which the potato famine had on the Irish and that their father landed in the Kilmainham jail for a month:

13th June 1849

I think I mentioned in my last that there was another ejection on the lands and you will be shocked to hear we have been on the very verge of ruin. This unfortunate country is in so destroyed a state that land is now of no value. This is the reason Papa could not raise £200 to redeem the land although there is £1700 more that is on Mr. Worthington's & his Mr. W. Lamont redeem his portion as advances are his ready money to redeem them before, so Papa is obliged to give Aunt Briscoe more as security for the money she is about raising for Mr. W & himself.

The Lord in Heaven grant the old Duke may live till it is paid off for - he should be ruined. By this you perceive the money is not yet raised nor the lands of course redeemed. But thank God all appears on a fair way.

But they're lucky leaving behind them a waste farm & the landlord obliged to pay the taxes which are you abroad can form no idea of the State of Ireland. Nothing but bankruptcy.

People who have kept their carriages now can maintain but one servant maid. Free trade in corn & every thing. So we have Bread very cheap 4 lb. Loaf best quality 6½ – meat as usual high – much the same allways.

The Cholera is just now very bad in Dublin. Thomas St devastated & all in that direction. The Cholera hospital is just oppositeSquare. Two or three master houses they have taken for it. Thank God it is very light in Sandymt. But very bad in Kingsend. Just as you said in your letter no hope for drunkards whatever. Two or three Ladies here died of it here but I believe they were uncautious in what they eat". The new church here is nearly finished it is beautiful. It is to be ready for services in August".

£200 in 1859 was £18 390 and R220 680 in 2016. £1 700 in 1859 was £156 300 and R2 803 400 in 2016

Ellen was very interested in her brother George's eldest child, her namesake, Ellen. On 13th June 1849 she wrote about his fourteen month old child: *"I did not yet wish you for your little Ellen. How is she, her hair will be I think like poor Nanny's. I have it tied up in Blue ribbon in my work box".* On 25 February 1851 she wrote: *"Is Ellen anything like our poor Nanny, tell me when you write to me and let it be Soon"* and on 5 April: *". . . very fond of your dear little Ellen . . ."*

During September 1850 or 1851 Ellen married James Barrister Russell, a widower with children. He was a Solicitor who often gave George sound advice about which his sister wrote to him. But it was to no avail. From her letters to her brother, it is clear that Ellen and James was a happy couple who cared much for each other. Ellen also had a good relationship with James's children by his first wife.

As James was a very sickly man they moved quite often. In her letters Ellen gave the following addresses where she and James lived:

25 February 1851: **Tritonville Ave, Sandymount, Dublin** where their eldest son James was born and died at the age of ten weeks.

27 May 1853: **Dorset Street, Lower Rd, Drumcondra Dublin.** In her letter she wrote: *"You will be sorry to hear I lost my poor little baby died of inflammation in the bowles & bronchitis on its chest at ten weeks old it died on the 20th of November & is buried in the grave with our poor dear Father in Irishtown church yard. He was a fine large strong child but unfortunately caught cold in some way & the Doctor (I think) killed him but this world is so uncertain he is better provided*

for”.

08 November 1853: **Ellen Villa, Drumcondra Dublin** where Jemima and the baby Neskey were born. James named this cottage after Ellen, his beloved wife, who took care of him during his poor health.

02 August 1859: **Dunville Ave, Rathmines Dublin** where her two year old Neskey died;

03 April 1860 and 02 August 1864: **2 Portland Street North, Richmond Hill, Rathmines, Dublin**

During 1867: **Graham Terrace, 39 Seville Place, Dublin** where Ellen lived with her mother and aunt Briscoe.

When I entered the house in 2 Portland Street in Richmond Hill during 2000, an old neighbour told me that in earlier years the rich people used to live in Portland Street. I found that the big house was divided into a couple of flats.

Ellen and James had three children, two boys and a girl. The eldest, James born about 10th Sept 1852, who died on the 20th Nov 1852, as an infant at the age of ten weeks. The second, Eleanor Jemima aka Jemima or Mima born 27 October 1854 and the third child Hercules Graves aka Neskey born about May 1857 who died 21 Jan 1860 at the age of two.

On the 3rd April 1860 she wrote about the death of Neskey, calling her late two year old son “*my dearly loved little man*”. *“I was indeed but poorly both in body & mind when I write to you but am now thank God much better tho still far from strong - I have been very weak as the Scarlatina is a severe illness to anyone at the best and I had you know much to contend with losing my dearly loved “little man” as we used to call him, but how thankful we should feel that the now sole remaining one (Mima) has been spared to us. She was placed at school (as I think I told you) & did not return for 6 weeks – but the drs would not allow us to bring her back to the house for at least 3 months and it was very expensive paying for her out”.*

Both James and Neskey were buried in the same grave as their grandfather William Claudius West, next to the St Mathews Church in Irishtown Dublin .

When her brother went through difficult times and things went wrong with his farming in faraway South Africa, and when he landed in financial hardships, it was she and their mother who encouraged, advised and supported him. On 27 May 1853 she encouraged him with these words: *“Good bye & may God bless you and prosper you in all your undertakings & never forget to ask His blessings & guidance in all ways”.*

In her letter of 8th November 1853 she, a typical caring sister, mentioned two things. First she congratulated him with his increasing stock and secondly, after the birth of his 3rd child, asked him to stop increasing his family. *“We are glad to hear of your increasing stock but still think it was a pity you gave up your situation. I was amused when I heard that you had a cat & I have another which is all my livestock and mother has a dog. She is old.”* And then: *“I am very sure you are not going to have a further increase to your family (At least for a long time). I am rather more prudent. I have none & have only two months before lost the hopes of the family”.* It seems as if he did not succeed in either one of the things she mentioned because he did struggle with his finances and at the end he was the father of nineteen children!

In her letter of 2nd August 1859 she made a funny remark about her brother's eight year old son, William Claudius while the eleven year old Ellen and the seven year old George John Beatty were the two she should like. *“So this is well to have so much over I wish you could send the likeness of*

some of yours, but however your own description conveys a very good idea. Ellen & John are the two I should like as they resemble those I love dearly but William is no beauty if he is like your Uncle Claudius but it is curious that my children should have hair just like yours & blue eyes Mimas hair is like your own & Nannies I think I sent you a bit of both – but Papas hair was white when he was a child –“

In the same letter of 2nd August 1859, Ellen reprimanded her 32 year old brother, already the father of six: *“By the bye what put it into your head I forgot your name but you may remember when you were going away you desired us all never to write your name in full nor to put Esquire but simply Mr George West and no matter what address was put on your letters. What on earth injury could that be to you. I think you must have been tasting your grapes when you wrote – you never told us how they were getting on & Mamma is anxious to know”. And then: *“Put two IIs to Russell. I will direct as usual only as George West afraid of mistake if I change it. Was James putting the B & did not know of the John I forgot to send his love but do so now & to God bless & prosper you & yr little ones - We often wish your little Ellen was near us She is 11 years old next March is she well”*. It seems that he took exception when Ellen's husband James did not put George's name on the envelope as Mr G.J.B. West Esquire, but only Mr G.B. West without the “J” and without the “Esq.” at the end. If you were a property owner it was acknowledged at the end of your surname, e.g. Mr G.J.B. West Esq., and then the rest of the address.*

With the Potato Famine and the Cholera epidemic Ellen herself had a very difficult time to survive in Dublin. Her husband was a very sick man. He died between 02 August 1864 and the 6th September 1867. Meanwhile she had to care for her daughter Jemima and her ex-husband's youngest kids. Her father landed in Kilmainham jail for debt he could not pay. After her father's death Ellen was also responsible for her mother, aunt Swanne and at times for aunt Briscoe.

During 21 months Ellen lost her father on 12 May 1851, then Aunt Eleanor Swanne on 28 February 1852 and on the 20th of November 1852, her baby James. During the first months of 1860, Ellen again went through difficult times. Her only surviving son Neskey, whom she on 3rd April 1860 referred to as *“my dear loved little man”* died at the age of two. Ellen herself suffered from scarlatina and her five year old Mima had to stay at another place to attend school. Through all this she still had worries about her brother George in South Africa, who at the time of her husband James's death, was already the father of nine children. She missed her brother's eldest child Ellen, who was named after her, the most.

After James's death, Ellen married an old schoolfriend, the bank clerk, Pierre Talbot, a widower with children. His children known to us were: Eddie born Sept 1851, Pierre born 25.12.1856, Tom born 1859/60, and Willy born 1863. She and Jemima had a very good relationship with Pierre's children as they accepted Jemima as their own sister. Ellen and Pierre did not have any children.

On January the 21st 1870, she wrote: *“... but I do remember you said something about not speaking of Pierre he is quite well & desires his love, his eldest son Tom got married last Nov at 20 years of age. Pierre was greatly vexed at it so we know nothing of Tom since - the other three are with me & are very good. As much so, as if they were my own real children. Eddie was 18 last Sept – he is doing for himself and gets an increase next month. Pierre was 13 last Xmas & Willy will be 7 in March. I have them at school every day – but I have nothing to tell you but that I have a good and afft. husband who is very fond of my child - as are the boys, as if she was their sister”*

Ellen, Jemima, Pierre and his children lived from 05 September 1867 until Pierre's death on Tuesday 13th February 1877 at 38, Seville Place and 1 Graham Place, St Stephens Green in

Dublin. During those years Ellen's mother died on the 23rd December 1871. A year after her mother's death, Pierre took Ellen for a visit to Cloone where they stayed in Cloone House for a week with Jemima and her husband John Beatty West. This visit, sitting in front of the same fireside (December is in the middle of the winter in the Northern Hemisphere) where they as a family sat so many years before, was quite an emotional experience for Ellen. On the 20th December 1872 she wrote: "*Since I write to you I have been down to Cloone our old loved home. Pierre took me there to see Mima for a week. I could scarce convey to you on paper the many feelings with which I revisited our once happy fireside. -- Mima to be in her Grandmas place & been her mama seems so strange*".

During the 1870's Ellen went through very difficult times. **On Sunday the 18th February 1877 she wrote:**

18th February 1877

My dearest brother.

Should this letter reach you the look of it, will?..... at once tell you of my loss again. I have to acquaint you that I am a widow Poor Pierre died on the 13th of this month (being last Tuesday). He had been in bad health as I think I told you before).

I have never heard from you since you received your money although I wrote to you since – but not receiving a reply thought you had changed your residence & still expected each month a letter – but now I feel I must in my grief write to my nearest & almost dearest left on earth (Mima excepted).

The poor fellow (Pierre) was worn to a skeleton before he died & I need not tell you I suffered much both in mind & body. The Yankee died in December and Mima's husband being his eldest son gets Drumdarkin.

And now dear George farewell. I will expect a reply to this - if no answer I will never write again. One of your children might write to me if only a few lines should you be away from home (I rather address them than you now).

I remain with love & best wishes as ever

Your very affectionate

Sister E.W. Talbot

During those years, Ellen lost her father, her mother, aunt Swann, her first husband James, her two sons and now her second husband Pierre. After four years of struggle with the attorneys and making excuses and giving explanations to her brother about the problems with the estate, she had an income of only £40 a year. Meanwhile, George, her only brother struggled with his own problems to survive on Hoopjesrivier in South Africa. His wife Mary Jane being very sick and his 11 year old son Cairncross Nesbitt and his 14 year old daughter Anna Samia needed his attention. Under those circumstances, when Ellen needed him most, he did not make contact with her. Under those conditions Ellen reacted on his not writing and said that she would not write to him if he kept silent but would rather write to his children. He did however answer her letter.

After the death of Pierre Talbot, Ellen was better off financially. In her letter of 28th May 1877 she wrote: "*I was in great grief when I wrote to you on poor Pierre's death & felt miserably lonely but I am much better now thank God - The Bank has given me a pension of £40 a year & with my own £40 I will be very comfortable & I have my two step sons living with me still & both pay me & besides I have my spare room in lodging so that I never was as free from care in my life. Thank God*".

The £40 of 1859 was worth about £3 677 or R44 136 in 2016.

Ellen stayed at the same address, in Graham Terrace, 39 Seville Place, St Stephens, Dublin, after

her husband Pierre Talbot's death on the 13th February 1877.

Her relation with her sister in law, Mary Jane Gannon, is not clear from the letters. On 28th May 1877, Ellen wrote: *"And now before I close this I must say that I am very sorry to hear your wife was so ill. I trust she be restored to health for sake of you dearest brother, for I well know what a loss a wife is as I married two widowers & know what a loss a broken up home is to a man"*. This was Ellen's first known reference to her sister in law.

It is clear from Ellen's letters that the two had a very normal brother-sister relationship. She, his mother, her daughter and the West family and friends, missed him a lot. On 28th May 1877 she wrote: *"My mother sends ten thousand love & kisses. Aunt Samia desires the same. Kiss the little one for me. Papa sends his newspapers. I have met lots of your old acquaintances Fred & Moll. Sid is dead"*. She shared the good and bad of Ireland, the family and friends with him. We unfortunately do not have any of George's letters to Ellen. It seems that she was the only relative in Ireland with whom he corresponded. It is however clear that he informed her about his children. He even sent her a curl of the hair of his eldest child, her namesake, Ellen.

Her last letter in our possession was written on the 4th November 1878. It was seven years after their mother's death and it seems as if the estate was not yet finalized.

39 Seville Place. Nov 4th 1878

My dear George,

You must forgive me for not having written on receipt of your letter but as your interest money was so soon to become due I thought I might as well wait. I went to see Mr. Beamish but he was at the Courts so I must go again before I send off this. . . . "

"I have also been prevented from writing to you from another cause viz. The illness of my little step son Willy with a very severe attack of scarlatina & I had to be up for four nights with him. He is now getting on nicely thank God but Mima has had but a dull visit in consequence as no one comes near the house. I have not been able to go out either to get your money order for transmission abroad as I feel dreadfully knocked up from anxiety & fatigue besides I am very fond of Willy & could not leave him alone for any time.

Nov 11th

When I went to the Post Office I found the mail had gone so this will not go till the 14th & I therefore postponed writing further till near the time. Mima went home on the 7th."

This was the last known contact from Ellen with her family in South Africa. She missed her only brother who left Ireland 30 years previously but they would never see each other again. Ellen and Jemima probably left Ireland between 1896 and 1904 to settle in the area of Euclid in the USA.

CHAPTER 4

The talented Jemima to whom George was like a brother

Little is known about what happened to the near family of George John Beatty in Ireland. When my grandfather George John Beatty West emigrated from Ireland, he left his parents and his then still unmarried sister Ellen behind. Years later, after the death of his parents and Ellen's two boys, Ellen and her daughter Eleanore Jemima Russell aka Jemima remained his only nearest family in Ireland. The family usually referred to Eleanore Jemima as Jemima or Mima.

Jemima was born in Ellen Villa, Lower Rd, Drumcondra as the second child of Ellen and James Russell. She was the only one of Ellen's three children who survived childhood. Ellen gave the date of Jemima's birth in her letter of Friday 3rd November 1873 as Friday the 27th October 1854: *"She (Jemima) was nineteen on the 27th Oct (this day week)"*.

To Jemima her then 27 year old uncle George was more of an older brother than an uncle. On the 2nd August 1859, when Jemima was only four years old, Ellen wrote: *" . . . Indeed she more often calls you her Brother George she thinks my brother also being hers – "*

Her mother Ellen mentioned Jemima twice in her letters to George. In the letter of the 2nd August 1864 she wrote: *" . . . my little Mima is quite well thank God this year. She is growing very tall – she will be ten on the 27th of next October if she lives so long. She has a great taste for music like my poor Father she can play anything she hears – I have a governess attending her every day".* Ellen's husband being an attorney, could afford a female tutor for Jemima's teaching.

On the 5th April 1869, Ellen wrote: *"Mimadesired her love to you. She is as tall as her grandmamma & has hair like poor Nanny a mass of it & the same colour. She was 14 the 27th of last Oct & is a great pet of Mamas. She has just returned from seeing Prince Arthur make his entrée into the city for the first time, this time last year we had his brother the Prince of Wales who is now nearer you as he is in Egypt". (sic!)*.

Unfortunately for Jemima, her very sickly father died when she was about eleven years old. When her mother married Pierre Talbot, he and his children accepted Jemima as their own. In her letter of the 21st January 1870 her mother wrote: *"– but I have nothing to tell you but that I have a good and afft. (affectionate) husband who is very fond of my child - as are the boys, as if she was their sister"*

On the back of her mother's letter of 21st January 1870, the then fifteen year old Jemima wrote very proudly to her uncle George: *"Mama forgot to tell you that Grandmama bought me a new piano last week which she paid 20 guineas for. I have not room here to write you a long letter or I would but I am sure you would sooner . . . Mama wrote to you than I but some other time you will receive a longer epistle from your affectionate niece.
E J Russell"*

A guinea, being one pound and one shilling, was a status symbol. When the noble for instance bought race horses they bid in guineas and not in pounds. After all, a guinea was worth a shilling more than a pound! The value of the twenty guineas, or £21 of 1870 is according to

Measuring Worth, £1 844 in 2016. At R18 in the pound, they paid, in today's money about R33 192 for the piano.

Just as her cousins in South Africa, Jemima, had a good voice, was musical and loved her music and singing. Her grandma therefore bought her fifteen year old grandchild the piano for twenty guineas.

Jemima was very fond of her grandmother. Although only seventeen years old with her grandmother's death on 23rd December 1871, she sat with her dying grandmother, reading to her from 1 Corinthians 15 and prayed when she was dying. The young Jemima then closed her grandmother's eyes and laid her out. On the evening after the funeral, her mother Ellen described it as follows to her brother George: *"Said she was quite happy & resigned. Expressed her firm trust in the Great Provider and had a chapter or the Bible read by Mina, the 15th of 1st Corinthians fell asleep till 20 minutes to 11 o'clock when she woke as in a second in the agonies of death and after one hour's suffering ceased to breathe. Mima never left her, held her hand & after death assisted to lay her out"*.

On Thursday the 26th September 1872, nine months after her grandmother's death, the still seventeen year old Eleanore Jemima Russell aka Jemima was married to the twenty nine year old farmer, John Beatty West of Drumdarkin. He was the eldest son of George Beatty West aka The Yankee and named after his grandfather's cousin, John Beatty West MP for Dublin. And so Eleanore Jemima Russell became Eleanore Jemima WEST.

The very helpful Evelyn Kelly from the library in Mohill sent me the following:

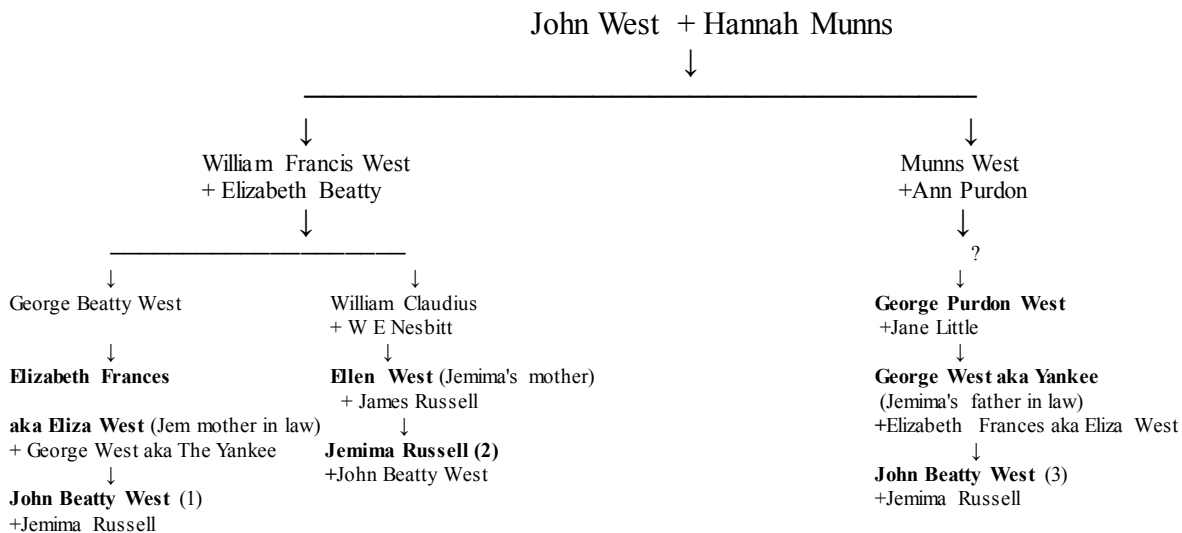
"From the Leitrim Advertiser of 3rd October 1872 the following marriage notice appears: WEST and RUSSELL – September 26th at St Thomas's Church by the Rev. B. Gibson, John Beatty West Esq., of Cloone House, Co. Leitrim eldest son of Georg B. West Esq., of Drumdarkin House same county, to Mina, daughter of the late James Russell Esq., Solicitor of Dublin".

In her letter written between the 26th September and the 20th December 1872 Ellen mentioned that she spent her money which she inherited from their father on Jemima's wedding. *"I went twice to Mr Hutchins to see if he would pay off your £400 but yours is only a portion of a charge of £1200 and I am only an assistant as it were, like Mama. The money is settled on Mima on her marriage and of course I dont want to have it paid in even if I have the power which I have not"*.

Jemima and her husband John Beatty West were related to each other. There were two brothers, William Francis West and Munns West. John Beatty West was a descendant of both Munns West and William Francis West because his mother Eliza was a descendant of William Francis West and his father a descendant of Munns West. As illustrated in the following diagram, Eliza and Jemima's mother Ellen were cousins.

Eliza was the daughter of George Beatty West the chief magistrate of county Leitrim while Ellen was the daughter of his younger brother William Claudius West.

Diagram depicting family connections between Jemima, John Beatty, Eliza and The Yankee:



- (1) Indicates how John Beatty West was the son of Elizabeth Frances aka Eliza West
- (2) Indicates that Jemima, John Beatty West's wife, was the daughter of Eleanor Russell and
- (3) Indicates that John Beatty West was the son of George West aka Yankee.

After their marriage the couple settled at Cloone House, the same house where her mother Ellen and her uncle George were born and enjoyed their childhood days. The Yankee, her father in law, stayed three miles away at Drumdarkin.

It is clear that Jemima had a very good relationship with The Yankee and Eliza, her father and mother in law. Ellen referred in her letter of the 12th July 1876 to a holiday they had together. *"I have had Mima for three months - here with the Drs and she only went home this morning – thank God cured. Eliza and the Yankee with their daughter Anna were up for three weeks in Kingstown (Ireland) & had Mima out there with them. The Yankee is looking wonderfully well. He bought a carriage – no less – while he was up and seems to have lots of money suppose it be Mima's yet as he does not care for the other remaining son (Willy) much. I wish Mima may have a son yet"*

After the death of her father in law, The Yankee, on 7th December 1876, Jemima and her husband John Beatty West left Cloone House and relocated to Drumdarkin House. Her mother in law, Eliza, stayed with them in The Cottage at Drumdarkin. Cloone House was then rented out. On 8th February 1877, Ellen wrote: *"The Yankee died in December and Mima's husband being his eldest son gets Drumdarkin. Eliza is to live in the Cottagewith her daughter Anna & then Cloone house is to be let"*

In an undated letter written after the Yankee's death, Ellen wrote: *"Mima is quite happy in her new home & in great delight with the lovely garden – you may recollect Drumdarkin & Mrs Montford working at her flowers"*

It seems that Jemima's husband John Beatty West was born and grew up in Drumdarkin and Cloone. His father, The Yankee took control of Cloone under suspicious circumstances. After the murder of Claudius West in April 1840 Jemima's grandfather William Claudius West, the brother of Claudius, was furious of the way in which The Yankee took control of Cloone. Jemima's grandparents left Cloone for Dublin. In spite of this quarrel, John Beatty West, The Yankee's son and Jemima Russell, William Claudius West's granddaughter were married thirty years later and lived happily at Drumdarkin!

Jemima's husband John Beatty West, was a well-known wheat farmer and leader in the community of Cloone. It seems that Jemima was involved with his farming and when she became pregnant, Ellen was very excited about it. Unfortunately the eighteen year old pregnant Jemima had a miscarriage on the 27th September 1873 as she worked too hard when she had to feed the thirty harvesters on the farm. She even had a dance for them after the harvest. Ellen described it in her letter of the 1st October 1873 as follows: *"I have been down in Cloone since I write to you for a fortnight & came home the 17th of August. I felt better this time & more reconciled to the many changes there. Mima is very like poor mother in her ways but more like Nannie in her face - she was going to make me a Grand mamma but I get this letter from her husband yesterday to say she was very ill and had a miscarriage on Saturday last. She was three months in that way, she over exerted herself as they were getting the harvest in & had thirty in July men to feed & had a dance for them in the evening. So I felt quite fretted & vexed with her for her folly".* Few landlords gave parties for their harvesters in those days. Mrs Houston of Cloone confirmed it when she told us in 2008 that it is said that the Wests were kind to their workers and tenants.

It seems that after her miscarriage Jemima was very sick and would have no more children. On the 3rd November 1873 Ellen wrote: *"Since I last wrote poor Mima has been very ill lost the hopes of the family- She was so bad that I went down to Cloone and stayed a week Then I brought her back here with me for a fortnight but as her birthday was in two days' time I kept her till the day after she was nineteen on the 27th of Oct (This day week)".* Nearly three years after her miscarriage, Jemima was still childless as her mother wrote on the 12th July 1876 *"I wish Mima have a son yet"*.

Some of the West family in South Africa knew that Jemima married a West and about the miscarriage. In a letter written during 1958 the 75 year old Mary Jane Esterhuisen, a granddaughter of George John Beatty West, wrote about Jemima: *"My oupa se suster was Eleanor Wilhelmina. Sy was getroud met 'n "Barrister" Russel Hulle het net 1 dogter gehad en sy was ook met 'n West getroud, sonder kinders, maar ek meen dat hy van Amerika was en later terug is na Amerika".* (My grandfather's sister was Eleanor Wilhelmina. She was married to a Mr Russell They had only one daughter who also married a West and had no children. I think he was from America and later went back to America). Mrs Esterhuizen had it wrong that Jemima's husband went to America because he died and was buried in Cloone. It seems that after her Husband death his mother Eliza West, his mother in law Ellen Talbot and his widow Jemima West emigrated to America.

Jemima was very fond of her brother in law, dr George Beatty West. On the 4th November 1878 her mother Ellen wrote: *"Mima is here now on her half yearly visit and while she was here her brother in law George West died at Drumdarkin. He was a Staff Surgeon & the Yankee is in great grief for his favorite son. The poor little fellow had been twice in India & Mima was very fond of him. He was home on leave of absence and his death was unexpected at the time as he sank from an over discharge from an abscess on the liver. He was buried today".*

Evelyn Kelly, librarian from Mohill helped me with my research and sent the following information she found in the Leitrim Advertiser in connection with John Beatty West who seemed to be a bit difficult at times and thus was often in the news. The following news appeared in the Leitrim Advertiser about him:

- 7 October 1886: JB West was mentioned at Mohill Union Meeting for the Cloone water supply.
- 22 February 1877: Four wheel dog chart sold by Mr West (Advertisement).

- 3 March 1887: JB West awarded £17 for two bullocks killed and £17 for two heifers killed.
- 24 March 1887: Fire at his residence, two stables burned.
- 21 April 1887: JB West of Drumdarkin - a cesspayer (tax payer).
- 18 August 1887: His protection post at Drumdarkin removed to Cloone as he was not considered in need of protection by the police.
- 29 March 1888: A girl named Carroll arrested by sergeant McKenna for attempting to set fire on his house in Drumdarkin.
- 5 April 1888: JB West taking part in pony race on Easter Monday.
- 17 January 1889: Malicious burning of house of JB West Drumdarkin.
- 17 January 1889: Out-house of John Beatty West of Drumdarkin burned down and 4 head of cattle valued £50 each destroyed.
- 12 February 1889: He contributed towards Dr Pentland's testimonial fund.
- 21 February 1889: The case of John Mullany – John Beatty West.
- 21 February 1889: The case of burning of houses of JB West – against Mary Jane Farrell.
- 21 February 1889: JB West gave evidence in case of John Mullaney – the last named carrying a gun without license.
- 7 March 1889: Lizzie Carroll discharged on burning of houses
- 25 April 1889: Lizzie Carroll remained in custody for burglary of Mister John Beatty West of Drumdarkin House.
- 9 May 1889: JB West apply for compensation for malicious injury done to a weir. West built an eel weir – he lost the case.
- 16 May 1889: Theft at house of Mr JB West by workman Moran Pat.
- 16 May 1889: Miss Elizabeth aka Lizzie Carroll – breaking in the house of John Beatty West.
- 13 June 1889: Miss Elizabeth Carroll sentenced to prison for stealing the property of JB West.
- 4 July 1889: JB West's application for malicious injuries was refused by Grand Jury.
- 9 July 1896: Malicious claims by John B West and Andrew MacGowan.

On Friday the 16th October 1896 at 09.30 John Beatty West died in his house in Drumdarkin at the age of 55. He was buried on the hill in the Protestant graveyard at Cloone on Monday the 19th October 1896 at four o'clock. Evelyn Kelly from Mohill sent me the following that appeared in the Leitrim Advertiser of the 29th October 1896:

“DEATH OF JOHN B. WEST DRUMDARKIN, CLOONE.

The death of the above gentleman took place rather suddenly at his residence at Drumdarkin on last Friday morning at half past nine. The deceased was 54 years of age and had been in delicate health for a considerable period although he had not been confined to bed, having attended business at the Quarters Sessions at Ballinamore on Tuesday, two days previous to his decease. The funeral took place to Cloone churchyard on Monday at four O'clock when a very large and representative cortege followed the remains which were enclosed in a brass mounted polished oak coffin, the workmanship of Mr John Reynolds of Mohill and were conveyed by hearse to his last resting place. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. L. Cloak, rector of Cloone.” Alongside the two lists of notaries, solicitors, justices of peace etc. was the name of his brother, dr WT(F?) West.

Evelyn Kelly explained the custom, that with the death of her husband, nothing was mentioned about the forty two year old widow, Jemima, as follows: *“I am afraid that all women, regardless of status, were well down the pecking order when it came to occasions where men were the dominant feature!”*

I could find no trace of what happened to Jemima after the death of her husband in 1896. Daisy, Jemima's cousin in South Africa and some of the other Wests in South Africa, knew that she was married to John Beatty West of Cloone. In her letter of the 4th September 1904 Daisy addressed her cousin Jemima as Mrs J B West. The letter was not delivered in Cloone but returned unopened to Greyton. It is clear that in 1904, Jemima was not in Cloone any longer. My mother, Daisy's youngest sister, told us that they had it that Jemima and her mother left Ireland for either Canada or the USA.

Three years and four months after the death of George John Beatty West in South Africa, Elizabeth aka Daisy, in her letter of the 4th September 1904, informed her cousin Jemima West in Cloone of the death of her uncle George John Beatty West. Daisy, then a twenty year old school teacher, was his eldest child by his second wife Lenie van As. The following date stamps are on the envelope of Daisy's letter: *Mohill 27 Sept (19)04; Dromod 27 Sept (19)04 and Longford 28 Sept (19)04*. The letter was not delivered as Jemima had already left Cloone. The post master of Mohill wrote on the envelope: *"Gone. No address, J.G."* and sent it back to Greyton.

In this letter Daisy wrote: *"My object in writing to you is to tell you that poor Father died three years ago. He caught a severe cold while indisposed with influenza. He suffered for more than a year, and died on May 10th, 1901. While he was living he never would tell us much about his relatives in dear old Ireland. It is only lately that I found your address among his letters from his sister - Mrs. Eleanor Talbot. It would give me so much pleasure to hear from poor dear Father's relatives; for Father loved his country & his people to the last as only a true Irishman can"*.

I assume that after the death of John Beatty West in 1896, Jemima, her mother in law Francis Elizabeth (Eliza) West and her mother Eleanor Talbot, left Ireland for America where they settled with the West family in the area of Euclid, Cleveland and Chicago. Jemima's father in law, George West aka The Yankee had a brother William Munns West who died in Chicago on 8th January 1904. The Yankee also had a cousin who died in Rantoul, Champagne on the 19th November 1921. If Jemima, Eliza and Ellen left Ireland for America, as the story goes, it seems that they would have joined the nearest family mentioned above, the descendants of Munns West who settled in the USA.

CHAPTER 5

Searching for our Irish ancestors

Originally we had very little information about our West family in Ireland and how we were connected with them. We only knew that George John Beatty West was the son of William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt, that he had a sister Ellen who had a daughter Jemima and that they were from Cloone and later moved to Dublin. We also knew that Ellen was first married to James Russell and after his death to Pierre Talbott and that there were two aunts namely aunt Briscoe and aunt Swanne.

We asked ourselves: How was George John Beatty West's father, William Claudius West, connected to the West family of Ireland? Who were the parents, brothers, sisters and other relatives of William Claudius? Why did he name his second son George John Beatty West since Beatty is a surname?

These are the type of questions which Simon du Plooy referred to when he wrote: *"There probably is no family researcher who never in his research was confronted with a "brick wall". It is that connection which you cannot ascertain because of lack of information and especially contrasting information that, as one can imagine, is characterized by the lack of information"*. I found information about the Wests of Ireland but whatever the reason may be, I could not find any reference to a William Claudius West and where he fitted in. For many years during my research, I was confronted with brick wall upon brick wall.

In this chapter I discuss the search for our ancestors and relatives in Ireland and how I could connect our West family with the West, Beatty, Nesbitt, Cairncross, Moore, Crawford and other families. Mistakes could have crept in, but that is for the next researcher to put it right.

I was of opinion that William Claudius West could have been closely connected with the brothers George Beatty West and John Beatty West but could not prove it. When I made contact with Rachel Smith she told me that she was of opinion that William Claudius West could have been closely connected with William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty and that he could even be their *"missing son"* of whom she became aware in her research. At the end Rachel was right. William Claudius West was the son of William Francis West and his second wife Elizabeth Beatty. He, William Claudius West, was the younger brother of the well-known brothers George Beatty West the chief magistrate of county Leitrim and John Beatty West QC and the MP for Dublin.

Here in South Africa many stories were told about how rich the West family were. I can still recall the discussions on several occasions by my mother Susie, her sisters Daisy, Lily, Mien and her brothers Klasie, Pieter and Henry on winter evenings before the fireside at our farm Clune House between Greyton and Riviersonderend. These stories centered about how rich the family in Ireland were and they very often referred to their blood relationship with a certain Earl of Delaware and a very rich uncle John West who had only one child, a daughter who never married because she had such an ugly mark like a mouse on her face. We believed every word of it!

There was also a story about how the very rich William Claudius West lost his money through shares. Another story referred to a *"big shame"* about the family in Ireland, that William Claudius

and his son George were not, after George's marriage, on speaking terms with each other and that he chased George away. Those stories were told from generation to generation and accepted by us as facts but unfortunately also got attachments. Today, seven generations later, George John Beatty West's descendants still tell and believe these stories.

The story about the connection of the West family with The Earl of Delaware and the fortune waiting for the Wests, is not only believed by some of the family in South Africa but also as far away as the United States of America! After years of research, Rachel Smith, my brother Deon, I and other could find no proof of a close relationship between our West ancestors and the Earl of Delaware.

Fortunately we have some of these stories in writing. Mary Jane Esterhuizen, a granddaughter of George John Beatty West, wrote in *"The West Family"*: *"Oupa was the only son of William Claudius West. He had several estates – I do not know the names of all the estates – but my mother told me of Clooney House and Sandymount. . . . Oupa West's (George John Beatty West) father (William Claudius West) was the great-grandson of the Earl of Delaware. Oupa has his (the Earl of Delaware) name – George John Beattie West". . . . "In the beginning his father (William Claudius West) was very rich, but he lost a great deal of money through shares. That is why my mother (Mary Jane Smal born West) was so against shares up to her death"*. Mrs Esterhuizen also referred to George's rich uncle John West with the one child, the spinster with the mouse mark on her face and of course the large amount of money waiting for the West family. This is discussed in more detail in Chapter 11.

On Saturday afternoon 9th July 1955 Mary Jane McFarlane, the daughter of Mary Jane Esterhuizen, wrote from the Clarence Hotel in Dublin to her mother: *"Liewe Mammie, dit is nou 3 uur en om 5.30 vertrek ek weer na London. Ek is bevrees ek het geen goud vir die West familie gekry nie, maar darem 'n bietjie informasie"*, (I am afraid I did not find any gold for the West family, but instead a little information). Perhaps her words *"I am afraid I did not find any gold for the West family"* is not so innocent and even Daisy's letter to her niece in Cloone on 4th September 1904, could have something to do with *"the lots of money"* waiting there for the West descendants. In Daisy's letter she also mentioned that *"While he was living he never would tell us much about his relatives in dear old Ireland"*. That explained why, especially his second wife's children did not know so much about his Irish family. George was already 53 when he married his second wife Lenie and it seems that after his parent's estate was finalized, he lost contact with his sister Ellen. Ellen's last letter was dated Nov 4th 1878. It is clear that according to Daisy, the family, for whatever the reasons may have been, was not well informed about George's relatives in Ireland.

There were a few rich Wests in Ireland. One was George's uncle John Beatty West MP whom we discuss in Chapter 11. Another rich and well known West who is said to be related to the Wests of Cloone was a very beautiful lady, Constance Edwina aka Sheilagh (Sheilah) Cornwallis West (16th May 1775 - 21st January 1870). I could however not find the link between Sheilah and our West family of Cloone. In the Leitrim Advertiser of 18 January 1900, mention is made of the marriage of Constance Edwina West to the Duke of Westminster. The Duke was the richest aristocrat in the world at that time. After lots of fun and after the fun the Duke had in the Cape, they were divorced.

It was well known that Sheilah and her sister Mary Theresa Olivia were, as their mother, two beautiful ladies. Their mother was one of the two most photographed women of that time when she was already in her seventies. The New Zealand Free Lance described it under the heading: *ALL SORTS OF PEOPLE: "So the Duke of Westminster was married this week to Miss Shealah*

Cornwallis-West. The Cornwallis-Wests are certainly marrying well, from a Society point of view. Miss Sheila has just made "the biggest catch" of the season in the British matrimonial market, the Duke of Westminster being the wealthiest of the world's aristocracy. The present Duke's father strongly opposed the engagement. As Miss West's mother still bore the stigma of having, been a "professional beauty" having in the 70's, share with Mrs Langtry the honour of being one of the most Photo'd women of the period".

When Sheilah was, as can be expected, divorced it was settled on the 19th December 1919 that she would receive £13 000 per year from her ex-husband. In 2016 it is about £548 300 (R10 000 000) per year. She lived a further fifty years after her divorce and died at the age of ninety four. If one look at her many photos on the internet, I must admit she was a beauty! Sheilah and Mary Theresa Olivia's brother, Lieutenant Cornwallis-West, was married to Winston Churchill's mother, Lady Randolph Churchill. But unfortunately, although it is written that she was related to the Wests of Cloone, I am sorry but I could not establish the relationship!

To complicate the matter of where George's father William Claudius West fitted in I found SEVEN WILLIAM WEST'S in Ireland:

The 1st William West was the one referred to on the 8th September 1798 when the French troops reached Cloone. He was William Francis West, the father of William Claudius West

The 2nd William West is William Claudius West, our ancestor, the father of George John Beatty West. We are in the possession of the two letters he wrote to his son George about 1849 and on the 3rd April 1851 where he signed as W.W. (William West).

The 3rd William West the son of the chief magistrate of county Leitrim, George Beatty West,.

The 4th William West was dr Francis William West, the son of George Beatty West aka The Yankee

The 5th William West was William Munns West, the great great grandson of William Francis West's brother, Munns West.

The 6th William West was the son of the above-mentioned William Munns West.

The 7th William West is the one mentioned in the will of William West of Mullinadrumna, Co Leitrim.

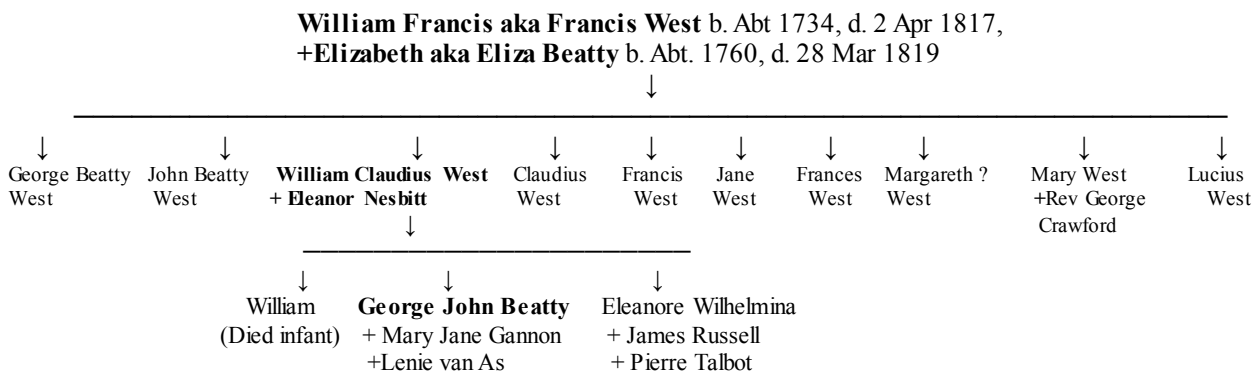
It was always clear that George John Beatty West was the son of William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt. The problem was that Deon Coetzee, Rachel Smith and myself could not connect William Claudius West with the rest of the West family of Ireland. Research of the origin of George's names, George John Beatty West, lead me to the brothers George Beatty West and John Beatty West, the children of Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty. I thought that there must have been a near connection between George John Beatty West and the above-mentioned brothers John Beatty West and George Beatty West. The resemblance of the names could not be a coincidence. Rachel Smith of the USA, herself a descendant of Mary, the sister of William Claudius, informed me that Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty had a "missing son" whom she thought was our direct ancestor, William Claudius West. The problem was to establish that connection.

Rachel Smith informed me of the *Crossle Record* where I could find more information about the Beatty family. The *Crossle Record* was compiled by the Rev dr. Philip Crossle, and further research by the Rev H B Swanzy from the Church of Ireland and Vicar of Newry (1919). Reading through the *Crossle Record* about the Beatty family, I came across the name Elizabeth aka Eliza Beatty. Elizabeth was married to Francis West of Cloone. She had a sister Frances Beatty who was married to McVitty Moore. When I looked at the names of the children and ancestors of the two sisters, married West and Moore, it was as if I found the last part of a big puzzle.

On pages 7 and 8 in the *Crossle Record*, the Rev dr. Philip Crossle wrote that Francis West of Cloone and Elizabeth Beatty had the following children:

George Beatty West,
John Beatty West MP for Dublin,
William West solicitor (The missing son William Claudius West our ancestor)
Claudius West solicitor
Francis West died as minor
Jane West
Mary West married the Rev George Crawford and
Frances West.

Diagram depicting William Francis West, Elizabeth Beatty and their children:



I followed Rachel's assumption that Francis and Elizabeth's "missing son" was our ancestor William Claudius West.

The following information further convinced me that William Claudius was the missing third son of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty and therefore the brother of George Beatty West the chief magistrate of county Leitrim and John Beatty West the MP for Dublin.

- 1 The Beatty in the names which William Claudius West gave his son, George John Beatty, is not sheer coincidence. He named his son George John Beatty West after his two well-known brothers John Beatty West and George Beatty West. As shown in the diagram, the two brothers were named after their mother's father John Beatty and her grandfather George Beatty. (Chapter 9).
- 2 Elizabeth Beatty's sister Frances Beatty also had a son John Beatty Moore. She, Frances named her son after her and her sister Elizabeth's father, John Beatty.
- 3 The Crossle Record (p 7 & 8) about the Beatty family showed that Francis West and Elizabeth had a son William West, who worked as a solicitor in Dublin. The following names of Francis and Elizabeth's children is mentioned namely the brothers George Beatty West, John Beatty West, William West solicitor, Claudius West solicitor, Francis West who died as a minor and sisters Jane West, Mary West and Frances West. William West the solicitor of Dublin, seems to be "the missing son" of Francis and Elizabeth West and our ancestor, William Claudius West.
- 4 In a letter of William Claudius between 1849 and 1851 to his son George, he referred to "my sister Mary's" who is in Scotland with her daughter. John Beatty and George Beatty West had a sister Mary who was married to the Rev George Crawford.
- 5 In April 1840 after the brutal murder of Claudius West, mention is made of his brothers John Beatty West, George Beatty West, William West from Dublin and their brother in law Rev

George Crawford who gave money to find the murderers. The William West from Dublin was William Claudius West, the father of George John Beatty West.

- 6 In the Dowry contract, 21st June 1820 with the marriage of William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt and with the baptism of their son William, the brothers John McVitty Moore and the Rev. George Beatty Moore signed as witnesses. They were the nephews of William Claudius West, the sons of Elizabeth's sister Frances Beatty and McVitty Moore. John McVitty Moore was also given the responsibility of trust lands and money.
- 7 Elizabeth could name her 4th son Claudius West after her great grandfather Claudius Beatty.
- 8 Daisy, George John Beatty's eldest child by his second wife, was very upset when they registered her granddaughter, Lisbie Groenewald as Lisbie. Daisy preferred the name ELIZABETH BEATTY to Lisbie. It seems that Daisy, already 20 when George John Beatty West died, knew that Elizabeth Beatty was her great grandmother. Lisbie is derived from Elizabeth Beatty.

With all this information it became possible to trace our West and Beatty ancestors and their relatives. The life of William Claudius West and what happened to him and his family is discussed in the next chapter.

CHAPTER 6

From landlord to Kilmainham prison – his father William Claudius West (abt 1796-1851)

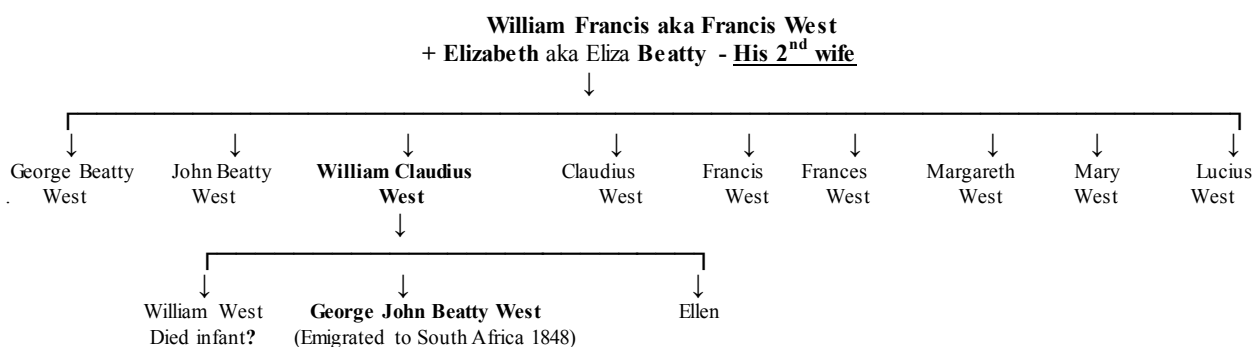
We as the descendants of William Claudius West knew almost nothing about his brothers, sisters and ancestors. After confirmation that my great grandfather, William Claudius West was indeed the “missing son” of William Francis West and his second wife Elizabeth Beatty and seemingly the same William West who was a solicitor in Dublin, many things fell into place and the research about our West family in Ireland was on track.

William Claudius West was born about 1796 at Cloone. His father William Francis West farmed at Cloone and lived in the big double storey Cloone House during the occupation of Cloone by the French on the 7th September 1798. William Claudius and his three brothers George Beatty West (Chief Magistrate for the County of Leitrim), John Beatty West (MP for Dublin) and Claudius West all studied law. For a short while the young William Claudius worked as a solicitor in Dublin. It is not clear why he did not continue as solicitor in Dublin.

It seems that soon after their marriage in 1822, William and his wife Wilhelmina Nesbitt settled at Cloone where their three children were born and where George and his sister Ellen spent their early years. It seems that he farmed for quite a while at Cloone. Years later his daughter Ellen wrote in her letter of 20th December 1872 to her brother George “I could scarce convey to you on paper the many feelings with which I revisited our once happy fireside”. We know that George was born at Cloone. I could not establish which of George or his sister were the eldest.

After the brutal murder of his brother Claudius West during April 1840, William was furious about the way in which the lands of his late brother Claudius came into the hands of The Yankee. In the book *Ireland Land, Politics and People* (p 59-60) compiled by P J Drudy, David Fitzpatrick wrote: “Claudius was subsequently murdered and the agency of his lands taken by George West, who himself became the target of outrage. Poor William, hearing rumours . . . but he proceed to give vent to his loathing for cousin George, commonly called the Yankee”. (Chapter 10).

Diagram depicting William Francis West, his 2nd wife Elizabeth Beatty and their 9 children:



William Claudius also had a brother Francis West who died as a minor and a brother Lucius West. His sisters were Jane West, Frances West, Margareth West and Mary West. Mary was married to the Rev George Crawford. See diagram Chapter 5.

As was the custom, William Claudius West and Eleanore Wilhelmina Nesbitt had a Dowry Contract settled before their marriage. Since the Dowry contract is dated Wednesday the 21st June 1820, I presume that they were married on the 27th June 1820 and not 1822 as stated in the marriage certificate. The Hibernian Research Company supplied us with the following information about the Dowry Contract:

"773 384 524119 21st June 1820

Wm, (William) West Cloone Co Leitrim sq (1)
Eleanor Swanne, Longford Town, widow (2)
Anne Nesbitt, Longford Town, (3)
Eleanor Nesbitt, daughter of (3) (4)
Richard Wood, Kinsale, Esq (5)
John Moore, Cartrons, Co Longford M.D. (6)

This deed recites that a marriage was to shortly take place between (1) and (4). (1) for considerations granted to (5) and (6) to hold in trust the lands of Upper and Lower Cloonagh Co. Longford and the lands of Drumshando, Co Leitrim.

Deed also recites that (2) for the considerations granted to (5) and (6) a sum of £1,300 to which (2) was entitled under the marriage settlement of will of her father Attiwell Wood and charged on lands in Co Cork and elsewhere. To hold in trust reserving to (2) a life's interest. Lands of Cloone and Drumshando and the said charge were granted to secure annuity of £100 for (4) should she survive (1).

Lands of Tarmon Berry Newmarket Co. Roscommon then this land should be conveyed to (5) and (6) to hold in trust and to pay an additional annuity of £50 to (4)".

The West, Nesbitt, Cairncross, Beatty, Wood and Moore people involved in the Dowry Contract were:

Wm, (William) West Cloone Co Leitrim sq (1) - William Claudius West the bridegroom

Eleanor Swanne, Longford Town, widow (2) - Eleanor Swanne (born Wood) aka "aunt Swanne". She was closely related to the bride Eleanore Nesbitt and supplied the dowry money. After Eleanore Nesbitt's husband's death, her close friend, "aunt Swanne" stayed with her till aunt Swanne's death. She was buried in the same grave as William Claudius West. See Chapter 7 for more detail about "aunt Swanne".

Anne Nesbitt, Longford Town (3) - Anne Nesbitt was the mother of Eleanore Wilhelmina Nesbitt. She was Anne Cairncross, married Nesbitt. It seems as if she was from the Longford area.

Eleanor Nesbitt, daughter of (3) - Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt was the bride-to-be and the daughter of Anne Cairncross and Henry Nesbitt.

Richard Wood, Kinsale, Esq (5) - Perhaps a brother or uncle of "aunt Swanne". He was from Kinsale, a town about twenty kilometers South of Cork. (Map 1)

John Moore, Cartrons, Co Longford M.D. (6) - Dr John McVitty Moore was a nephew of William Claudius West. Cartrons is a farm about eight kilometers South of Longford and one kilometer East of Keenagh. Dr John McVitty Moore later emigrated to the USA where he died in 1857.

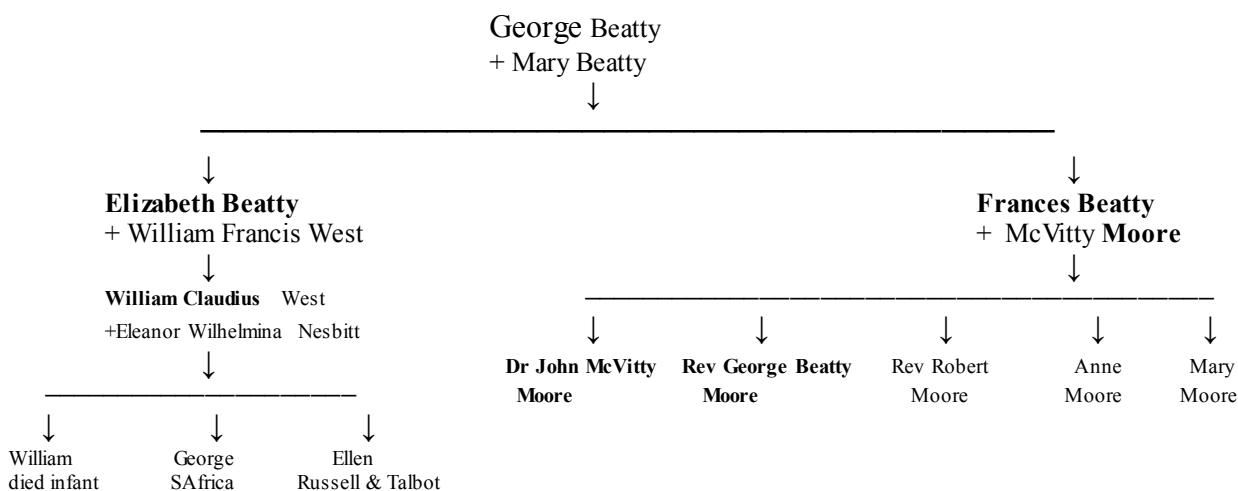
When William Claudius West married at the age of about twenty four, his address was given as Cloone while his bride Eleanore was, at the time of their marriage, from Templemichael. In the Dowry Contract it is stated that Eleanore's mother, Anne Nesbitt, born Cairncross was from Longford. As Templemichael is on the Eastern outskirts of Longford, it seems as if Eleanore gave her mother, Anne Cairncross's address as hers. It is unclear whether Anne Nesbitt was a widow at that time or whether her husband Henry Nesbitt was still alive. Probably William and Eleanore's

marriage was conducted after the death of Eleanor's father, Henry Nesbitt.

The West, Beatty and Moore families

George and Mary Beatty had two daughters: Elizabeth Beatty married to William Francis West and Frances Beatty married to McVitty Moore. With the marriage of William Claudius West and Eleanor Nesbitt, his cousins Dr John McVitty Moore and his brother the Rev George Beatty Moore signed as witnesses.

Diagram showing the relationship between John and George Moore and William Claudius West:



Rachel Smith supplied an extract from the marriage certificate of William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt. The details are: William West from Cloone married Eleanor Nesbitt from Templemichael were married by the priest George Crawford on 27th June 1822 (1820) before the witnesses George Beatty Moore and John Moore. (The priest George Crawford was the brother in law of William West. He is sister Mary's husband).

Rachel Smith put it that William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt were married in the Clonguish Church of Ireland parish in Newtonforbes on Tuesday 27th June 1820. Rev George Crawford, William's brother in law, conducted the marriage ceremony. Newtonforbes is 4km North of Longford on the N4 to Carrick-On-Shannon. The church's name has changed and today it is the St. Paul's Church of Ireland. This characteristic church building is connected to the Forbes family who came from Scotland during the plantations.

After their marriage the West couple settled at Cloone where they stayed in Cloone House, the big double storey house of the landlords of Cloone. It was said that William and Eleanor had only a son and daughter but they actually had three children: William baptized 1826, George John Beatty aka George born 1827 and Eleanore Wilhelmina aka Ellen.

Rachel Smith also supplied the following information which she took from the County Longford Heritage site about their eldest son William. The details are that a child named William West was baptised on 16th February 1826 by the priest George Crawford for the parents William West (Esq) and Ellen West, residing at Cornish Maria Lodge.

William Claudius and Eleanor's son William was baptized in the Clonguish Church of Ireland parish in Newton Forbes. It was the same church where his parents were married six years previously. William Claudius West's brother in law, the Rev George Crawford, the same priest who solemnized their marriage conducted the baptismal service. (The Rev Crawford was married to William's sister Mary – Chapter 13). At the time of the baptism of William Jr., his parents' address was given as: Cornish Maria Lodge, Clonguish Parish. I found no further reference to this son William and it is accepted that he died as an infant.

With the baptism of their eldest son William, the West couple still lived in Cloone House. It was in this house where their second child George John Beatty West and their third child, Eleanor Wilhelmina West were born. George John Beatty West was baptized on the 24th June 1827. The dates of birth and baptism of Eleanor is unknown.

The following snippets of information refer to William Claudius West:

- The *Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette*, 15 December 1827: *"A quantity of hay, the property of William West was burned near Cloone Police Station, half a mile away"*. Newspaper Subject – "Arson was Arson".
- In 1830 the name William West in Cloone, Co Leitrim showed in *The Tithe Applotment*.
- *The Griffith's Primary Valuation of Lands and Tenants* in 1830 also referred to William West.
- David Fitzpatrick referred in the article "Class, Family and Rural Unrest in 19th Century Ireland" (p. 59-60), in P J Drudy's book *Ireland Land Politics and People*, to William Claudius West and his brother Claudius: *"The clergyman's suspicions immediately centered upon William West, brother of Claudius. Claudius was subsequently murdered and the agency of his lands taken up by George West, who himself became target of outrage. Poor William, hearing rumours that these offensives were being blamed upon his own tenantry (and by implication himself), angrily repudiated such insinuations to attempt to injure the character of any individual. But he proceed to give vent to his loathing for cousin George, commonly called The Yankee"*.

The above-mentioned words of David Fitzpatrick referred to the murder of William Claudius West's brother Claudius and implicated that the people who murdered Claudius were William Claudius West's own tenants and that William Claudius himself was therefore implicated by the murder of his brother. The words "*Poor William*" can be interpreted as referring to the position William Claudius was in or that he had a pathetic personality. It seems more likely that it referred to the undesirable situation of William Claudius as well as the fact that The Yankee took over the control of the lands of William Claudius's brother Claudius. William Claudius clearly showed his disapproval of the Yankee's arrogance.

The reasons why William Claudius and Eleanor left Cloone for Dublin between 1838 and 1840 is not clear. During those years Leitrim was not seen as a good farming area and it seems that in those circumstances, William Claudius was not a successful farmer. According to the letters of his daughter Ellen he was better with cattle farming than with planting. It is said that William Claudius farmed with pigs in Irishtown, Dublin. His son George John Beatty West saw his future wife Mary Jane Gannon for the first time in Dublin when he and his father were on their way to sell pigs.

Thom's Dublin Directory mentioned a William West who during 1850 and 1851, was living in 13 Cottage Park Ave, Sandymount. It could have been another William West. I suppose it was William West the son of George Beatty West, the chief magistrate of county Leitrim.

After William Claudius West and his family left Cloone for Dublin, they were overcome with

hardships. From his daughter Ellen's letters to her brother George in South Africa, it seemed that William was good in music and singing but not a successful farmer. There is no reference in her letters about their father's work as a solicitor. During those hardships that came with the potato famine he had to keep his son George at university. Later with the cholera epidemic, there were no people with money who could buy William Claudius's properties. The potato famine affected everybody in Ireland, Catholic and Protestant alike.

I could trace no proof that he lost money through share trading as the story was told in South Africa. The fact that Mrs Eleanor Swanne, a very rich lady stayed with William Claudius and Eleanor his wife was well cared for in the Dowry Contract, left the question: What happened to the money? Was he unsuccessful at farming? Did he lose his money playing with shares or was it the circumstances in Ireland that broke him financially? Taking the harsh impact of the Potato Famine into account, I personally will be very careful to say that he lost his money through speculating with shares. As it is clear from Ellen's letter, everybody had their own financial problems and nobody could help anybody. The impact of the Potato Famine (1845 - 1851) was disastrous.

The family in South Africa did not realize that the West family and their friends in Ireland also fell prey to the ejections and as a result of that, George's father spent a month in Kilmainham jail during June 1849 for not being able to repay the £200 (£150?) he borrowed from Mr Keogh.

Ellen referred to this disaster in her letter of 13th June 1849:

You will no doubt feel surprised at my long silence. ... many things conspired to prevent my writing as such at least I had something satisfactory to tell. I think I mentioned in my last that there was another ejection on the lands and you will be shocked to hear we have been on the very verge of ruin. This unfortunate country is in so destroyed a state that land is now of no value. This is the reason Papa could not raise £200 to redeem the land although there is £1700 more that is on Mr. Worthington's & his Mr. W. Lamont redeem his portion as advances are his ready money to redeem them before, so Papa is obliged to give Aunt Briscoe more as security for the money she is about raising for Mr. W & himself.

The Lord in Heaven grant the old Duke may live till it is paid off for - he should be ruined. By this you perceive the money is not yet raised nor the lands of course redeemed. But thank God all appears on a fair way.

Papa has nearly walked himself dead to try to arrange things. This accounts for my apparent in not answering your letter sooner. I did not yet tell you that Old Keogh arrested my Father for £150 & had him in Kilmainham for better than a month. He is out on bail & will get rid of all his debt. Please God help the Insolvent Act. So you may judge of all we have gone through.

I could tell you a great deal more but you know enough. I will only add that Aunt Samia & I to redeem the lands (the first time) put one Promise on a bill for £76 to John Briscoe. Mr. W. also put his on it. Said everything J.M. could do to sway each individual he has done to the utmost even to putting both Mr. W. & Aunt S. in to prison & now he threatens me that the lands are redeemed. Please God all will end well So you may be thankful you escaped so much trouble.

We are still in old Harrells Cottage. Peter Cooney has left them and gone to Australia last Spring. With all his family. Nothing can exceed the tide of emigration. All the small farmers who can scrape together any little sum which can enable them to quit this wretched country and avoid the landlord. (As you used to say yourself). But they're lucky leaving behind them a waste farm & the landlord obliged to pay the taxes (which are you abroad can form no idea of the State of Ireland. Nothing but bankruptcy. People who have kept their carriages now can maintain but one servant maid. Free

trade in corn & every thing. So we have Bread very cheap 4lb. Loaf best quality 6½ – meat as usual high – much the same always.

The Cholera is just now very bad in Dublin. Thomas St devastated & all in that direction. The Cholera hospital is just oppositeSquare. Two or three master houses they have taken for it. Thank God it is very light in Sandymt. But very bad in Kingsend. Just as you said in your letter no hope for drunkards whatever. Two or three Ladies here died of it here but I believe they were uncautious in what they eat.

The new church here is nearly finished it is beautiful. It is to be ready for services in August.

With his financial problems which Ellen described in the above quoted letter, William Claudius could not repay the money that he borrowed from old Mr Keogh in time.

William Claudius wrote a letter to his son about 1849 in which he referred to Mr Keogh as “*just a villian*”. “*Keogh is done up and obliged to fly to Londonis just a villian as we hired*”. In the same letter William Claudius described the circumstances in which he landed:

My dear George,

Min (George's sister Ellen) has given you an account of our affairs and God only knows what we have suffered in body & mind. But thanks to his Holy Name we got our land redeemed and had only three days for it. Had the Gentleman we appointed exerted himself all would have been well, but he allowed the Crops to be moved off three of the farms but as he is appointed under the County Chancery. He is accountable for his duty.

William Claudius, having had financial problems, borrowed money from old Mr Keogh, which he could not pay back in time. Mr Keogh had William Claudius in the four storey Kilmainham jail for one month. This hurt his pride, finance and according to Ellen, also his health. Back in South Africa, George's children did not talk about their grandfather who spent some time Kilmainham. They only referred to the so called “*Big Shame*”. It seems to me that William Claudius's grandchildren either did not know or they pretended not to know about his one month in Kilmainham. Although he had properties, William Claudius West did not have money and died in poverty at the end of the Potato Famine in Ireland.

A visit to Kilmainham jail gives one a better insight of what William Claudius West went through. The spot where the poet and artist Joseph Plunkett, more than 60 years later was shot just a few hours after his marriage to Grace Gifford is something never to forget. To get the feeling of what the Catholic Irish went through it can be worthwhile to listen to the song “*Grace*” on You Tube.

After the month in Kilmainham, William Claudius's health deteriorated. Shortly after August 1849, William Claudius wrote to George: “*Min (Ellen).... has given you an account of our affairs and God only knows what we have suffered in body & mind*”.

On 25th February 1851 Ellen wrote: “*I will now give you an account of ourselves since I last wrote. Thank God our little Circle has (in one sense) not yet been broken. But poor dear Father was very near being snatched from us by the grim tyrant (death). He is only just now recovering attended by two Doctors, blistered 6 times, closed to & treated by both differently. Neglected cold first which turned to bronchitis fever - then inflammation of the Lungs. I could not tell you how he suffered and my poor Mother in attendance on him. (Aunt Swanne?) is quite well. She is now on a visit with her nieces the Woods so that Father & Mother are quite alone*”.

In William Claudius's letters to George there were no bitterness or alienation between father and son. On the contrary, it were letters by a worried father with health and financial problems of his

own who was trying to encourage and advise his still inexperienced very young twenty three year old son, himself the father of two children, how to survive and succeed in a foreign country. In his letter to George, he showed his interest in potato, cattle and sheep farming and his love for flowers. At that time when he wrote to his son, George was a constable in Caledon.

On the 3rd March 1851, ten weeks before his death, in spite of his poor health, William Claudius wrote in his beautiful and strong handwriting his last letter in our possession to his son George giving him the following advice about farming:

"I was unable to get the cabbage seed until Saturday. Still confined to the house. Mr Smith sends them a present to you. They are all mixed. I would send all but for the postage".

"Though very unable to write I send you what I think may be useful to cattle and sheep. Sheep in a warm climate should have their wool taken off very early, and when I had sheep I had them well washed in rank lime and buttermilk to prevent maggots. If your sheep are a heavy breed care should be taken There is no use in doctoring or quacking with a sick sheep, get rid of him.

As to sick cattle I can say little, the principal disease (line missing) cows with calf should not be kept too warm in winter and avoid hot feeding as much as possible such as rye grass or those forced grasses for the first three months they frequently slip their calves. Sore tits you may make a little ointment by getting any herbs like these in Ireland, Dutchins, firstly stew them in lard and when well stewed squeeze out all the substance and when cold to be rendered over again with sheep suet white and black a small quantity of the black, a small quantity of beeswax, this I have found most valuable.

*I believe I have given you a full account of all I about these things. I send you the cabbage seeds but they are all mixed together but when grown you can separate them. Be careful in transplanting and water with a hot son. You promised to send me a geranium seed, though only knows where we may be after a few months. But love and blessings from your father.
W West".*

William Claudius West died on Monday May the 12th 1851 at the age of 55. It was four years after George and Mary Jane's marriage. He was buried in the graveyard of the St Mathews Church in Irishtown. The Certificate of Registry of Burial states that William West of Sandymount died at the age of fifty five and that he was buried on the 14th May 1851. The service was performed by the Rev W A Willock.

His wife Eleanor, their two grandchildren and aunt Swann were later buried in the same grave. The St Mathews Church is opposite the new police station in Irishtown at the corner of Irishtown Road and Church Avenue and about 600 meters from the Aviva Rugby stadium. The original headstone broke down and we three brothers, Deon, Colas and I arranged with the church and re-erected the new stone. It was dedicated by Canon Ted Ardis on Sunday 26th September 2010. We three had the privilege to attend the service and took part in the communion in the same church where our great grandparents, their daughter Ellen and their granddaughter Jemima went. During the dedication of the tombstone Canon Ardis read from 1 Cor 15, the same reading that Jemima read to her grandmother moments before her grandmother's death 139 years ago. It was a very emotional occasion which we three brothers will never forget.

Today the only descendants of William Claudius and Eleanor are the descendants of their son George John Beatty West. After 220 years since the birth of William Claudius West in Ireland we still find his full names among the West, Smal, Van Heerden, van der Merwe, Groenewald, Spark and Beukes families. His youngest descendant with his names known to me is the young 17 year old William Claudius aka Claude West, in 2016 a student at Drostdy, Worcester.

My dear George,

Abt 1849

Min².... has given you an account of our affairs and God only knows what we have suffered in body & mind. But thanks to his Holy Name we got our land redeemed and had only three days for it. Had the Gentleman we appointed exerted himself all would have been well, but he allowed the Crops to be moved off three of the farms but as he is appointed under the County Chancery. He is accountable for his duty³.

I was to see Mr Jude this day he was very glad to hear of you being well. Mrs Jude another son, now four of them. He is getting on very well, Keogh⁴ is done up and obliged to fly to Londonis just a villain as we hired.

Should you succeed in getting theput arsenic on the stains and take care dearest ... you hands ...you and you promised to send some geranium seed. Did you get the few potato seeds⁵ I sent.

There was a failure in many places this year but not general.

Mr Smith as usual always asks for you.

When you write direct to the Care of Captain Welsh as before as we will not remain here.

I owe you the *Warder*⁶ newspaper with the account of the Queens visit to Ireland.

Every night I expect to hear of my sister Mary's⁷ death. She is now in Scotland with her daughter, her family take the act of the writing some of the Dubs of this life,

With best prayers for your welfare believe me your affectionate

W WEST

NOTES:

- 1 George's father, William C West, wrote this letter to his son after queen Victoria's visit to Ireland, 2-12th August 1849. She also visited Ireland during 1853 and 1861, but that was after WC West's death on 12.05.1851.
- 2 It is the only reference to his daughter Ellen as Min. She refers to herself in the letter of 25.02.1851 as Minny while on some of the other letters she signed as Eleanor.
- 3 It seems as if William still had at least 3 farms but it is clear that here in the middle of the potato famine, he was in financial problems.
- 4 William owed Keogh £150 and could not, under those circumstances, pay him back in time. Before 13 June 1849, old Keogh had him in Kilmainham jail for a month.
- 5 William sent his son potato seed from Ireland while the Irish farmers was in the middle of the biggest famine, caused by the potato blight.
- 6 The *Warder* newspaper was a conservative Protestant newspaper which his father sent him to South Africa.
- 7 "His sister Mary" seems to be his full sister. They were the children of Francis and Elizabeth West of Drumdarkin. Mary was married to the Rev. dr. George Crawford.

CHAPTER 7

His lonely mother – Eleanor Wilhelmina and her family (abt 1798-1871)

Little is known about George John Beatty West's mother Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt and her Nesbitt, Cairncross and Briscoe relatives. Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt was the daughter of Henry Nesbitt and Anne Cairncross. I could not trace any relatives of Anne Cairncross. At the time of her marriage with William Claudius West on the 7th June 1820 in the Clonguish Church of Ireland in Templemichael, County Longford her address was given as Newtonforbes.

Michael Jones in his *"Updates"* in Peerage.com put it that Henry Nesbitt, Eleanor Wilhelmina West's father, was from Ahermore (Aghamore) near Drumod in Ireland. The Nesbitt family farmed in the area of Lough Bofin, Lough Boderg and Lough Scannal on the Shannon river. Their ancestor James Nesbitt built the Aughry Castle on the peninsula that goes into Lough Bofin. In 1690 the Jacobites burnt the castle down, destroyed it and murdered James Nesbitt's wife, Ursula Crofton. The Nesbitts also had lands at Derrycarne, about four kilometers from Drumod and adjacent to Loch Boderg. Derrycarne was part of an estate owned by Mathew Nesbitt, who in 1798 was the High Sheriff of Leitrim.

Cloone where the Wests lived, Aghamore, Drumod, the Aughry Castle where the Nesbitts lived and Newtonforbes and Templemichael are in the same area. Distances from Aghamore are approximately: Cloone – 20 km; Drumod and Aughry Castle – 5 km; Newtonforbes – 15 km while Templemichael is part of Longford.

The Nesbitts emigrated from Dalkeith, Midlothian a few km South East of Edinburgh and possibly from the small town Nisbet a few km north of Jedburgh in Scotland.

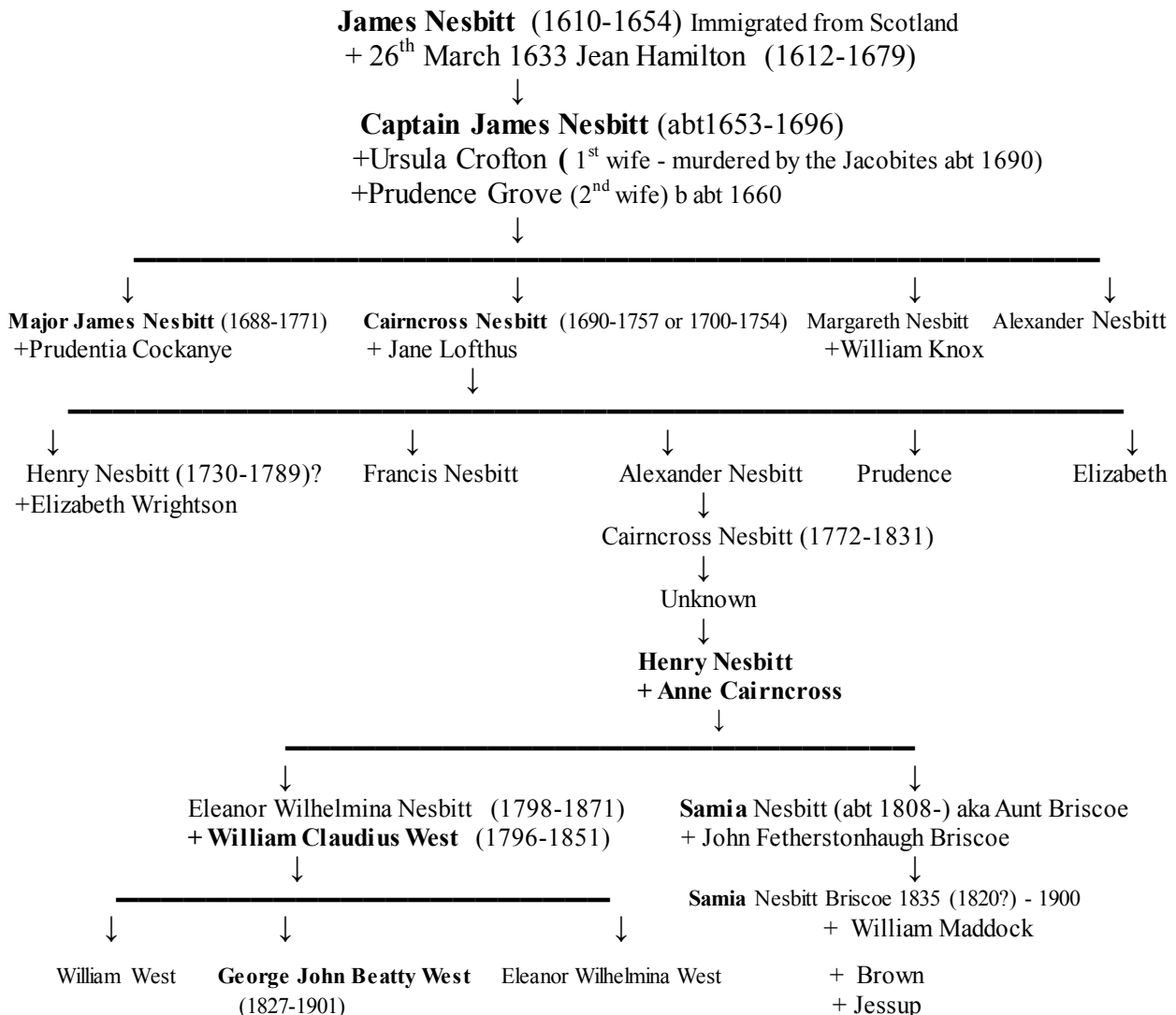
What complicated the research is that the surname Nesbitt is written in many different ways. According to Delene du Toit, George felt strongly that the Nesbitt names should be kept in the family. He gave seven of his nineteen children a Nesbitt name. He named his first child Ellen, his fourth James, his seventh Henry Nesbitt, his eighth Anna Samia, his ninth Cairncross Nesbitt, his fourteenth Charles and his fifteenth Henry Nesbitt. Seventeen months after the death of his son Henry Nesbitt West on 11th December 1886, he named his fifteenth child who was born on the 15th May 1888, also Henry Nesbitt West.

I could not find any nearby relatives with the names of James, Henry or Cairncross in the West and Beatty families in Ireland. When I however looked into the Nesbitt family I found those names among the Nesbitts from Aughry Castle and Aghamore near Drumod. Unfortunately I could not establish the connection of our ancestor Henry Nesbitt with the Nesbitt family of Aghamore. It seems that Ahermore should be Aghamore near Drumod as Aghamore is only a few kilometers from the Aughry castle where the Nesbitt family lived.

On Geneanet and other websites I found the following: James Nesbitt and his wife Jean Hamilton were from Scotland. They were married on the 26th March 1633. Before 1640 they immigrated to Ireland. He was born about 1610 in Scotland and died at the Aughry Castle near Drumod in 1654 at the age of 44 years. Jean was also born in Scotland about 1612 and died in Donegal on the 1st February 1679 at the age of 67 years.

James and Jean had a son Captain James Nesbitt who was born about 1653 and died in February 1696. Captain James Nesbitt was first married to Ursula Crofton. During 1690, shortly after Ursula was murdered by the Jacobites, Captain James Nesbitt married Prudence Grove. Prudence was born about 1660. They had three sons: Major James Nesbitt (1688-1771), Cairncross Nesbitt (1690-1757) and Alexander Nesbitt. Their son Major James West was married to Prudentia Cockanye. Their son Cairncross Nesbitt was married to the wealthy widow Jane Lofthus. He was High Sheriff of Aghrim and later of Sligo. He died during 1757 at the age of 67 as a very rich man. For more detail about his wealth, see Appendix 1 at end of this chapter.

The following diagram depicts the Nesbitt ancestors of George John Beatty West:



Cairncross and Jane Lofthus had three sons: **Henry**, Francis, and Alexander Nesbitt. **Henry Nesbitt** married Elizabeth Wrightson about 1755. Alexander had a son **Cairncross Nesbitt** born about 1772. Stanley Oliver Nesbitt in Ancestral Research stated that **Cairncross Nesbitt** studied at Dublin University in 1791. He died in Kilmainham on the 5th December 1831 at the age of 59.

The Nesbitts lived in the Derrycarne area near Drumod until 1850. It seems that our ancestor Eleanor Wilhelmina West born Nesbitt, could have been a descendant of the above-mentioned nearby living Nesbitts although I could not find a direct connection between Henry Nesbitt, Wilhelmina Eleanore Nesbitt's father and the other Nesbitts of Aghamore and Aghry Castle.

Eleanor's sister Samia Briscoe born Nesbitt

Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt had a sister Samia Briscoe born Nesbitt. Samia was born about 1808. In a letter of 25th February 1851 Eleanor's daughter Ellen asked George whether his eldest child Ellen looked like aunt Samia's daughter Nanny: *"Is Ellen anything like our poor Nanny, tell me when you write to me and let it be Soon".* "Nanny" refer to aunt Briscoe's daughter Samia Nesbitt Briscoe. Nanny was first married Maddock, then Brown and then Jessup.

Ellen also referred to Samia Briscoe in her letter of 27th May 1853: *"Aunt Briscoe is living in the Isle of Man neither Jane or Samia are yet married. Uncle Poole is still in Canada & Harry with him. Willy & Johny Briscoe are at Sea. But what do you think of Aunt Briscoe going to be married to a Manxman a Mr Cowan. She says she is only thinking about it but you know the man who deliberates is lost. Nannie Brown lives in Canada. She has only one daughter (but she lost another). She often asks for you and desires me now send you her affectionate love".*

On the 8th November 1853, two years after the death of Ellen's father, William Claudius West, Ellen wrote that aunt Samia Briscoe lived with her in Ellen Villa, Drumcondra, Dublin. *"Aunt Samia live with me (ma?) and are both very well. Mamma looks as well as ever".* And then: *"Aunt Briscoe is still in the Isle of Man but her daughter Nannie Brown lives in Dublin & desired me give you her fondest love when I should write to you. What now you think of Aunt Briscoe going to be married. He is a Manx Man - by the bye Aunt is married & to a very ugly man. Not the person she was engaged to. Sarah never married".*

The descendants of Samia Nesbitt, the sister of Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt:

1-Samia aka Samia Nesbitt b. Abt 1808

+John Fetherstonaugh Briscoe

2-Samia Nesbitt Briscoe b. Abt 1835, Dublin, d. 7th March 1900

+William Maddock b. Abt 1806

3-William Maddock b. Abt 1868, Dublin

3-Attwell Wood Richard Maddock

3-Ellen Helena Nesbitt Maddock

+William Nugent Briscoe Dooley b. Abt 1852

We have a letter which aunt Briscoe wrote on the 5th September 1867 to George as Ellen was too sick to write. *"... now my dear George as we are on the subject of the boys my eldest Boy now a man William – he and his Brother Henry Pool who you must remember at Cossing have joined in the purchase of a farm near London in Canada. They had to work hard to earn the money which they paid by degrees. Robert the youngest was a wild lad – would not settle to anything and has enlisted for 3 years in the Federal Army in Richmond Washington America. You have heard all my daughters are married comfortly and got good sober young men".* (From Aunt Briscoe's letter, Appendix 2.)

In Ellen's letter of 5th April 1879 she gave much information about aunt Briscoe's children:

"... you send your love to Aunt Briscoe. She is at present in London visiting all her daughters who are living there. Nanny Brown (your old sweetheart) is married again now Mrs Jessop. Jenny is Mrs Way, living at Bristol, Eleanor is Mrs. Mistzel & Martha Mrs Belas. Samia lives near us & is Mrs Maddock. Harry was married in Sept last to a Miss Kennedy one of the girls you used to meet with the Miss Poole when we were Sams Cottage in(you were only then 16) you used to over with Sam Poole to see his sisters & Miss Cullin, their cousins & those Kennedys lived near them they went out to America afterwards – Willy Briscoe is also married to a little girl of 16 years of age. Was married 6 months before Harry. They are both living near uncle Poole at Canada West".

In her letter of 21st January 1870 Ellen wrote: *"I saw Aunt Briscoe this week. She desired her love to you. Her two sons Willy & Henry are married all her daughters as well"*.

It seems that Aunt Briscoe's children were:

- William aka Willy – a farmer near London in Canada near Mr Poole
- Nanny Brown now Jessop & lived in London, Canada
- Jenny now Way lives in Bristol
- Eleanor now married Mistzel
- Martha married Belas
- Samia married Maddock
- Harry married a miss Kennedy
- Robert the youngest in Canada

According to Mark Thomas in his article *"Abandoned Ireland"*, aunt Samia was married to Fetherstonhaugh Briscoe, the son of William Nugent Briscoe. The couple had a daughter Samia Nesbitt Briscoe 1835 (1820)–1900. The date of her birth do not correspond with this date. Ellen always referred to Samia Nesbitt Briscoe as Nanny. It seems that Nanny was first married to William Maddock, then to Mr Brown and then to Mr Jessup.

Ellen wrote on the 1st October 1873: *Since Nannie Jessop was here dying of fever last month. She is much better* and on 3rd November 1873: *"Nanny Jessop was also very ill with a fever"*.

In her letter of 18th February 1877 Ellen referred to her as *"Nanny"*. In a letter written after 13th March 1877, Ellen wrote that poor Nanny, had a very difficult life: *"Nanny Jessup was over from London since I wrote to you with her son Nesbitt Brown & her oldest daughter Marth Jessup who is the very picture of poor Aunt Briscoe Your old sweetheart Nanny looks broken hearted. The lass got a bad drunken husband That is two drunkards she got, she has six daughters"*.

The Cork Examiner of 23rd of December 1863 refer to aunt Samia's husband as *"the late John Fetherstonhaugh Briscoe Esq"*. Aunt Samia and her sister Eleanor were very close to each other. During September 1867 the widow aunt Samia Briscoe stayed with her sister Eleanor and her daughter Ellen in Sandymount. On the 5th September 1867, when Ellen was too sick to write, aunt Samia Briscoe wrote a letter to George which she closed: *"...your Mother desires her fond love and a thousand blessings for you and yours – and hope you will accept of my love and good wishes for your welfare and happiness from your affectionate Aunt. Samia Briscoe, Sept 5th 1867"*. In 1862 when George John Beatty West's eight child Anna Samia West was born, he named her after his beloved aunt Anna Samia Briscoe.

The Cork Examiner of 23rd of December 1863 reported on the marriage of *"William Maddock Esq, of 40 Richmond Place, Dublin to Samia Nesbitt Briscoe of 12 Russell Street, the third daughter of the late John Fetherstonhaugh Briscoe Esq . . ."* William Maddock lived in the same street, Richmond Place, where Ellen lived during April 1860.

During the last years of her husband's life and after his death, George's mother Eleanor Wilhelmina West born Nesbitt at times lived under very difficult circumstances. Her daughter Ellen, aunt Swanne as well as her sons in law took care of her.

Eleanor Wilhelmina missed her son George in South Africa and always sent her love and good wishes to him. On 8th Nov 1853, her daughter Ellen wrote *"You mention in your last letter that there were building lots to be disposed of at Caledon on very reasonable terms about £8 & £10 each."*

Now mother wishing to assist you in the purchase of one and encloses a Bank Post letter for £6 with her fond love & best wishes for your success. She desires me say she wishes she could send you more but she is only by the sale of some remaining articles of furniture. She had this". George's 55 year old mother, a widow for four years, sold some of her furniture to send George six pounds to buy a plot in Caledon. The £6 of 1853 would, according to the formula named "Economic Power" used in "Measuring Wealth" be £17 770 in 2016. At R18 on the pound it would be R320 000 in 2016.

Eleanor West born Nesbitt was very concerned about her son George in South Africa. She often sent him the Warden newspaper and money. On 5th April 1869 his sister Ellen wrote: *"Mama sends you a Freemans Journal to show you what a fearful thing it is described as having been. She also sends you a remittance of £5 with her best love, & wishes – you tell us in your letter of the marriage of your daughter Ellen to a young man of the name of Raatz (at least so we read it) but you never said if they were living near you or what was his profession Mother would like to know–".*

It seems from her daughter Ellen's letters that their mother was a shy person who did not want her daughter to take a photo of her to be sent to her son in South Africa. Ellen was never allowed to take a photo of her mother. On 21st January 1870 Ellen wrote: *"She is thank God quite well but I never could get her to fix a time in getting her likeness taken. So I fear you will never be gratified in that way".* Her likeness referred to a photo of her.

The mysterious Eleanor Swanne aka aunt Swanne

In her letters to her brother, Ellen often referred to her parents close friend, the mysterious Eleanor Swanne aka aunt Swanne. I could not establish why the Wood family and especially aunt Swanne, were so closely involved with Eleanor and William. Aunt Swanne was 32 years older than Eleanor and was 56 when she was involved with the dowry contract of George and Ellen's parents, Eleanor Nesbott and William West. In the dowry contract and Ellen's letters her surname was written Swanne but on the tombstone Swan.

Eleanor Swanne was born in 1764. Eleanor and William's dowry contract of 7th June 1820 (Chapter 6) stated that she was a widow from Longford town and that her father was the late Attiwell Wood who had properties in County Cork and elsewhere. In the same contract, the name of Richard Wood of Kinsdale, County Cork is mentioned as a trustee. As Richard Wood and John Moore were entrusted to reserve the dowry, he seemed to be a very trustworthy person who was closely related to aunt Swanne. The names Attiwell Wood and Richard Wood are today well known in Cork. There was an Irish politician, Attiwell Wood (1728 – 1784), whose grandfather, also Attiwell Wood from Cork, was a member of the Bandon Corporation. It is said that the name Attiwell was given to the eldest son of the Wood family. There were quite a few Richard Wood's in the Cork area. The Irish Examiner of March 31, 2011 reports about Richard Wood who was a director of the company Bula Resources and the owner of the prizewinning Gawsworth Holsteins dairy cattle. He was involved in *"the state's longest running High Court case"*.

The above-mentioned dowry contract of 7th June 1820 stated: *"Deed also recites that (2) (Eleanor Swanne, Longford Town, a widow) for the considerations granted to (5) (Richard Wood, of Kinsale, Esq. Cork,) and (6) (John Moore, Cartrons, Co Longford a cousin of William Claudius West) a sum of £1,300 to which (2) (Eleanor Swanne) was entitled under the marriage settlement of will of her father Attiwell Wood and charged on lands in Co, Cork and elsewhere. To hold in trust reserving to (2) (Eleanor Swanne) a life's interest". Lands of Cloone and Drumshando and the said charge were granted to secure annuity of £100 for (4) (Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt) should she survive (1) (William*

Claudius West). *Lands of Tarmon Berry Newmarket Co. Roscommon then this land should be conveyed to (5) (Richard Wood) and (6) (John Moore) to hold in trust and to pay an additional annuity of £50 to (4) (Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt)*".

According to "Measuring Worth" the £1 300 of aunt Eleanore Swanne in 1820 was, taking the Retail Price Index in account, worth £95 360 in 2016. At the rate of R18-00 to the pound, the dowry money involved as far as aunt Swanne is concerned, in 2016 South African money was about R1 700 000.

The dowry contract made provision for an annuity of £100 per year for the bride Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt and after Williams death, she would receive another £50 per year. In the South African money of 2016, the £150 per year after Eleanor's husband William's death, was worth about R200 000 per year.

On the 25th February 1851 Ellen wrote about the then 87 year old aunt Swanne: *"I could not tell you how he suffered and my poor Mother in attendance on him. Aunt Swanne is quite well She is now on a visit with her nieces the Woods so that Father & Mother are quite alone"*.

After William's death on the 12th May 1851, aunt Swanne stayed with Eleanor. Aunt Swan died on the 28th February 1852 at the age of 88 years and was buried in the same grave as William Claudius West.

Twenty years after her husband William's death, George and Ellen's mother, Eleanor Wilhelmina West born Nesbitt died on the 23rd of December 1871 at the age of 73 years. On the 26th December 1871, the evening after their mother's funeral, Ellen wrote the following letter from 1 Graham Terrace, Seville Place, St Stephens, Dublin to her brother George:

26th December 1871

"My dearest brother

This deep border of its sable here must prepare you for the sad intelligence. Our poor dear Mother was this day laid in Irishtown besides poor Father and Aunt Swann.

She was just three weeks ill to the day. Caught cold which turned to bronchitis & low fever and (like papa) frequent renewals destroyed her thoughts. She had no pain but from distress of breathing and on Saturday the 23rd she appeared to rally. Sat up in her bed and took her tea. About 5 o'clock had a long conversation with me. Said she was quite happy & resigned. Expressed her firm trust in the Great Provider and had a chapter or the Bible read by Mina, the 15th of 1st Corinthians³ fell asleep till 20 minutes to 11 o'clock when she woke as in a second in the agonies of death and after one hour's suffering ceased to breathe. Mima never left her, held her hand & after death assisted to lay her out.

She has not left any instructions of any kind, but you know you are to have £400.00 – the other £800,00 was settled on my first marriage on me and my children. I tell you this as you may require explicit information before sending instructions as to what you wish done.

Now dearest George I must say farewell I feel as if all were but a dream & that she would walk in every moment. She looked so nice this morning in her coffin and so calm but I must stop this painful subject.

Mima sends her love. I remain your ever afft. Sister.

The certificate of Registry of Burial states that the 73 year old Ellen West of Graham Terrace was buried on the 26th December 1871. The service was performed by the Rev R.B.Storey.

Appendix 1: Will of Carncross Nesbitt of Aughamore - 19th November 1754

“Carncross Nesbitt from being of Aughamore Co Longford. He is a Barrack Master. The trustees are Mitchell Burne Knox of Sligo, Co Sligo, Esq., the testator's brother in law, William Knox of Cloghan, gent; (he had married Margaret sister of Carncross) and latter's son James Knox. These three together with the testator's wife, are to be the executors.

(The Irish Genealogist Vol 2 no 6 reveals that this James Knox of Kilcadden married a Martha, and their eldest son was William Knox of Kilcadden High Sheriff of Co Donegal, in 1776, who married Elizabeth Nesbitt, daughter and heiress of Charles Nesbitt of Surmore Co Sligo).

Carncross's wife is Jane Nesbitt previously widow of Lieutenant Robert Lofthus. It is revealed that she has an entitlement for life to the £60 a year she receives from the lands of Clonard, Co Meath, which formerly belonged to the late Lieutenant Lofthus. She will also receive £45 a year if Carncross dies a Barrack Master, providing she does not remarry she is to have the lands of Aughamore and its farm, dwelling house and all other houses and tenements, and the same also of the lands of Clongeer, Cloonbart, Clongolgan, Toomiskee and Killianakeer. These lands are to Carncross's eldest son if Jane remarried or if she decides not to live at Aughamore. A further £20 a year agreed upon her marriage Carncross bequeaths to her, whether she remarried, also my coach, two my best Coach horses or mares, two of my best Saddle horses, twelve of my best cows, my best bull, forty of my best sheep, twenty pounds to buy a mourning and all her rings, jewels, watch and paraphernalia what so ever”.

At the time of the will Elizabeth and all three sons were unmarried.

Date of Probate 1 July 1758 and administration was granted to John Wood, grandson of the testator on the 12th July 1792.

“To his eldest son living at the time of his decease: His mill and kiln and malthouse on the lands of Rousky. All his other farms in Tarmonbarry Co Roscommon . £200 from his personal estate to enable to stock the farm in Tarmonbarry.

To Henry his eldest son: His fee farm estate of Lissmacmoyle Co Leitrim, my several other freehold estates. (This bequest is followed by a long list of legatees to whom it is assigned in the event that the first and succeeding heirs should die prematurely or without issue. The whole sequence, after Henry runs Henry's sons – Francis, Francis's sons – Alexander Alexander's sons, Henry's daughters – Francis's daughters, Alexander's daughters – Margaret (Cullen's) sons, Prudence's daughters, Elizabeth's sons, Elizabeth's daughters – James Knox (Carncross's nephew) – James Knox's sons – James Knox's daughters – Frederick French – Fredrick French's sons – Frederick Frenches's daughters).

To Francis his second son: £500 when he reaches his full age of twenty four, with interest at £5 per £100 yearly, to be paid to him half yearly until then.

To Daniel Kelly, husband of his second daughter Prudence: The remaining £537 -10s of Prudence's dowry of £1,137-10s (of which £600 has already been paid), to be paid within four years from the date of the marriage articles.

To Elizabeth his youngest daughter: £1,000 for her portion or fortune, when she married or reaches full age of 24.

To Francis and Alexander: If Henry marries any women without Carncross's written consent, £2,000 is to be divided between them (with interest as before) on their reaching their full ages of 24.

All the rest of Carncross's estate is to go such of his sons as has the entitlement to his real estate”.
(From: Will of Carncross Nesbitt 19th November 1754 as posted on Wiki.)

Appendix 2: Letter aunt Samia Briscoe to George

My Dear George,

Your mother has asked me¹ to write to you for her as Eleanor has met with a slight accident. Enclosed she sends you an order for five pounds also a letter which she hopes will answer the purpose you mention about the merchandize – you mention in your letter having to send your boys – such a number of miles² – would it not be better to try and get some appointment for them not to keep such a number at home – would relieve you from much expense – bad as we are in Paddy's land³ our Boys are all doing something -

now my dear George as we are on the subject of the boys my eldest Boy now a man William⁴ – he and his Brother Henry Pool who you must remember at Cossing have joined in the purchase of a farm near London in Canada. They had to work hard to earn the money which they paid by degrees.

Robert the youngest was a wild lad – would not settle to anything and has enlisted for 3 years in the Federal Army in Richmond Washington America.

You have heard all my daughters are married comfortly and got good sober young men .. you have gotten a large family⁵ – I trust you may be as fortunate as I have been – who am now living all alone.

I am thankful to the Lord for His manifold mercies to me.

Your dear Mother looks very well indeed -

Sister Eleanor looks delicate – a can hurt her very severely in the leg – which is much swollen – the doctor hopes she will be nearly well in about a week – your mother sends you two newspapers – have you heard of the mines that have been discovered in the Cape –

your Mother desires her fond love and a thousand blessings for you and yours – and hope you will accept of my love and good wishes for your welfare and happiness from your affectionate Aunt.

SAMIA BRISCOE

Sept 5th 1867

Please direct

38 SevillePlace

Mrs West

Dublin

You will be sorry to hear William West – your uncle Beatty's youngest son⁶ died of softening of the brain – left one child a son.

CHAPTER 8

William Francis West, George's rich grandfather and our West ancestors

After establishing that George John Beatty West, the son of William Claudius West was the grandson of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty of Cloone we could further investigate about our West and other ancestors.

In England surnames originated after 1000 AD when people had to pay taxes. The surname West is of Anglo Saxon origin and means "*people from the West*". We know about a Maurice de West who in 1152 lived in Colchester, Essex; a Goche West who in 1197 was from Norfolk and in 1262 a William de West.

According to Rachel Smith it seems that just like our Beatty, Nesbitt and Cairncross ancestors, our West ancestors emigrated from Scotland and that they benefitted by receiving lands which were taken from the Catholic Irish and given to the Protestants. The West family owned land in Cloone, Drumdarkin, Drumbore, Annagh, McConway, Anghbroon, Eldergoule, Sligo and other places. There was an old mill at Keeldra, 6 km East of Mohill which was said belonged to William (Francis?) West. I could however not establish when and from where in Scotland our West ancestors emigrated.

In my research I found the references to a Francis West and a William West who lived at the same time in Cloone, very confusing. I assume that William West and Francis West was the same person with the full names of William Francis West.

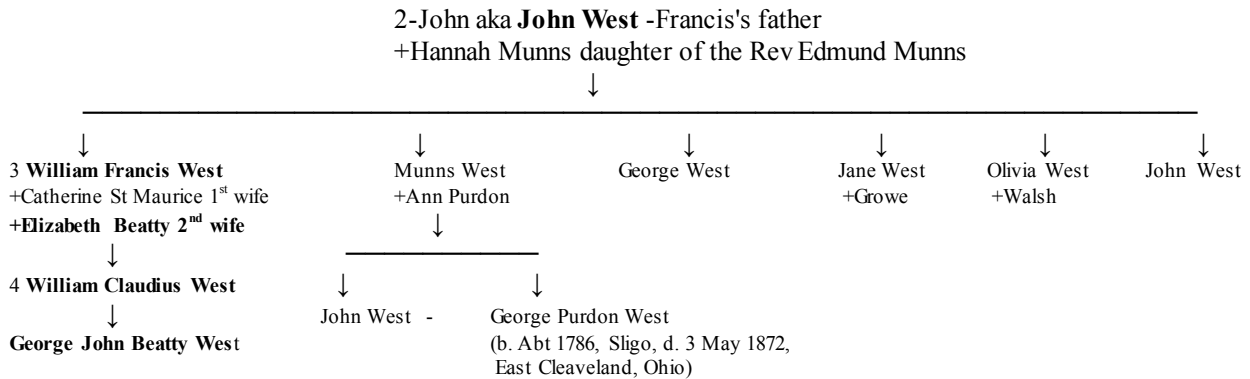
The custom was to give a child more than one name but even in the registers and in contracts, they at times, used only one name. They would for instance in marriage and Dowry contracts, only mention Ellen Nesbitt and William West while their full names were Eleanore Wilhelmina Nesbitt and William Claudius West. In the case of Francis West and/or William West, I found that at times, such as the dowry contract of 8th March 1802 between Francis's daughter Frances and George West, he was called Francis West while with the meeting with the French officers on the 7th September 1798, he was referred to as William West.

I based my conclusion that Francis West and William West is the same person with the full names of **William Francis West**, on the following:

- 1 William Claudius West was the third son of Francis West and the "William" name referred to his father William Francis West's first name. The custom was to name the third son after his father.
- 2 William Claudius named his eldest son William, after the child's grandfather William Francis West. The custom was to name the eldest son after his father's father.
- 3 George Beatty West, the son of Francis West, named his eldest son William (Francis?) West after the child's grandfather, William Francis West.
- 4 George Beatty West, also had a grandson Dr William Francis West, who died in 1867. Dr William Francis West was named after his grandfather, William Francis West.
- 5 Francis West's daughter Mary Crawford also had sons William Crawford and Francis Crawford named after the sons grandfather, William Francis West.

Therefore the Francis West who lived in Cloone with the marriage of his daughter Mary in April 1798, the Francis West who were on the 8th March 1802 involved with the marriage of his daughter Frances and George West and William West who lived in Cloone House when the French soldiers arrived in Cloone on 7th September 1798, is all the same person, namely William Francis West.

Diagram indicating the parents, brothers and sisters of William Francis West:



William Francis West, the father of William Claudius West was the son of John West and Hannah (Mary?) Munns. Hannah was the daughter of the Rev Edmund Munns. John West and Hannah had the following children:

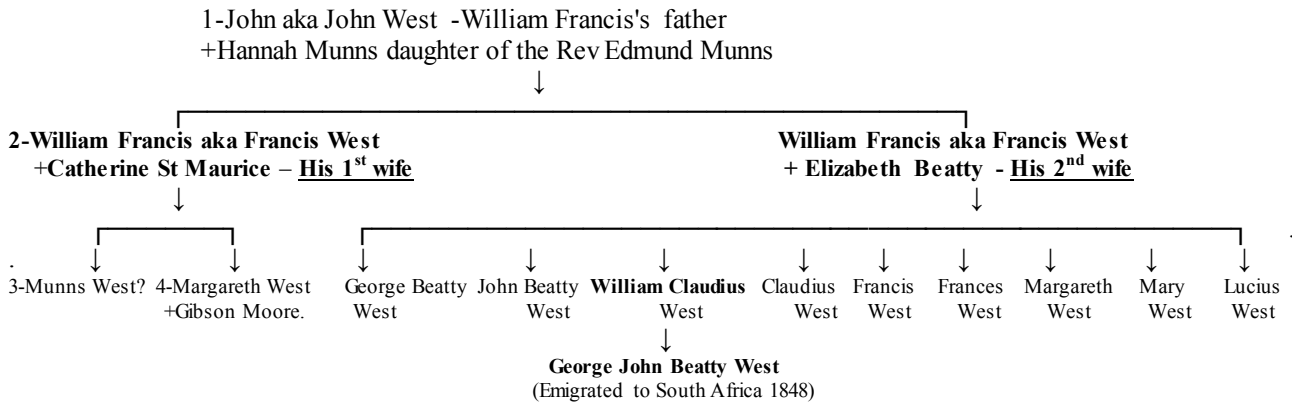
- William Francis West, married Catherine St Maurice and then to his 2nd wife Elizabeth Beatty;
- Munns West married to Ann Purdon,
- George West,
- Jane West married to Mr Grove,
- Olivia West, and
- John West.

On 26 August 1754, Claudius Beatty held Cloone by lease from Guy Lloyd and mortgaged it to John West of Drumdarkin, Co. Leitrim for his own life and the lives of.... (Crossle Record, p.6). It seems as if this John West who lived at Drumdarkin during 1754 must have been John West the father of William Francis West. The Webb-Williams list shows that during 1760 Francis West farmed at Drumbore near Cloone.

William Francis West's brother, **Munns West**, stayed in Sligo. On the 1st October 1785 Munns gave a part of Drumdarkin as well as Mullinnabrook to their brother George West. On the 5th February 1802 he gave a part of Drumdarkin to his eldest son John West. His brother William Francis West was a witness at the transfer of this property.

John West who lived at Drumdarkin with the involvement of the French soldiers on the 8th September 1798 seems to have been Francis West's brother John. The "Cloone Parish History" refers to William West who stayed in Cloone House, Cloone on the 7th September 1798 when the 844 French soldiers under Humbert arrived at Cloone. He had a brother John West who then lived at the farm Drumdarkin, a few miles from Cloone.

Diagram of William Francis West's ancestors, his two wives and their children:



The diagram of William Francis West's ancestors, indicates that he was first married to Catherine St Maurice and then to Elizabeth Beatty. He and Catherine were the parents of Munns West and Margareth West who married Gibson Moore. Catherine, born about 1734, was about 44 when she died in 1778. She was buried in the Protestant Graveyard in Cloone.

After Catherine's death, William Francis married Elizabeth aka Eliza Beatty. Elizabeth who was born circ 1760 was about twenty six years younger than William Francis. According to information from Rachel Smith, William Francis and Elizabeth had the following children: George Beatty West, John Beatty West, William Claudius West, Claudius West, Francis West, Mary West, Jane West, Frances West, Margareth West and Lucius West.

At the birth of William Francis and Elizabeth's second son John Beatty West in about 1790, he was about fifty six years and Elizabeth thirty years old.

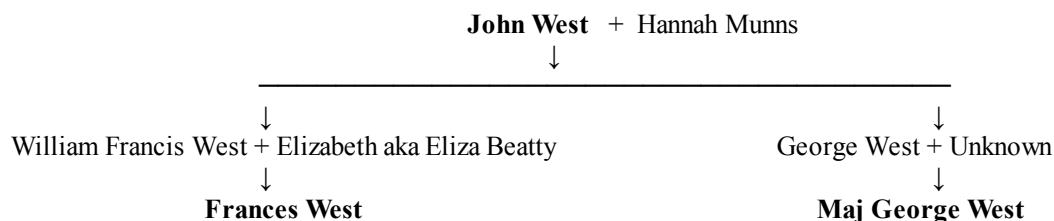
In 1790 William Francis West was from Cloone when he was involved in the deed between Owen Lloyd and James Egan. "429 431 278711 24th August 1790. Owen Lloyd of Co Leitrim (1), Francis West, Cloon, Co Leitrim (2) and James Egan Mohill, Co Leitrim (3). Deed recites that (1) for the sum of £77.5.6 granted to (2) and (3) an annuity of £11.7.6 charged on the lands of Muckinaught in the parish of Cloon".

On 25.03.1794 William Francis West signs as witness on the will of Claudius Moore and Mary Moore of Longford. With the marriage of William Francis West and Elizabeth's daughter Mary to the Rev dr George Crawford on 23 April 1797, Willliam Francis is described as a 64 year old merchant from Cloone. At that time his name also appeared on the Flaxgrowers list.

In the marriage deed of Major George West and In the marriage deed of Major George West and Frances West, the two grandchildren of John West, it is stated that John was earlier from Drumdarkin but on 08.03.1802, with the signing of the above-mentioned marriage deed, he lived at Drumbore in the parish of Cloone. George West was the son of John's son George while Frances was the daughter of John's son Francis. John's will is Deed 60 174 40396. Information from Rachel Smith.

Frances West, the daughter of William Francis West, was married to her nephew George West, the the son of Francis' brother, George West.

Diagram illustrating the relationship between Frances West and Major George West:



In 1802 William Francis West was a witness at the marriage of Munns West.

Deed no 724 275 484610 of 25th Feb 1817 mentions that Frances West the widow of the late Major George West gave lands to John West of Castle Nugent, Co Longford Esq and George West of Drumdarkin, Co Leitrim to hold in trust. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage states that: *"This building was the house of John West, Esq., in 1824"*. Castle Nugent is about 40 kms East of Longford.

It seems that William Francis West was at times quite hard headed. He had for instance long arguments with the Catholic priest of why the road should not go through the village of Cloone. In the Crossle records mention is made of the *"in betweens"*, let us call it *"misunderstandings"* between the Beatty and West families and that William Francis West often was involved.

William Francis West, the son of John West and Hannah Munns, born about 1734, died on Wednesday the 2nd April 1817 at the age of about 83. He was buried in the Protestant graveyard in Cloone with his wife Catherine. His second wife Elizabeth Beatty who died on Sunday the 28th March 1819 at the age of 59, was later buried next to them. It is unfortunate that these tombstones are not there anymore.

I could find no relationship between the descendants of our ancestor George John Beatty West and a William Francis West who died on the 20th February 1909 in the Provincial hospital in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The last named William Francis West original from the small see side village Pennan, Aberdeenshire, 200 kms north of Edinburgh in Scotland, was married to Sophia Jane Duncan. He was also the son of a John West and his wife Christina West born West. William Francis West's trade was a shipwright. He and Sophia Jane had three children, John Alexander West, David West and William Francis West.

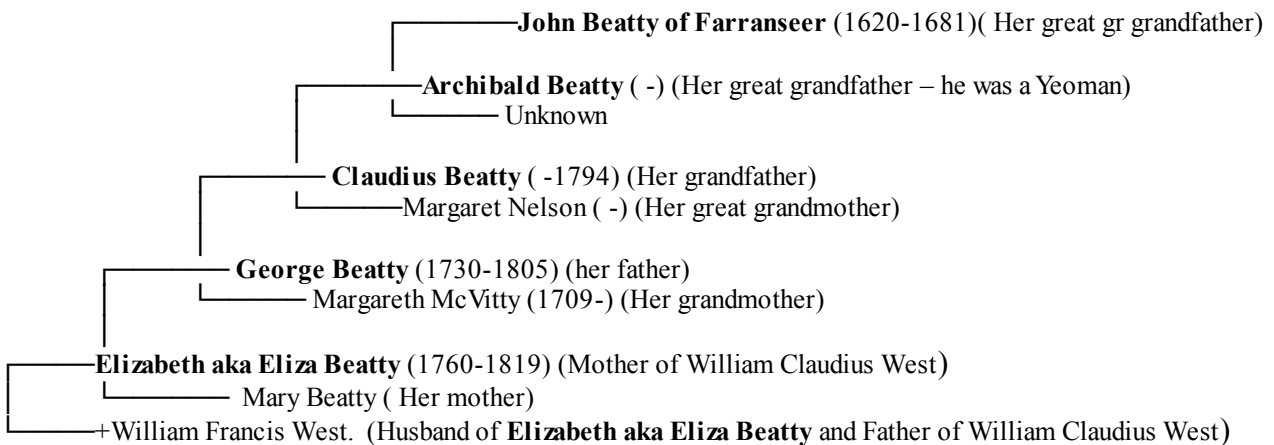
CHAPTER 9

Grandmother Elizabeth Beatty and her Beatty ancestors

In the previous chapter we explained that William Claudius West was the son of William Francis West and his second wife Elizabeth Beatty. Elizabeth Beatty was the grandmother of George John Beatty West who emigrated to South Africa. In this chapter we indicate who Elizabeth Beatty's ancestors were and therefore they were also our ancestors.

Elizabeth Beatty was born about 1760, the daughter of George and Mary Beatty of Longford. She was a descendant of John Beatty of Farranseer who was born in 1620. Her Beatty ancestors were Protestants who came from Dalbeattie and Ayrshire in Western Scotland, South of Glasgow. During 1458 James the 2nd compensated the Beatty family and gave them land near Eskdale next to the river Esk in Scotland. This compensation to the Beatty clan was for helping King James during the battle of Arkerholme. Eskdale is about 50 kms East of Dalbeattie. Originally the surname was written Baty but when the clan dispersed and some emigrated to Ireland, it became Batty and Beatty. I could not establish when the ancestors of Elizabeth Beatty arrived in Ireland.

Diagram of the Ancestors of Elizabeth Beatty



Elizabeth Beatty married the widower, farmer and merchant, William Francis West who farmed at Drumdarkin, 3 miles from Cloone. She seemed to be a strong person, who, with her husband emphasized the education of their children. Her four eldest sons George Beatty West, John Beatty West, William Claudius West and Claudius West studied law while their daughter Mary West was married to the Rev George Crawford (Chapter 13).

Rev Crawford had doctorate degrees in law and theology.

George Beatty West (Chapter 10), became the chief magistrate of Leitrim,

John Beatty West (Chapter 11) had a doctorate degree in law and was MP for Dublin

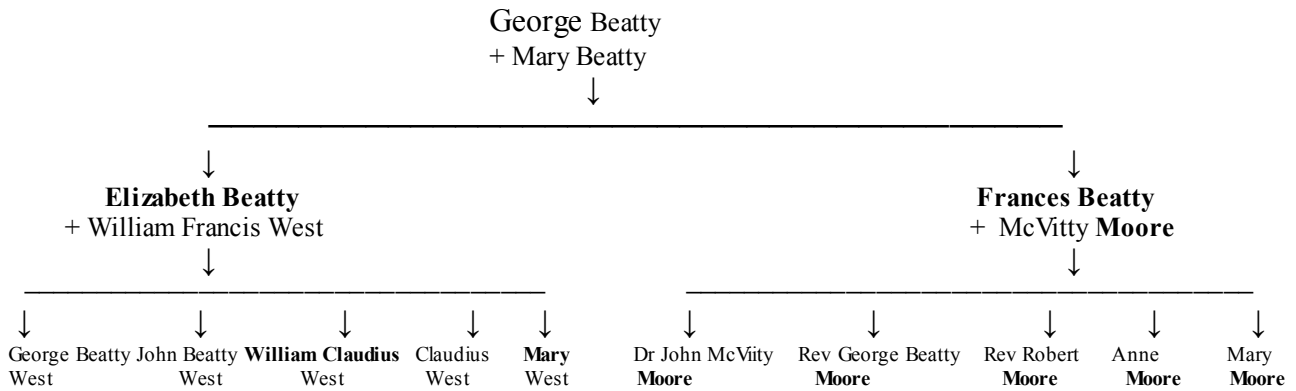
Elizabeth gave her Beatty surname to her two eldest sons, George Beatty West and John Beatty West. George Beatty West was named after her father, George Beatty. Her second son John Beatty West, was named after her uncle John Beatty. The latter was named after John Beatty of Farranseer, the ancestor of the Beatty family of Lismoy, Ireland.

Her fourth son, Claudius West was named after her grandfather, Claudius Beatty while her

daughter Mary West was named after her mother, Mary Beatty.

Elizabeth had a sister Frances Beatty who was married to McVitty Moore. There seemed to be a very close and trustworthy relationship between William Claudius West and his Moore nephews. The Moore nephews, described in Chapters 5 and 6 were involved with the dowry contract of their nephew William Claudius West..

Diagram illustrating how the Moore, Beatty and West families were connected:



It seems that except the five names given above, Elizabeth and William Francis West also had a further five children: Frances, Jane, Francis, Margareth and Lucius West.

It must however be remembered that just like the West, Crawford and Moore families, although religious, all the members of the Beatty family were not angels. There were quite a number of interaction between the above-mentioned families. They intermarried, did business with each other, there were lease contracts, were witnesses at baptisms, they were involved with the dowry contracts, they were close friends, had family struggles and quite often the Beatty family met each other in the court.

On the 21st June 1821, Dr. John Moore M.D. of Cartrons, Co Longford, the son of Frances and McVitty Moore, was involved in the dowry contract of their nephew William Claudius West and Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt. (Chapter 6)

William Claudius and Eleanore West's eldest son, William West, was baptized on 16th February 1826. This baptism service was conducted by the Rev George Crawford, the brother in law of William Claudius West, the husband of his sister Mary.

During 1681 more than 300 years ago, John Beatty of Farranseer our ancestor showed very clearly that he took no nonsense of his youngest daughter Margereth who *“formerly disobeyed”* him. He put it in his will as follows: *“To my daughter Margareth 20/ (that is 20 shillings) to be paid as a portion because she formerly disobeyed me, and I order my executors to be particular in this that she shall not have neither cows, heifers, horses or mares whatsoever, only the said 20/- and the executors to be particular in this”*. According to *“Measuring Worth”*, twenty shillings in 1681 would be worth about R130-00 in 2016.

In his will of 19th March 1732, Arthur Beatty, a son of John Beatty of Farranseer, disinherited his son John Beatty because he *“hath been disobedient and behaved in such manner as he is not entitled to my favor”*. (Crossle Record, p. 12.)

Lieutenant Claude Beatty, another grandson of John Beatty of Farranseer, was so unhappy with the implications of his father John Beatty of Corr's second marriage with Margareth, the daughter of the Rev Jame Layng that he took his father, half brothers and half sisters to court. It is interesting to note that during the revolution of 1689, John Beatty of Corr buried the deeds of Corr in the ground for safety where *"it were injured by moisture and damp"*. (Crossle Record p 2). On the 25th December 1678, John Beatty of Corr was a Quarter Master. Farranseer, Corr and Drumcon are lands situated on the R198, about 20 kms East of Cloone.

During August 1754 John West of Drumdarkin, Claudius Beatty, his two sons Archibald and George as well as a Mr Guy Lloyd of England were involved in a lease contract concerning Cloone. Archibald was Elizabeth Beatty's uncle, George was her father while Claudius Beatty was her grandfather.

"174 458 117019 25/26 August 1754

Claudius Beatty Oughteragh, Co Cavan, Clothier (1)

John West, Drumdarkin, Co Leitrim (2)

Deed recites a lease, Guy Lloyd of Belough, Co Norfolk England Esq., leased to (1) by lease dated 19th Febr 1736 the town and lands of Cloon Co Leitrim barony of Mohill, together with the bogs, rivers, rights members and appurtances.

To hold for the lives of (1) Archibold Beatty (eldest son of (1) and George Beatty 2nd son of (1) at yearly rent of £42.1.0.

Deed recites that (1) in consideration of £50 paid to him by (2) released the land to (2) for the same lives."

Oughteragh is about 10 kms North of Cloone. It seems that Guy Lloyd of Norfolk, England, released the town and land of Cloone to Claudius Beatty and that he again released it to John West of Drumdarkin.

Jane, the daughter of our ancestor Archibald Beatty of Dromcon, was married to John Gouldsbury. After John's death, Jane married John Donaldson, a smith from Longford. By this marriage (to a smith) *"she offended her Gouldsbury father-in-law and his family"*.

The court case where Elizabeth's uncle, the nineteen year old Robert Beatty of Corry, blamed Elizabeth's father, his half-brother George Beatty, of dishonesty and changing the will of their father Claudius West, is fully described in the Crossle Record pages 79-84. George Beatty and his three brothers were the children of Claudius and first wife Margareth McVitty while Robert and his brother Claude were the children of Claudius Beatty by his second wife. Robert brought this case to court about four years after the death of his half-brother George and after the death of his brother Claude. Claude's children did not support their uncle Robert in this court case. Robert argued that his half brother George was dishonest and scratched certain words in the will which disinherited him and his brother Claude. It was concluded that George Beatty was an honest man and that it was not George who changed the will, but the testator Claudius Beatty himself. The court found that George appointed his sons in law, Francis West and McVitty Moore and Rev. George Crawford as the executors in his will and stipulated that his grandsons John Beatty West and Francis West inherit Cloone, and *"that Cloone is not subject to any claim of the plaintiff (Robert Beatty)"*.

It is uncertain whether the famous professor Dr John B West of Santiago, born in Australia in 1928, was a relative. In 1960 he accompanied Sir Edmund Hillary to the south of Everest at an altitude of 7440 meter on Mt Makalu to make experiments in high altitude respiration problems.

Elizabeth Beatty died on Sunday the 28th March 1819 at the age of 59. She was buried next to her husband Francis West and his 1st wife Catherine in the Protestant Church yard in Cloone. Unfortunately the tombstone was removed or destroyed but the words on the tombstone were saved in manuscripts.

Nearly 200 years after her death in 1819, we still find the name of her uncle John Beatty and her father George Beatty in South Africa, America and Australia. In my register I have quite a number of Elizabeth Beatty's descendants in South Africa with either her uncle or her father's names and surname, namely sixteen **John Beatty** Wests, Niemands, Johnsons; seven **George Beatty** Wests and Coopers and thirty two **George John Beatty** Wests, van Heerdens, van der Merwes, Swarts, Smals, Niemands, Knights, Groenewalds and Coetzees.

In spite of the fact that I could find none of George's living grandchildren who heard their parents mentioning the name of our ancestor Elizabeth Beatty, I have the names of thirteen of Elizabeth Beatty's descendants in South Africa with the name Elizabeth:

Descendants of Boetie Willie – child no2: Elizabeth West, Elizabeth Hamman and Elizabeth van Heerden.

Descendants of Mary Jane Smal – child no 5: Elizabeth Du Plessis, Elizabeth Smal, Elizabeth Joubert, Elizabeth Langenhoven and Elizabeth Roelofse.

Descendants of Boetie John – child no 6: Elizabeth Ellis.

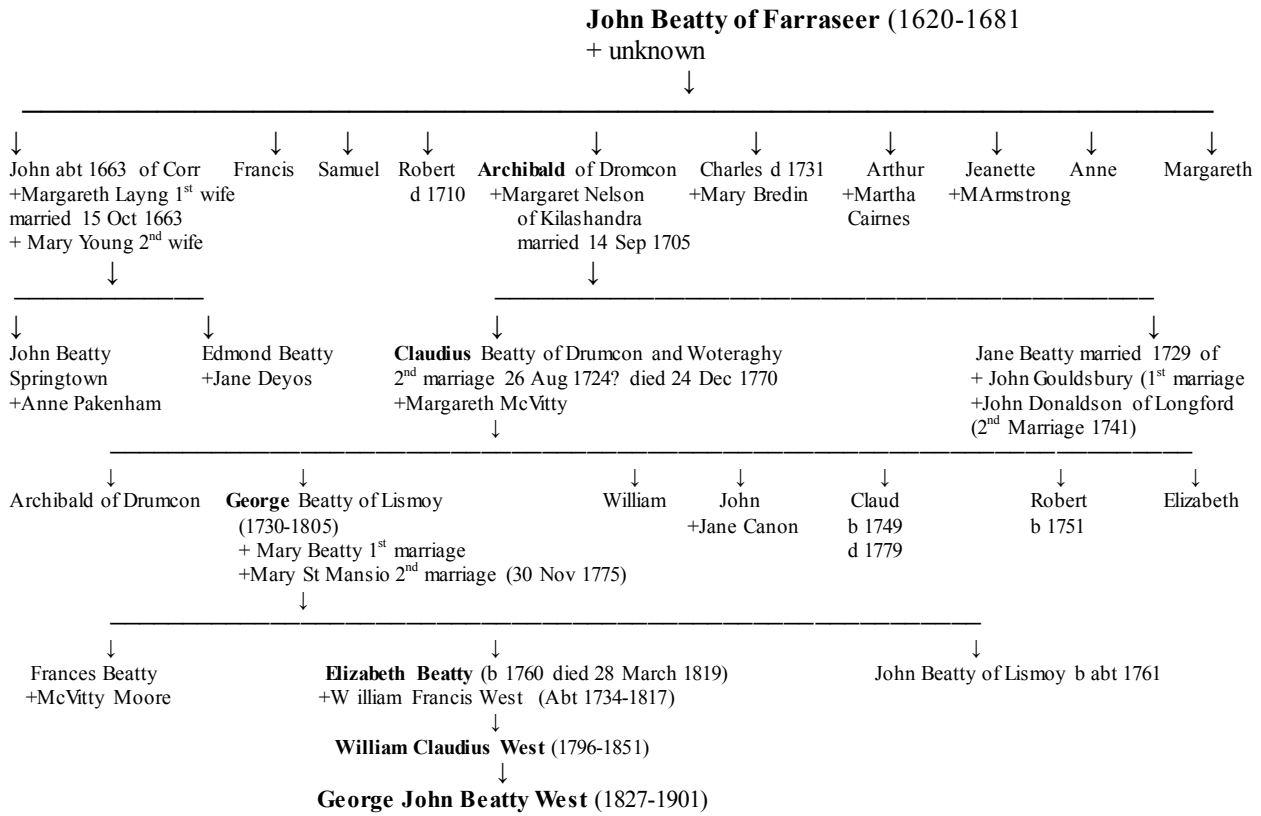
Descendant of Sister Annie – child no 8: Elizabeth Theron.

Descendants of Daisy – child no 10: Elizabeth Hvarnes, Elizabeth Groenewald and Daisy herself Elizabeth Petronella West.

Elizabeth Petronella aka Daisy was perhaps named after her mother's sister Elizabeth Petronella aka Beth van As and not after Elizabeth Beatty. Daisy however knew about her ancestor Elizabeth Beatty. Her eldest son was Jan Groenewald. Daisy was very upset when she heard that Jan named his daughter Lisbie and not Elizabeth Beattie Groenewald. Lisbie is a combination of the names Elizabeth and Beattie.

The names of George John Beatty West, the West ancestor who emigrated from Ireland in 1847 to South Africa, came from our Beatty ancestors.

Diagram of the descendants of John Beatty of Farraseer:



[Crossle Record about the Beatty family compiled by the Rev dr. Philip Crossle and further research by the Rev H B Swanzy from the Church of Ireland and Vicar of Newry (1919)].

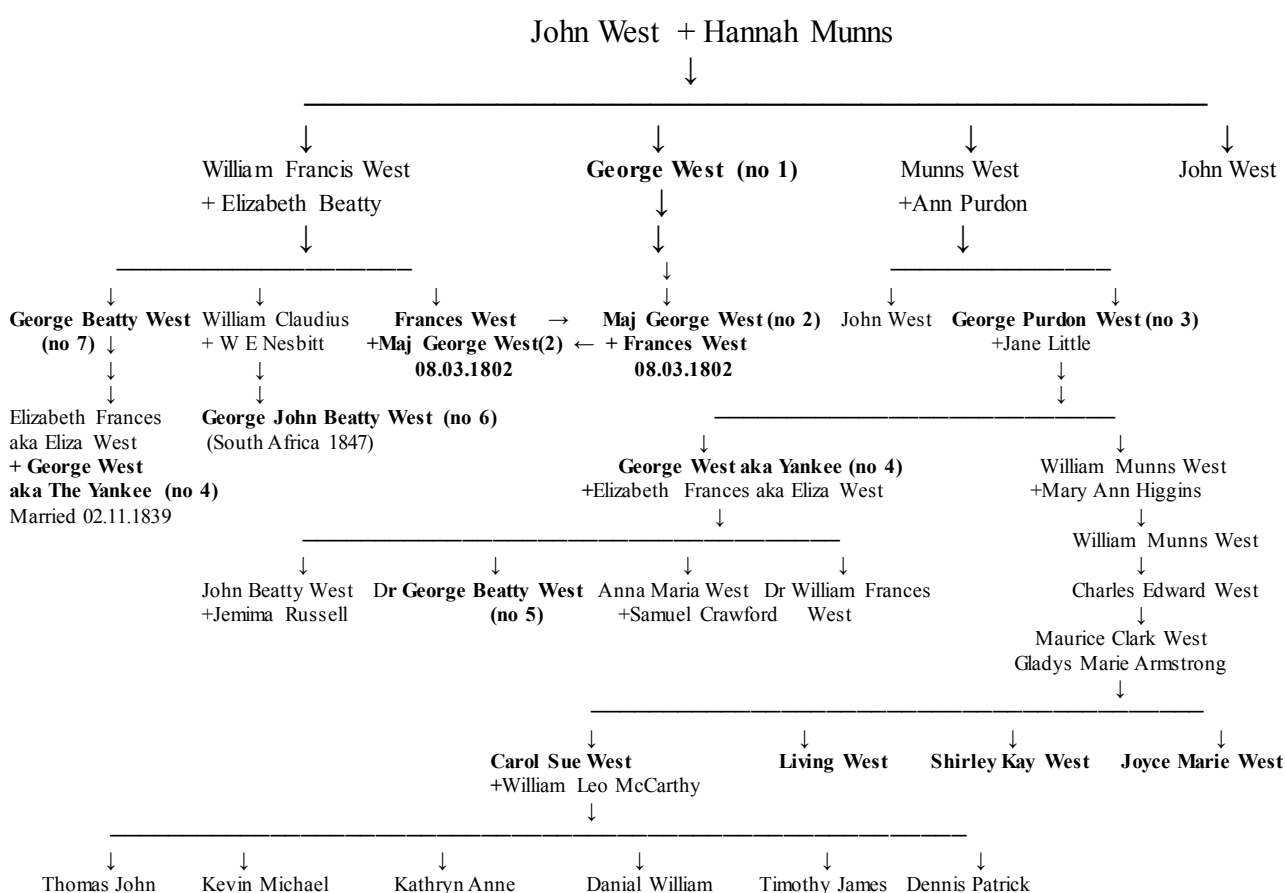
CHAPTER 10

The Chief Magistrate, his uncle George Beatty West

William Claudius West had a brother GEORGE BEATTY WEST. He was the eldest son of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty. In our research, we found nine George Wests. Although some of them had a second name such as George Beatty West or George Purdon West, others were just referred to as George West while they most probably had a second name, unknown to us. To complicate it even more, both Maj George West and George West aka The Yankee married a Frances West.

George John Beatty West's great grandparents, John West and Hannah Munns had the following four sons i.e. William Francis West, George West, Munns West and John West.

Diagram of seven George Wests:



George West no 1 was the son of John West and Hannah Munns (brother of William Francis, Munns and John).

George West no 2 was major George West, the son of George West no 1.

George West no 3 was George Purdon West, the son of Munns West and Ann Purdon.

George West no 4 was George West aka The Yankee, the son of George Purdon West.

George West no 5 was dr George Beatty West, the son of George West no 4, The Yankee.

George West no 6 was George John Beatty West who emigrated to South Africa. He was the grandson of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty.

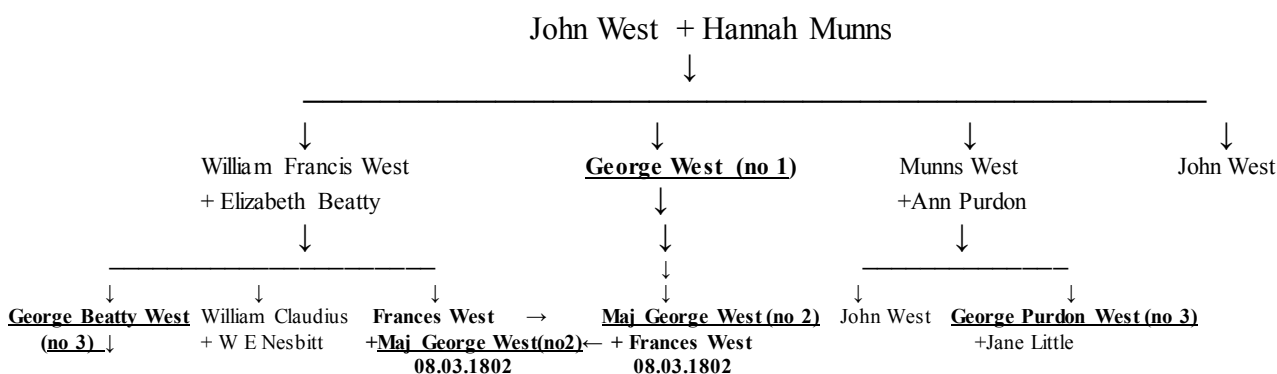
George West no 7 was George Beatty West, the eldest son of Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty.
George West no 8 was George West, the village sexton for Tubbercurry.
George West no 9 was a George John Beatty West from Port Elizabeth, originally from Scotland.

GEORGE WEST no 1

I found little information about him except that he was the son of John and Hannah West and thus the brother of William Francis West, John West and Munns West. On the 1st October 1785 his brother Munns West gave part of Drumdarkin to him. **George West no 1** was the father of major George West no 2. With the marriage of his son George no 2 in 1802, George West no 1 was from Streamstown. The dowry contract of his son George indicated that George West no 1 had lands in Drumbore in the parish of Cloone which he gave to his son, George West no 2.

GEORGE WEST no 2 (Maj George West)

Diagram positioning George West no 1, 2 and 3:



George West no 2 was Major George West, the son of George West no 1. According to Rachel Smith, Major George West married his cousin Frances West the daughter of his uncle William Francis West on 8 March 1802. Maj West was from Streamstown and Cloone, Co Leitrim.

The following Dowry Contract of Major George West and Frances West is found in: *Family History & Genealogy Message Board – Ancestry.co.uk Book 551 Page 542 Deed 564359 Date (Monday) 8th March 1802:*

- 1st Part: *George West Jr of Streamstown in the Parish of Cloone and County Leitrim Esquire*
- 2nd Part: *Francis West of Cloone (brother of George West Senior)*
- 3rd Part: *Frances West, Daughter of aforesaid Francis West*

Reciting it was agreed a marriage should be solemnized between George and Frances with whom said George was to receive sum of five hundred pounds as marriage portion paid and secured. And reciting also that said George West was then entitled to lands of Drumbore, Killinalyst and Gorteenorum by virtue of a Deed of Conveyance from George West Senior Esquire to aforesaid George West Jnr his Son in and by which said Deed George sr had transferred and made over all his Right and title to the said lands of Drumbore, Killinalyst and Gorteenorum, the said indenture witnessed that aforesaid George Jr in consideration of said marriage and marriage portion and other considerations therein mentioned would be like good and sufficient conveyance insurance in the law Settle and Assure one annuity of fifty pounds sterling a year to her Frances West yearly every and every year during her natural life in lieu of all Dower of Thirds that she might by law be entitled to from and after the decease of said George West, Jr, said annuity to be issuing out of said lands Drumbore etc. and to

be paid half yearly to said Frances her heirs or assigns every 1st Nov and 1st May during her natural life clear over and above all taxes and charges whatsoever, which ever day should first happen after decease of said George West, Jr. (arrangement to enter and enforce in distress)

*Witnessed by John West then of Drumdarkin, but now of Drumbore (grandfather of George Jr)
Rev George Crawford of Monylagen, Co of Longford
Memorial witnessed by said George Crawford*
John Ellis of Newtonforbes, Co Longford.*

* The Rev George Crawford was the son in law of William Francis West.

* There is references to another contract of Saturday 27th February 1802 which showed that Major George received "*£500 as marriage portion*". £500 in 1802 is more than £50 000 today or about R900 000 in South African money of 2016.

While Major George West served as a major in India, their children stayed with his wife's sister, Mary Crawford. After his death, his wife Frances stayed at Clonguish.
See diagram of William Francis West's ancestors, his two wives and their children Chapter 8.

In Deed 724 275 484610 of 25th Feb 1817 it is mentioned that Frances West the widow of the late Major George West gave lands to John West of Castle Nugent, Co Longford Esq and George West of Drumdarkin, Co Leitrim to hold in trust.

724 275 484610 25th Feb 1817

"Frances West, widow & administrator of Geo. West, late of Drumbere, Co Leitrim, Esq, deceased (1)

George West son, Streamstown Co Leitrim, Esq (2)

George West, Drumdarkin, Co Leitrim (3)

John West, Castle Nugent, co Longford Esq (4)

the lands of Drumbere situate in co Leitrim and that (1) did grant the lands of ? Gurteenarum and ? Killemalosset Co Leitrim to (3) and (4) to hold in trust.

GEORGE WEST no 3 (George Purdon West)

William Francis West and George West no 1 had a brother MunnsWest who was married on the 8th November 1773 to Ann Purdon the daughter of Edward Purdon. The couple stayed in Sligo for a while where their son George Purdon West, **George West no 3**, was born about 1786. At the time of his marriage to Jane Little, George Purdon West was from Drumdarkin about 3 miles from Cloone. After the birth of George Purdon and Janes's son William Munns West on the 25th October 1819 in Co Leitrim, he George Purdon West and his family emigrated to America where they settled adjacent to Lake Eire in the Euclid and Cleaveland area.

On the 2nd November 1839 George Purdon West and Janes's son, George West aka The Yankee (George West no 4), gave his adress as: Euclid, Ohio, America. George Purdon West died on 3rd May 1872 in East Cleaveland, Ohio. George and Jane's son William Munns West who was born in Sligo, died in Rantoul, Champaign, Illinois on 5th October 1881 at the age of 62. He was married to Mary Higgins from Euclid.

As can be seen from the following list, some of the descendants of George Purdon West, lived for generations about 20 kilometers south of Lake Eire. Later some stayed in the areas of Rantoul, Champaigne, about 100 kilometers south of Chicago. A descendant of George Purdon West, Carol Sue West, was born in Chicago on the 3rd December 1931.

Diagram of some of the descendants of Munns West and Ann Purdon indicating where Carol Sue West from Chicago fits in:

1-Munns West

+Ann aka Ann Purdon

2-John West

2-George Purdon West b. Abt 1786, Sligo, d. 3 May 1872, East Cleaveland, Ohio.

+Jane Little

3-William Munns West b. 25 Oct 1819, Leitrim, d. 5 Oct 1881, Rantoul, Champaigne City, Illinois.

+Mary Ann Higgins b. 15 Sep 1828, Euclid, Cuyahoga Co, Illinois, d. 4 Sep 1875, Rantoul, Champaign Cnty, Illinois

4-William Munns West b. 8 Sep 1845, Euclid, Ohio., d. 8 Jan 1904, Chicago, Cook Country, Illinois.

+Unknown

5-Charles Edward West b. 12 May 1873, Rantoul, Champaigne City, Illinois., d. 19 Nov 1921, Chicago, Cook Country, Illinois.

+Unknown

6-Maurice Clark West b. 4 May 1898, Rantoul, Champaigne city, Illinois., d. 14 May 1970, Escondito, California.

+Gladys Marie Armstrong

7-**Carol Sue West** b. 3 Dec 1931, Chicago, Illinois

+William Leo McCarthy

8-Thomas John McCarthy

8-Kevin Michael McCarthy b. 31 Dec 1954, Illinois, d. 29 Oct 1959

8-Kathryn Anne McCarthy

8-Daniel William McCarthy

8-Timothy James McCarthy

8-Dennis Patrick McCarthy

7-Living West

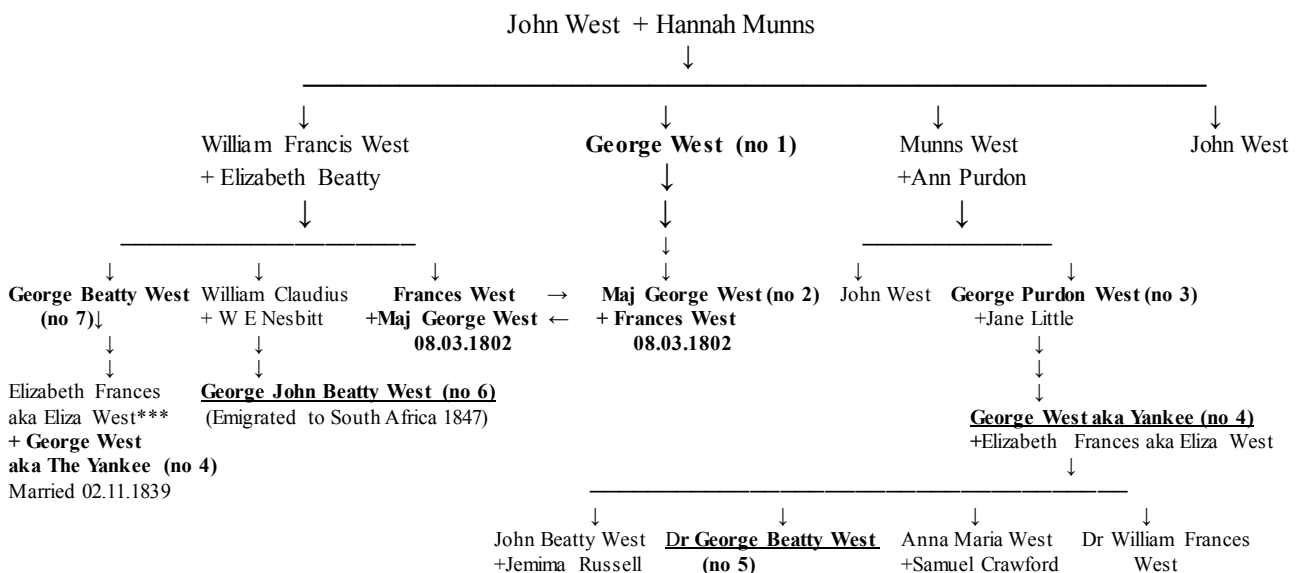
7-Shirley Kay West b. 13 May 1924, d. Abt 1972, Seattle, Washington

7-Joyce Marie West b. Abt 1934, d. Abt 1934, Illinois

+Unknown

There is reference to a George Burdox West but it is most likely a spelling mistake and should be George Purdon West. Ellen referred on the 3rd of April 1860 to "Purdons Place". Ellen's reference to "Purdons Place" can be a reference to the old house of George Purdon West or to Anne Purdon's father, Edward Purdon's house. [I obtained most of the information about George Purdon West and his descendants in the USA from Carol Sue West, Cheryl Bunn, Jeanine Giersen and Rachel Smith.]

Diagram positioning George West no 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7:



GEORGE WEST no 4 (aka The Yankee)

George West no 4 was the eldest son of George Purdon West and Jane Little. He was born in the Co of Leitrim in Ireland and emigrated with his parents and family to America where the West family settled in Euclid, Ohio, South of Lake Erie. The date of their emigration from Ireland is unknown. It was told that The Yankee made lots of money when he was in Ohio, USA. Coming back to the impoverished Ireland, he was held in high esteem by the West family.

In her research, a descendant of George Purdon West, Carol Sue West, mentioned that George Purdon West died in East Cleveland, Ohio on the 3rd May 1872. Euclid is about 20 km East of Cleveland. The descendants of Purdon West lived in the Chicago, Rantoul, Champaigne area. Five generations later, in 2005, Carol Sue West, still lived in Chicago.

George West no 4 aka The Yankee married Eliza West, the daughter of George West no 3. At the time of his marriage, he was from Euclid, Ohio, America. He and Elizabeth Frances aka Eliza West were married at Cloone Church by the Rev Kean on 2 Nov 1839. Eliza was the second daughter of George Beatty West Justice of the Peace Drumdarkin and the chief Magistrate of county Leitrim. (*Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette*, 2 Nov 1839). Eliza's grandfather Francis West and The Yankee's grandfather Munns West were brothers. After their marriage The Yankee and Eliza lived at Drumdarkin, Cloone.

After the brutal murder of Claudius West in April 1840, the agency of Claudius's lands were taken up by George West aka The Yankee. The Yankee became the "target of outrage". In the book *Ireland Land, Politics and People* (p 59-60) compiled by P J Drudy, David Fitzpatrick wrote: "Claudius was subsequently murdered and the agency of his lands taken by George West, who himself became the target of outrage. Poor William, hearing rumours . . . but he proceed to give vent to his loathing for cousin George, commonly called the Yankee". In April 1840, after the death of Claudius West, his property was given to George West aka The Yankee.

It is clear that The Yankee was not always admired by everybody, especially not by William Claudius West. In the book "Ireland, Politics and People" edited by D J Drudy of Trinity College, Dublin,(1982), is an article by Prof David Fitzpatrick,"Class, family and rural unrest in 19th century Ireland" in which he referred to the way William Claudius West experienced his conceited cousin, the Yankee.

"Poor William, hearing rumours that these offences were being blamed upon his own tenantry (and by implication himself), angrily repudiated "such insinuations to attempt to injure the character of any individual". But he proceed to vent his loathing for cousin George commonly called The Yankee: "It seems strange that a gentleman to court Priestly Popularity became a Repealer boasted of his being a Naturalized Subject of America with other petty acts, connected with his family resident in that country during the Canadian Rebellion, should be in these times subject to such anathema".

In contrast to the above, Ellen referred to a more pleasant involvement towards the Yankee by the West family. In her letter of 12th July 1876(?) Ellen wrote: "Elize and the Yankee with their daughter Anna were up for three weeks in Kingstown & Mima out there with them. The Yankee is looking wonderfully well. He bought a carriage – no less – while he was up and seems to have lots of money suppose it be Mima's yet as he does not care for the other son (Willy) much. I wish Mima may have a son yet."

Mima referred to Jemima Russell. She was the daughter of George John Beatty West's sister Ellen.

Jemima was married to John Beatty West, die son of the Yankee. Jemima had a very comfortable relationship with her in-laws and accompanied them on a holiday to Kingstown. Kingstown (Laoghaire) is a harbour suburb of Dublin, 7 km South West from Sandymount and 9 km South of Rathmines. She was good friends with The Yankee and Eliza's other son dr George Beatty West (George West no 5).

Since William Francis West had two sons namely George Beatty West and John Beatty West his brother Munns West had a grandson, The Yankee who named two of his sons George Beatty West and John Beatty West.

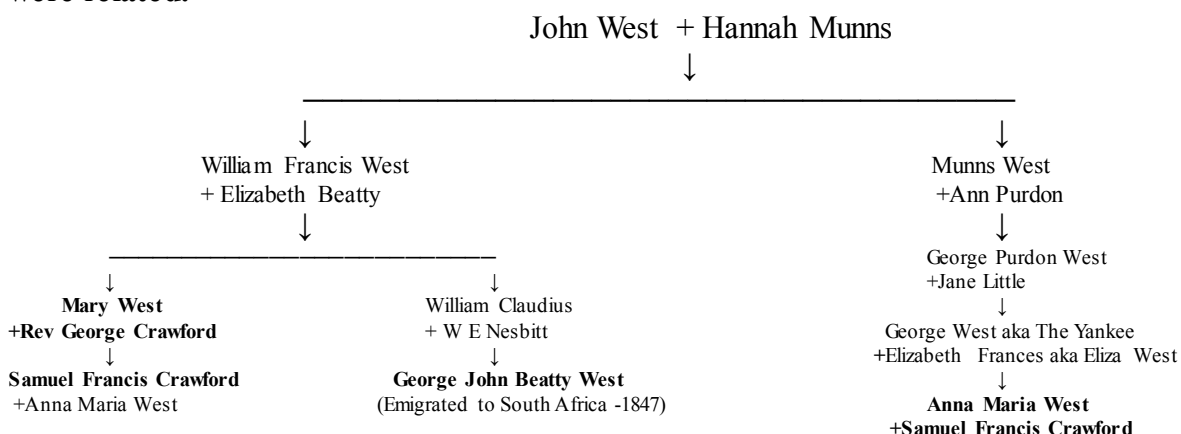
The Yankee and Eliza had the following children: John Beatty West, Dr George Beatty West (no 5), Anna Maria West and Dr William Francis West aka Willy. After The Yankee's death, his eldest son John Beatty West married to Jemima, inherited land at Drumdarkin and Cloone House. According to Ellen, The Yankee had *"lots of money"* and *"does not care for the other son (Willy) much"*. *"The other son Willy"*, referred to dr William Francis West. Dr William Francis West was married to Adelia Norris. As a medical doctor he worked in the army. In 1855 he was resident Medical Superintendent at Omagh District Lunatic Asylum in Northern Ireland.

During the last days of Fanny the teenage daughter of Dr William Francis West's sister Anna Maria, it was dr William Francis West, The Yankee's son for whom he did not care much, and his wife who took the place of her parents and *"loved her to the end as if she was their own child"*. Fanny died of tuberculosis in Ireland in September 1855 while her parents lived in New York.

On 29th October 1896 dr William Francis West attended the funeral of his eldest brother John Beatty West in Cloone.

The Yankee's daughter **Anna Maria West** married Samuel Francis Crawford – see Chapter 13.

Diagram illustrating how Anna Maria West, Samuel Crawford and George John Beatty West were related:



The Drumdarkin Calendar to Wills & Administrations 1858-1877 states that George West of Drumdarkin died 07.12.1876 and that it was proved by the oath of his eldest son John B. West of Cloone House, Cloone. George West referred to the Yankee and John B West referred to his son John Beatty West, Jemima's husband. It seems as if the Yankee's will was registered on the 9th March 1877.

After the death of The Yankee, his widow Eliza and his daughter Anna stayed with John Beatty and Jemima at Drumdarkin. On 18 February 1877 Ellen wrote to George: *"The Yankee died on*

December and Mima's husband being his eldest son gets Drumdarkin. Eliza is to live in the Cottage with her daughter Anna & then Cloone house is to be let".

"Anna" referred to Anna Maria Crawford born West the Yankee's daughter while "Eliza" referred to Elizabeth Frances aka Eliza West the Yankee's widow. "The cottage" was the smaller building next to the main house at Drumdarkin.

After The Yankee's death, his son John Beatty West became the owner of the two farms Drumdarkin and Cloone House. John Beatty West let Cloone while he and Jemima remained in the main house at Drumdarkin. The Yankee's widow Eliza and his daughter Anna stayed in the Cottage next to them.

After The Yankee's death, Mrs Montfurl, the lady who cared for him during his last years, still looked after the beautiful well cared garden at Drumdarkin. On the 13th February (March?) 1877 Ellen wrote: *"Mima is quite happy in her new home & in great delight with the lovely garden – you may recollect Drumdarkin & Mrs Montfurl working at her flowers".* Mrs Montfort (Montfurl?) was still at Drumdarkin when on the 15th June 1878 her sister (in law?) A M Montford from Australia wrote her a letter. Mrs A M Montford was Adelaide Maria West, married to Edward Handcock Montford. She was the daughter of John Beatty West MP

GEORGE WEST no 5 (Dr George Beatty West)

Dr George Beatty West, George West no 5, was a son of The Yankee. He was named after his mother Eliza's father, his grandfather, the magistrate George Beatty West (George West no 7).

Dr G B West obtained his L.R.C.S.I. in 1863 and his L.R.C.P. in 1864. His name appeared in the *"Hart's Annual Army List, Militia List and Imperial Yeomanry List"* p398 of 1868 and in *"The New Army List, Militia List and Yeomanry Cavalry List"* p. 378 of 1872.

On the 4th November 1878, Ellen wrote to her brother, indicating that dr George West was his father's favourite son:

"Mima is here now on her half yearly visit and while she was here her brother in law George West died at Drumdarkin. He was a Staff Surgeon & the Yankee is in great grief for his favorite son. The poor little fellow had been twice in India & Mima was very fond of him. He was home on leave of absence and his death was unexpected at the time as he sank from an over discharge from an abscess on the liver. He was buried today".

How could Ellen, 23 months after The Yankee's death, write that *"the Yankee is in great grief for his favorite son"*? I understand that while his son was still alive, the Yankee was in grief about his son's health, especially while he was in the army in far away India. Ellen described the Yankee's son as *"the poor little fellow had been twice in India"*.

Dr George Beatty West died on the 1st November 1878 and was buried at Cloone on the 4th November.

GEORGE WEST no 6 (The George John Beatty West who emigrated to South Africa)

GEORGE WEST no 7 (George Beatty West)

George Beatty West no 7, the eldest son of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty, was named

after his Beatty grandfather, George Beatty of Lismoy (1730-1805). He was a brother of William Claudius West. He studied law and was the chief magistrate of County Leitrim. Evelyn Kelly from the library of Mohill, referred me to the article "History of Cloone Conmaice" in the Leitrim Advertiser of June 1852 in which is said that during 1852 the Magistrate and Justice of Peace for Cloone was a Mr West. This Mr West was George Beatty West who owned and lived at Drumdarkin, the beautiful farm three miles from Cloone House.

On the 4th March 1826 George Beatty West as magistrate received information about an attack on Mr Cannon near Cloon.

In the 1834 Irish census it is indicated that he was the Major Inspector General of Police.

He is named in 1834 in the Official Authorities of County Leitrim and in the 1836 Thom's Directory of the United Kingdom: West George Beatty Drumdarkin, Mohill.

The Lewis Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837 mentioned that he was from Drumdarkin.

In the Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette of 2 Nov 1839, he is referred to as "Beatty West" the justice of peace Drumdarkin House.

On 25th July 1842 George Beatty West of Drumdarkin was in a discussion with Thomas Conolly about an annuity payable on the death of John West of America.

His name appeared on the prospectus of the Enniskillen and Sligo Railway of 11th March 1845.

His name also appeared at Carrick on Shannon Quarter sessions on 12 July 1845.

The Griffiths Valuation of Ireland (1850-1858), shows that Charles Ensor leased a property with the value of £10 at Drumdarkin to George West.

George Beatty West no 7 and the infamous Lord Leitrim

In the National Archives in Dublin, I found files with the correspondence from 30th April 1840 to the 21st January 1861, between Clements, the the 3rd Earl of Leitrim and his manager George Beatty West no 7. In spite of the fact that Lord Leitrim was such a hated and infamous person, the letters indicates a very good and respectfull relationship between the two and he signed his letters as "Clements". In my research it seems that Mr West was one of only a few people with whom Lord Leitrim could uphold a good relationship! Lord Leitrim was very rich and lived in his luxurious castle on his farm adjacent to Lough Rynn near Mohill. During the 1870's, the Lord owned 22 038 acres in County Leitrim, 18 145 in county Galway, 54 352 in County Donegal and 471 in County Kildare. This 95 006 acres or 38 447 hectares of land covered an area of nearly 20 by 20 kilometers or 12 miles by 12 miles. His beautiful castle is only a few hundred meters from the scenic lake. Today the castle is a luxury hotel worth visiting.

Reading through the letters of the two gentlemen in the archives, I found the following comical letter of Lord Leitrim where he mentioned to George Beatty West that the latter took his hat by accident:

Lough Rynn
June 12th/53 (1853)

Dear Sir

I assure you that you taking my hat by mistake has not given me the slightest inconvenience, and the hat is so like yours that it is not surprising that you should have made the mistake. I return you yours which I was obliged to wear, when I could not find my own, - and you will obliged me by keeping the one you have and believe me

Faithfully yours
Clements.

How often the Mr West was invited to Lord Leitrim's Castle at Lough Rynn, is not clear but on the 27th January 1855 Mr West received the following invitation:

Lough Rynn
January 27th/1855

Dear Sir

I shall obliged to you to come here as soon as you can conveniently say four o'clock, to attend a meeting and I shall be happy to have the pleasure of your company at dinner this evening, at 6 o'clock.

The car that takes this will also take you home again.

Faithfully yours

G B West Esq. Leitrim.

Lord Leitrim was very headstrong and was always swimming against the stream. He was hated by both the poor Catholics and the rich Protestants. Whatever his motive could have been, he saw the Irish population boom coming and realized that Ireland could not possibly hold so many tenants. He encouraged his evicted tenants to settle in America for a better quality of life and even aided them to emigrate. He also ordered that Gortletterach Church be repossessed for not paying rent, although his father decided that the Church should not pay any rent! The parish priest refused to leave the church and thousand military men, police and the crowbar brigade came to repossess the church while six thousand men turned up to resist the repossession.

It seems that Lord Leitrim as a Justice of Peace sometimes advised Mr West while the latter was the Chief magistrate of County Leitrim in the handling of court cases.

Lord Leitrim survived several attacks on his life such as the attempt in Mohill during September 1860 when James Murphy shot at him while he walked in the street. The Lord just walked on with his head held high. Fortunately Murphy's shot missed him. When Lord Lieutenant Carlisle sent Murphy to an asylum, the Lord was furious and never forgave him for the ruling. Lord Leitrim owned the Maam Hotel near Galway. Three years after this incident Lord Leitrim, as he did not want Mr Carlisle to stay in the Maam Hotel, filled the Hotel with his tenants so that there was no room for the Lord Lieutenant. After this incident Carlisle stripped Lord Leitrim of his post as Justice of the Peace for Leitrim, Donegal and Galway.

George Beatty West must have been an angel to have had such a good and peaceful relationship with this infamous Lord Leitrim! Lord Leitrim, born on 15 October 1806 was at the age of seventy one, assassinated near Donegal on the 2nd April 1878.

On Youtube Mick Blake presents a series named "*Leitrim (a brief history)*" where he compares Ireland during the time of Lord Leitrim with Ireland joining the European Union.

The children of George Beatty West no 7 were Letitia West, William West and Elizabeth Frances aka Eliza West.

On the 23rd September 1837, his daughter Letitia married the Rev Donaldson of Tartaraghan, Armagh, today in Northern Ireland. He was an acting magistrate. The Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette and The Spectator Vol 10 P 919 of 1837 referred to her as a niece of John Beatty West MP.

George Beatty West's son, William West, lived near his cousin Ellen in Dublin. In her letter of 3rd April 1860 Ellen referred to her uncle George Beatty West's son, William: "*I Have no news to tell you as you do not know the persons we live amongst except that Uncle Beatty's son William is living quite close to us and we see him every day. He made many inquiries about you and seemed quite glad to hear you were going on so well. He is married & expects an increase to his family very soon (the first after 4 years) his father is still alive & mrs Montfort lives with him at the Cottages of*

Drumdarkin". This "uncle Beatty" can only refer to Ellen's uncle George Beatty West because her other uncle John Beatty West MP QC did not have a son William. In an undated letter, Ellen wrote: "I think aunt told you poor William West was dead he died of softening of the brain like poor James quite out of his mind & like him to – an Asylum. I very often". This letter also referred to William the son of George Beatty West. His daughter Elizabeth Frances aka Eliza West married George West aka The Yankey.

George Beatty West no 7 spent his last years at Drumdarkin where, according to Rachel Smith, he died on the 18th May 1862.

GEORGE WEST no 8: It is not clear whether George West no 8, born in 1806, was related to the West family of Cloone. He was the sexton for Tubbercurry, Sligo, was married to Mary O'Dowd and died on the 3rd May 1878.

GEORGE WEST no 9 was an unknown George John Beatty West from Port Elizabeth, originally from Scotland.

CHAPTER 11

Rich uncle John Beatty West – Advocate and MP

George John Beatty West's children spread the story about their "Rich Uncle John" in Ireland. I can still recall, sitting by the firesides with my brothers, father and uncles, the discussions I heard between my mother, her sisters and brothers about this "Rich Uncle John" who had only one child, the rich but unattractive daughter who remained a spinster and as a result a large amount of money was waiting in Ireland for us, the descendants of George John Beatty West. To strengthen the story about the fortunes which are available, we were also told that we were closely related to the Earl of Delaware. For us these were facts and not speculations.

As described in Chapter 5, Mary Jane Esterhuizen's daughter, Mary Jane McFarlane, wrote from the Clarence Hotel, Dublin on the 9th July 1955: "*Ek is bevrees ek het geen goud vir die West familie gekry nie, maar darem 'n bietjie informasie*". (I am afraid I did not find any gold for the West family, only a little information). This remark strengthened the suspicion that some of the West family's interest may have been more about "the large amount of money" which they supposed to be waiting in Ireland than in their West ancestors in Ireland.

After Mary Jane McFarlane's visit to Ireland during July 1955, her then 72 year old mother Mary Jane Esterhuizen, the daughter of George West's 2nd daughter Mary Jane Smal, wrote under the heading "*The West Family*" the following:

"My grandfather had an uncle whose name was John West. He had only one daughter and was very rich. When she was 21 she already possessed £60,000 and that was before she inherited her father's money. But unfortunately she was not good-looking, she had the mark of a mouse in her face, even the tail of the mouse could be seen on her throat. She never went out without a veil, she always hid from people. Seeing that she was the only one left in the West family and surely never married, there must have been lots of money coming to the West family. Daisy wrote to Ireland to find out, but there were so many questions to be answered and they did not have the dates and all the names, so later the money had to go to orphanages. Money was very scarce at the time and no one could afford to go to Ireland to find out. My grandfather had a letter with all the particulars, but one of the sons took the letter to school to show his grandfathers handwriting and the letter was lost. Oupa was so cross and told them that it was the last chance they had to get a big inheritance".

The following diagram indicates that this "Rich uncle John" was John Beatty West, the brother of George John Beatty West's father William Claudius West. John Beatty West was his only uncle with the name John.

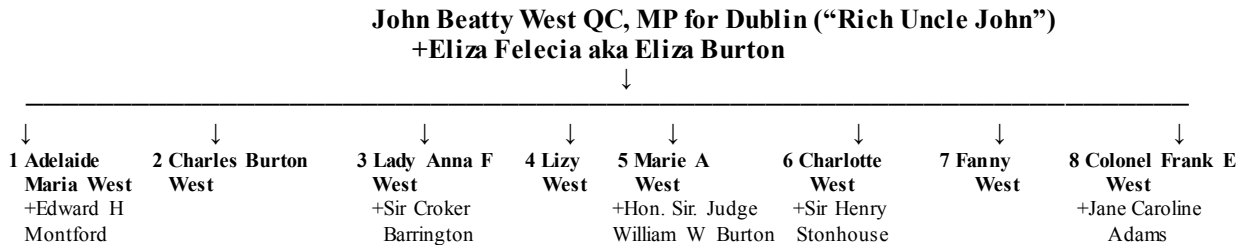
The story about "*Rich uncle John*" whose only child, the spinster daughter who according to Mary Jane Esterhuizen owned £60 000 when she was only twenty one, is not correct. The £60 000 of 1810 is according to *Measuring Worth* about £4 000 000 in 2017 and R72 000 000 in South African Rand.

"*Rich uncle John*"; John Beatty West was married to a very rich lady Eliza Felecia Burton. Eliza was the only child of Judge Charles Burton and his rich wife Anna Andrews. Anna Andrews was a very rich lady when she, at the age of thirty three as a spinster, married judge Burton. John Beatty West could have been rich since he was a qualified Advocate (QC), MP for Dublin and

married to Eliza Felecia Burton. But to me it seems that the real rich person was Anna Andrews, the Judge's wife and mother in law of rich uncle John.

It seems that the family in South Africa confused the "rich uncle John's only daughter" with his rich wife who was an only child. John Beatty West and Eliza Felecia had at least eight children, six daughters and two sons and not, as told in South Africa, only one child, a daughter.

Diagram of "Rich Uncle John", his wife and their eight children:



John Beatty West, the so called "*Rich Uncle John*", was the second son of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty and the elder brother of our ancestor, William Claudius West. We found the following facts about him:

- About 1790: John Beatty West born in Cloone(?)
- 6th July 1807: Start, at the age of 16, his BA studies at (Trinity College?) in Dublin
- 17th November 1812: Received his BA degree at the age of 22 at (Trinity College?).
- 1815: Admitted, at the age of 25, to the Irish Bar – John Beatty West QC. .
- 8/9th November 1819: Married, aged 29, Elizabeth Felecia aka Eliza Burton age 33 in the St Peters Church, Aungier Street, Dublin
- 1832: Received his MA degree, aged 42
- 22 December 1832: J B West a candidate but defeated by Daniel O'Connell in the election for MP in Dublin:

Daniel O'Connell –	Repealer –	3 411 (32.6%)
Edward Ruthven –	Repealer –	3 352 (32.04%)
John Beattie West –	Conservative –	1 862 (17.80%)
Sir George Rich –	Conservative –	1 837 (17.56%)
- 17 January 1835: On 16th May, after the committee stroke the names of 370 voters, O'Connell and Ruthven were unseated and Hamilton and J B West were declared elected:

Daniel O'Connell –	Repealer –	2 678 (26.19%)
Edward Ruthven –	Repealer –	2 630 (25.72%)
George Hamilton –	Conservative –	2 461 (24.07%)
John Beattie West –	Conservative –	2 455 (24.01%)
- 5th August 1837: Defeated in a close encounter with Daniel O'Connell as candidate in election for MP in Dublin

Daniel O'Connell –	Liberal Repealer –	3 556 (25.35%)
Robert Hutton –	Liberal –	3 542 (25.25%)
George Hamilton –	Conservative –	3 467 (24.72%)
John Beattie West –	Conservative –	3 461 (24.68%)
- 1840: He was barrister John Beatty West QC, living at 80 St Stephens Green, Dublin
- 10th July 1841: Defeat Daniel O'Connell and Elected MP representing the Conservative Party, Dublin.

John Beattie West –	Conservative –	3 860 (25.64%)
Edward Grogan –	Conservative –	3839 (25.50%)
Daniel O'Connell –	Repealer –	3 692 (24.53%)
Robert Hutton –	Liberal –	3 662 (24.33%)

27th December 1841: John Beatty West, Mt Anville, St Stevens Green, Dundrum, Dublin, died on the 27th December 1841 at the age of about 51. His funeral was on the 30th December 1841 in the St Peters Church and he was buried in St Kevins Cementary.

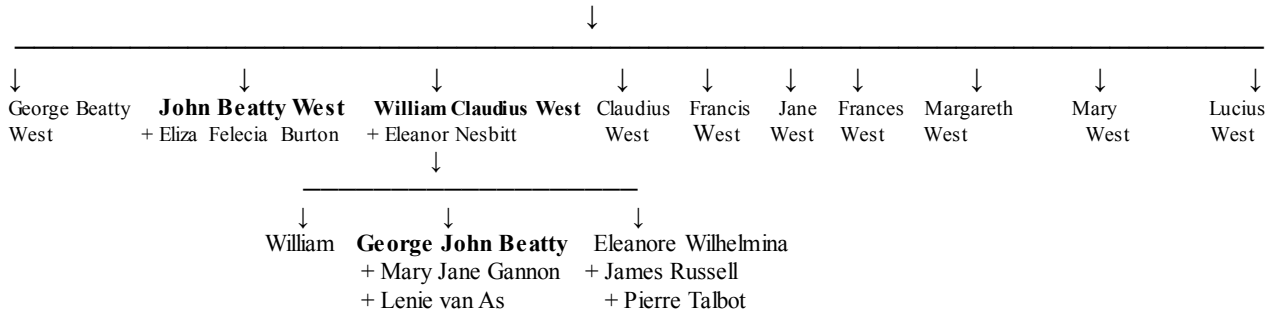
(Some put the date of his death as 27th December 1842 and 1841.

Wikipedia put it that the by-election after the death of John Beatty West was held on the 29th January 1842. If that date is correct, the date of his death was probably 27th December 1841).

8th October 1870: Death of his wife, Eliza Felecia West born Burton at 4 pm at the age of 84. She was born about 1786.

Diagram indicating the parents, brothers and sisters of John Beatty West:

William Francis aka Francis West b. Abt 1734, d. 2 Apr 1817,
+Elizabeth aka Eliza Beatty b. circ 1760, d. 28 Mar 1819,



To summarize the above-mentioned: John Beatty West (QC MP) was the elder brother of William Claudius West and the 2nd and well known son of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty. He was born about 1790 and named after his Beatty ancestor, John Beatty of Farranseer. As a highly intelligent young man he started on the 6th July 1797 with his BA studies at the age of 16 at (Trinity College?) in Dublin. In 1812 at the age of 22, he received his BA degree and during 1832 his MA. He was allowed to the Irish Bar as an advocate and ended up with a doctorate degree in law.

At the age of 29 he married the 33 year old spinster, Elizabeth Felecia aka Eliza Burton. She was the only daughter of Judge Justice Charles Burton and Anna Andrews. Justice Charles Burton was seen as a highly intelligent and a rich judge who possessed lands in the Galway area as well as other properties in Fitzwilliam Square and Mount Anville. He also owned a property in Eyrecourt in Galway. He lost his wife Anna during 1822.

The marriage of John Beatty West and Elizabeth Felecia aka Eliza Burton took place in the St Peters Church in Aungier Street in Dublin on the 8th November 1819. It is the same church where his nephew George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon was later married on the 14th May 1847. John Beatty West and Eliza stayed at 80 St Stephens Green, Dublin and at the end of their lives, at Mount Anville.

Six months after his marriage, Deed no 751 358 510893 of 1st May 1820, showed that he was involved in a property deal in Cloone.

John Beatty West, St Stephens Green, Dublin Esq (1)

Berry Norris, Lierny, Co Leitrim Esq (2)

Henry Trumble Carlisle, Mohill Esq (3)

Deed recites that (1) in consideration of £1 082.6.8 granted to (2) and during the life of Edmond Beatty of Lismore Co. Longford Esq., an annuity of £157.10.8 charged upon the lands of Balscarra, lands of Cloon. For the better securing of the annuity the lands were granted to (3) for 99 years to hold in trust.

In April 1840 John Beatty West, his brothers William Claudius West and George Beatty West and their brother in law the Rev George Crawford, gave money to find the murderers of their younger brother and brother in law, Claudius West.

Four of John Beatty West and Eliza's daughters, Adelaide Maria, Anna Felecia, Marie Alphonsine and Charlotte as well as the one son Colonel Frank Edward West were married and had children. I could not ascertain whether the two daughters Lizzy and Fanny and the one son Charles were married. But as seen in the following diagram, "*Rich uncle John West*" with eight children, had enough descendants to inherit all his money and properties and that there were definitely not money laying around waiting for his unknown family in Africa! The following are some of the names of his descendants:

John Beatty West b. Abt 1790, d. 27 Dec 1848, Mount Anville, buried 30 Dec 1848

+Eliza Felecia aka Eliza Burton b. Circ. 1786, d. 8 Oct 1870, Westborne Terrace, Bray

1 Adelaide Maria West

+Edward Handcock Montford

1.1 William Bradish Montford b. Abt 1830, d. 24 Dec 1905

+Jennie Henrietta Warner Grogan b. 1874

1.1.1 Helen Warner Montford b. 1876, d. 1905

1.1.2 Anne West Montford b. 1878, d. 1913

1.1.3 Edward Handcock Montford b. 5 Mar 1880

+Olive Ridge

1.1.3.1 Walter Ridge Montford

1.1.4 Mary Adelaide Montford b. 1875, d. 1913

+Mary McKenzie Munro

1.1.5 Adelaide Effie Montford

1.1.6 Rosina Montford b. 1884

1.1.7 Alice Jean Montford b. 1887

1.1.8 William Hugh Montford b. 1890

1.1.9 Winifred Christina Montford b. 1892

1.1.10 Henry Montford b. 1894

1.1.11 Douglas Henry Montford b. 1897

2 Charles Burton West d. India

3 Lady Anna Felecia West b. Abt 1822, Limerick, d. 6 Jul 1873

+Sir Croker Barrington 4th baronetb. 9 Jul 1817 d 1890

3.1 Anna Josephine Barrington b. 1891 d. 2 Jul 1947

+J N Polock d. 1947

3.2 Mercy Barrington b 1881

+ Judge G Wright

3.3 Sir Charles Barrington b. Circ. 1848, d. 12 Aug 1943 MA, JP, DC

3.4 Croker Barrington b. Circ. 1851, d. 24 Jun 1926 Lawyer

3.5 William Mathew Barrington b. Abt 1855, d. 10 Jun 1883 in France

3.6 John Beatty Barrington b. 18 Jul 1859, d. 16 Sep 1926. High sheriff Limerick

+Catherine Charlotte Bayly d. 3 Apr 1937

3.7.1 Mary Charlotte Gladys Barrington

3.7.2 Marjory Barrington

3.7.3 Major John Barrington b. 2 Jun 1899, d. 4 Jan 1961

3.7 Olivia Maria Barrington b 1871 d. 15 Apr 1921

+Rev Lewan Burton Weldon

3.8 Caroline Barrington

+W Y Donnelly

3.9 Jessey Frances Barrington

+ G H Pentland JP

3.10 Rose Henrietta

- 4 **Lizy West**
- 5 **Marie Alphonsine West**
+Hon. Sir. Judge William Westbrooke Burton
- 6 **Charlotte West** d. 21 Aug 1857
+Sir Henry Stonhouse
 - 6.1 Vansittart Henry Pottinger Stonhouse b. 6 May 1852, d. Febr 1853
 - 6.2 Reginald Charles Dowdeswell Stonhouse b. 9 Jul 1853, d. 6 May 1882
 - 6.3 Sir Ernest Hay Stonhouse b. 27 Jun 1855, d. 18 Dec 1937
+Louise Catherine Rees
- 7 **Fanny West** d. England
- 8 **Colonel Frank Edmund West** d. 2 Oct 1885
+Jane Caroline Adams d. 23 Apr 1906
 - 8.1 Victor Robert West b. Abt Aug 1871
 - 8.2 Hilda Mary Caroline West
+Dr Theodore Dickson Browne
 - 8.2.1 Francis William Henry Browne d. 8 Jan 1906
 - 8.2.2 Alexander Edward West Browne b. 10 Jun 1893, d. Circ 1895
 - 8.2.3 Theodore Victor Browne b. 29 Jul 1897
 - 8.3 Elma Jane Geraldine West
 - 8.4 Zelda Anne Frances West
 - 8.5 Silvia Violet West
 - 8.6 Ethel Maude West

It seems that John Beatty's eldest daughter Adelaide Maria West who was married to Edward Handcock Montford, emigrated to Australia. His 3rd daughter Marie Alphonsine West was married to the Hon. Sir Judge William Westbrooke Burton. She was wounded on board the Conquerer in the Mediteranian and was present with the attack on New Orleans.

John Beatty West was a Protestant who became very active in politics and was a MP for the Conservative Party in Dublin. He was well known for his wit and sharp sense of humor in politics. He was overweight and as a result walked very awkwardly. Lord Plunkett, the MP for Dublin University, gave him the nick name of "*Sow West*". A name he kept till the end. Even the well known Daniel O'Connell referred to him in Parliament as "*Sow West*".

Although active and outspoken in politics, he was described as a man without enemies. At one stage of political meetings before an election the candidates had to be looked after by security. It was said that his humor and wit was admired and enjoyed by followers of both parties and he was free to walk without any security.

His direct opponent in parliament was the well known and remarkable **Daniel O'Connell**. John Beatty West and Daniel O'Connell opposed each other during four elections. John Beatty West winning the elections of 17th January 1835 and 10th July 1841 and O'Connell winning on 22nd December 1832 and 5th August 1837.

Typical of the politics in the Ireland of the middle 1800s, John Beatty West was Protestant, Conservative and pro-British while his opponent Daniel O'Connell was Catholic, pro Irish and anti-British.

The last contest that Mr O'Connell and Mr West opposed each other for a seat in parliament was a very tough one. The circumstances during the campaign was so harsh that supporters of the candidates needed tickets to attend meetings. Half of the tickets were given to the supporters of each candidate.

Mr O'Connell's family were rich Catholics who were disposed of their lands. Daniel O'Connell's rich wealthy bachelor uncle, Maurice "Hunting Cap" O'Connell helped him to study law at Douai and St Omer in Northern France. On the 19th May 1798 O'Connell was called to the Irish bar to

become a barrister. Known as "*The Liberator*", he was a very popular leader and became the 1st Catholic mayor of Dublin.

In 1815 a serious event occurred in O'Connell's life. When he did not apologize in a speech, John D'Estairre challenged him for a duel. He accepted it but unfortunately shot his challenger. He felt bitter towards himself for what he had done and offered help to the widow. Although she refused, he supported her daughter for thirty years, until his death.

In the elections of 17 January 1835, the margin in the results, as shown above, were very close. Mr O'Connell and Ruthven had already taken their seats when a committee had to look at the votes. The committee sat from 3rd May 1835 to the 6th January 1836 and from 29th February to the 26th May 1836. The commission found that although voters received money, neither Mr West nor Mr Hamilton knew about it. They stroke the names of the 370 voters involved. The committee then declared that Mr John Beatty West and Mr George Alexander Hamilton were duly elected. Mr O'Connell and Mr Ruthven were unseated and Mr West and Mr Hamilton took their seats as MPs for Dublin.

On 15th August 1843 Mr. O'Connell held a meeting at Tara Hill which was attended by about 750 000 people. The *London Times* brought the number down to over a 100 000. The Hill of Tara is not steep. When O'Connell spoke there it is said that his officials stood against the hill and repeated his words down hill so that everybody could hear. The magistrate reported him to the British and he was arrested. Judge Charles Burton was one of the judges to hear his case. It became the trial for which Judge Burton was most remembered. Patrick M Geoghegan in *Liberator, The life and death of Daniel O'Connell, p. 169* mentions that during this trial Judge Burton was already an old man. Mentally and physically he was not so strong and was at times asleep during the trial. In the end it was Judge Burton who passed the sentence of imprisonment for one year on O'Connell. Judge Burton was the father in law of John Beatty West, Daniel O'Connell's direct opponent in the Parliament. O'Connell was released after three months.

Daniel O'Connell's contact with certain French revolutionaries during his studies in St Omer let him decide against force to bring change in his beloved country. Three months after his famous meeting on the Hill of Tara and after his release from prison, he repeated his strong view against bringing change by violence when he wrote in *The Nation* of 18 November 1843: "*The principle of my political life is, that all ameliorations and improvements in political institutions can be obtained by persevering in a perfectly peaceable and legal course and cannot be obtained by forcible means, or if they could got by forcible means, such means create more evil than they cure and leave the country worse than they found it*".

O'Connell was respected in many countries. Street names and statues in his remembrance were erected as far as Melbourne and Sydney. His philosophy of non-violence inspired later leaders like Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King and Sol Plaatje of South Africa.

On his way to the Pope in Rome, Daniel O'Connell died as a lonely man on the 15th May 1847 in Genoa. It was a day after the marriage of George John Beatty West with Mary Jane Gannon on the 14th May 1847. O'Connell's last request before he died was: "*My body to Ireland - my heart to Rome - my soul to heaven*".

John Beatty West's last campaign against Mr Daniel O'Connell ended on the 10th July 1841 when Mr West was elected as MP for Dublin. The canvassing for votes in Dublin in 1835 was very

tough. Mr West and his team worked very hard. Some writers put it that he got sick and died of what he suffered during this tough election campaign. The *Dublin University Magazine*, vol 26, p. 511 reacted with the following; "..... although sorely distressed by the ingratitude with which John Beatty West was put aside and sacrificed".

John Beatty West died on the 27th December 1848 at Mount Anville at the the age of 51. It was only five months after his election as MP for Dublin.

His death notice read as follow in the *Examiner* of 1st January 1849:

"John Beatty West Esq. - Queens's Council and one of the representatives for Dublin died on the 27th. The event took place at Mount Anville, the residence of Judge Burton. Since the general election in July, when Mr West and Mr Grogan was returned for the city, after one of the most formidable contests on record, the deceased gentleman never recovered from the effects of the fatigue and exhaustion he had suffered on that occasion. The passing over of the paramount claims of Mr. West when Mr Warren obtained the vacant sergeantry, might also have had considerable effect upon a constitution debilitated by illness"

The following obituary of John Beatty West appeared in the *Dublin Evening Mail*:

"John Beatty Wet, Esq, M.P.. Dec 27 (Died) At his residence, Mount Anville, near Dublin, aged 48 (should be 51), John Beatty Wet, Esq, Queen council, M.P. For that city. Mr West acquired considerable land and property and he also succeeded in forming a very splendid collection of paintings. But his immense expenditure at contested elections must, no doubt, have diminished his fortune.

The death of Mr West has caused a feeling of deep regret among persons of all classes and persuasions in Dublin. While the Conservative party looked up to him as the leader who enabled them to wreath the representation of their city from Mr O'Connell, they loved him for his virtues, his extreme kindness of heart and most agreeable manners: his political opponents ever spoke of him as a man for whom they entertained a high respect. Whether at the bar, on the hustings, or in the senate, his statements and arguments were totally free from that asperity which is so very generally employed by public speakers who, like Mr West have had frequent occasion to defend themselves from unfair attacks.

There could be no stronger proof of the estimation in which he was held than that exhibited at the last and the preceding elections in Dublin. Prior to the election of 1837, Mr West was charged by Mr. O'Connell with the crime of turning the Romanist tenantry off his Galway estate, to make room for Protestants and was held at a public podium as an "exterminator of the people". When it became Mr West's turn to address the electors from the hustings, he was received with a shout of execration that would have deterred men of ordinary powers of eloquence or persuasion from persisting in an effort to obtain a hearing from such an excited mob, but he bore it all with the most perfect good humour, occasionally throwing in a word, until, by the interference of Mr O'Connell and others, partial order was restored.

He at once told the people that he knew the cause of their anger and that he came there prepared to satisfy them with undoubted proofs that he had been grossly calumniated. He then read the certificate of the Roman Catholic priest of the parish and various documents contradicting in the strongest term the allegations that had been published against him. By degrees the mob became disposed to hear him out and he continued to speak a considerable time, without any mark of disapprobation on coming to the termination of his address he said:

"Now, elector of Dublin, I think I have satisfied you that I am not guilty of the charges brought against me of having persecuted my tenantry or of even having done an act calculated to injure a living being.

There is one charge I have not yet referred to – Mr O'Connell have accused me of being an ugly

man - in fact he thinks I should be known only as 'Sow West'. Now, let the learned gentleman take off his wig and stand beside me on this table and I will leave it to your judgment which is the handsomer man. We need hardly add that this playful little appeal made to a highly excited Dublin mob completely disarm them and by their cheers and laughter they testified their opinion of the political opponent, whom, but an hour before, they were ready to asunder. How much the gaiety of this scene was increased can well be imagined when Mr O'Connell stood up, and deliberately taking off his wig, came forward and stood beside his rival with a pate as bald as John Gilpins's.

The election went on in the usual riotous manner but from that hour to the day of his death, John Beatty West was never spoken of by any man, from the highest to to the lowest in the city, but in turns of regard for his good humour on all occasions and excellent private character. All through the last election he went from booth to booth and never received the slightest insult, while his agents and supporters had to be guarded by strong bodies of police.

The sweetness and placidity of a temper seldom ruffled; affection pure, ardent and permanent; manners simple, unaffected and graceful; accomplishments and acquirements of the scholar, the learnings, talents and eloquence of the lawyer, the wit, humour and conversational powers of the social companion; the sincerity of the friend; the fidelity of the husband; the blandness of parental love; the purity and wisdom of the politician; the seal of the patriot and the total integrity of the man – all in a rare combination or the best qualities of head and heart, distinguished this amiable and lamented gentleman. Few men were blessed with more friends – no man ever freer from enemies”.

“His funeral took place at St Peters Church, Dublin on the 30th December.

Amongst the mourners were Attorney-General, Mr Brewster, Mr Keatinge and many other members of the legal profession. Hundreds of the most respectable citizens would have crowded round the honoured bier, had it not that his family were anxious that he should be interred as privately as possible.

The burial service was performed by the Archdeacon of Dublin and the Rev Messrs. Newland and Porter”. (The Gentlemens Magazine)?

Four years after his death, in June 1853 Eliza the widow of John Beatty West, offered their expensive estates of 11 000 acres in the county of Galway and Longford for sale in the Encumbered Estate Court. Padraig Lane records that the properties was bought by Allan Pocock for £124 000. *“Measuring Worth”*, taking the yearly RPI from 1853 till 2017 into account, put the 1853 value of £124 000 on £11,520,000.00 in 2016. At R18-00 on a pound it gives us a South African value of about R207 000 000.00 in 2017.

On the 8th of November 1853, five months after these properties were sold for £124 000, George John Beatty West's sister Ellen wrote from Ellen Villa, Drumcondra in Dublin and mentioned that her brother George could buy plots in Caledon, South Africa for £8 and £10 each: *“You mention in your last letter that there were building lots to be disposed of at Caledon on very reasonable terms about £8 & £10 each. Now mother wishing to assist you in the purchase of one and encloses a Bank Post letter for £6 with her fond love & best wishes for your success She desires me say she wishes she could send you more but she is only by the sale of some remaining articles of furniture. She had this”.* With this £124 000 one could, in 1853, buy about 13 000 plots in Caledon. That is a few Caledons of the 1850s. Yes indeed, “Uncle John” was rich!

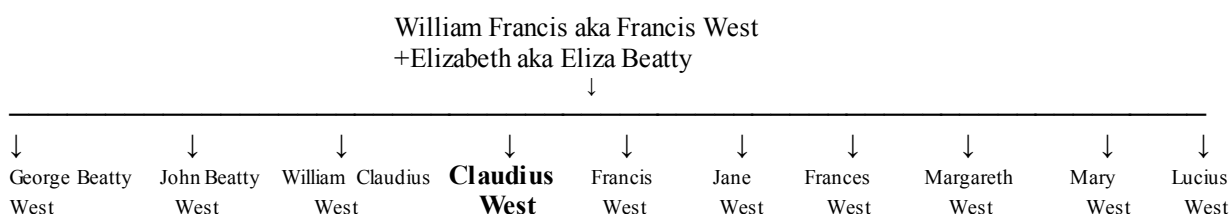
It seems as if John Beatty West's widow, Elizabeth Felecia aka Eliza West born Burton, spent her last years at Westborne Terrace, Bray, County of Wicklow. Bray is about twenty kilometers South of Dublin. She died on the 8th October 1870 at 4 pm. at the age of 84.

CHAPTER 12

Claudius West, his bachelor uncle

Claudius West was the fourth son of William Francis West and Elizabeth aka Eliza Beatty. He was the younger brother of George Beatty West, John Beatty West and William Claudius West. Claudius was named after his mother's, grandfather, Claudius Beatty.

Diagram depicting Claudius West as the fourth son of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty:



There are three different dates for his birth but it seems that he was born in 1801. According to Ellen, he was not handsome. In her letter of 2nd August 1859 she wrote: "... *but William (George John Beatty West's child no 2 William Claudius) is no beauty if he is like your Uncle Claudius...*" After Claudius finished his studies as a solicitor he lived in the Streamstown and Corrowna area about 60 kilometers south of Cloone.

In a report by the Hibernian Research company to Deon Coetzee, they referred to a letter of Claudius West to his brother, George Beatty West of Drumdarkin In this letter of 14th September 1837 Claudius discussed the settlement on the proposed marriage between George Beatty West's daughter Letitia H West and the Rev David Donaldson.

There was a Claudius West involved at the marriage of Verschoyle Crawford and Janetta Halfpenny on the 4th March 1815 when he signed as a witness of the "Marriage Settlement". This Claudius West is referred to as "*uncle of the bridegroom*". Claudius West was a great-uncle of the bridegroom. The bridegroom's grandmother Mary Crawford born West and Claudius were brother and sister. But, if Claudius was born in 1801, he was only 14 years old when he signed as a witness of the "*Marriage Settlement*". When Claudius signed as witness of the "Marriage Settlement" it was said that he was from Dublin. Claudius's elder brother William Claudius West who was born in 1796 was 19 years old when this document was signed. It could be that brother William Claudius studied law in Dublin during 1815 and that the above referred to him and not to Claudius.

In the *Roscommon Leitrim Gazette* of 25th March 1826 news appear about Claudius West from Cloone concerning "Asizes Leitrim". The edition of 14th July 1827 had news about "*House of Land of Claudius West taken by Mr Steward, burned*".

Claudius was a bachelor who loved his toasts too much. He had a drinking problem. Although Claudius owned several properties with tenants, he also collected rent from tenants for a landlord.

In the book "*Ireland, Politics and People*" edited by D J Drudy of Trinity College, Dublin, (1982), is an article by Prof David Fitzpatrick "*Class, family and rural unrest in 19th century Ireland*" about the

tensions between landlords and their tenants and workers and among themselves. On p. 59-60 the following is written by prof Fitzpatrick : *"The West family which in 1798 had included not only shelter for Humbert but also (to) a captain the Yeomanry (captain John Rock) was riven by internal feuding. In 1838 "John Rock" of Castlebar warned **Claudius West that he should take care of himself and drink no more toasts** or he might expect a visit from captain Rock, who would in any case be attending to the Protestant curate, that "second Judas", the Rev Hogg. The clergyman's suspicion immediately centered upon William West, brother of Claudius. Claudius was subsequently murdered and the agency of his lands taken up by George West, who himself became the target of outrage. Poor William (William Claudius West?) hearing rumours that these offences were being blamed upon his own tenantry (and by implication himself), angrily repudiated "such insinuations to attempt to injure the character of any individual". But he proceed to vent his loathing for cousin George commonly called The Yankee: "It seems strange that a gentleman to court Priestly Popularity became a Repealer boasted of his being a Naturalized Subject of America with other petty acts, connected with his family resident in that country during the Canadian Rebellion, should be in these times subject to such anathema".*

During the night of 27th April 1840 Claudius was murdered. *"With deep regret we have to add another barbarious murder to catalogue of crime which disgraces our unfortunate county . . . About nine o'clock Friday night the 27th as CLAUDIUS WEST, Esq of Streamstown was returning home on a car accompanied by two of his tenants on horseback, he was waylaid and fired at. One of the balls took effect and lodged in his side. The men who accompanied him galloped off, when one of the villains was perceived to reload and take deliberate aim Supposing the deed was . . . they walked off. Mr West, wounded and bleeding, crawled a little distance and hid in a ditch where he was discovered in the morning. (Searchers came, but Claudius feared it was the murderers and kept silent).*

Sunday (balls extracted); (effects of exposure) Monday at 7 he died. Brother of late member for Dublin (John Beatty West), also of George Beatty West Esq Cloone, a magistrate of county Leitrim. A more quiet and inoffensive man did not exist. Cause assigned was that Claudius was supposed to be the only life in the lease of the lands which he held under the White family. The Lord Lieutenant has issued a proclamation offering 150 pounds reward, and we have no doubt the neighboring gentry will bestir themselves in a similar way.

A spirited subscription already amounting to 654 Pounds for discovery of the perpetrators (in addition to Government reward). Sir Morgan Crofton 100, John B West 200, Rev George Crawford, George B West, JP, William West Esq and Berry Norris 20 pounds each. [Information received from Rachel Smith under the heading "Assassination of a Middleman, Claudius West" IRL-LEITRIM-L Archives, apparently sourced from the Longford Journal, 2nd and 16th May 1840.]

(The £150 reward in 1840 is now £12 870 and at R18 to the pound in 2017 R231 660 and the £654 subscription in 1840 is worth now £56 130 and at R18 to the pound in 2017 R1 010 340 www.measuringworth.com)

Claudius West died unmarried at the age of 39 and was buried in the family plot in Cloone Protestant Churchyard.

CHAPTER 13

Aunt Mary West and the influential Crawfords

In a letter written about August 1849 to George in South Africa, his father William Claudius West wrote: *“Every night I expect to hear of my sister Mary's death. She is now in Scotland with her daughter, her family take the act of the writing some of the Dubs of this life”*. These words indicated that William Claudius West's father had a sister Mary.

Who was the mother of Mary West?

It is clear that Mary West was William Francis West's daughter but it was very difficult to establish whether she was the daughter of his first wife Catherine St Maurice or his second wife Elizabeth Beatty. If Mary was Catherine's daughter, she was William Claudius's half sister and if she was Elizabeth's daughter, she was his full sister. To establish whether she was Catherine's or Elizabeth's daughter, I took the following dates into account:

Birth of Francis West's 1 st wife Catherine	1734
Birth of Francis West's 2 nd wife Elizabeth Beatty	1760
Birth of Mary's husband George Crawford abt	1776
Death of Francis West's 1 st wife Catherine's	1778
Birth of Mary West between	1778 and 1781?
Birth of Mary's brother, John Beatty West	1790
Birth of her brother William Claudius West	1796
Mary and George Crawford's marriage	April 1798
Birth of Mary's son William Crawford	1801
Death of Elizabeth Beatty	1819
Death of Mary's husband George Crawford	1846 age 70
Mary very sick - Scotland (aged 68 – 71)	1849

The *Crossle Record*, p. 80 reports: *“After the death of George Beatty his papers came to the hands of Rev George Crawford, one of the exors who is married to a granddaughter of said George Beatty...”*. It refers to Mary West as George Beatty's granddaughter, thus the daughter of Elizabeth Beatty. (Mary was actually the great grand daughter of George Beatty). It shows that Mary is a descendant of George Beatty and the daughter of Elizabeth Beatty and not of Catherine.

If Mary was Catherine's daughter, she must have been born before the death of Catherine in 1778. In that case, she was older than twenty when she got married to George Crawford in 1798. If she was Elizabeth's daughter, it is most likely that she was born after the death of Catherine and after the marriage of Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty. As William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty married after the death of his 1st wife Catherine in 1778, it is likely that Mary, if she was their eldest child, was born during or after 1778. In that case she must have been younger than twenty years when she married George Crawford. As the habit was that girls married very young during those years, both views are possible.

Although one researcher mention the possibility that Mary was Catherine's daughter, the fact that William Claudius referred in 1849 to her as *“his sister Mary”* and that the Crossle Records referred to her as *“a granddaughter of George Beatty”*, brought me to the conclusion that Mary

was the daughter of William Francis West and Elizabeth Beatty. Mary being a full sister of our ancestor, William Claudius West, her children were the cousins of our ancestor George John Beatty West.

It seems that Mary was the eldest child of Elizabeth and Francis West. She was born between 1778 and 1781 and was between seventeen and twenty when she married the twenty two year old Rev George Crawford in April 1798. Her eldest child William Crawford was born in 1801. When her 53 year old younger brother William Claudius West referred to her in the above-mentioned letter of 1849 she was about seventy. As her marriage took place six months before the incident with the French soldiers on the 7th September 1798 in Cloone, it is unlikely that she as a married girl would be one of the West girls who threw the chains of the cannons into the well.

Mary West married the Rev George Crawford

Rachel Smith gave the following abstract of Mary West and the Rev George Crawford's Dowry Contract of 23rd April 1798:

“Abstract of Crawford-West Marriage Deed – 551-542-364360 Dated April 23, 1798

1st part: Samuel Crawford of Newton Forbes, Longford, Esq;
2nd part: George Crawford, eldest son of Samuel C;
3rd part: Francis West of Cloone, Co of Leitrim, Merchant;
4th part: Mary West, daughter of the aforesaid Francis;
5th part: John Verschoyle of city of Dublin, Esq;
6th part: George Beatty of Lismoy, Longford, Esq.

Agreed that the marriage was to be solemnized between George Crawford and Mary West with whom George West (?) was to receive sum of £500 as a marriage portion paid and secured in manner and subject to contingencies mentioned. Indenture witnessed that the said Samuel Crawford in consideration of marriage and marriage portion and the better to enable George to make a suitable settlement on Mary and her issue etc. did grant and release unto said John Verschoyle and George Beatty, their heirs and assigns, all his right, title etc. in and to the lands of Monylagan in the County of Longford, fifty five acres with appurtenances in as ample a manner as the same was held by said Samuel Crawford for the uses, Trusts, intent mentioned to enjoy as his own for the natural life of George, and reserving unto said Samuel during his natural life the yearly annuity of twenty pounds paid twice yearly in two equal payments November and may. Secondly to allow said Mary West on decease of George to enter in like manner in possession of lands of Monylagan, (subject to same annuity as long as Samuel lives). After decease of Mary, lands devolve to issue of marriage share and share alike. In case of no issue, Mary shall hold the lands so long as she is a widow. On remarriage, lands to go to person designated in will of George Crawford, subject to dower of £50 annually on her remarriage. £200 are to go immediately to George Crawford. £300 remainder are to be vested by Trustees for the use of Issue of marriage share and share alike, with liberty of George Crawford nevertheless to receive the interest arising. If opportunity arises to better investment, George with consent and concurrence of trustees may reinvest. If any children turn out disobedient or undutiful after George's death, Mary with concurrence may alter this inheritance according to their deserts.

*Witnessed by John Rossborough of Mulnagoin in Co Fermanagh and Edmondmay, Longford.
Memorial witnessed by Edmond Beatty and George West of Streamstown”.*

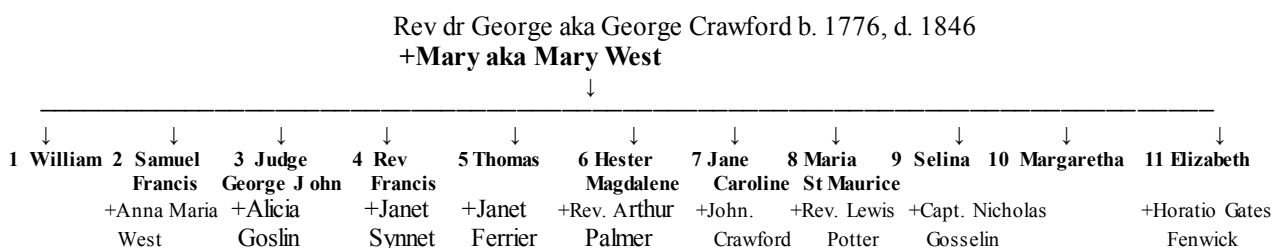
- 1st part: Samuel Crawford of Newton Forbers, Longford, Esq was the father of Rev George Crawford;
- 2nd part: George Crawford, eldest son of Samuel C was the Rev George Crawford, the bridegroom;
- 3rd part: Francis West of Cloone, Co of Leitrim, Merchant was the father of the bride, Mary West;
- 4th part: Mary West, daughter of the aforesaid Francis, was the bride;
- 5th part: John Verschoyle(Crawford) of city of Dublin, Esq was the brother of the bridegroom, the Rev George Crawford and
- 6th part: Who George Beatty of Lismoy, Longford, Esq. was, is uncertain. The only George Beatty known was the then 68 year old George Beatty (1730-1805), the great grandfather of the bride. George West of Streamstown was the bride 's uncle, her father's brother George. Edmond Beatty could refer to one of the Edmund Beattys mentioned in The Crosslee Notes p 8.

Mary West's husband, the Rev George Crawford was born in 1776 and died in 1846 aged 70. He was highly qualified with doctorate degrees in both law and divinity. He became the rector of Newton Forbes and later the vicar-general of the diocese of Armagh. When he conducted the marriage of his brother-in-law, William Claudius West and Eleanore Nesbitt in 1820, the Rev George Crawford was the Rector of St Annes, Newtonforbes. We refer in Chapter 12 that in April 1840 he and his brothers-in-law, John Beatty West, George Beatty West and William Claudius West donated money to find the murderers of his brother-in-law, Claudius West.

The eleven children of Mary and George Crawford

Mary and the Rev George Crawford had eleven children: William Crawford, Samuel Francis aka Samuel Crawford, Judge George John Crawford, Rev Francis aka Francis Crawford, Thomas Reginald Crawford, Hester Magdalene Crawford, Jane Caroline Crawford, Maria St Maurice Crawford, Selina Crawford, Margaretha Crawford and Elizabeth Crawford.

Diagram of Mary West and George Crawford and their eleven children:



Children and grandchildren of Mary West and the Rev Dr George Crawford.

- 1 **William** Crawford b. Abt 1801, d. Abt 1822
- 2 **Samuel Francis** aka Samuel Crawford b. Abt 1809
+Anna Maria West (the daughter of George Beatty West aka The Yankee and Elizabeth Frances aka Eliza West)
 - 2.1 Vershoyle aka Verschoyle Crawford
+Janetta aka Janetta Halfpenny
 - 2.2 George Crawford
 - 2.3 William Francis Crawford
+Hannah Belle Smith
 - 2.4 Arthur Forbes Crawford
+Eliza Talbot
 - 2.5 Ronald Francis Crawford
 - 2.6 Francis Reginald Crawford

- +Alice Move
- 2.7 Fanny Crawford
- 2.8 Mary Crawford
- 2.9 Hessie Crawford
 - +Milton Taylor
- 2.10 Felecia Crawford
- 2.11 Honoraria. Crawford d. New York
- 3 Judge George John** Crawford b. Abt 1812, Count Longford, d. 1852, Australia
 - +Alicia aka Alice or Posey Goslin
 - 3.1 Magdalene Crawford
 - +Whetherall
- 4 Rev Francis** aka Francis Crawford
 - +Janet Synnet
 - 4.1 Edith Crawford
 - +Gorncastle
- 5 Thomas Reginald** Crawford
 - +Janet Ferrier
- 6 Hester Magdalene** Crawford
 - +Rev. Arthur Palmer
 - 6.1 George Palmer
 - +Henrietta Parker
 - 6.2 Dr William-Crawford Palmer
 - 6.3 Prof Arthur Palmer
 - +Frances Green
 - 6.4 Mary Madeline Palmer
 - 6.5 Frances Palmer
 - +Rev Henry Steward
 - 6.6 Margareth Anne Palmer
 - 6.7 Hessie Rebecca Palmer
- 7 Jane Caroline** Crawford
 - +John Crawford.
 - 7.1 David Crawford.
 - 7.2 William Robert Crawford.
 - 7.3 Robert Caldwell Crawford.
 - 7.4 John George Crawford.
 - 7.5 James Travers Crawford.
 - 7.6 Thomas Pakenham Crawford.
 - 7.7 Margaret Crawford.
 - +Harding
 - 7.8 Sarah Crawford.
 - +Edward Stoney
- 8 Maria St Maurice** Crawford
 - +Rev. Lewis Potter b. 1798
 - 8.1 Capt William Robert Potter b. 1826
 - 8.2 Dr Samuel Reginald Potter b. 1827
 - 8.3 George John Potter b. 1829
 - 8.4 Rev. Lewis Francis Potter b. 1830, d. Devon, England.
 - 8.5 Mary Sabina Potter b. 1831
 - 8.6 Fanny Eliza Potter
 - 8.7 Marguerite Anna Potter
 - 8.8 Sara Cooper Potter
 - 8.9 Madeline St Maurice Potter
 - 8.10 Elizabeth Frances Potter b. 1833
 - 8.11 Annie Amy Potter
 - 8.12 Sarah Potter
- 9 Selina** Crawford
 - +Capt. Nicholas Gosselin
 - 9.1 Reginald Gosselin
 - +Leaky
 - 9.2 Major Sir Nicholas Gosselin
 - +Katherine Haslett
 - 9.3 William Gosselin
 - 9.4 George Gosselin
 - +Anne Haslett
 - 9.5 Fanny Gosselin
 - +Capt. Muller

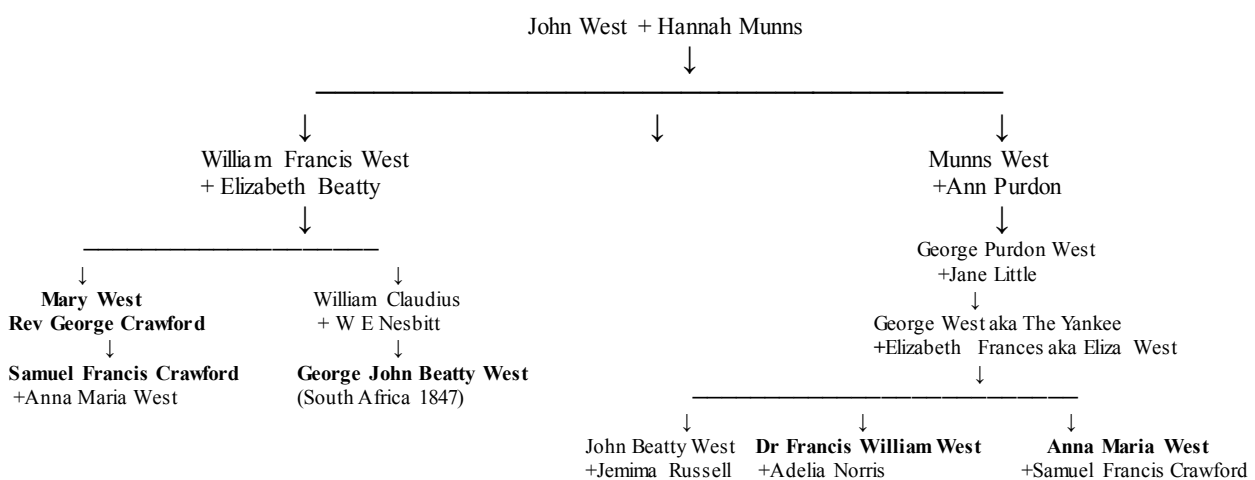
- 9.6 Mary Gosselin
+J. Herdman
- 9.7 Selina Gosselin
+A. Herdman
- 9.8 Madeline Gosselin
+Joseph Bell
- 10 **Margaretha** Crawford
- 11 **Elizabeth** Crawford
+Horatio Gates Fenwick
 - 11.1 Naval Officer George Roe Fenwick
 - 11.2 Mary Selina Fenwick
 - 11.3 Hanna Bertha Fenwick
 - 11.4 Robert Howard Fenwick
 - 11.5 Benjamin Fenwick
 - 11.6 Elizabeth Fenwick
 - 11.7 Hessie Madeline Fenwick

The talented Mary and her husband Rev George Crawford gave their eleven children a good upbringing and education. Some of their children and grandchildren were outstanding in their careers. All their sons studied Law or Theology. His sons assisted him to an ancestral Scottish title, which was unsuccessful.

William Crawford, their eldest son, born about 1801, studied law and graduated at Trinity College. He died about 1822 at the age of 20.

Samuel Crawford, Mary and George's second son, was born in 1809. He studied Theology at Trinity College in 1832 but since he did not feel the calling to become a minister, was never ordained. On the 3rd May 1832 Samuel married Anna Maria West. Anna West was the daughter of George Beatty West aka The Yankee. The diagram indicates how Samuel Crawford and Anna Maria were related. Samuel's grandfather William Francis West and Anna Maria's great grand father Munns West were brothers. In her letter of 18th February 1877, Ellen mentioned that Anna lived with her mother at Drumdarkin.

Diagram indicating how Samuel Crawford, Anna Maria West and our ancestor George John Beatty West who emigrated to South Africa, were related:



Although Samuel possessed a number of properties in Ireland, he and his wife Anna Maria emigrated in 1846 during the Potato Famine to America. In New York he worked as a steward in the Immigration Department at Wards Island where his ability to speak Irish was needed. It must be remembered that in 1847 New York had a population of 372 000 of which 52 000, that is one out of every seven inhabitants, were Irish.

Samuel and Anna later settled in Iowa where the family had several severe setbacks. The baby twins Felecia and Honoria died of typhoid and their young son George and daughter Fanny contracted tuberculosis. According to Rachel Smith, Samuel and Anna sent George to his father's brother Judge George John Crawford and his wife Alicia aka Posey Goslin in Australia. On the 10th August 1854 the 14 year old George Crawford, shortly before his death wrote his last letter from Australia to his parents in America.

August 10, 1854

My dearest Mother,

I have commenced this letter before the arrival of the mail as I am at present in bad health. I am confined to the house by the cold, it is winter here at present. And, my dearest Mother, it is possible that I may not see you again on this earth, as in my present state it may please the Almighty to remove me at any time He may think fit. And dearest mother, if such should be the case, I hope and trust we may all meet in that place where we meet to part no more.

And now farewell my beloved parents (if it is to be), brothers and sisters. And may the Lord bless you and comfort you after you have heard that my mortal career is run.

And now with last love to dearest Father, Mary, Fanny and the others, I remain, dearest and best of Mothers, your affect. dying son

George

Samuel and Anna Maria sent their young daughter Fanny, who was a tuberculosis patient, from America to Anna Maria's brother, Dr Francis William West in Ireland. Dr West was in charge of the asylum in Omagh in today's Northern Ireland. Fanny was treated near Cappagh, south of Longford.

She died on Friday morning September the 7th 1855 at two o'clock, about a year after her 14 year old brother George died in Australia. Fanny was buried near Cappagh, Ireland on Monday the 10th September 1855. The day after her funeral, the Rev Francis John Crawford wrote the following letter from Omagh to his brother Samuel Francis Crawford in New York.

Omagh, Sept. 11, 1855

My dearest Brother,

It again devolves upon me to take the painful and mournful task of communicating most sorrowful intelligence and although you can not altogether unprepared for my sad news yet still a parent's heart will keenly feel the bereavement when it comes.

Your Fanny is no more.

She died on Friday morning at two o'clock in the most calm and easy manner possible. It will in some degree tend to console and comfort to know that she was not unprepared for the great change and that all that friends and relatives could do to minister to her in her last illness was done. Indeed nothing could exceed the kindness of Francis (Dr. West), Adelia (his wife, nee Norris) and Alicia. The last watched her unceasingly and the very maid servants were most anxious to do everything in their power to make her comfortable.

You are aware she had burst a blood vessel some time ago and visibly declined after that. However there was some hope that she may rally and gain. But on Sunday the 2nd she grew so much worse that Francis West wrote to me and I came to Omagh on Monday. I found her very low and resigned. My coming seemed to cheer her and she appeared better Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. But on Thursday night she lost the sense of taste and her limbs swelled and she sat on the sofa leaning against the maid (whom she liked to support her because she was strong). The maid observed her breathing to change and called Alicia, who gave her a drink and she did so, dear Fanny said, "I cannot see properly - I am half awake".*

This she said in her usual voice but they were her last words. When Alicia looked again her spirit had departed and is now I trust with her Redeemer.

The night she died she spoke more to me than usual for her breathing was so short. It distressed her to speak much. She said she could say with David that "it was well with her and that she was afflicted" that she was quite reconciled to God's will and all happened for the best. She made a remark as to the length of her illness and she needs be there for it "to purge her on earthly dross".

Her temper which had sometimes become a little irritable (as I hear, for I never observed it myself) was wonderful, meek and patient and not a murmer escaped her.

I thought these particulars would interest you my dear brother, and I am sorry I cannot tell more. Your child was a favourite with all who know her. And Adelia and Francis loved her as if she had been their own child.

She was buried yesterday in a beautiful quiet churchyard about three miles from the asylum in the church of Cappagh.

When she was in tolerable health she used sometimes to go to Cappagh Church and now she sleeps in her last home waiting a joyful resurrection. May we all have that event more in mind and then parted for a time here below we shall meet where there shall be no more parting and where God has promised to wipe away tears from all eyes. May He by consolation of His grace assist to dry your tears and those of dearest Anna, and with love to her and all the children.

Believe me to be, my dearest brother,

Ever your attached,

(Rev) Francis John Crawford.

In the absence of Fanny's parents, thousands of kilometers away, Dr William Francis West, The Yankee's son for whom he did not care much, and his wife took the place of her parents and loved her to the end as if she was their own child.

Alicia, to whom the Rev Francis Crawford referred, was Alicia Crawford, the widow of the late Judge George John Crawford who died in Australia.

In her letter of 12th July (1876) to her brother George John Beatty West in South Africa, Ellen also referred to Anna Maria: "*Elize and the Yankee with their daughter Anna were up for three weeks in Kingstown*". During Febr 1877, Anna lived with her mother at Drumdarkin (*letter of Eleanore to GJB West - 18 Febr 1877*). It seems that Anna was then a widow who returned from New York or Iowa in America and lived in Ireland. Samuel and Anna's children, William, Hessie, Arthur and Francis later settled in Washington.

Judge George John Crawford, the 3rd son of Rev George Crawford and Mary West, was born about 1812 in County Longford. He was educated at Trinity College where he obtained his BA in 1833 and his LL.D. in 1846. Called to the British bar in 1840, he practised as an equity barrister. Judge Crawford married Alicia aka Alice or Posey Goslin. Alicia was George Crawford's cousin. She could have been the daughter of his father's sister Selina and her husband Captain Nicholas Gosselin. In 1849 the highly talented George John Crawford was appointed as second judge to assist the ailing chief justice Charles Cooper in the Supreme court in Southern Australia. His salary was £800 per year. He became an influential judge who brought in a number of reforms. (*The Australian Dictionary of Biography Obituaries*).



Judge George John Crawford

He, his wife Alicia and their two children were passengers on the ship Midlothian and arrived in Adelaide Thursday 27 June 1850 where he had his 1st court case during August 1850. Chief Justice Cooper found him a treasure and a hardworking man. In October 1850 his salary increased to £1 200 per year.

Being not so relaxed and casual as Cooper, George brought dignity to the court. He was the first to wear the wig in the colony. He took no nonsense from sleepy and unpunctual jury members and irregular practices. In one case he calmly discharged the jury and closed the sittings.

Judge Crawford dealt very heavy with irregular practices. He also plead for an association of members of his profession. He was very strict that "*undesirable characters*" must be excluded. In June 1851 the association started with 32 members, attended on invitation. He also questioned the need for a Grand Jury and pleaded for its abolition. When the cases in the lower courts piled up, he asked for the judges to help. The judges protested and Judge Crawford relented but offered to help as commissioner of the Insolvency Court.

*"During June 1852 he was already noticeably ill. His last official act was on the 4th September 1852 when recommended a commutation of sentence for three Aboriginal men who had received the death penalty. Three weeks later, on 29th September 1852, judge George John Crawford died at the age of about 40 of kidney and bladder disease. He was given a state funeral. His estate was worth less than £1 000 when his wife and now four children left Australia for England. In the fire which broke out on the ship Adelaide, 500 miles from Mauritius, all her luggage was burnt out and lost while they survived for 4 days on lifeboats. The Colonial Office refused her a pension and with a grant of £250 she went to live with her brother in Gibraltar". (From: *The Australian Dictionary of Biography Obituaries*).*

Mary and Rev George Crawford's son **Francis Crawford** was a church minister. Their daughter Hester Magdalene married a minister, the Rev. Arthur Palmer. Hester and Arthur's son William-Crawford Palmer became a medical doctor and their other son Arthur a professor. Their daughter Maria St Maurice Crawford was married to the Rev. Lewis Potter. Their son William Robert was a captain, Lewis Francis became a minister and Samuel Reginald a medical doctor. Mary and George's daughter Selina who was married to Captain Nicolas Gosselin had a well known son, Major Sir Nicholas Gosselin.

The good works during the Famine done by the Wests was still remembered. During May 2008 we three brothers, Deon, Colas and I visited Ireland. While we were in the village of Cloone we tried to find out whether there were still older people who might remember some stories about the West family. While we sat in the kitchen of Mrs Houston, a 90 year old lady on a farm, she told us very vaguely what she remembered about the Wests. She smiled at us and said that as far as she could remember, the Wests were controversial people, but on the other hand they were very good to their tenants and workers. As I sat behind her I asked her whether she knew anything about the Crawford family and if there were perhaps any Crawford descendants that she knew about. She turned around, looked me in the eyes and, referring to me, said to my brothers: "*You know, when this gentleman entered my house this morning, I thought it was the reverend Crawford. You look just like the reverend Crawford*". She did not tell us when or where the Rev Crawford of whom I was a counterpart, lived.

I was also very embarrassed the day in Mohill when I told the librarian, Evelyn Kelly, that Mrs Houston said I looked like the Rev Crawford. Very calmly Evelyn looked at me and said: "*You*

know Jaco, there is still a Mr Crawford near Cloone. He also has a long face like you”.

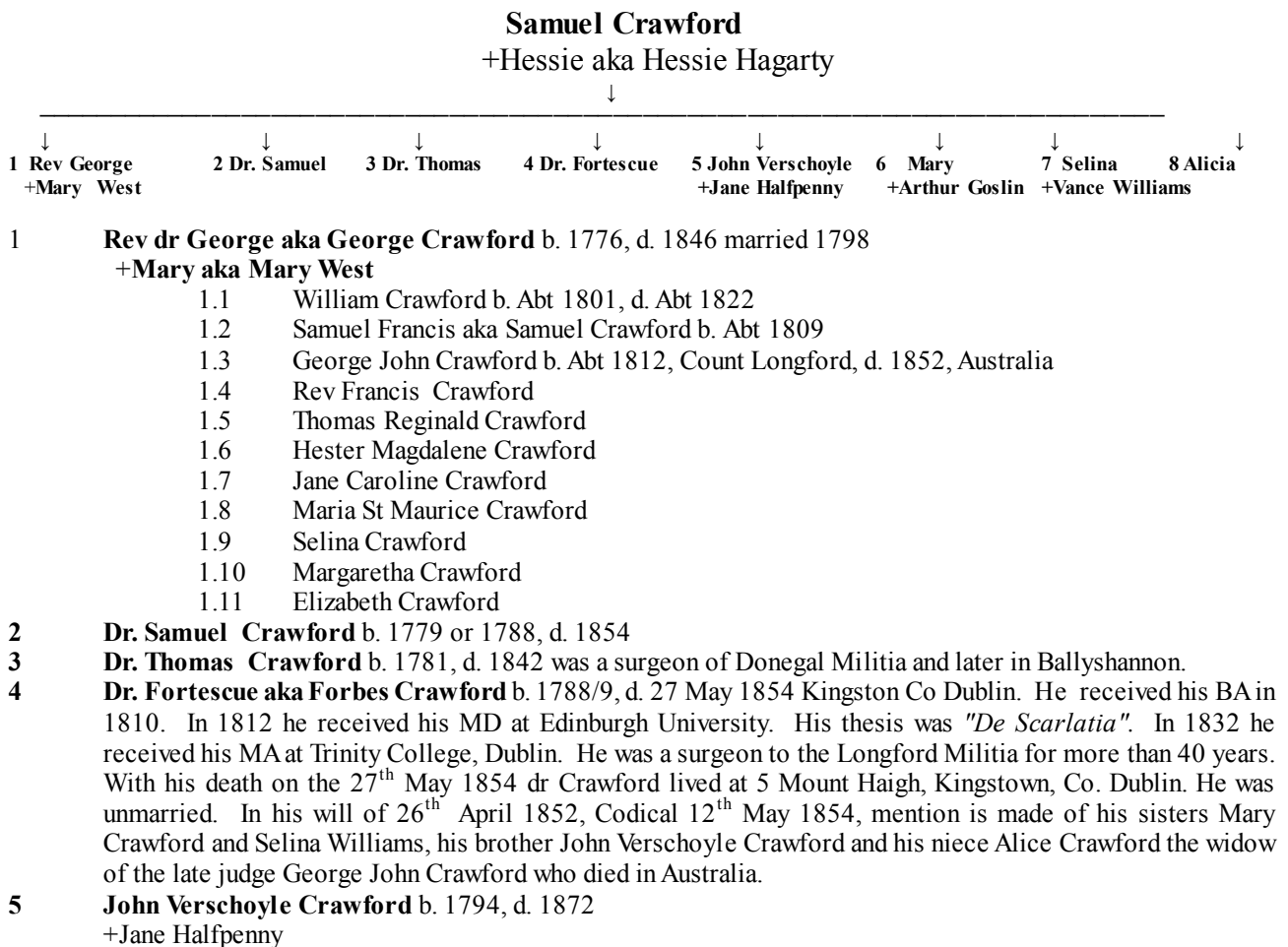
I told Rachel Smith about the remarks of Mrs Houston and Evelyn Kelly. On 15 August 2008, Rachel Smith wrote to me: *“It isn't surprising that you looked like someone in the Crawford family, even after several generations. There were several cousin marriages”.*

The Rev George Crawford was a prominent figure in the society. As a leader in the church he conducted the marriage of his brother in law, William Claudius West and Wilhelmina Nesbitt and baptized their eldest son William. With his doctorate degree in law he was involved in court cases and helped the West and Beatty families with contracts and court cases. In the Crosslee Records about the Beatty family is a reference of such a case in which the Rev Crawford helped them against their uncle Robert Beatty who on the 9th September 1809 took his two nieces, Elizabeth West and Frances Moore and their husbands Francis West and McVitty Moore to court. The family feud was about lands etc. (See Chapter 9.)

The Crawford family

In an article in the St Maurice Family record: *“Origins of the Crawford family of Newton-Forbes”* Rachel Smith mentioned that although the ancestors of the Rev George Crawford was from Scotland, they were not plantation settlers. His ancestors were the Crawfords of Ayrshire and were Jacobites who fled to Ireland and settled in county Longford. George was the eldest of Samuel and Hessie Crawford's eight children:

Diagram of Samuel Crawford and Hessie Hagarty's eight children and a few grandchildren:



- 6 **Mary aka Mary Crawford**
 +Arthur Goslin
 6.1-Maria Goslin
 + Richard O'Flaherty
- 7 **Selina Crawford**
 +Vance Williams of Longford Town married during 1818
 7.1-Edward Williams
- 8 **Alicia Crawford**

It is not clear what happened to aunt Mary. Her husband died in 1846 at the age of seventy. It seems as if she was later married to Thomas Conally. Unfortunately the dates did not correspond because that marriage is dated as 20th September 1838 and George Crawford only died during 1846. In his letter of 1849 her brother William Claudius West wrote that she is very sick where she lived with one of her six daughters in Scotland and that any day he expected to hear of her death.

CHAPTER 14

Adapting as farmer, mason and police constable in South Africa

George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon were married on Friday, the 14th May 1847 in Dublin and arrived in Cape Town during 1848 on an unknown ship. Since 1848 until 1895 they lived at The Keisie, Caledon, Villiersdorp and Hoopjesrivier. Mary Jane died on 16th June 1879 at Hoopjesrivier. (Chapters 15 to 26 are devoted to her and her offspring.) After his second marriage to Lenie van As on the 20th July 1880, he and Lenie lived at Hoopjesrivier, then at Genadendal and until his death in 1901 in Greyton. (Chapters 27 to 34 are devoted to Lenie and her offspring.)

Since his arrival in South Africa, George only lived in the Caledon district. Although I could not determine the exact dates, the following is an outline of where he stayed:

Born Cloone, Leitrim, Ireland	15 Junie 1827
Stayed Dublin	abt 1833 (1840?) - 1847
Marriage Dublin	14 th May 1847
Arrived in Cape Town	1848
The Keisie, The Oaks	1848 – abt 1850
Caledon	abt 1850 – abt 1858
Villiersdorp	abt 1858 – abt 1865
Hoopjesrivier	abt 1865 – abt 1882
Death of his 1 st wife Mary Jane Gannon	16 June 1879
Married his 2 nd wife Lenie van As	20 July 1880
Genadendal	abt 1883 – abt 1895
Greyton	abt. 1895 – 10 May 1901

Cape Town – 1848

George John Beatty West and his wife Mary Jane born Gannon, the new immigrants from the city of Dublin, young, inexperienced and unprepared, had to face many hardships and difficulties when they arrived on the farm The Oaks in 1848. Their eldest child, Ellen, was born at sea on the 2nd March 1848. Unfortunately I could not establish the date when the ship left Ireland, the name of the sailing ship and the date they arrived at Cape Town. As Ellen was born on the sailing vessel, they must have left Ireland before the 2nd March 1848. If the voyage took about nine weeks they probably left at the earliest during January 1848 and arrived at the latest during May 1848. The voyage took about nine weeks. It is said that they were on their way to Australia but when the ship reached Cape Town Mary Jane was sick and very weak after the birth of Ellen and that they decided to stay here in South Africa.

The story about the couple going to Australia is probably incorrect. At the time of their wedding, Mr T B Bayley a wellknown stud farmer from the farm The Oaks in South Africa, was in London. George's father contacted Mr Bayley. Mr Bayley arranged with them that they could stay on his farm and helped them with their arrangements to emigrate to South Africa.

George was only 20 and Mary Jane 24 years old when the two very inexperienced people arrived with their baby Ellen by ship in South Africa. Coming from the city of Dublin and wearing her

expensive dress with silk gloves, the circumstances and the different people of the small Cape Town was a cultural shock for her.

The Khoi driver in the service of captain T D Bailey took them with their belongings by ox wagon to the Keisie adjacent to The Oaks in the Caledon district. The Oaks is situated about ten kilometers from Greyton on the Rivierzonderend road, between the Sonderend River and Skilpadkop in the beautiful Sonderend mountain range. Today THE OAKS ESTATE is a well known guesthouse and wedding venue.

The 160 kilometer trip by ox wagon from Cape Town over the difficult Sir Lowrys Pass, the pass was opened 18 years before on the 6th of July 1830, was a scaring experience **to/for** Mary Jane with her few months old baby Ellen. It was her first contact with a Khoi person. She was very afraid of him.

In "The West Family", George's grandchild Mary Jane Esterhuisen put it this way: *"A few months after Oupa and Ouma were married (in St Peter's Church, Augiers Street, Dublin on the 14th May 1847), they came to South Africa to learn farming. They came out on a sailing vessel, were nine weeks at sea and had severe storms. So they came to old Bailey's (Bayley's - JC) farm – The Oaks, near Greyton. How they had to struggle in the unknown country! They came without money, did not know the language (Afrikaans) and everything was strange to them. When I think of them I feel so sad to think what they must have suffered here. Oupa could not learn farming. Later on he was a sergeant in the Police, then built houses, also taught in schools and had many children, but they say he was always a gentleman no matter how poor we was"*.

The Keisie: 1848 – circa 1850

Life as a farmer at The Keisie was neither easy nor successful for this young newly wed ex student from Dublin. In the letter of August 1849, while still farming at The Keisie, his father gave him advice and referred to the potato seed he sent from Ireland. *"Should you succeed in getting theput arsenic on the stains and take care dearest ... you hands ... you and you promised to send some geranium seed. Did you get the few potato seed I sent. There was a failure in many places this year but not general"*. Can you imagine that his father sent his son potato seed in the middle of the potato famine in Ireland! It seems that from 1848 until March 1850 George was a full time farmer at the Keisie. After about two years he left for Caledon, 40 kms away to become a police constable with a fixed income and thus more financial security.



The farm The Keisie, the first house where George and Mary Jane lived in South Africa. (The Keisie is situated adjacent to The Oaks between Greyton and Rivierzonderend). [Photo – Nia Coetzee]

About five years after the Wests left The Keisie, the auction of the farm The Oaks of captain TD Bayley was advertised in *Het Zuid-Afrikaan* of the 1st March 1855. The auction was advertized for Friday the 9th and Saturday the 10th March 1855. It seems that according to the advertisement of the 1st March 1855, The Oaks, about 2720 morgen, was originally part of the farm Zoetemelksvallei and included parts of Nethercourt, Elsjes Klkoof, Grootte Brandenburg and lands in the mountains with forestry. As a stud farmer, the following would be on the sale: 8 imported horses from England, including the stallions Evanus and Mr Martin with their pedigrees, 8 stallions ready to run in the Cape Trial Stakes, 70 mares bread by Mr Bayley from the imported horses Racaco, Conrad, Tally-ho, Ecanus and Mr Martin. Also advertised were the following sheep: 800 sheep "hamels", 800 ewes, 500 lambs and 70 to 80 rams and ram lambs. Two Devonshire bulls, bred by Lord Leicester and imported from England. Also on the auction was 30 oxen, 50 dairy cows and heifers a crossbreeding of Devonshire and Ayrshires. The furniture were also advertized,

Caledon: circa 1850 – circa 1858

While George lived in Caledon, his sister Ellen wrote to him on the 27th May 1853: *"You see I tell you everything connected to my mother as I know how anxious you feel about her"* and *"Nannie Brown (his cousin?) lives in Canada She often asks for you and desires my now send you her affectionate love -"* and then *"James (Ellen's husband) and aunt Swannie desire to write with me in love and every good wish for you and your little ones"*. Ellen never referred to George's wife Mary Jane nor made a negative or positive remark about her. In the same letter Ellen also reprimanded him about the number of his children. *"I am very sure you are not going to have a further increase to your family (At least for a long time. I am rather more prudent. I have none & have only two months before lost the hopes of the family"*. George definitely did not take this advice of his sister to heart. After his sister's letter of 1853, he fathered another 16 children!

It is clear that during March 1850 George had already left The Keisie and worked as a police constable in Caledon. With the baptism of George and Mary Jane's eldest son William Claudius West on 31st March 1850 and their second son George John Beatty on the 30th March 1852, in the Anglican Church, Caledon, he gave his occupation as "constable".

In the following letter dated 3rd March 1851 his father gave him instructions about cattle, sheep and vegetable farming. Those instructions indicated that while at Caledon, constable George was also a part time sheep and cattle farmer.

My Dear George,

March 3rd 1851

Though very unable to write I send you what I think may be useful to cattle and sheep. Sheep in a warm climate should have their wool taken off very early, and when I had sheep I had them well washed in rank lime and buttermilk to prevent maggots.

If your sheep are a heavy breed care should be taken There is no use in doctoring or quacking with a sick sheep, get rid of him.

As to sick cattle I can say little, the principal disease (line missing) cows with calf should not be kept too warm in winter and avoid hot feeding as much as possible such as rye grass or those forced grasses for the first three months they frequently slip their calves.

Sore tits you may make a little ointment by getting any herbs like these in Ireland, Dutchins, firstly stew them in lard and when well stewed squeeze out all the substance and when cold to be rendered over again with sheep suet white and black a small quantity of the black, a small quantity of beeswax, this I have found most valuable.

I believe I have given you a full account of all I about these things.

I send you the cabbage seeds but they are all mixed together but when grown you can separate them. Be careful in transplanting and water with a hot son.

You promised to send me a geranium seed, though only knows where we may be after a few months. But love and blessings from your father.

W West

I was unable to get the cabbage seed until Saturday. Still confined to the house. Mr Smith sends them a present to you. They are all mixed. I would send all I but for the postage. W. W.

[W.W. are the initials for William West]

On 27th May 1853 Ellen asked her brother: *“how you get on yourself and what stock you now have and if you are still in the Police . . .”* and on the 8th November 1853 she remarked: *“you give up your situation”*. It could refer to his leaving the farm The Keisie, and then working as a constable in Caledon and later as a mason. It is more possible that it referred to his resignation as constable and started full time work as mason and part time farming in Caledon.

On 8th November 1853 his mother sent him £6 to buy a plot in Caledon to build a house. It seems that he bought the plot because when he lived in Villiersdorp, his sister referred to his letter in which he insisted that they should write Esquire behind his name. At that time the price of plots in Caledon were between £8 and £10. According to Measuring Worth £8 of 1853 is about £769 or R13000.00 in South African money of 2017. Ellen further wrote that their 55 year old mother had an old dog: *“We are glad to hear of your increasing stock but still think it was a pity you gave up your situation. I was amused when I heard that you had a cat & I have another which is all my livestock and mother has a dog. She is old”*. During 1853 George had an accident about which we have no information. In the same letter Ellen wrote: *“What a horrid accident you met with it must have been very painful but you are fortunate you can use your hand”*.

Between the 27th May and the 8th November 1853, he seems to have given up his work as a constable and became a mason while he continued farming with sheep and cattle.

From these references in his father's and sister's letters, it seems that after he left The Keisie, he worked as a police constable and in 1853 was a constable and a part time farmer near Caledon.

With the baptism of his son James on the 23rd Jun 1854 and his daughter Mary Jane on the 30th January 1856 he still gave his occupation as “mason” in Caledon.

We understand George's life and his movements better when we look at it in the context of what happened in the Caledon district during the 1800s. In 1840 there were only five families with English names living in Caledon. During the ten years between 1840 to 1850 there were an increase of only three families. In 1860 there were about fourteen English speaking families in Caledon. When George was trying to farm at The Keisie, the Overberg experienced an increase in wheat farming. During 1850 the farmers of the Overberg produced 82 284 bushels. It increased to 103 725 in 1865 and 111 429 bushels in 1875.

During those years there was a high demand for wool in Britain. Wool exports through the Cape increased from £1 000 in 1830 to £186 000 in 1850 and £2 million in 1866. Farmers in the Caledon district adapted to the need of wool and changed from the Afrikaner sheep to wool-bearing Merino sheep. As Caledon was situated in the middle of the sheep farming area, the number of ratepayers nearly doubled from 42 to 81 during the ten years from 1850 to 1860. By 1863 land in the Overberg was fully settled with the average size of farms 2 580 hectares and loan farms 1 578 hectares. With the increase of inhabitants in the Caledon district there was a

need for more houses. George therefore also became a mason as an extra income.

After eight years, about 1858, George and his family left Caledon for Villiersdorp. At that time the 31 year old George was already the father of six children and had to have an extra income to make ends meet.

Villiersdorp: circa 1858 – circa 1865

While at Villiersdorp, Ellen wrote to him about his childish behaviour. It seems that as a young teenage student, George was negative about the English and their titles. When he left Ireland he asked his family not to address him as "Esquire". He only wanted to be addressed as "George". Later he changed his mind and complained that they did not address him as Esquire! On the 2nd August 1859 George's sister Ellen wrote from 3 Dunville Avenue Rathmines Dublin to her 32 year old brother George in Villiersdorp: *"By the bye what put it into your head I forgot your name but you may remember when you were going away you desired us all never to write your name in full nor to put Esquire but simply Mr George West and no matter what address was put on your letters. What on earth injury could that be to you. I think you must have been tasting your grapes when you wrote ..."*

In a previous letter Ellen's husband James, an attorney, wrote George's address on the envelope as G B West and not G J B West and without Esq. George turned cheeky and wrote that he was G J B West and **not** G B West. Ellen ignored her brother's over sensitivity and stubbornness and refused to address him as GJB. She would in future address him only as George. She showed him that he also made a mistake since he wrote her surname Russel instead of Russell. After she, as his only sister, reprimanded him, she closed her letter as if nothing had happened: *"And now dearest George I must say goodbye. Mama send her fond love for you "*

Ellen missed her brother's children and always sent kisses and love to them, especially his eldest child Ellen, who was her namesake. The three year old Jemima, Ellen's daughter, saw George not as her uncle but as her brother: *" ... indeed she more often calls you her Brother George she thinks my brother also being hers – you must write at once & say you got it safe & what you think of her"*

With the drought of the early 1860's in the Overberg, accompanied by the worldwide recession, the golden era of Caledon came to a standstill and there was a decline in growth and no need for houses to be built. Under these circumstances, George fell back on his former work as police constable. Now already in his early thirties, he and Mary Jane left Caledon with their six young children to work as a constable at Villiersdorp. When they left Caledon Ellen was about 10, Willie about 8, George about 6, James about 4 and the baby Mary Jane about 2. There at Villiersdorp he first worked, just as in Caledon, as a police constable and later as a mason as well as a non successful part time farmer with vineyard.

Four of his children were baptized in Villiersdorp. With the baptism of John Beattie on 27th June 1858, Henry Nesbitt on 8th October 1860 and Anna Samia on 27th August 1862, he gave his occupation as *"constable"*. From his sister Ellen's letters it seems that on the 3rd April 1860 he was a police constable also involved with part time farming having a vineyard in Villiersdorp. On 3 April 1860 Ellen wrote: *"How goes on your vineyard tell me when you write. I trust the new tariff will not affect you as I hear by the admission of the French wines it may decrease the value of yours (as I suppose you know the duty is taken off) or do you ever get a paper to tell you "Home" news. I am sure Mama would often send you one if you say you would like it"*

At Villiersdorp things did not work out for George. He had big problems with both his money and his health. His mother sent him £5. His vineyard business was not successful. His sister encouraged him to leave the vineyard and go on with cattle farming. After the Potato Famine in Ireland (1845-1851) the landlords switched from planting to cattle farming.

On the 2nd August 1864, four years after Ellen referred to “*your vineyard*” she wrote:

“My Dearest George

I received your long looked for letter on the 22nd July. We were sorry indeed by it. You had not been well “something new” as you say for you to faint.

The sea air was the best thing for you in any change – but I trust you will not have any recurrence of so weathering so painful an attack for the future. As I well know from experience what you felt as before I left Rathmines I was subject to the very same but am quite well thank God since I came here.

The other matters you mention relating to your affairs having been in so deplorable a state quite grieved us. We had no idea things are so bad as you now represent them. That horrid vineyard speculation seemed to have been the chief cause. Had you foolishly purchased (if recollect right) all the tubs and things necessary before you saw whether your vines would grow & how they would turn out.

It seems to me that you like our poor dear Father possess the same taste for cattle & if so & that you find you are successful. I would adhere to that (were I you) or whatever I found by experience I prospered at.

Your children are growing up and will soon of an age to assist you & start for themselves – your daughter is 16 last March only two years and a half younger than when you made your own start in life.

Mama sends with her love £5 (in mistake it was drawn payable 10 days after date instead of sixty as usual. My stepson John is in the Bank & he gets it for her & she was so much engaged talking to him that he made the mistake but I suppose its no matter) . . .”

With the baptism of George and Mary Jane’s youngest child, Cairncross Nesbittit on 26th September 1865, George gave his profession as “*mason*”. It seems that between the 29th June 1862 and the 9th May 1865 George stopped his work as police constable and became a full time mason in Villiersdorp.

Hoopjesrivier (abt 1865 until abt 1882)

It is difficult to establish the exact date when George left Villiersdorp for Hoopjesrivier. After seven years in Villiersdorp he could not survive with his income as a mason. George was then the father of nine children aged between a few months and seventeen years old. He, his wife and children left Villiersdorp after the baptism of their son Cairncross Nesbitt West on the 26th September 1865 in the St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp by rector H M M Wilshire. They then settled at the farm Hoopjesrivier which is situated about five kilometers from the turnoff to Kleinmond, on the left of the road to Hermanus. It seems that Ellen's reference to the sea air and the cattle farming indicated that he already farmed near the sea at Hoopjesrivier on the 2nd August 1864.

- 1 It is not sure whether he bought Hoopjesrivier or whether he only rent it. Deon could not find any registration of the farm in his name. If Hoopjesrivier was registered on his name it should be easier to find the date he bought it.
- 2 When Ellen wrote on the 2nd August 1864: “*The sea air was the best thing for you in any change – but I trust you will not have any recurrence of so weathering so painful an attack for the future. As I well know from experience what you felt as before I left Rathmines I was subject to the very same but am quite well thank God since I came here*”. What did she mean by “*the sea air*”? Was he only near the sea for a while or was he at that time already farming with cattle at

Hoopjesrivier, about five kilometers from the sea?

- 3 Although George's son, Cairncross Nesbitt, was baptized at Villiersdorp on 26th September 1865 George requested his sister in Ireland before the 2nd August 1864 to send the Warden Newspaper directly to The Postmaster, Caledon. *"Mama sends a "Warden". She never omitted but once sending them regularly directed as you desired to the care of the Post Master of Caledon".* It is not clear why his post was sent to Caledon instead of Villiersdorp and whether he lived in Villiersdorp or near Caledon on the 2nd August 1864. If he already was at Hoopjesrivier in August 1864, it is unclear why he went to Villiersdorp to let his son be baptized there.
- 4 When his son Cairncross Nesbitt was baptized in Villiersdorp on 26th September 1865, he gave his profession as mason while at Hoopjesrivier, he was a farmer.
- 5 Aunt Samia Briscoe, his mother's sister, wrote on the 5th September 1867 *"Enclosed she sends you an order for five pounds also a letter which she hopes will answer the purpose you mention about the merchandize – you mention in your letter having to send your boys – such a number of miles – would it not be better to try and get some appointment for them not to keep such a number at home – would relieve you from much expense – bad as we are in Paddy's land our Boys are all doing something "* The fact that George's children had to walk quite a few miles for the merchandize is not clear. From this remark by his aunt, it seems that on the 5th September 1867 he did not stay in a town with shops like Villiersdorp but already at the farm Hoopjesrivier where the nearest shop was a long distance to walk. It is doubtful that he stayed on a farm near Villiersdorp.
- 6 He already stayed at Hoopjesrivier for quite a while when his beloved wife, Mary Jane, died on the 16th June 1879.

It seems that George and his family left Villiersdorp between the baptism of Cairncross Nesbitt in September 1865 and the death of Mary Jane in June 1879. It seems that on the 5th September 1867 when his aunt Briscoe wrote in her letter about the long distance his sons have to walk to the shop, he already farmed at Hoopjesrivier. On the date of aunt Briscoe's letter Ellen was already 19, Willie 17, George 15, James 13, Mary Jane 11, John Beattie 9, Henry Nesbitt 7, Anna Samia 5 and Cairncross Nesbitt 2 years old. The eldest sons were old enough to walk to the shop.

While he farmed at Hoopjesrivier his sister Ellen was very worried about the great bush fire in the Cape and why he did not mention it. In her letter of 5th April 1869 she wrote: *"As the last Cape Mail brings in our account of a Prairie Fire & until we got a Paper we did not know but you might have been one of the sufferers. However the date of the fire news this 7th of July & its seems absurd that your letter written more than a month later makes no mention of such a catastrophe".* The family in Dublin was so concerned about the "Prairie Fire" of which they read in the Cape Mail and the Freemans Journal that they sent him a copy of the Irish paper. This Fire, in which 31 people died, was the biggest fire in the history of the Southern Cape. According to Coert J Geldenhuys - *"Location of Natural Forests can tell us how to manage fires at landscape levels. . . ."* the fire started in February 1869 near Swellendam and ended near Uitenhage. It was at the end of a four year drought period and was driven by a dry bergwind for nearly 500 kilometers. (*Wildlife Fire Management Handbook for Sub-Sahara Africa*, p. 36). In any case, George and his family was quite safe, as this "Prairie Fire" started more than 100 km away from Hoopjesrivier where he farmed.

It seems that in 1872 George John Beatty West had financial problems and was sometimes involved in court cases. Between 26th September and the 20th December 1872 his sister Ellen wrote to him: *"Mr Russell, (my late husband) was a Solicitor and through the knowledge I obtained of him am not quite ignorant of their mode of procedure. I will never advise any one to go to Law".* This could not refer to the court case with Mr Beyers which his son John Beatty West caused as in

1872 John Beatty was a boy of only fourteen years old.

At Hoopjesrivier, Mary Jane, the mother of nine of his children, became very ill. For the first time his sister Ellen referred to Mary Jane in her letter of 28th May 1877: *“And now before I close this I must say I was very sorry to hear your wife was so ill: I trust she may be restored to health for your sake my dearest brother, for I well know what a loss a wife is as I married two widowers & know what a loss a broken up home is to a man”*. It is said that George was very kind to his wife and before her death asked the Roman Catholic priest from Caledon to visit her and serve the Holy communion. On the 16th June 1879 Mary Jane died at the age of 55 at Hoopjesrivier. She was buried in one of four possible “grave 202” in the old, now very neglected, graveyard of the Anglican church in Caledon.

Genealogical details of George and Mary and their children:

George John Beatty West b. 15 Jun 1827, Cloone House, Cloone, Co Leitrim, Ireland, d. 10 May 1901, Greyton, Western Cape, SA, bur. Greyton, Western Cape, SA

+**Mary Jane aka Jane Gannon** b. 4 Jan 1824, County Meath, Ireland d. 16 Jun 1879, at her residence, Hoopjesrivier, Bot River, Caledon, bur. Grave 206, Holy Trinity Graveyard, Caledon

- 1 **Ellen aka Ellie West** b. 2 Mar 1848, at sea between Ireland and CapeTown d. 4 Feb 1917
- 2 **William Claudius aka Willie West** b. 6 Mar 1850, c. 31 Mar 1850, Holy Trinity Church, Caledon by Rev S Sandberg, d. Johannesburg
- 3 **James aka Jim West** b. 23 Jun 1854, c. 20 Aug 1854, Holy Trinity Church Caledon by Rev H M W Wilshere, d. Standerton
- 4 **George John Beattie aka George West** b. 30 Mar 1852, c. 5 Dec 1852, Holy Trinity Church, Caledon by Rev H M W Wilshere, d. 4 Mar 1906, Salandra, Botrivier
- 5 **Mary Jane aka Mary West** b. 30 Jan 1856, Caledon, d. 11 Jul 1937, Caledon
- 6 **John Beattie aka John West** b. 13 Apr 1858, Villiersdorp, c. 27 Jun 1858, St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp by Rev William Branley Deacon., d. Knorhoek, Sir Lowry's Pass
- 7 **Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West** b. 16 Jul 1860, Villiersdorp, c. 8 Oct 1860, St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp Rev H M M Wilshire, d. 11th December 1886 Koppiedam near Kimberley, in an oxwagon accident at the farm Koppiedam (Koppiesdam) near Kimberley.
- 8 **Anna Samia aka Annie West** b. 29 Jun 1862, Villiersdorp, c. 27 Aug 1862, St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp by Curator A Jeffery, d. 16 Jul 1935, Caledon
- 9 **Cairncross Nesbitt aka Cary West** b. 9 May 1865, Villiersdorp, c. 26 Sept 1865, St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp by rector H M M Wilshire, d. 15 Aug 1927, Vryburg

CHAPTER 15

Mary Jane Gannon the Irish lady of whom so little is known (1824-1879)



Little is known about Mary Jane Gannon and her family. The only information in writing that I could lay my hand on was the few sentences written by her grand daughter Mary Jane Esterhuizen and her great grand daughter, Mary Jane Macfarlane and her Death Notice. Mrs Esterhuizen described her grandmother in *"The West Family"* as follows: *"Ouma was born on the 4th January 1824. She was slightly older than he and she was very beautiful. People who knew her said she was a real lady. She grew up with her uncle. She and her sister were quite young when their parents died. She was Jane Gannon and they lived in Dublin Ouma was brought up in no 30 Wexford Street"*.

LEFT: Mary Jane Gannon, the ancestress of more than 1800 South Africans

With the help of Mr J J van Eck of Oudtshoorn I found Mary Jane's Death Notice which stated that she was born in *"the county of Meath, Ireland"*. The county of Meath is adjacent to and situated North West of Dublin. She grew up in nearby Dublin. What happened to her Roman Catholic parents and sister is unclear. It seemed that her parents died and she was brought up by an uncle and his wife in a flat in 30 Wexford Street, Dublin. The flat is on top of what is today O'Hagans. Her uncle was a staunch Roman Catholic. Deon and I spent many hours but could find no information about Mary Jane's Gannon family in Ireland. When George met her she worked in a pub, The Bleeding Horse, on the corner of Upper Camden and Charlotte Way, a short distance from where she lived. It is said that her uncle was the owner of The Bleeding Horse but I doubt whether it is the truth.

Mrs Macfarlane, the above mentioned great grand daughter of Mary Jane Gannon, wrote on the 9th July 1955 from Ireland that after she visited Mary Jane Gannon's flat in Dublin, she met the Church minister who told her: *"daar is nog baie Gannons wat aan sy kerk behoort"* (there are still many Gannons who belonged to his church). She did not give more information.

It is said that George saw Mary Jane for the first time when he and his father were busy buying and selling pigs and she worked at The Bleeding Horse. The two fell in love and was secretly married in the St Peters Church in Aungier Street on the 14th May 1847. It is the Protestant Church where his well known uncle John Beatty West was previously married. The church was within walking distance from The Bleeding Horse. Unfortunately the church was demolished and the YMCA building was erected there. Only a few stones of the original church were left.

As seen in other chapters there was a strained relationship between the Protestants and Catholics in the Ireland of the 1840's. The mostly poorer Catholics were looked down upon by the rich Protestants. It is clear that Mary Jane was not approved of by George's family. The only time there was a reference to her, was in Ellen's letter of 28th May 1877 when she wrote: *"And*

now before I close this I must say I was very sorry to hear your wife was so ill. I trust she may be restored to health for your sake my dearest brother, for I well know what a loss a wife is as I married two widowers & know what a loss a broken up home is to a man".

When their boat reached Cape Town during 1848, Mary Jane was shocked to see how small Cape Town was. In a letter written to her children and friends during 1958, Mrs Esterhuizen gave a good description of what Mary Jane Gannon and George experienced during their first days in South Africa: *"Hulle was glo baie teleurgesteld toe hulle hier kom want alles was nog so primitief. My moeder het vertel dat Ouma so gehuil het toe sy in die Kaap geland het, om te dink dat dit die hoofstad van die land was – alles nog so primitief. Ou kaptein Bailey het vir hulle met die ossewa laat haal en 'n ou swart Kleurling was by die wa. My Ouma was so bang want dit was die eerste bruinmens wat sy gesien het. Toe is hulle na die Oaks, onbekend en ken glad nie die taal nie en was seker baie gou sonder geld. Hy het later op Villiersdorp onderwys gegee, toe weer sersant van die polisie gewees en later huise gebou. Ag as ek so dink aan hulle dan voel ek so naar om te dink hulle, wat in weelde groot geword het en alles van die beste in Ierland gehad het, om hier in 'n vreemde land sonder familie en vriende te wees en dan nog arm daarby".*

(They were very disappointed when they landed here and everything was so primitive. My mother told that Grandma cried so much when she landed in Cape Town, just to think it was the capital of the country, everything so primitive. Old Captain Bailey sent an ox wagon to fetch them and a dark Coloured man was the driver. Grandma was so frightened because it was the first brown person whom she saw. Then they went to The Oaks, unknown, did not know the language and perhaps was soon without money. Later he (George West) was a teacher at Villiersdorp, then a sergeant in the police and he also built houses. When I think about them I feel so sad, just to think that they who grew up in wealth and had everything of the best in Ireland came here to a foreign land without family and friends and also poor).

Delene du Toit told me that her mother said Mary Jane was a strong and proud Irish lady as seen on the photo. She dressed elegantly and that she brought expensive clothes from Ireland with her, not knowing that she was going to stay 160 kms from the nearest city, Cape Town. During the ox wagon trip from Cape Town to the Keisie, she sat well dressed with her silk gloves and her new born baby Ellen.

One can hardly imagine the cultural shock which Mary Jane, the young woman who previously lived in a flat in the city of Dublin, went through with her arrival at The Keisie and her first days of African farm life. It is not clear who prepared the small house near the Sonderend Mountain range for them and who supplied them with furniture and food. Was the nearest shop at Greyton? One can assume that captain Bailey, his family and other neighbours assisted them in the beginning. At Die Keisie she was very lonely and adapted with difficulty to the farm life in the Caledon district. Those first days, weeks and months must have been stressful times for the 24 year old wife with her young and inexperienced 20 year old husband. When the family left the Keisie for Caledon, where there were a few English speaking families, it must have been a much more comfortable life for her.

It is not certain if she had any contact with her family in Ireland again. It is interesting to note that except for Mary Jane who was named after her, none of her other eight children had Gannon names. Her young husband however loved her very dearly and cared for her. He had a good understanding and sympathy for what she went through to adapt in South Africa. Mary Jane assisted her husband and supported him during very difficult times whether he was a farmer at the Keisie, a policeman and mason in Caledon or a policeman and part time farmer in

Villiersdorp until she became ill when he was a farmer at Hoopjesrivier.

Mary Jane spent her last days, when she was very weak, at the farm Hoopjesrivier. It is uncertain how long she suffered but Ellen already referred to her illness in her letter of 28th May 1877, two years before her death: "And now before I close this I must say I was very sorry to hear your wife was so ill". It is said that during her last days, George let her lie comfortably, lit the candles and called the Roman Catholic priest to come to the farm and assist her with the last rites. She died, as the Death Notice no 6858 stated: "At her residence, Hoopjesrivier, Caledon" on Monday the 16th June 1879 at the age of 55. She left 9 children of whom the following, according to the above mentioned Death Notice, were minors, namely: Henry Nesbitt West, Anna Samia West and Cairncross Nesbitt West. Her funeral was held by Mr B E Adams and the associate Curate. According to the death notice, she died on June the 16th 1879 and according to the Anglican church, she was buried on the 18th June 1879.

Mrs Esterhuizen referred to her grandmother Mary Jane Gannon as follows: "... my grandmother was not a RC (Roman Catholic), she was a Protestant". It seems that she officially became a Protestant, belonging to the Anglican Church but in her heart she remained a Roman Catholic and that her husband accepted it and respected her for that.

Detail of death notice – 6858

1	Name of Deceased	<i>Mary Jane Gannon</i>
2	Birthplace of Deceased	<i>County of Meath – Ireland</i>
3	Names of Parents of the Deceased	<i>--</i>
4	Age of Deceased	<i>55 years, 5 months and 12 days</i>
5	Condition in Life	<i>Farmers wife</i>
6	Married or Unmarried, Widower or widow	<i>Married to George John Beatty West</i>
7	The day of the Decease	<i>16th June 1879</i>
8	At what house or where the deceased died	<i>At her residence Hoopjes Rivier, Caledon</i>
9	Names of the children of the deceased and whether Minors or Majors	
	<i>Majors:</i>	
	1	<i>Ellen West married to Raats</i>
	2	<i>William Claudius West</i>
	3	<i>George John Beatty West</i>
	4	<i>James West</i>
	5	<i>Mary Jane West</i>
	6	<i>John Beatty West</i>
	<i>Minors:</i>	
	7	<i>Henry Nesbitt West</i>
	8	<i>Anna Samia West</i>
	9	<i>Cairncross Nesbitt West</i>
10	Whether the Deceased has left any property and of what kind:	<i>Moveable property</i>

Mary Jane was buried in one of 4 possible graves no 206 in the old very neglected Anglican Church graveyard in Caledon. With the help of the ex caretaker Mr Theunissen, Deon, Colas and I spent hours to see if we could find her grave, but to no avail. Eric Smal, her great grandchild, previously also tried to find the grave, but to no avail. We thought to rebury her with the necessary permissions next to her husband in Greyton. Unfortunately it could not be done since we could not find her grave.

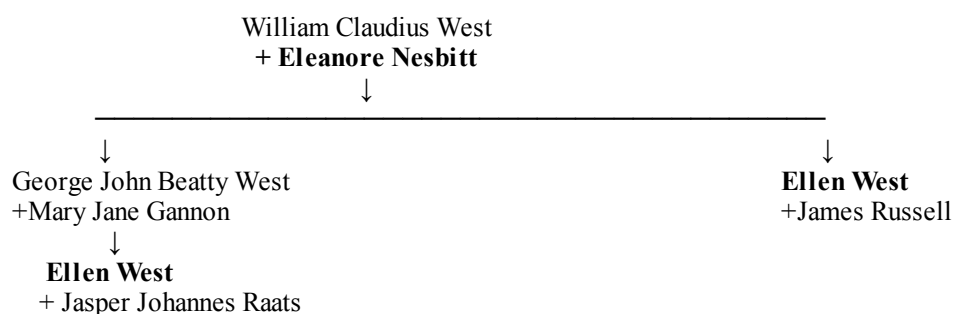
CHAPTER 16

His eldest daughter Ellen West (1848-1917) born on the ship

Ellen aka Ellie West, was the eldest of George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon's nine children. She was born on Thursday the 2nd March 1848 on the ship with which her parents came from Ireland to South Africa. Ellen was named after her grandmother Eleanor Wilhelmina West born Nesbitt. She was just a little baby when her 20 year old father George and her 24 year old mother Mary Jane, arrived in Cape Town and travelled the 160 km from Cape Town to The Keisie near Greyton by ox wagon where she spent her first two years. She then grew up in Caledon to the age of about ten. A few years after the West family moved from Caledon to Villiersdorp she met the young man Jasper Johannes Raats. They were later married and spent the rest of their lives at Villiersdorp.

George's only sister Ellen was very proud of little Ellen because she was named after her and her grandmother. In a letter of the 13th June 1849, she wrote from Ireland to her brother in South Africa: *"I did not yet wish you for your little Ellen. How is she, her hair will be I think like poor Nanny's. I have it tied up in Blue ribbon in my work box"*. It seems that George was so proud of his little Ellen that he sent a curl of his daughter's hair to his sister in Ireland.

Diagram depicting Eleanore West b Nesbitt, Ellen Russell b West and Ellen Raats b West:



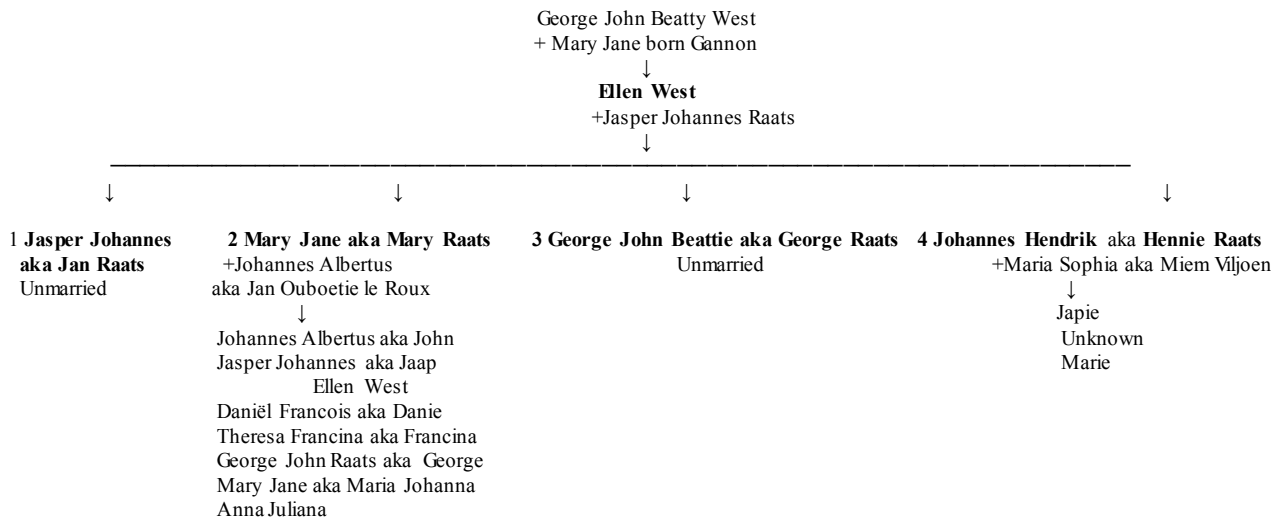
On the 25th of February 1851 when Ellen was 3 years old, her aunt Ellen wrote: *"We were sorry to hear of the illness of your two little children. But better they had such attacks over when young. Is Ellen anything like our poor Nanny, tell me when you write to me and let it be Soon"*.

In her letter of 2nd August 1864 Ellen again referred to George's eldest daughter Ellen: *"Your children are growing up and will soon of an age to assist you & start for themselves – your daughter is 16 last March only two years and a half younger than when you made your own start in life"*. (George was only 19 when he married Mary Jane Gannon and emigrated to South Africa).

Ellen's husband, Jasper Johannes Raats was born on Thursday the 22nd June 1837 in Worcester. He and Ellen lived in Upington Street, Villiersdorp. After the birth of their first child, also named Jasper Johannes Raats on 26 January 1869, Ellen asked her brother in her letter of January 21st 1870: *"How is Ellen, what is her name, is Mother a Great Grandma yet & what is her husband answer all these queries"*.

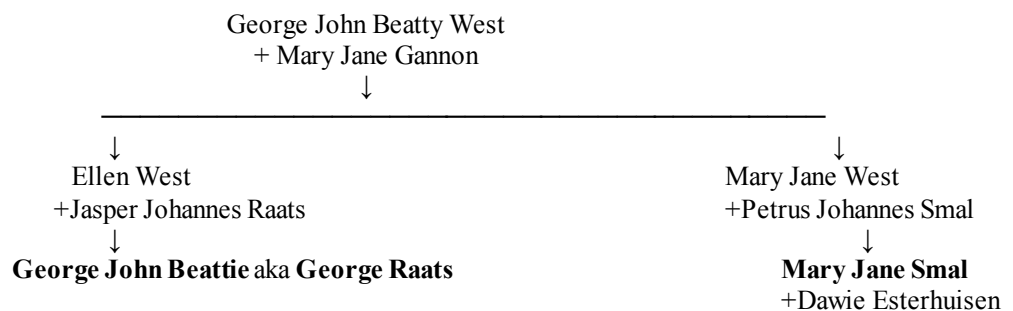
Ellen and Jasper Raats had four children:
 Jasper Johannes aka Jan Raats,
 Mary Jane aka Mary Raats,
 George John Beattie aka George Raats and
 Johannes Hendrik aka Hennie Raats

Diagram of Ellen and Jasper Raats and their four children



- 1 Their eldest son, **Jasper Johannes aka Jan Raats** was born 26th January 1869. He was still unmarried when he disappeared about 1901 during the Boer War at the age of 32.
- 2 Ellen's daughter, **Mary Jane** aka **Mary** Raats was born on 6th December 1872. She married Johannes Albertus aka Jan Ouboetie le Roux on the 9th of August 1892. He was born on the 10th of July 1865 and died on the 30th November 1943. Mary and Jan Ouboetie had eight children: Johannes Albertus aka John le Roux, Jasper Johannes aka Jaap le Roux, Ellen West le Roux, Daniël Francois aka Danie le Roux, Theresa Francina aka Francina le Roux, George John Raats aka George le Roux, Mary Jane aka Maria Johanna le Roux and Anna Juliana le Roux. Mary and Jan Ouboetie spent their last years in Somerset West where they died and were buried.
- 3 Ellen's 3rd child, **George John Beattie** aka **George Raats**, was born 16th September 1874. He was in a relationship with his 18 year old niece Mary Jane Smal which she ended because they were nephew and niece. His mother Ellen was the older sister of Mary Jane Smal's mother Mary Jane Smal born West. He died of inflammation at the age of 28 on the 22nd January 1903 in Villiersdorp, 6 months after Mary Jane ended their relationship.

Diagram indicating the relation between George John Beattie Raats and Mary Jane Smal:



About 55 years after she ended this close relationship Mary Jane Smal, then the widow Esterhuisen, wrote the following:

"Before I met my husband I had many male friends. I shall name one: He was my cousin George Raats from Villiersdorp. I was only sixteen years old when he started visiting me and he was ten years older than I was. After visiting me regularly for two years at Breëvlei, I ended the relationship. I shall never forget it. It was the same day that our railway line was opened on the first August 1901 or 1902. I was only 18 years old and he wanted to become engaged. When at last I realized the implications and said "No we are close family". I also did not have the feeling that I could marry him. He was a very pleasant and decent chap and also not poor. But perhaps it had to be that way. Five months after the intimate mutual understanding was ended, he died from inflammation.

I deeply felt his death. Those days there were not yet motors or telephones. He was already buried when I received the message of his death. There were also letters and a telegram about his illness in the post. I did not even know that he was ill".

4 Ellen's 4th child, **Johannes Hendrik** aka **Hennie Raats** was born on the 2nd July 1881. He married Maria Sophia aka Miem Viljoen, born on the 27th July 1893. They lived in Villiersdorp. When I attended school there during the 1950's he was the church warden of the Dutch Reformed Church. They had three children: Jasper Johannes aka Japie Raats, an unknown child and Maria aka Marie Raats. Hennie died on the 28th November 1952 and Miem on the 11th August 1958.

Ellen's younger half brothers and sisters called her "Sis Ellie", because she was so much older than they were. With the birth of her youngest half sister Susie Ellen was already a 48 year old widow and grandmother of her two grandchildren John and Jaap le Roux.

Her husband Jasper Johannes Raats died on Friday the 13th September 1895 at the age of 58 in Villiersdorp. Ellen died on Sunday the 4th February 1917 at the age of 68. Both were buried in Villiersdorp.

Ellen her husband Jasper Johannes Raats and their descendants:

1-Ellen aka Ellie West b. 2 Mar 1848, On boat between Ireland and Cape Town, d. 4 Feb 1917

+Jasper Johannes Raats b. 22 Jun 1837, Worcester, d. 13 Sep 1895, Villiersdorp

2-Jasper Johannes aka Jan Raats b. 26 Jan 1869, c. 19 Mar 1869, Villiersdorp, d. Abt 1901, Disappeared during Boer War

2-Mary Jane aka Mary Raats b. 6 Dec 1872, c. 2 Jan 1873, Villiersdorp, d. 17 Jun 1944, Somerset West, bur. Somerset West

+Johannes Albertus aka Jan Ouboetie le Roux b. 10 Jul 1865, d. 24 Nov 1944, Somerset West, bur. S/West

3-Johannes Albertus aka John le Roux b. 14 Jun 1893, d. Abt 1966, Somerset West

+Ellie Jane Susan van der Merwe

4-Johannes Albertus le Roux b. 2 Jul 1921, c. 2 Oct 1921, Northern Paarl

4-Louis Rudolf le Roux b. 29 Aug 1923, c. 2 Nov 1923, Northern Paarl

4-Alida Maria le Roux b. 23 Apr 1925, c. 3 May 1925, Strand

4-Mary Jane aka Mary le Roux b. 6 Sep 1929, c. 3 Nov 1929, Strand

4-Ida aka Ida le Roux b. 25 May 1933, c. 2 Jul 1933, Strand

+Nico aka Nico Coetzee

5-Elmarie aka Elmarie Coetzee

3-Jasper Johannes aka Jaap le Roux b. 18 Nov 1894, d. 15 Jun 1983

+Susanna Magrieta aka Susan Roux b. 10 May 1899, d. 3 Mar 1956

4-Johanes Albertus Christiaan aka John le Roux b. 5 Nov 1925, c. 6 Dec 1925, Caledon

+Martha Wilhelmina aka Martha Lombard

4-Jasper Johannes aka Jasper le Roux b. 22 Sep 1928, d. 16 Oct 1939

4-George Henry aka Jors le Roux b. 24 Dec 1931, c. 6 Mar 1932, Vredenburg

4-Daniël Frans Barnard aka Banie le Roux b. 29 Aug 1935, c. 18 Dec 1935, Greylingstad

+Dalina Johanna Maria Fourie b. 23 Nov 1940
 5-Jacques Johannes aka Jacques le Roux b. 3 Mar 1964
 5-Leon Jasper aka Leon le Roux b. 17 Feb 1966
 5-Jeanne Francois aka Jeanne le Roux b. 24 Feb 1969
 3-Ellen West le Roux b. 22 Jan 1896, d. 7 Oct 1899
 3-Daniël Francois aka Danie le Roux b. 4 May 1897, c. 6 Jun 1897, Villiersdorp
 +Martha Magdalena aka Magdalena Kriegler
 4-Martha Catharina Magdalena aka Rina le Roux b. 18 Jul 1932, c. 4 Sep 1932, Villiersdorp
 +Jacobs
 4-Johannes Albertus aka Jannie le Roux b. 28 Jul 1936, c. 11 Oct 1936, Villiersdorp
 +Frances aka Frances Greenaway
 5-Roné aka Roné le Roux b. 26 Feb 1972
 5-Pieter Daniël le Roux b. 11 Oct 1976
 4-Mary Jane aka Myra le Roux b. 22 Aug 1939
 +Bryce-Botwick
 4-Gabriël Gideon aka Gawie le Roux b. 19 Sep 1940, c. 3 Nov 1940, Villiersdorp
 +Gerdia Jacoba aka Diane Barnard b. 21 Aug 1945
 5-Nadi aka Nadia le Roux b. 6 Nov 1969
 5-Francois Daniël le Roux b. 11 Dec 1971
 5-Dalene le Roux
 4-Una aka Una le Roux
 +Okkie aka Okkie van Schalkwyk
 3-Theresa Francina aka Francina le Roux b. 1 Jun 1898, c. 5 Jun 1898, d. 28 Jan 1899
 3-George John Raats aka George le Roux b. 12 Sep 1900, c. 19 Dec 1900, d. 11 Oct 1976, Strand
 +Johanna Catherina aka Joey b. 1900
 4-Johannes Albertus aka Johan le Roux b. 14 Apr 1932, c. 5 Jun 1932, Noorder Paarl
 +Judine Swanepoel
 5-Leleen le Roux b. 3 Dec 196
 5-Carine le Roux b. 24 Mar 1962
 4-Johanna Catherina Jacoba aka Jean le Roux b. 24 Feb 1937, c. 4 Apr 1937, Strand
 +Dr I van Rooyen
 3-Mary Jane aka Maria Johanna le Roux b. 20 Aug 1902, c. 15 Feb 1903, d. 16 Apr 1968
 +John James aka Johnny Otto b. 24 Aug 1895, d. 16 Sep 1984, Somerset West
 4-Mary Jane aka Marie Otto b. 1 Nov 1925
 +Bernardus Lambertus Saayman
 5-Mary Jane aka Jeanette Saayman b. 21 Sep 1946
 +Paul aka Paul van der Westhuizen
 6-Paul aka Paul van der Westhuizen b. 7 Apr 1977
 5-Bernardus Lambertus aka Bennie Saayman b. 7 Oct 1949, c. 16 Apr 1989
 +Ilse aka Ilse Bester
 6-Kim aka Kim Saayman
 +Ryan Kallis
 7-Darrien Kallis
 7-April Kallis
 6-Tarron Saayman
 +Martin aka Martin b. 20 Aug 1934
 4-John James Campbell aka Jack Otto b. 19 Jun 1928
 +Christina Maria aka Murial b. 28 Jul 1935
 5-John James aka Johan Otto b. 29 Nov 1960
 +Annalo aka Annalo Addams b. 25 Mar 1963
 6-Anja aka Anja Otto b. 7 Apr 1993
 6-Jani aka Jani Otto b. 20 Jun 1995
 5-Abraham Albertus aka Bertus Otto b. 20 Jul 1962
 +Zelda aka Zelda Harmse b. 10 Nov 1969
 6-John James Campbell aka Campbell Otto b. 10 Feb 1995
 6-Benita aka Benita Otto b. 20 Aug 1997
 6-Christiaan aka Christiaan Otto b. 26 Jan 2000
 5-Jacobus Claude aka Kobus Otto b. 13 Nov 1963
 +Tama aka Tama van Wyngaard
 6-Mary Jane aka Mary Jane Otto b. 20 Dec 1982
 6-Jack aka Jack Otto b. 16 May 1997
 4-Albertus le Roux aka Bertie Otto b. 25 Jun 1935
 +Engela Susara aka Engela b. 30 Dec 1935

5-Annamarie aka Annamarie Otto b. 18 Mar 1959
 +Bruno Kleynsmith
 5-Johannes Coenraad aka Coenie Otto b. 20 Jul 1960
 +Anita aka Anita Huysers
 6-Engela aka Engela Otto b. 6 Nov 1994
 6-Albertus Johannes aka AJ Otto b. 12 Jul 1993
 6-Marian aka Maria Otto b. 12 Apr 1997
 5-Sonja aka Sonja Otto b. 16 Mar 1962
 +Zietsman aka Christiaan Basson b. 12 Mar 1958
 6-Josias aka Jos Basson b. 27 May 1988
 6-Johannes Albertus aka Bertus Basson b. 30 Dec 1990
 3-Anna Juliana le Roux b. 30 Nov 1903, c. 20 Aug 1904, Goudini, d. 16 Sep 1904
 2-George John Beattie aka George Raats b. 16 Sep 1874, c. 1 Nov 1874, Villiersdorp, d. 22 Jan 1903, Villiersdorp
 2-Johannes Hendrik aka Hennie Raats b. 2 Jul 1881, d. 28 Nov 1952, Villiersdorp
 +Maria Sophia aka Miem Viljoen b. 27 Jul 1893, d. 11 Aug 1958, Villiersdorp
 3-Jasper Johannes aka Japie Raats b. 27 Nov 1919, d. 16 May 1981, Johannesburg
 +Aletta Petronella Frederika aka Lettie de Raed b. 8 Nov 1924
 (see Jasper Johannes aka Japie Raats [on page 2](#))
 4-Johannes Hendrik aka Hennie Raats b. 31 May 1946
 +Catherina Aletta aka Lida Bouwer b. 10 Nov 1949
 5-Jasper Johannes aka Jasper Raats b. 15 Jun 1974
 5-Rika aka Rika Raats b. 3 Mar 1978
 4-Philippus Edmund aka Eddie Raats b. 27 Jul 1958
 3-Unknown Raats
 3-Maria aka Marie Raats b. 30 Sep 1925
 +Louwrens Petrus Jacob aka Louw van der Westhuizen b. 26 Dec 1925
 4-Louwrens aka Louwrens van der Westhuizen b. 13 Jul 1953
 +Gertruida Gloudina akas Rhona de Jongh b. 26 Jul 1953
 5-Gideoni Wilma aka Gideoni van der Westhuizen b. 11 Oct 1977
 4-Mariana aka Mariana van der Westhuizen b. 1 Jul 1956
 +Leon aka Leon Botha b. 9 Jan 1959
 5-Tine-Maré aka Tine-Maré Botha b. 25 Mar 1983
 4-Sonja aka Sonja van der Westhuizen b. 14 Jul 1958
 +Sarel aka Sarel b. 14 Jul 1958

CHAPTER 17

William Claudius West (1850-?) a property owner of Villiersdorp

William Claudius aka Boetie Willie, the eldest son of George John Beatty West and Mary Jane was born on Wednesday 6th March 1850. He was named after his grandfather William Claudius West. It is uncertain whether he was born before his parents left the farm The Keisie adjacent to The Oaks between Greyton and Riviersonderend or after they settled in Caledon where his father started work as a police constable. He was only 3 weeks old when the Rev S Sandberg baptized him in the Holy Trinity Church in Caledon on the 31st of March 1850. He spent his early childhood in Caledon where his father later became a mason. When he was about 8 years old the family left Caledon and settled in Villiersdorp.

In her letter of 2nd August 1859 when Willie was 9 years old, his aunt Eleanore in Ireland wrote to his father: *"So this is well to have so much over I wish you could send the likeness (photos JC) of some of yours (your children JC), but however your own description conveys a good idea. Ellen and John (child no 3 George John Beatty JC) are the two I should like as they resemble those I love dearly... but William (child no 2 William Claudius JC) is no beauty if he is like your Uncle Claudius, but it is curious that my children should have hair just like yours & blue eyes. ."* It seems that when his father left Villiersdorp to farm at Hoopsvrivier the 19 year old Willie remained in Villiersdorp.

Because of the big difference in age and as the custom was to show respect, his much younger half brothers and sisters called him, "Boetie Willie" (Brother Willie). Boetie Willie was married to Christina Dolphina Barnard on Monday the 14th of July 1873 in the Holy Trinity Church of Caledon. The marriage was conducted by the Rev H M W Wilshere. Boetie Willie's residence at the time of his wedding was given as Villiersdorp where he later owned several properties. Boetie Willie and Dolphina in later years moved to the Douglas-Plooysburg area and still later to Johannesburg.

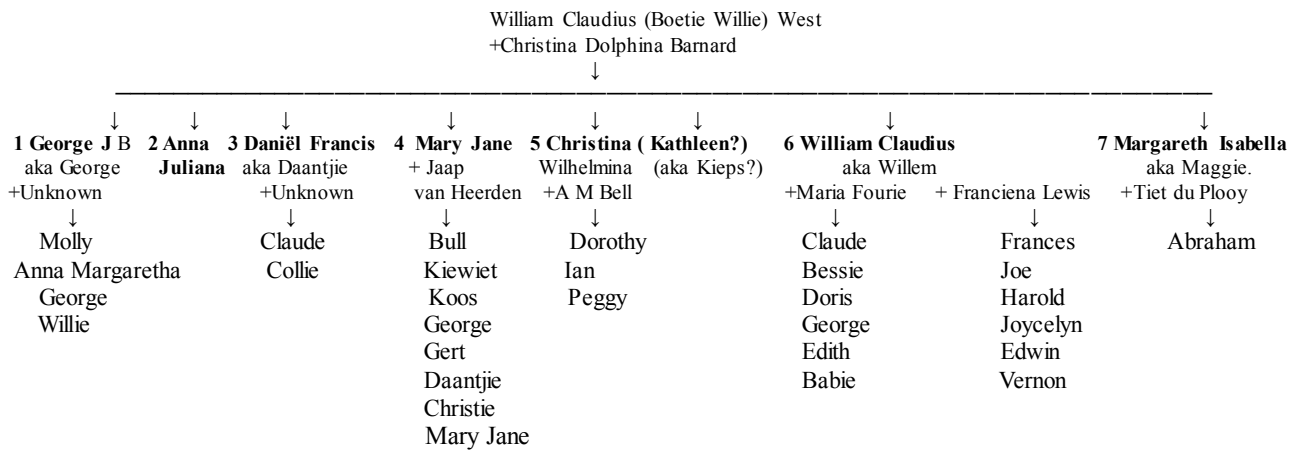
With the baptism of their daughter Christina Wilhelmina, the name of Willie's wife was registered as Christina Dorothea Barnard and not as Christina Dolphina. On the 29th of August 1903, with the marriage of their daughter Christina Wilhelmina West, only Boetie Willie gave consent for the marriage. They then lived in Crown Rd, Fordsburg, Johannesburg. It seems that his wife died before the marriage of their daughter.

Boetie Willie and Christina Dolphina had seven children:

George John Beattie aka George West, Anna Juliana West, Daniël Francis aka Daantjie West, Mary Jane aka Mary West, Christina Wilhelmina West (Kathleen aka Kieps West?), William Claudius aka Willem West and Margareth Isabella aka Maggie West.

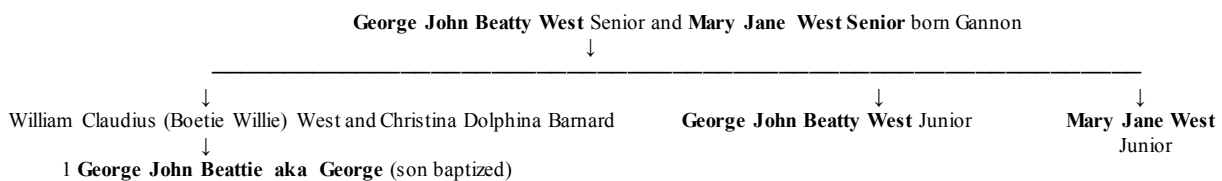
It seems that Christina Wilhelmina West and Kathleen aka Kieps West was the same person. Both Kieps and Christina Wilhelmina were unknown to the family. It was only said that Kieps emigrated to England. Recently we found that Christina Wilhelmina and her husband Alexander Miller Bell emigrated to England and that her descendants are still living there.

Diagram of Boetie Willie, Dolphina and their seven children:



1 George John Beattie aka George West, Boetie Willie's eldest child, was born on the 6th April 1874 and named after his grandfather George John Beatty West. He was baptized in the St Mathews Church in Villiersdorp on the 9th June 1874 by the Rev H M M Wilshere. In the baptism register Boetie Willie was described as a trader. The witnesses were: George John Beatty West, Mary Jane West, George John Beattie West Jnr, Mary Jane West Jnr, Frederick Taylor and Cornelia Taylor. George John Beatty West and Mary Jane West were Boetie Willie's parents. George John Beattie West Jnr must have been Boetie Willie's 22 year old brother and Mary Jane West Jnr his 18 year old sister who later married Piet Smal. It must have been a big occasion since it was the first West grandchild with the names George John Beatty West.

Diagram indicating people involved with the baptism of Boetie Willie's son, George John Beattie West:



Boetie Willie gave six properties as security for loans to his son George John Beattie West.

Boetie Willie West owned six properties that since the 9th of November 1894 were given as security for a loan to a George John Beattie West. Who was the George John Beattie West, residing at Villiersdorp during the time the money was borrowed and for whom Boetie Willie West gave his property as security? Let us consider the three possibilities: Boetie Willie's 68 year old father at Genadendal, Boetie Willie's 43 year old brother or Boetie Willie's own 21 year old son: The George John Beattie West from Villiersdorp who borrowed the money could not have been his father because the signatures on the contracts did not correspond with his and he then lived either at Genadendal or Greyton but definitely not in Villiersdorp. It could also not have been Boetie Willie's brother since he farmed at Salandra near Bot River. It could only have been Boetie Willie's own son, the then 21 year old George John Beattie West.

The following six loan contracts showed that two years before the birth of his eldest child, Molly West (b. 20 Jul 1897) George John Beattie West started borrowing money for which his father Boetie Willie gave the following portions of the farm Radyn as security:

Loan no 1: On the 8th of May 1895 George John Beattie West of Villiersdorp, borrowed £100-0-0 (one hundred pounds) from Willem Hendrik Fronenfelder Kleyn at 8% interest per year, payable at the 30th of June and the 31st of December. The land given as

security was lot no 6 of the farm Radyn, Villiersdorp, measuring 1 morgen and 25 square roods, belonging to George's father, William Claudius West. (*1 morgen and 25 square roods is about 94.5 m by 94.5m JC*).

- Loan no 2: On the 26th of June 1895 Mr Kleynt lent another £100-0-0 (one hundred pounds) to George John Beattie West.
- Loan no 3: On the 16th of March 1896 George John Beattie West borrowed £130-0-0 (one hundred and thirty pounds) from Herman Johan Dempers at 6% interest per year. As security was given the remainder of lot no 6 situated at Villiersdorp measuring 416 square roods and 96 square feet. (*416 square roods and 96 square feet is about 77m by 77m JC*).
- Loan no 4: On the 16th of February 1897 George John Beattie West borrowed £190-0-0 (one hundred and ninety pounds) from the attorneys H J Dempers, J J Moore and C J Krige at 6% interest and gave as security the same property which was registered in the name of William Claudius West.
- Loan no 5: On the 20th April 1899 George John Beattie West borrowed another £110-0-0 at 6% interest from WHF Klein and as security was given Lot 6 of the farm Radyn measuring 208 square roods and 48 square feet. (*208 square roods and 48 square feet is about 54.5 m by 54.5m JC*).
- Loan no 6: On the 24th of April 1899 George John Beattie West again borrowed £110-0-0 at 6% interest from WHF Kleynt and the security given was the remainder of lot 6 of the farm Radyn, measuring 208 square roods and 48 square feet. (*208 square roods and 48 square feet is about 54.5 m by 54.5m JC*).

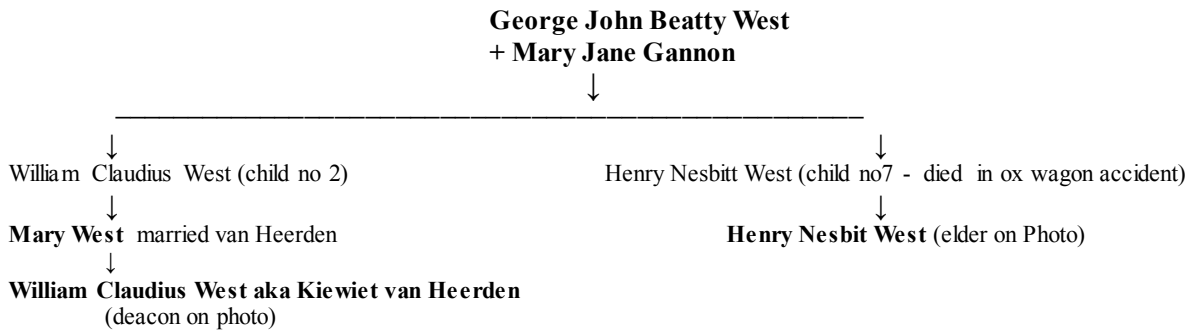
Boetie Willie's eldest son George John Beattie West and his unknown wife had four children: Martha Maria aka Molly, Anna Margaretha, George John Beattie aka George and William Claudius aka Willie.

2 Anna Juliana West was Willie and Dolphina's second child but no information about this daughter could be found.

3 Daniël Francis aka Daantjie West was Boetie Willie and Dolphina's third child. He and his wife had two sons, William Claudius West aka Claude and Henry Nesbitt West. Daantjie's son, William Claudius, held a senior position in the army at Voortrekker Hoogte.

4 Mary Jane aka Mary West, the fourth child of Boetie Willie and Dolphina, was born on the 22nd June 1881. She married Jacob Andries Cornelius aka Jaap van Heerden. They farmed in the Douglas-Plooyburg area. It is said that she died on the farm Tafelberg near Plooyburg. Mary often visited her nephew Henry Nesbitt West. He was the son of Henry Nesbitt West (see Chapter 24) who died in the ox wagon accident. The family mentioned that Mary and her descendants had close contact with the children of her uncle Henry Nesbitt West. There is a photo in the DRC of Plooyburg of Mary's son William Claudius West aka Kiewiet van Heerden, as a deacon and his uncle Henry Nesbitt West, an elder. Kiewiet and his family lived for a while at the farm Biesiesvlei near Plooyburg

Diagram indicating the relationship between Mary, Kiewiet and Henry Nesbitt:



5 Christina Wilhelmina West, the 5th child of Boetie Willie and Dolphina was not known to either Deon, myself or the family. We only knew about a child Kathleen aka Kieps West who emigrated to England. During February 2021, Jackie Shields of Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, England, a great grandchild of Christina Wilhelmina West made contact with Cathy and Irwin Jukes. Jackie sent the birth certificates, marriage certificates and other important information about Christina Wilhelmina West, her husband, children and descendants. According to this information Christina Wilhelmina West who was born on the 4th February 1884 and baptized in the NGK (DRC) Kimberley on the 29th March 1887 was the same person as Kathleen aka Kieps West who emigrated to England. Christina Wilhelmina was married at the age of 19 in Johannesburg on the 27th May 1903 to the 23 year old Alexander Miller Bell from Edinburgh in Scotland. With her marriage she lived (with her parents?) in Crown Rd in Fordsburg, Johannesburg.

Jackie Shields mentioned that Christina Wilhelmina and Alexander Miller Bell had the following children:

Gloria Alexandra aka Dorothy Bell, born on the 19th April 1904 in Durban, South Africa and died 1989 in Lambeth, London;

Alexander Ian Bell born on the 14th August 1908 in Stockwell, London. He married Irene Maude Jones during 1932 on the Isle of Wight. He died 1989 in Portsmouth, Hampshire;

Peggy Bell born on the 24th April 1910 in Germiston, South Africa. Peggy married Harold Macro on 24.06.1933 in St Mary's Church, Farnham Royal, Buckinghamshire. Harold was born 21.02.1907. He died during May 1983. Peggy and Harold's daughter Judy Edith Macro, born 26.04.1934 in Uckfield, Sussex, married George Cousins on 31.03.1956. Judy and George had three children Jacqueline aka Jackie, Carolyn and Lorraine.

Joy. There is uncertainty about a fourth child with the name of Joy.

Christina left South Africa for England between April 1904 and August 1908 as Ian was born in England. During 1908 they went to Australia. On the 26th of April 1910, they were back in South Africa as their daughter Peggy was born in Germiston on that date.

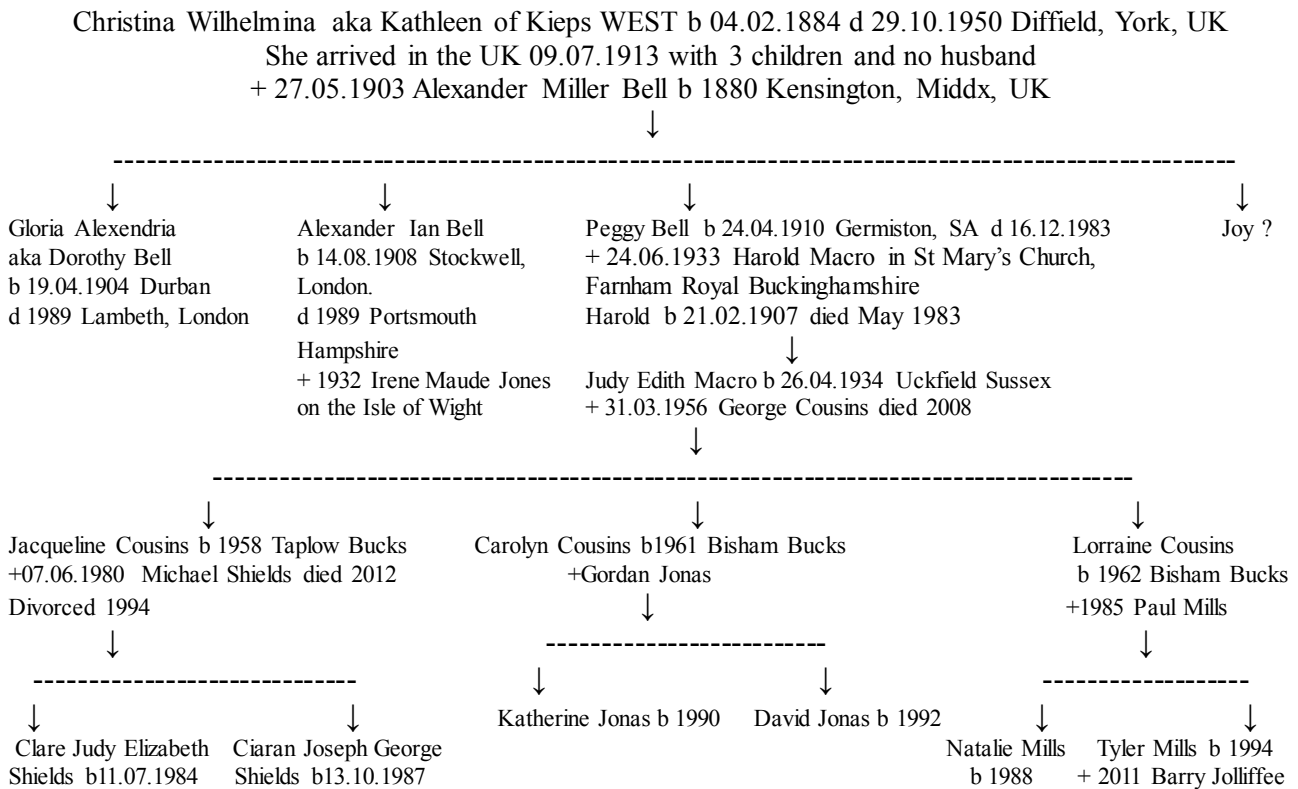
The twenty nine year old Christina Wilhelmina with her children Dorothy 9, Ian 4 and Peggy 3 arrived in Southampton on the 9th July 1913 on the ship *The German* without her husband. Ian and Peggy were abandoned at the Refrew Road Workhouse where they attended the Norwood Workhouse school. Christina Wilhelmina only visited her children in the childrens home on the first Christmas. They never saw her again.

Peggy told her grandchildren that in South Africa they had a nanny and servant but in England she and her brother Ian were in a childrens home till they were old enough to work. At the age

of 14 Peggy became a nursery nurse where she worked until she married Harold Macro on the 24th June 1933. Christina Wilhelmina's eldest child, Dorothy, was brought up by an aunt. Jackie wrote: "Uncle Ian told me that I did not want to know about their family and that his father (Alexander Miller Bell) was a wastrel!". (Wastrel = a good for nothing). Christina Wilhelmina never again made contact with her children or her family in South Africa.

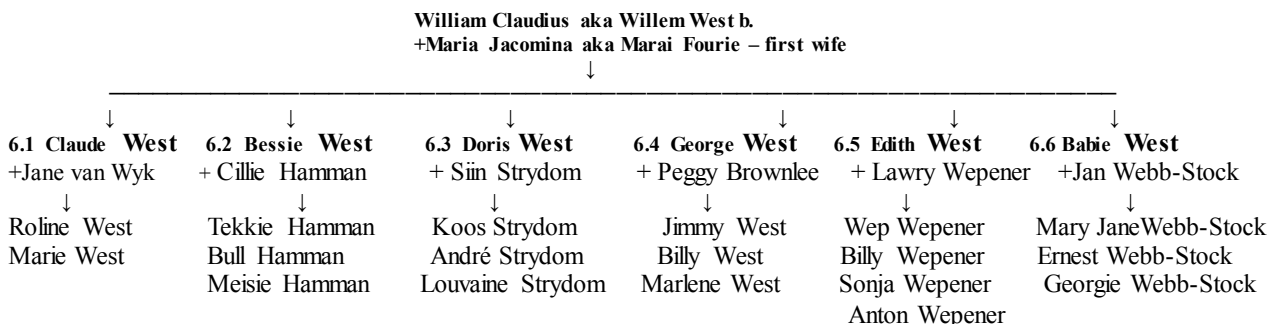
Christina Wilhelmina Bell born West of Grantham Hotel, Bridlington died on the 29th October 1950 at the age of 66 from cancer of the stomach at the East Riding General Hospital, Driffield in the County of York.

Diagram of Christina Wilhelmina West, her husband and descendants:



6 William Claudius aka Willem West, Boetie Willie and Dolfina's sixth child grew up in the Douglas-Plooysburg area of the Northern Cape where he was farming and doing transport with his wagon and oxen. Willem first married Maria Jacomina aka Marai Fourie who was from the Douglas district. They had six children, numbered 6.1 to 6.6 below. But another 6 children were born from his second marriage and they are numbered 6.7 to 6.12 below.

Diagram – William Claudius aka Willem West and his first wife Marai Fourie:

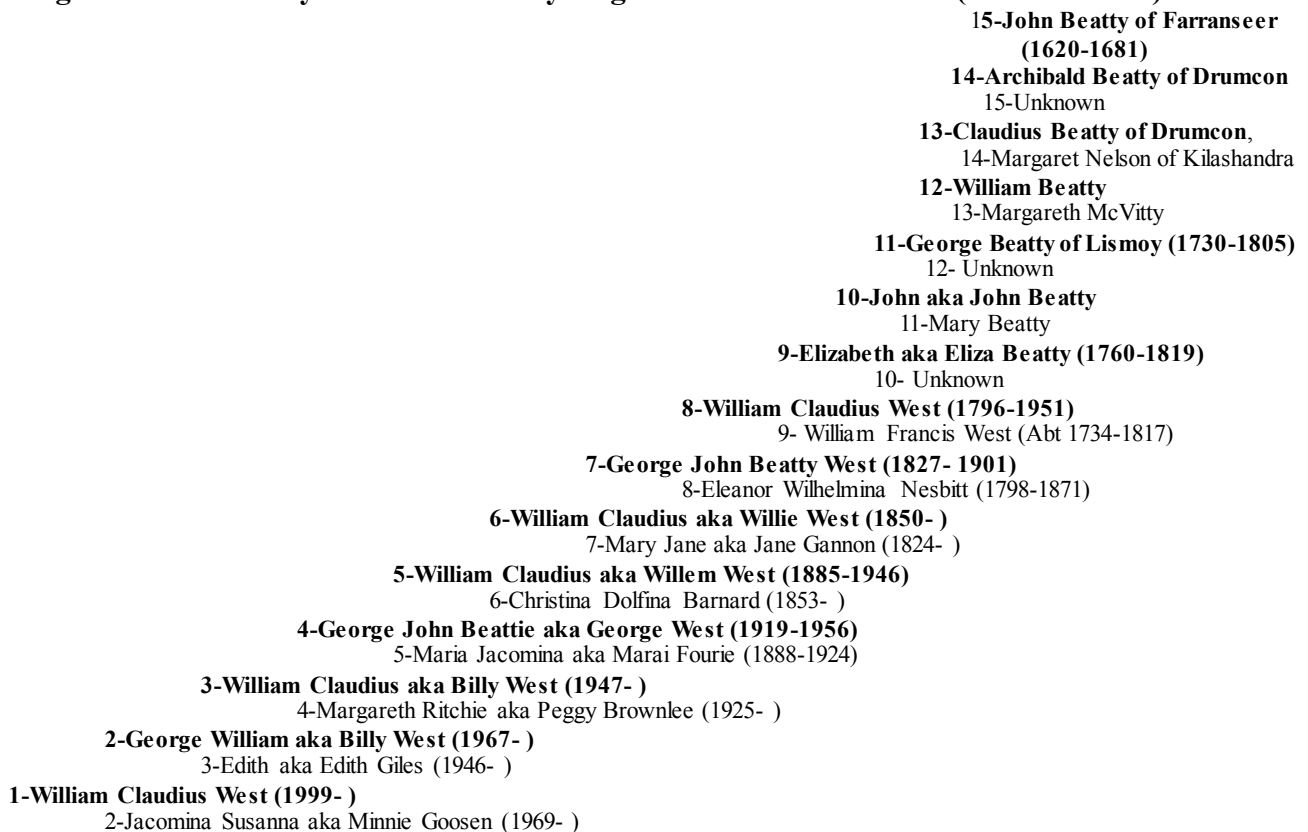


- 6.1 William Claudius aka Claude West** Willem and Marai's eldest child, married Jane van Wyk. They farmed at Miertjieskraal between Ladismith and the Garcia Pass. They had two daughters: Caroline aka Roline West and Marie West. Roline married André Deysel and had three sons i.e. Wynand, Claude and Anton. Marie married Willem Johannes aka Willie Botha and had three children i.e. Riaan Botha, Janet Botha and Ettiene Botha. The grave of Claude and Jane is next to the R323 on the farm Miertjieskraal, about 40 km from Riversdale.
- 6.2 Elizabeth Martha aka Bessie West** who married Cillie Hamman was the second child of Willem and Marai. The couple had three children: Marie Annette aka Tekkie Hamman, Cillie Rossouw aka Bull Hamman and Elizabeth Anne aka Meisie Hamman.
Tekkie and her husband Lambert Hendrik aka Stony Steenkamp had two children: i.e. Lambert Hendrik aka Lambert Steenkamp and Marie-Annette Steenkamp.
Bull married Elizabeth aka Elize van der Merwe. They had four children i.e. Carine Phyllis aka Carine Hamman married to John Wiliam aka John Vance, Christelle Elizabeth aka Christelle Hamman married to Walter aka Walter le Roux, Cillie Coenraad aka Rudy Hamman and Emile Hamman.
Bessie and Cillie Hamman's third child Elizabeth Anne aka Meisie Hamman married Petrus Gerhardus aka Peet Cillie. They had three children: Peet Cillie, Lizette Cillie and Louis Rossouw aka Louis Cillie.
- 6.3 Christina Dorothy aka Doris West**, The third child of Willem and Marai, was married to Simri Louvainaka Siin aka Simri Strydom. Doris and Simri had three children e.g. Jacobus Philippus aka Koos Strydom, André Claudius aka André Strydom and Louvaine Strydom. Koos and his wife Yvonne Snyman had three sons Riaan, Jacobus and Leon Strydom. André was married to Gorgene Skeen and Louvaine was married to Rudolf David Combrinck. Louvaine and Rudolf had two daughters Christelle and Ronelle Combrinck.
- 6.4 George John Beattie aka George West**, Willem and Marai's fourth child married Margareth Ritchie aka Peggy Brownlee. George died at the young age of 37 years in Petoria. He and his wife Peggy had two sons James Beattie aka Jimmy West, William Claudius aka Billy West Snr and a daughter Marlene West.
Jimmy and his wife Barend Dina Johanna aka Joey Vorster had two daughters Amelia West and Eileen West.
Billy West Snr and his wife Edith Giles had a son George William aka Billy West Jr. Billy West Jr is a land surveyor and married to Jacomina Susanna aka Minnie Goosen. Minnie was in a horrible accident in which she completely lost her memory. She recovered remarkably and being such an intelligent person, lives a normal life and has a responsible work. Billy and Minnie and their two children, Lee-Ann and William Claudius aka Claude West lives on their small farm near Worcester.
It was quite a surprise when I met the young William Claudius aka Claude West a student at the Drostdy Technical school at Worcester. He was born on 6th May 1999 and a grandchild of George John Beattie West and Peggy Brownlee. I showed his family that the young William Claudius West was not only named after his grandfather William Claudius West. He still has the family names of his ancestor William Claudius West who was born 220 years before in 1796.

As shown in the following diagram, the **Beatty** ancestors of the young **William Claudius West** can be traced back for 400 years to 1620. It is fifteen generations back to John Beatty, known as John Beatty of Farranseer. The names William Claudius can be traced back for 12 and 13 generations back in the **Beatty** family.

George and Peggy's third child was their daughter Marlene West. Marlene and her husband Douglas Steven aka Doug Bailie have two children Megan Bailie and Steward Bailie.

Diagram of the Beatty ancestors of the young William Claudius West (Picture above):



6.5 Edith Maria aka Edith West Willem and Marai's fifth child was who married Andries Lawrence aka Lawry Wepener. Edith and Lawry had four children i.e. Lawrence Jacob aka Wep Wepener, William Rossouw aka Billy Wepener, Sonja Edith aka Sonja Wepener and Anton Louw aka Anton Wepener.

Wep and his wife Martha Jacomina aka Maggie Bezuidenhout had three children namely Lawrence Andries aka Louw Wepener, Gregory Wepener and Justin Wepener.

Billy Wepener was unmarried.

Sonja Wepener and her husband Archibald aka Archie Chalmers had two children Archibald Bryan aka Bryan Chalmers and Shonene Edith aka Nene Chalmers.

Anton Wepener and his wife Brenda Joan aka Brenda Power had a child Nicole aka Nikki Wepener.

6.6 Mary Jane Snr aka Babie West The sixth child of Willem and Marai was who was married to Jan Jacobus de Villiers Fourie Webb-Stock. Babie and Jan had three children namely Mary Jane Jnr aka Mary Jane Webb-Stock, Harry Ernest aka Ernest Webb-Stock and George John Beattie aka Georgie Webb-Stock. Mary Jane Jnr and her first husband Johan Theodorus aka Piet Potgieter had three sons namely Johannes Theodorus aka Nicky Potgieter, Jan Jacobus aka Jan Potgieter and Frans Engelbertus aka Frans Potgieter. Mary Jane and her second husband Pieter Roux aka Pieter Malherbe had a child Pieter Roux aka Roux Malherbe.

Willem's wife Marai died in the Douglas district on the 24th August 1924 at the age of 35. After the death of Marai it must have been a difficult time to survive for the 38 year old Willem West. He was a farmer and also transported goods by ox wagon which took him away from home. In those circumstances he as a widower and father had to take care of his

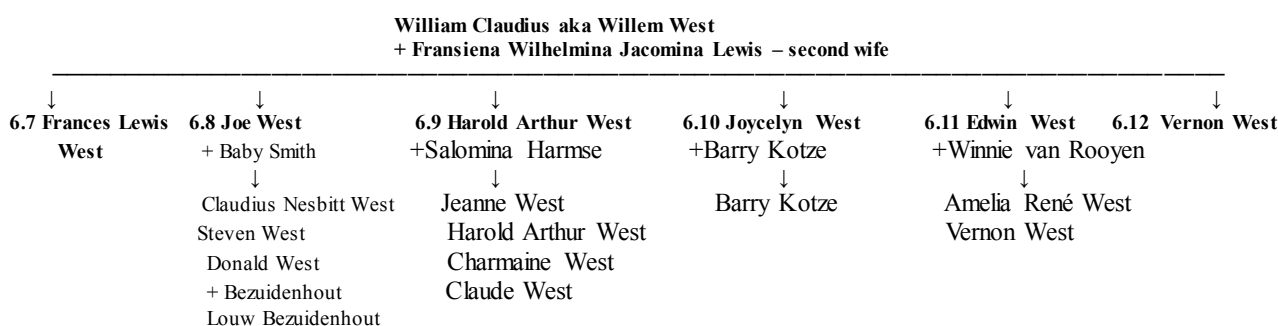
six young children namely:

William Claudius aka Claude 11, Elizabeth Martha aka Bessie 10, Christina Dorothy 8, George John Beattie aka George 5, Edith Maria aka Edith 3 and the one year old baby Mary Jane aka Babie.

Willem asked the 17 year old orphan girl, Fransiena Wilhelmina Jacomina Lewis, to help him with his six young children and the housekeeping. They fell in love and were married. She herself an orphan, was only six years older than Willem's eldest son Claude. Life for this young wife with six stepchildren and later six of her own must have been very difficult.

Willem and his second wife Fransiena had the following six children: Frances Lewis West, Cairncross Nesbitt aka Joe West, Harold Arthur West, Joycelyn West, Edwin aka Edwin West and Vernon West.

Diagram of Willem West and Fransiena W. J. Lewis with their children:



6.7 Frances Lewis West Willem and Fransiena's first child suffered from epileptic attacks. She died young.

6.8 Cairncross Nesbitt aka Joe West Their second child worked as a stoker at the St Helena mine near Welkom. He married Sophia Anna Magrietha aka Baby Smith. Their children were: Claudius Nesbitt West, Steven West and Donald West.

Claudius Nesbitt and his wife Eugenie Viljoen had three children: Claudette Eugenie aka Claudette West, Kenneth Vincent aka Kenny West and Anthony Charles aka Tony West. Kenneth married Elmarie Nienaber.

Joe died in a mine accident. His abridged Death Certificate stated: "As the result of multiple injuries when the hanging wall by 48/56 fell on the deceased". Joe and his family lived at 30 Lind Street, Doring, Welkom. When he died at the age of 34, his estate was insolvent. Who were the two main creditors? Standard Bank and the Receiver of Revenue! What a privilege to leave this world owing the Bank and the Receiver of Revenue money!

Joe had a "secret" child, by a Mrs Bezuidenhout. After her death, Mrs Bezuidenhout left a note and photo of Joe to her son Louw Bezuidenhout in which she stated that his biological father was Cairncross Nesbitt aka Joe West. Louw then urgently wanted contact with his unknown West relatives. At last he met Rina West, the wife of another Cairncross Nesbitt West. She brought him in contact with his father's sister Joycelyn Kotze and the West family.

6.9 Harold Arthur West Willem and Fransiena's third child married Salomina Harmse. Harold and Solomina had the following four children: Jeanne West, Harold Arthur West, Charmaine West and Claudius Nesbitt aka Claude West.

Jeanne married Ashley Powell. Their daughter Luzinda died in a car accident.

Harold Arthur West Jr and his wife had a daughter Jade West.

Charmaine and her husband Mr Botes had a son Timothy and a daughter Gayle Lyn.

Claudius Nesbitt and his wife had a daughter Michela West.

6.10 Joycelyn I was privileged to meet Willem and Fransiena's fourth and only living child,. Joycelyn married pastor Albertus Petrus aka Barry Kotze. She lives with her son the attorney Barry Kotze and his wife Anna Catherina aka Anneri and their adopted daughter Joycelyn Elizabeth aka Cagellyne Kotze in Pretoria. What a source of information and what a wonderful humble lady Joycelyn is. She told me much about her father, his first and second wives, their children, grandchildren and the tragic family dynamics. Some of Willem and his first wife Marai's children did not accept his second wife Fransiena and her children who were their half brothers and sisters. The relationship was so bad that when Willem died in Durban during September 1946, Marai's children did not inform Fransiena's children of their father's death.

6.11 Edwin West Willem and Fransiena's fifth child married Wilhelmina Jacomina aka Winnie van Rooyen. Edwin and Winnie's daughter Amelia René West married Mr Schmidt. They had two children Zane and Zanzor. Their son Vernon West married Ruth Nobilis and had a son Arthur West.

6.12 Vernon West Willem and Fransiena's sixth and youngest child was the brilliant and outstanding. Since his school days in the Kimberley Boys High School he was interested in making the radio his vocation. He came first in the Northern Cape when he wrote his grade twelve exams and was one of the first in South Africa to obtain a degree in radio drama. The SABC Bulletin of the 11th November 1963 mentioned that Vernon and his department head, Cecil Jubber, were the only two members of the staff of Radio South Africa with BA (Broadcasting) degrees. At the age of 24 he was one of the youngest radio Producers in the SABC. He was complimented for writing the play: "*The Middle Age of Romeo and Juliet*" which took him a year to complete. On the Friday evening of 31st August 1962, the young 27 year old Vernon was killed in a scooter accident on his way home from work. A full front page photo of him appeared on the cover page of the SABC Bulletin of 11-17 November 1962 as well as an article of two pages and six photos of him.

7 Margareth Isabella aka Maggie West the seventh and youngest child of Boetie Willie and Dolphina married Cornelius aka Tiet du Plooy a farmer from Plooyburg. They had a son in Gauteng named Abraham.

William Claudius aka Boetie Willie West, the eldest son of George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon later resided in Crown Rd., Fordsburg, Johannesburg where he died.

Descendants of William Claudius aka Willie West and Christina Dolfina Barnard:

1-William Claudius aka Willie West b. 6 Mar 1850, c. 31 Mar 1850, Holy Trinity Church, Caledon by Rev S Sandberg, d. Fordsburg, Johannesburg

+Christina Dolfina Barnard b. 1853, Caledon

2-George John Beattie aka George West b. 6 Apr 1874

+Unknown

3-Martha Maria aka Molly West b. 20 Jul 1897

3-Anna Margaretha West b. 20 Sep 1899

3-George John Beattie aka George West

+Unknown

4-Margareth West

3-William Claudius aka Willie West b. 1 Jun 1901

+Opperman

2-Anna Juliana West

2-Daniël Francis aka Daantjie West

+Unknown

- 3-William Claudius aka Claude West
- 3-Henry Nesbitt aka Collie West

2-Christina Wilhelmina (Kathleen or Kieps) West 14.02.1884 d 29.10.1950 Driffield, York UK

- +27.05.1903 Alexander M Bell Johannesburg b 26.03.1880 Kensington, Middx
- 3-Gloria Alexandri aka Dorothy b19.04.1904 Durban
- 3-Alexander Ian Bell b14.08.1908 Stockwell, London
- +Irene Maude Jones
- 3-Peggy Bell b 24.04.1910 Germiston SA d Dec 1983
- +24.06.1933 in St Mary's Church, Farnham Royal Buckinghamshire Harold Macro d May 1983
- 4-Judy Edith Macro b 26.04.1934 Uckfield, Sussex
- +31.03.1956 George Cousins d 2008
 - 5-Jacqueline Cousins b 1958 Taplow Bucks
 - +07.06.1980 Michael Shields divorced 1994 d 2012
 - 6-Clare Judy Elizabeth Shields b 11.07.1984
 - 6-Ciaran Joseph George Shields b 13.10.1987
 - 5-Carolyn Cousins b 1961 Bisham Bucks
 - +Gordon Jonas
 - 6-Katherine Jonas
 - 6-David Jonas
 - 5-Lorraine Cousins b 1962 Bisham Bucks
 - +Paul Mills
 - 6-Natalie Mills
 - 6-Tyler Mills

3-Joy (?)

2-Mary Jane aka Mary West b. 22 Jun 1881, d. 19 Jul 1954, Tafelberg, Plooyburg, Herbert (Douglas)

+Jacob Andries Cornelius aka Jaap van Heerden b. 20 Aug 1878, d. 6 Dec 1968, Pretoria

- 3-Jacob Andreas Cornelius aka Bull van Heerden b. 17 Feb 1902, d. Oct 1970, Knysna
- +Anna Sophia Magdalena aka Lindsay van den Berg b. 26 Jan 1914, d. 1999, Pretoria
- 4-Jacobus Andries Cornelis aka André van Heerden, Escom Cape Town b. 9 Oct 1936
- +Lenchen Marie aka Lenchen Kretschmar b. 14 Apr 1938
 - 5-Leon André aka Leon van Heerden b. 2 Apr 1963
 - 5-Jacqueline Marie aka Jacqui van Heerden b. 24 Feb 1964
- 4-Anna Magdalena aka Marlene van Heerden Knysna b. 11 Jan 1941
- +Unknown
- +Richard Paul aka Dick Ginsberg b. 12 Jun 1929
 - 5-Karen aka Karen Ginsberg b. 26 Sep 1961
 - 5-Michel aka Michel Ginsberg b. 18 Sep 1964
 - 5-Anton Paul aka Paul Ginsberg b. 19 Jan 1967

3-William Claudius West aka Kiewiet van Heerden 8 1st Ave Kenilworth Kimberley b. 17 Oct 1904

+Magdalena Francina Christina aka Lenie du Plooy b. 10 Aug 1907

- 4-Jacob Andreas aka Japie van Heerden b. 20 Jul 1927
- +Maria aka Marie Van Niekerk b. 30 Mar 1929
 - 5-Elizabeth aka Elize van Heerden b. 9 Jun 1954
 - 5-Christine aka Tina van Heerden b. 6 Jan 1957
 - +Stefanus Gerhardus aka Faan van der Merwe b. 14 Nov 1951
 - 6-Nicolas Johannes Stefanus aka Stefan van der Merwe b. 21 Sep 1981
 - 5-William Claudius West aka William van Heerden b. 25 Dec 1960
 - +Glenda
 - 5-Marian aka Marian van Heerden b. 8 Aug 1967
- 4-Hester Catherina Maria aka Hester van Heerden b. 4 Jan 1931
- +Jacobus Cornelius van der Merwe b. 12 Apr 1930
 - 5-Jacobus Cornelius aka Kosie van der Merwe Plooyburg b. 4 May 1950
 - +Johanna aka Johanna Snyman
 - 6-Jacobus aka Jaco van der Merwe
 - 6-Agnes aka Agnes van der Merwe b. 1 Apr 1974
 - 6-Hester Catherina aka Herina van der Merwe b. 11 Feb 1979
 - 5-Magdalena Christina aka Marlene van der Merwe b. 27 Mar 1953
 - +Schalk Willem aka Tiekie Combrinck b. 29 Nov 1951
 - 6-Hesré aka Hesré Combrinck b. 14 Jun 1974
 - 6-Clarence aka Clarence Combrinck b. 11 Jun 1980
 - 5-Susan Ada aka Ada van der Merwe Klerksdorp b. 15 Jun 1954
 - +Theuns Nico Marais b. 8 Jan 1951
 - 6-01.11.1978 Deidré aka Deidré Marais
 - 6-Eugene aka Eugene Marais
 - 5-William Claudius aka Willie van der Merwe b. 23 Nov 1958

5-Esta Deidré aka Esta van der Merwe b. 24 Apr 1964
+Christo Nel

4-Cornelius Willem aka Connie van Heerden b. 27 Sep 1944
+Johanna Maria aka Ria van der Linde b. 27 Sep 1945
5-Marcha aka Marcha van Heerden b. 17 Sep 1965
5-William Claudius aka Willie van Heerden b. 19 Nov 1966
5-Bared Leonard aka Barney van Heerden b. 13 Oct 1968
5-Cornelius Willem aka Connie van Heerden c. 16 Apr 1969

3-Jacobus Schalk aka Koos van Heerden b. 21 Jan 1909, d. 24 Oct 1970, Kimberley
+Eliza Jessie aka Jessie Cawood
4-Japie aka Japie van Heerden Durbanville b. 2 Mar 1930
+Maria Magdalena aka Monie b. 23 Jul 1935
5-Schalk aka Schalk van Heerden b. 7 Sep 1960
5-Olivia aka Olivia van Heerden b. 12 Dec 1961
5-Johan aka Johan van Heerden b. 28 Jan 1967

4-Marie aka Marie van Heerden
4-Percy Cawood aka Percy van Heerden
4-Mary Jane aka Jane van Heerden

3-George John Beattie aka George van Heerden b. 21 Jan 1909, d. 23 Aug 1966, Pretoria
+Martha Maria aka Martha Botha b. 2 Jan 1914
4-Johanna aka Joey van Heerden b. 26 May 1938
+Christopher Russell aka Chris Harker b. 8 Feb 1940
5-Graeme Russell aka Graeme Harker b. 12 Feb 1967
5-Leanne aka Leanne Harker b. 11 Jun 1968

3-Gert Johannes Alwyn aka Gert van Heerden b. 2 Feb 1903, d. 22 Dec 1981
+Sarah Catherina aka Sarie Potgieter b. 23 Mar 1905, d. 31 May 1975, Uitenhage
4-Maureen aka Maureen van Heerden b. 21 Apr 1941
+André aka André Esterhuizen b. 11 Apr 1940
5-Marisa Esterhuizen b. 10 Jan 1970
5-Yolanda aka Yolanda Esterhuizen b. 12 Dec 1974

4-Deon aka Deon van Heerden b. 11 Feb 1952
+Martha Jacoba aka Marina Mathee b. 16 Aug 1954
5-Johan aka Johan van Heerden b. 1 Dec 1982

3-Daniël Francois aka Daantjie van Heerden b. 4 May 1917
+Anwyn Roësch aka Anwyn Burger b. 22 Oct 1921, d. 19 Jul 1999
4-Magdalena Maria aka Magda van Heerden b. 27 Feb 1947
+Joseph Jacobus aka Joe Meyer b. 30 Jul 1946
5-Daniël Johannes aka Niël Meyer b. 9 Apr 1981
5-Joseph Jacobus aka Jaco Meyer b. 29 Dec 1982

4-Jacob Andreas aka Jackie van Heerden b. 28 Aug 1949
+Annemarie aka Annemarie Botha b. 13 Mar 1952
5-Jacques aka Jacques van Heerden b. 25 Aug 1976, d. 23 Sep 1978, Pretoria
5-Charlene aka Charlene van Heerden b. 7 Dec 1977
5-Tersia aka Tersia van Heerden b. 25 Jun 1979
5-Louise aka Louise van Heerden b. 24 Aug 1981

4-Cornelius Andries aka Corrie van Heerden b. 8 Jun 1954, d. Abt 1988, Car accident Klerksdorp to Roodepoort
+Elsa Marie de Villiers
5-Daniël Francois aka Danie van Heerden b. 27 Dec 1980
5-Frank Graham aka Frank van Heerden b. 31 Aug 1982
5-Cornelius Andries van Heerden

3-Christaan Johan aka Christie van Heerden b. 23 Sep 1920, d. Pretoria
+Anna Elizabeth aka Anna Richter b. 20 Dec 1925, d. 28 Jul 1974, Kameeldrift, Pretoria
4-Susara aka Sarie van Heerden b. 21 Jan 1950
+Johan aka Johan le Grange b. 12 Jan 1949
5-André aka André le Grange b. 9 Feb 1970
5-Anneliza aka Annelize le Grange b. 19 Mar 1972
5-Marianne aka Marianne le Grange b. 15 Apr 1973
5-Johan aka Johan le Grange b. 13 Apr 1982

4-Jacob Andreas Cornelius aka Jacob van Heerden b. 4 Jun 1957
4-Johan Paul aka Johan van Heerden b. 5 Jul 1964

3-Mary Jane West van Heerden

2-William Claudius aka Willem West b. 17 Dec 1885, d. Sep 1946, Durban
+Maria Jacomina aka Marai Fourie b. 12 Dec 1888, d. 24 Aug 1924, (aka Willem West's first wife)

3-William Claudius aka Claude West b. 17 Jan 1913, d. 24 Apr 1976 b. Miertjieskraal, Ladismith
+Jane aka Jane van Wyk b. 20 Dec 1911, d. 3.6.2003 b. Miertjieskraal, Ladismith, Western Cape

4-Caroline aka Roline West b. 26 Feb 1941
 +André aka André Deysel b. 6 Mar 1940
 5-Wynand aka Wynand Deysel b. 25 Jun 1964
 5-Claude aka Claude Deysel b. 8 Nov 1967
 5-Anton aka Anton Deysel b. 7 Sep 1969
 4-Marie aka Marie West b. 6 Jun 1946, d. 11 May 1981
 +Willem Johannes aka Willie Botha b. 16 Jun 1946
 5-20.06.1969 Riaan aka Riaan Botha
 5-Janet aka Janet Botha b. 8 Dec 1971
 5-Ettiene aka Ettiene Botha b. 5 Jan 1978
 3-Elizabeth Martha aka Bessie West b. 20 May 1914, d. Abt 1984
 +Cillie aka Cillie Hamman b. 4 Jun 1913, d. 16 Jan 1976, Durban
 4-Marie Annette aka Tekkie Hamman b. 4 Jun 1939
 +Lambert Hendrik aka Stony Steenkamp b. 5 Oct 1938
 5-Lambert Hendrik aka Lambert Steenkamp b. 29 May 1975
 5-Marie-Annette aka Marie-Annette Steenkamp b. 6 May 1980
 4-Cillie Rossouw aka Bull Hamman b. 30 Sep 1940
 +Elizabeth aka Elize van der Merwe b. 24 Sep 1941
 5-Carine Phyllis aka Carine Hamman b. 24 Oct 1961
 +John Wiliam aka John Vance b. 10 Sep 1957
 6-Celeste aka Celeste Vance b. 25 Jan 1982
 5-Christelle Elizabeth aka Christelle Hamman b. 7 Dec 1963
 +Walter aka Walter le Roux b. 14 Nov 1962
 6-Carmen aka Carmen le Roux b. 28 May 1983
 5-Cillie Coenraad aka Rudy Hamman b. 19 Apr 1969
 5-Emile aka Emile Hamman b. 30 Jun 1978
 4-Elizabeth Anne aka Meisie Hamman b. 3 May 1944
 +Petrus Gerhardus aka Peet Cillie b. 20 Jun 1943
 5-Peet aka Peet Cillie b. 30 Dec 1971
 5-Lizette aka Lizette Cillie c. 1 Jul 1995
 5-Louis Rossouw aka Louis Cillie b. 19 Apr 1977
 3-Christina Dorothy aka Doris West b. 30 Nov 1915
 +Simri Louvainaka Siin Strydom b. 12 Oct 1914
 4-Jacobus Philippus aka Koos Strydom b. 29 Jul 1943
 +Yvonne aka Yvonne Snyman b. 17 Dec 1948
 5-Riaan aka Riaan Strydom b. 24 Aug 1967
 5-Jacobus aka Kobus Strydom b. 11 Oct 1968
 5-Leon aka Leon Strydom b. 28 Jul 1971
 4-André Claudius aka André Strydom b. 7 Jan 1946
 +Gorgene aka Gorgene Skeen b. 15 Apr 1946
 4-Louvaine aka Louvaine Strydom b. 30 Aug 1951
 +Rudolf David Combrinck b. 30 Nov 1947
 5-Christelle aka Christelle Combrinck b. 25 Sep 1974
 5-Ronelle aka Ronelle Combrinck b. 23 Mar 1976
 3-George John Beattie aka George West b. 7 Jan 1919, d. 12 Jan 1956, Pretoria
 +Margareth Ritchie aka Peggy Brownlee b. 20 Jan 1925
 4-James Beattie aka Jimmy West b. 18 Feb 1946
 +Barend Dina Johanna aka Joey Vorster b. 7 Mar 1949
 5-Amelia aka Amelia West b. 22 May 1974
 5-Eileen aka Eileen West b. 25 Nov 1978
 4-William Claudius aka Billy West Snr b. 6 May 1947
 +Edith aka Edith Giles b. 25 Oct 1946
 5-George William aka Billy West Jnr b. 4 Oct 1967
 +Jacomina Susanna aka Minnie Goosen b. 22 Apr 1969, Worcester
 6-Lee-Ann aka Lee-Ann West b. 1 Jan 1996, Worcester
 6-William Claudius West b. 6 May 1999, Worcester
 4-Marlene aka Marlene West b. 20 Dec 1954
 +Douglas Steven aka Doug Bailie b. 19 Feb 1953
 5-Megan aka Megan Bailie
 5-Steward aka Steward Bailie
 3-Edith Maria aka Edith West b. 17 Nov 1920, d. Nov 1975, Ladysmith Natal
 +Andries Lawrence aka Lawry Wepener b. 22 Mar 1918, d. Nov 1977, Ladysmith Natal
 4-Lawrence Jacob aka Wep Wepener b. 23 May 1942
 +Martha Jacomina aka Maggie Bezuidenhout b. 6 Jul 1938
 5-Lawrence Andries aka Louw Wepener b. 2 Jul 1968
 +Susan Balcomb

5-Gregory aka Gregory Wepener
 5-Justin aka Justin Wepener
 4-William Rossouw aka Billy Wepener b. 5 Jan 1946
 4-Sonja Edith aka Sonja Wepener b. 7 Jul 1949
 +Archibald aka Archie Chalmers b. Jul 141-1941
 5-Archibald Bryan aka Bryan Chalmers b. 7 Mar 1972
 5-Shonene Edith aka Nene Chalmers b. 11 Nov 1977
 4-Anton Louw aka Anton Wepener b. 2 Feb 1953
 +Brenda Joan aka Brenda Power b. 5 Jan 1956
 5-Nicole aka Nikki Wepener b. 27 Mar 1981
 3-Mary Jane aka Babie West b. 7 Oct 1922, d. 3 Dec 1974
 +Jan Jacobus de Villiers Fourie Webb-Stock b. 3 Mar 1921, d. 11 Apr 1975
 4-Mary Jane aka Mary Jane Webb-Stock b. 23 Jan 1945
 +Johan Theodorus aka Piet Potgieter b. 6 Feb 1947, d. Divorced
 5-Johannes Theodorus aka Nicky Potgieter b. 4 Feb 1966
 5-Jan Jacobus aka Jan Potgieter b. 22 Feb 1967
 5-Frans Engelbertus aka Frans Potgieter b. 29 Jan 1969
 +Pieter Roux aka Pieter Malherbe b. 6 Mar 1947
 5-Pieter Roux aka Roux Malherbe b. 4 Sep 1977
 4-Harry Ernest aka Ernest Webb-Stock b. 19 Nov 1949
 4-George John Beattie aka Georgie Webb-Stock b. 14 Aug 1956
 +Fransiena Wilhelmina Jacomina Lewis b. Abt 1908 (**Willem West's second wife**)
 3-Frances Lewis West b. 17 Dec 1926, d. Epileptic
 3-Cairncross Nesbitt aka Joe West b. 1 Jul 1928, d. 22 Sep 1962, Mine accident as Stoker St Helena mine
 Welkom, bur. "Hervormde Kerk", Kimberley
 +Sophia Anna Margrietha aka Baby Smith
 4-Claudius Nesbitt West b. 26 Feb 1949
 +Eugenie aka Eugenie Viljoen b. 13 Sep 1949
 5-Claudette Eugenie aka Claudette West b. 4 Jun 1972
 5-Kenneth Vincent aka Kenny West b. 1 May 1973
 +Elmarie aka Elmarie Nienaber b. 25 Dec 1974
 6-Kelly-lee aka Kelly-lee West b. 6 Nov 1999
 6-Keenan Christopher West b. 3 Sep 2004
 6-Chloe aka Chloe West b. 18 Jul 2006
 5-Anthony Charles aka Tony West b. 27 Jan 1980
 +Janet aka Janet Strydom
 6-William Nesbit aka Liam West b. 14 Apr 2003
 6-Ethan Daniel aka Ethan West b. 13 May 2005
 6-Sinead Eugénie aka Sinead West b. 20 May 2011
 4-Steven West b. 1952
 4-Donald West
 +Bezuidenhout
 4-Louw Bezuidenhout
 3-Harold Arthur West b. 1 Oct 1930
 +Salomina Harmse b. 25 Dec 1934
 4-Jeanne West b. 23 Mar 1956
 +Ashley Powell
 5-Luzinda Powell d. Died car accident
 4-Harold Arthur West b. 15 Jun 1963
 +Unknown
 5-Jade West b. 22 Nov 1994
 4-Charmaine aka Charmaine West b. 09.02.19??
 +Botes
 5-Timothy aka Timothy Botes b. 18 Nov 1983
 5-Gayle Lyn Botes b. 14 Aug 1985
 4-Claudius Nesbitt aka Claude West b. 11 Feb 1968
 +Unknown
 5-Michela West b. 4 Feb
 3-Joycelyn aka Joyce West b. 6 Apr 1934
 +Albertus Petrus aka Barry Kotze b. 14 Jun 1930, d. 18 Jul 2008, Pretoria
 4-Barry aka Barry Kotze b. 26 Oct 1966
 +Anna Catherina aka Anneri
 5-Joycelyn Elizabeth aka Cagellyne Kotze b. 8 Feb 2003, Adopted
 3-Edwin aka Edwin West b. 14 Mar 1936
 +Wilhelmina Jacomina aka Winnie van Rooyen
 4-Amelia René West

+Schmidt
 5-Zane Schmidt
 5-Zanzor Schmidt
4-Vernon West b. 1 Oct
+Ruth Nobilis
 5-Arthur West
3-Vernon aka Vernon West b. 24 Aug 1939, d. 31 Aug 1962, Scooter accident after work at SABC
2-Margaretha Isabella aka Maggie West b. 22 Jun 1893
+Cornelius aka Tiet du Plooy
 3-Abraham du Plooy Johannesburg

CHAPTER 18

George John Beatty West the farmer near Botrivier (1852-1906)

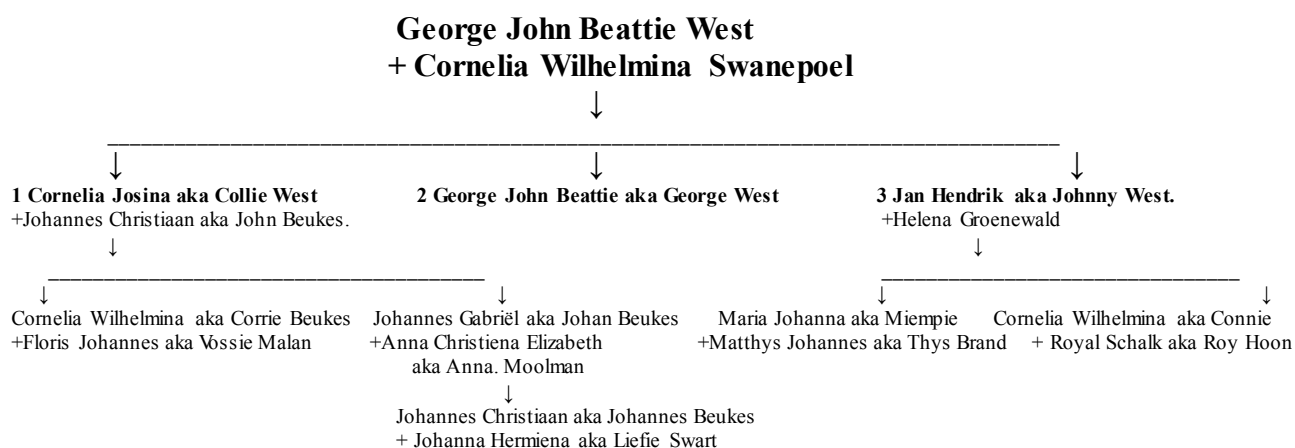
Very little is known about George John Beatty West and Mary Jane's third child, George John Beatty aka George West and his descendants. George was born in Caledon on Tuesday the 30th March 1852 and baptized in the Holy Trinity Church, Parish of Caledon on the 5th December 1852 by the Rev H M M Wilshere. He was named after his father. Rev Wilshere wrote his third name "Beatty" and not "Beattie" while both the Rev William Bramby and Rev John Eedes wrote the name "Beattie". With his baptism, his father was a police constable and mason in Caledon.

Because he was much older, his younger half brothers and sisters called him "Boetie George". He spent his first years in Caledon and his teenage years in Villiersdorp. On the 9th June 1874, aged 22, he and his sister Mary Jane West were witnesses at the baptism of the baby George John Beatty West, the eldest son of his brother William Claudius West aka Boetie Willie.

After Boetie George married Cornelia Wilhelmina Swanepoel the couple lived on the farm Salandra. Salandra is situated near Bot River on the left of the road to Hermanus and opposite the filling station.

Boetie George and Cornelia had three children:
Cornelia Wilhelmina aka Collie West,
George John Beattie aka George West and
Jan Hendrik aka Johnny West.

Diagram of Boetie West and Cornelia Swanepoel with descendants:



1 Their eldest child, **Cornelia Josina aka Collie West** was born on the 29th July 1882. Collie married Johannes Christiaan aka John Beukes. They had two children: Cornelia Wilhelmina aka Corrie Beukes and Johannes Gabriël aka Johan Beukes.

Corrie married Floris Johannes aka Vossie Malan. On Wednesday the 27th December 1950 Vossie committed suicide on the farm Modderasrivier.

Corrie and Vossie Malan's daughter in law, Sukey Malan born Geldenhuys stays in Heidehof a retirement home in Caledon. Sukey's son Floris Wouter aka Wouter Malan today lives at Bot River, only a few kilometers from Salandra where his great great grandparents

farmed more than a hundred years ago. Sukey, her son Wouter and daughter Marietjie are three of the few descendants of Boetie George and Cornelia Wilhelmina with whom I could make contact.

Collie and John Beukes's only son Johannes Gabriël aka Johan Beukes married Anna Christiena Elizabeth aka Anna Moolman. Johan and Anna had only one son, Johannes Christiaan aka Johannes Beukes who married Johanna Hermiena aka Liefie Swart.

Cornelia Wilhelmina aka Collie West and her husband Johannes Christiaan aka John Beukes were buried in Caledon.

- 2 George and Cornelia's second child, **George John Beattie aka George West**, born on the 8th January 1886, was unmarried when he died on the 6th August 1966 at the age of 80.
- 3 Their third son **Jan Hendrik aka Johnny West** born the 14th October 1888, married Helena Groenewald. Johnny and Helena lived at Onrustrivier. I still remember him as a very neat and friendly person when he visited us on our farm Clune House. The couple had two daughters: Maria Johanna aka Miempie West who married Matthys Johannes aka Thys Brand and Cornelia Wilhelmina aka Connie West who married Royal Schalk aka Roy Hoon. Johnny and Helena were buried at Onrustrivier.

Boetie George stayed for a short while with his brothers Cairncross and James in Vryburg. On the 31st July 1900 Cairncross referred in his letter from Vryburg in his correspondence with Boetie George at Salandra near Bot River in which he asked Boetie George to look for cattle which he could buy.

In a letter to their father, Cairncross referred to the two cows he bought from J Brand of Hemel en Aarde. The farm Hemel en Aarde is only a few kilometers from Salandra where George farmed and in the same area where their sister Mary, her husband Piet Smal and their sons farmed. It is only a few kilometers from Hoopjesrivier where Cairncross grew up.

In his letter of 15th July 1900 to their father in Greyton, Cairncross again referred to Boetie George: *"I had a letter from Brother George a few days ago they are all well and nothing new as usual. I wrote to him mostly to enquire the address of as a brother. P Fischer has got it in his lip and I wrote for him which Brother George lost no time in Sending"*.

No correspondence was found between Boetie George and his father since Salandra where he farmed was only about 50 km (30 miles) from Genadendal and Greyton where his father George lived during those years.

Boetie George died on Sunday the 4th March 1906 at the age of 53. His wife Cornelia died 26 years later in 1932 at the age of 79. Both were buried at Salandra. Many years later their mortal remains were re-buried in another to us unknown graveyard.

Descendants of George John Beattie aka Boetie West and Cornelia Wilhelmina Swanepoel:

1 George John Beattie aka George West b. 30 Mar 1852, c. 5 Dec 1852, Holy Trinity Church, Caledon by Rev H M W Welshere, d. 4 Mar 1906, Salandra, Botrivier

+Cornelia Wilhelmina Swanepoel b. 22 Oct 1853, d. 1932, Salandra, Botrivier

2-Cornelia Josina aka Collie West b. 26 Jul 1882, d. 13 Aug 1965, Hermanus, bur. Caledon

+Johannes Christiaan aka John Beukes b. 14 Mar 1881, d. 4 Jul 1950, Caledon, bur. Caledon

3-Cornelia Wilhelmina aka Corrie Beukes b. 1 Mar 1910, d. Bot River, Caledon

+Floris Johannes aka Vossie Malan b. 13 Jan 1900, d. 27 Dec 1950 (suicide at farm Modderasrivier)

4-Daniël Wouter aka Danie Malan b. 22 Sep 1931, Botrivier

+Susanna Maria aka Sukey Geldenhuys b. 27 May 1935

5-Floris Wouter aka Wouter Malan b. 3 Jul 1959
 +Wilma Nelson
 5-Martin Lukas aka Martin Malan b. 7 Oct 1963
 +Andrette Valentine
 5-Margaretha Johanna aka Marietjie Malan b. 16 Sep 1969
 +Willem Smith
 6-Janiel Smith
 4-Johannes Christiaan aka Johnny Malan b. 1 Dec 1932
 +Anna Maria Susanne aka Babsie Ungerer b. 7 Jun 1933
 5-Floris Johannes aka Vossie Malan b. 10 Nov 1956
 +Patricia Joyce aka Patsy Hall b. 16 Jan 1955
 6-Adriaan aka Adriaan Malan b. 22 Dec 1980
 5-Deon Francois aka Deon Malan b. 30 Nov 1960
 +Carina aka Carlina Barnard b. 12 Mar 1965
 6-Hendrik Johannes aka Hendrik Malan b. 11 Feb 1983
 5-Cornelia Wilhelmina Josina aka Corine Malan b. 13 Aug 1965
 +Johannes Benjamin aka Hannes Swanepoel b. 23 Aug 1961
 6-Lè-Anna aka Lè-Anna Swanepoel b. 17 May 1983
 5-Mariana Hermina aka Mariana Malan b. 31 Jul 1967
 4-Cornelia Josina aka Cola Malan b. 15 Jan 1940
 +Dirk Cornelius Wessel aka Wessel Swart b. 13 May 1937
 5-Hermanus Henry aka Henry Swart b. 8 Sep 1960
 5-Floris Malan aka Malan Swart b. 8 Sep 1960
 5-Cornelius aka Cornèl Swart b. 1 May 1971
 3-Johannes Gabriël aka Johan Beukes b. 2 Oct 1923
 +Anna Christina Elizabeth aka Anna Moolman b. 29 Nov 1913
 4-Johannes Christiaan aka Johannes Beukes b. 28 Feb 1957
 +Johanna Hermiena aka Liefie Swart b. 14 Mar 1958
 +Pieter Paul le Roux aka Piet van der Merwe b. 8 Sep 1900
 2-George John Beattie aka George West b. 8 Jan 1886, d. 6 Aug 1966, Heidehof, Caledon., Caledon
 +Helena Wilhelmina Groenewald
 2-Jan Hendrik aka Johnny West b. 14 Oct 1888, d. 28 Dec 1958, Onrustrivier
 +Helena Wilhelmina Groenewald b. 24 Nov 1886, d. 22 Jun 1968, Onrustrivier
 3-Maria Johanna aka Miempie West b. 13 Sep 1919, d. 23 Nov 1996, Onrustrivier
 +Matthys Johannes aka Thys Brand b. 22 Jun 1917
 4-Jacobus Johannes aka Kobus Brand b. 23 Jun 1945, d. Abt Aug 1945
 4-Jan Hendrik aka Jannie Brand b. 23 Jun 1945, d. 23 Nov 1968
 4-Helena Wilhelmina aka Heleen Brand b. 20 Aug 1950
 +William aka Willy Millar b. 28 Jan 1940
 5-Graham Kan aka Graham Millar b. 24 Mar 1973
 5-Clyde Albert aka Clyde Millar b. 22 Nov 1974
 5-Rowena Yvette aka Rowena Millar b. 28 Jul 1980
 4-Catherina Elizabeth aka René Brand b. 22 May 1958
 3-Cornelia Wilhelmina aka Connie West b. 8 Oct 1925
 +Royal Schalk aka Roy Hoon b. 7 Dec 1923
 4-Linda Elma aka Linda Hoon b. 4 Oct 1950
 +Christiaan Gerald aka Chris Pedersen b. 22 Apr 1947, d. 21 Sep 1979, Johannesburg
 5-Sean Christiaan aka Sean Pedersen b. 9 Nov 1970
 5-Mark Norman aka Mark Pedersen b. 4 Feb 1972
 5-Leanne aka Leanne Pedersen b. 1 Jan 1975
 4-Desiré aka Desiré Hoon b. 14 Jul 1956
 +John Blackey aka John Schonfield b. 22 Nov 1947
 5-John Schalk aka Schalk Schonfield b. 25 Jun 1978
 4-Michael aka Michael Hoon b. 21 Jul 1958, d. 3 Oct 1981

CHAPTER 19

James West a businessman of Standerton (1854-?)

James aka Jim West, the fourth child of George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon, was born on Friday the 23th June 1854 in Caledon where his father George was a constable and mason at that time. James was baptized on the 20th of August 1854 in the Parish of Caledon by the Rev H M M Wilshere. The "Sponsors" (witnesses) were U Rainsford, H Rainsford and J White. It is unsure to whom James was named. Our West ancestor George John Beatty West, as shown in Chapter seven, felt strongly that the Cairncross and Nesbitt family names of his mother Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt should remain among his descendants. The name James was very common and well known in the Nesbitt family. It seems that George named his son James after their ancestor James Nesbitt (1610 – 1654) who emigrated before 1640 from Scotland and died at the Aughry Castle near Drumod, Ireland. This James Nesbitt had a son Captain James Nesbitt (c 1653-1696). Captain James Nesbitt also had a son major James Nesbitt (1688-1771). The Nesbitts lived in the area of Drumod, Derrycarne and Aghamore (Ahermore) not far from Cloone. Eleanore Wilhelmina Nesbitt's father, Henry Nesbitt was from Aghamore (Ahermore) in the same area.

The younger siblings of James West called him "Boetie Jim". Often, as in his letter of 24th December 1894, his younger brother Cairncross, referred to him as "Brother Jim". During the Boer War (11 Oct – 31 May 1902) when James was about 46 years old, the three brothers, James West, George John Beattie West and Cairncross Nesbitt West as well as their half sister Elizabeth Petronella aka Daisy West all lived in or near Vryburg.

In his letter of 24th July 1900, nine months since the war had started, Boetie Jim wrote to Daisy about a vacancy for a teacher at Brussels siding near Vryburg.

Vryburg July 24th 1900

Miss Daisy West, Greyton

Dear Daisy

I hereby beg to inform you that J.V. Cairncross have succeed in getting you a situation as teacher on a farm about 10 or 12 miles from town called Brussels siding pa will be able to tell you all about it. The man wants you to teach 5 children from for forty pounds a year. Of course free board and lodging will be provided for, and they are well to do and very respectable people, the only fault I see is, that salary is rather low but to make a start. I think you must accept it. For when you are once known you will always have a better chance and your pay increased, we wire to you today stating particulars as near as possible.

To tell the truth we will be very glad if you will accept the offer as the place is close to town you can easily come into us every Friday evening by train and go out again on Monday mornings. I mean that is if you prefer doing so, in case you may be short of cash only write and...."

[Unfortunately the last part of this letter is lost.]

Daisy applied for the post and taught at Brussels Siding for a while. In a letter to Daisy, her father George John Beatty West, gave the address on the envelope as: *To Miss Daisy West, c/o James West Esquire, Vryburg, Bechuanaland.* One must differentiate between Bechuanaland Protectorate and British Bechuanaland. Bechuanaland Protectorate is the Botswana of today while British Bechuanaland refers to a small Boere republic of about 365 by 365 kms which existed from 30 Sept 1885 until 16 Nov 1895, with Vryburg as its capital. It is interesting to note that our ancestor George John Beatty West still referred to Vryburg as situated in Bechuanaland in 1900!

During 1900 -1901 James was a property owner as indicated by the Esquire behind his name on the envelope.

The two pro British West brothers, Boetie Jim and Cairncross, were both involved in the cattle business. On 31st July 1900, Cairncross wrote from Vryburg to their father in Greyton that Jim was involved with the buying of 3 spans of cattle for £12-10-0 but because the oxen were so small they were going to use them in "Government service". In the same letter he also mentioned: ". . . a sale of 400 head of cattle, and about 400 sheep & goats and 100 donkeys" and that "Brother Jim is still in town he sold all his sheep and I suppose is ready to proceed to the Transvaal as soon as things are settled". Cairncross also mentioned the reason for the sale where brother Jim planned to sell all his sheep and would then proceed to the Transvaal. "As it is very dangerous to keep a large stock on hand on account of the Kaffirs stealing and also the Boers. You cannot altogether trust them yet. So we have decided to sell them if we got a fair price".

Cairncross wrote to their father on Wednesday 29th August 1900: "P.S. Jim left here for Kimberley about 6 weeks ago and I never heard a word of him yet I don't know what became of him".

On Friday 14th December 1900, five months before his death, his father George wrote to Daisy in Vryburg: "We have neither seen nor heard anything about Brother Jim indeed it is altogether a mystery to me about him. Surely he could have written if it was inconvenient for him to come this way at present".

Their father George again referred to Boetie Jim and Cairncross in his letter of Monday the 14th January 1901 to Daisy: *I wrote to you shortly after New Year stating that brothers Jim and Cairney were here and they were kind enough to done for me I mention it again now in - - - - the letter might have miscarried I have not heard from them either of them since they left".*

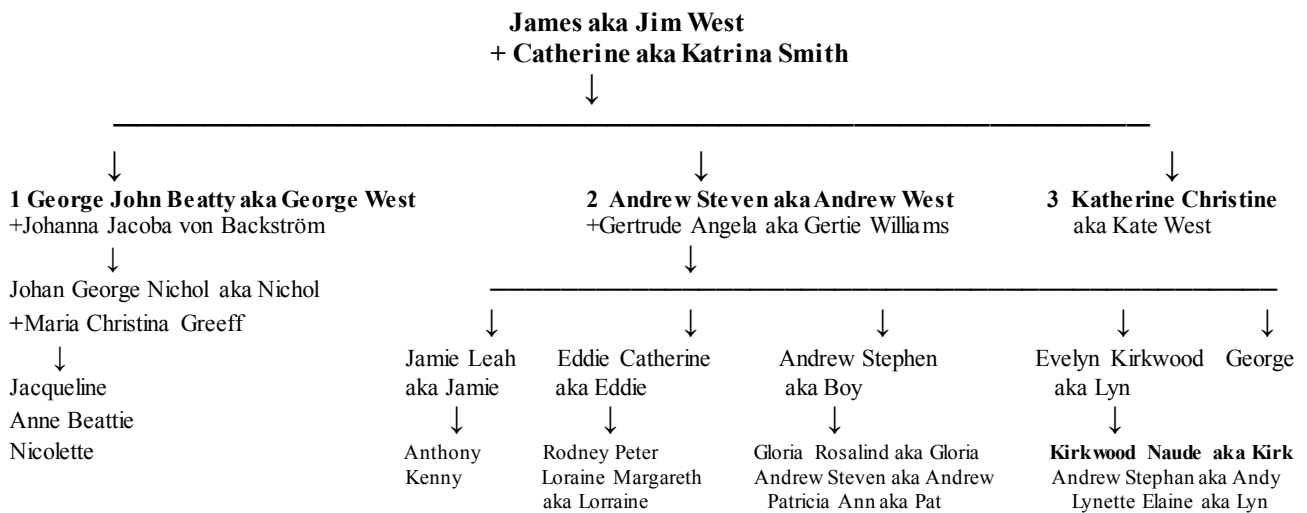
George wrote to his daughter Daisy on Sunday 10th March 1901, two months before his death: "I have been waiting with Christian patience for the long promised letter from Brother Jim but have got nothing as yet if I am able to hold out sitting I will try and write to him but today I cant as I cant sit for long at a time".

Boetie Jim was married to Catherine aka Katrina Smith. On the 10th October 1900, George wrote to Daisy: "Give my best love to brother Jim and his wife and family also to sister (Cillie?) and the little ones and believe me as always your affectionate father G.J.B. West". His father sent love to his daughters in law, Jim's wife Catherine and Cecile, the wife of Cairncross. He called Cecile "Cillie" in this letter. On 21st November 1900 he again wrote to Daisy: "Give my best love to Jim's wife and children and accept the Love from your fond & affectionate old father". On 10th March 1901, two months before his death, in his last letter to Daisy her father wrote: "Best love to Jim if you see him and his wife and family and believe me your fond and affectionate father".

After the Boer War the three West brothers Jim, Cairncross and William Claudius left the Vryburg area for Transvaal. Jim and Cairncross became involved in a transport business in Standerton and William Claudius settled in Fordsburg.

Boetie Jim West and his wife Catherine aka Katrina Smith had three children:
George John Beatty aka George West,
Andrew Steven aka Andrew West and
Katherine Christine aka Kate West.

Diagram of James West and Katrina Smith with descendants:



1 George John Beattie West, Boetie Jim and Catherine's eldest son, married Johanna Jacoba von Backström from Standerton. George John Beattie West was the town clerk (municipal manager) of Standerton. The couple had only one child: Johan George Nichol aka Nichol West. Nichol was married to Maria Christina aka Chrissie Greeff of Standerton. Nichol and Chrissie had three children: Jacqueline married to Kenneth Joseph Lester, Anne Beattie married to Winston Henry Ritchie and Nicolette who was married to Louis Jacobus Koekemoer. The Koekemoers lived in Standerton.

2 Andrew Steven aka Andrew West, was Boetie Jim and Catherine's second son. I received most of the information about Andrew and his descendants from his grandson, the highly talented and energetic Kirkwood Naude aka Kirk West, now living in Port Elizabeth.

Andrew Steven West was rewarded with the South African Medal after serving in the Boer War. He was a miller who stayed in different towns such as Standerton and Leeudoringstad.. He married a Roman Catholic lady, Gertrude Angela aka Gertie Williams. She was a music teacher. Andrew Steven and Gertie, had five children: Jamie Leah aka Jamie, Eddie Catherine aka Eddie, Andrew Steven aka Boy, Evelyn Kirkwood aka Lyn and George.

Jamie Leah West the **eldest child** of Andrew Steven aka Andrew West and Gertie, married George Lenham Hall. In 1952 they lived in Nkana/Kitwe, Zambia where George first worked as a foreman at the mine garage. Later he had his own battery business, Fillards Batteries. Jamie Leah herself ran a very successful secretarial college. They also leased on a 99 year basis the farm Sweetwaters. Jamie Leah died of cancer in 1969 in Cape Town. George and Jamie Leah had two sons, Anthony aka Tony and Kenny. Anthony Hall was a motorbike racing enthusiast, became the champion of Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and later he raced in the Isle of Man TT speedway. He and his wife, Barbara Anne Hartley from Zambia later emigrated to Melbourne, Australia. Jamie Leah and George's other son Kenny Hall was also a motorbike enthusiast. He owned a successful air conditioning business for cars and was a well liked person in Port Elizabeth. He died in a motorbike accident about 1997/98 when he tried to avoid children on the road.

Andrew Steven and Gertie's **second child** was Eddie Catherine aka Eddie West. Eddie was highly intelligent and was only 15 when she passed grade 12 in 1930. She was too young to be allowed to become a nurse so she started working in an office. She married Christopher Arthur aka Chris

Fletcher. They had two children, Rodney Peter and Lorraine Margareth aka Lorraine. Rodney was or became deaf. He married Phyllis Mary Honeywill. Lorraine married John Alexander aka Sandy Inglis. After Eddie's death on the 28th July 1977, Chris stayed with their daughter Lorraine in Port Alfred until his death.

Andrew Steven and Gertie's **third child** was Andrew Steven aka Boy West. Boy was born in Ermelo on the 8th September 1916. He played piano, but later became a motor and aircraft mechanic. On the 20th May 1943 he was discharged from the the army because of Anxiety Neuroses. Andrew Steven aka Boy married Doreen Rosalind aka Doreen Brink. They had three children: Gloria Rosalind aka Gloria, Andrew Steven aka Andrew and Patricia Ann aka Pat.

Gloria Rosalind aka Gloria, the eldest child of Boy and Doreen married Clive Frank aka Clive Scholtz. They had two children, Laurie Anne Scholtz and Barry Ward Scholtz. Laurie Anne and her family live in England. Barry Ward ended his life during September 2007.

Boy West and Doreen's second child Andrew Steven aka Andrew married Sharon Arlene aka Sharon.

Andrew and Sharon had two children: Craig Richard aka Craig and Lindsay Ann aka Lindsay. Craig is a qualified chartered accountant. Lindsay is divorced. She ran the Comrades marathon and was among the top ten. With Andrew's death at the age of 66 he was the CEO of a company.

The third child of Boy and Doreen was Patricia Ann aka Pat West. She married Michael aka Mick Devito-French who died about 2009. Pat and Mick had three children: Summerly, Samuel aka Sam and Saskia. Summerly is in a relationship with Markus Kusterman. They have two children, Taman and Elodie. Both Summerly and her mother Pat resides in England. They are very interested in the West history and specially came to Oudtshoorn to look at all the West archive material. They were a great source of encouragement.

After Andrew Steven aka Boy & Doreen got divorced, Boy married Cornelia Gerber with whom he had two talented sons, David West and Kevin Wade West who both graduated at UCT. David has a BCom degree and works for ESCOM while Kevin is an Investment Adviser.

Andrew & Gertie's **fourth child** was Evelyn Kirkwood aka Lyn West. Lyn West was born in Ermelo and grew up in the Afrikaans community. He was often the only English speaking player at rugby practices. He attended Marist Brothers College but left school at the age of 15 presumably because of his father's poor health. Lyn was married to Marjorie Elaine aka Marjorie Naude. He became a Radio Technician during WW2 in North Africa and was sent back to become a pilot. Lyn's son Kirkwood Naude aka Kirk West still has his father's pilot log books in his possession.

Lyn flew 12 different types of aircraft and was shot down on 1st December 1943. He was a Prisoner of War until 22nd April 1945. For one month he was held hostage by the Russians. During 1952 he was sent to Korea but because of the agreement with the Americans that no one who was previously in Russian hands should be sent to Korea, he resigned 24 hours before departure. He started his career in the copper mines in Nkana, Kitwe in Zambia.

Back in South Africa Lyn and Marjorie West had a general dealer business and farm at Floukraal between Aliwal North and Jamestown. They also had shops in Lesotho, Sydney-on-Vaal near Kimberley, Kaapmuiden and Barberton. At Msauli he became a diamond driller and was involved in the green keeping of the golf course. He became the manager of the Nelspruit golf club where he and his wife Majorie were held up by robbers. Luckily the robbers' pistol jammed. The couple left Nelspruit for Ermelo as the green keeper of the golf course. He liked sailing and birdwatching.

Lyn and Marjorie retired in Cape Town where he joined the Milnerton golf club with a bumper sticker "*Work is for people who do not know how to play golf!*". Two years after he had a stroke he

died of a heart attack in February 1994.

Lyn and Marjorie had three children:

Kirkwood Naude aka Kirk West, Andrew Stephan aka Andy West and Lynette Elaine aka Lyn West. Lyn and Marjorie's eldest son Kirkwood Naude aka Kirk West married Ingrid Elizabeth aka Ingrid Kreft whom he met in Ovamboland. She is a pharmacist. Their two children, Martin and Philip, was born in Nelspruit but educated in Namibia. Both the children obtained their MSc degrees. Kirk is a keen sportsman who was involved with cricket and was Namibia's Coach of the Year. He was the chairman of the Port Elizabeth Photographic Association. He has an Associate Membership of the Photographic Society of SA and is also an Honors Laureate photographer at club level. He is a specialist in macro photography, especially wild flowers, insects, snakes and reptiles. Kirk supplied me with most of this family information.

Lyn and Marjorie's second child, Andrew Stephen aka Andy West was a highly talented school boy. Since 1980 his family could unfortunately not make any contact with him.

Their third and youngest child, Lynette Elaine aka Lyn West, married Michael Edward aka Mike Well-Beloved. Lyn and Mike had two children. They are divorced. Lyn has a good position at Barclays Bank in Johannesburg. Her mother Marjorie lives with her.

Andrew Steven aka Andrew and Gertie's **5th child**, George died as an infant in Ermelo.

Unfortunately **Andrew Steven aka Andrew West**, the second son of Boetie Jim and Catherine, had a problem to control the use of alcohol. He died on 19th July 1939 at the age of 50 in Krugersdorp. His wife Gertrude Angela aka Gertie born Williams died on the 1st July 1968 in Pretoria.

3 Katherine Christine aka Kate West, Boetie Jim and Catherine's third child became quite a character in Standerton and was known even as far as Nelspruit as "*third gear Kate*". She got this nickname from the comical habit of driving her old Morris Minor in third gear through the streets of Standerton. When people standing in the streets of Standerton, heard the well known noise of the Morris, they would say: "*Just watch out en get out of the way, here comes third gear Kate*". Kate was a highly talented music teacher. She remained a spinster till her death in Standerton at the age of 90.

Boetie Jim and his wife Catherine lived for the rest of their lives in Standerton where both of them were buried.

Descendants of Jim West and Katrina Smith:

1 James aka Jim West b. 23 Jun 1854, c. 20 Aug 1854, Holy Trinity Church Caledon by Rev H M W Wilshere, d. Standerton
+Catherine aka Katrina Smith d. Standerton

2-George John Beattie West b. 7 Jul 1883, d. 7 Feb 1956, Standerton, bur. Standerton.

+Johanna Jacoba von Backström b. 30 Jun 1884, d. 5 Feb 1968, Standerton, bur. Standerton

3-Johan George Nichol aka Nichol West b. 23 Nov 1913

+Maria Christina aka Chrissie Greeff b. 16 Nov 1913, d. 9 Feb 1967, Standerton.

4-Jacqueline aka Jacqueline West b. 3 Feb 1936

+Kenneth Joseph Lester b. 31 Aug 1930

5-Antony aka Antony Lester b. 9 Jan 1961

5-Kevin Nichol aka Kevin Lester b. 23 Oct 1966

4-Anne Beattie aka Anne West b. 2 Feb 1940

+Winston Henry aka Winston Ritchie b. 28 Jun 1935

5-Neville Raymond aka Neville Ritchie b. 28 Sep 1963

5-Sharon Christelle aka Sharon Ritchie b. 30 Apr 1965

5-Cindy Catherine aka Cindy Ritchie b. 15 Jun 1967

5-Winston John aka Winston Ritchie b. 26 Jul 1972

4-Nicolette aka Nicky West b. 10 Aug 1944, Standerton

+Louis Jacobus aka Louis Koekemoer b. 19 Apr 1944
 5-Heloise aka Heloise Koekemoer b. 12 Jan 1968
 5-Louis-Jacques aka Louis-Jacques Koekemoer b. 18 May 1970
 2-Andrew Stephen aka Andrew West b. 4 Oct 1885, d. 19 Jul 1939, Krugersdorp, bur. Krugersdorp
 +Gertrude Angela aka Gertie Williams b. 7 Apr 1884, d. 1 Jul 1968, Pretoria, bur. Pretoria
 3-Jamie Leah aka Jamie West b. 17 Mar 1913, d. 1969, Cape Town
 +George Lenham Hall b. 4 Nov 1913, d. Australia
 4-Anthony Lenham aka Tony Hall b. 16 Dec 1947
 +Barbara Anne Hartley b. 3 Apr 1946
 5-Amver Jaconi aka Amber Hall b. 19 Mar 1977
 5-Laureen Jamie aka Laureen Hall b. 6 Mar 1979
 +Elise Doon de Mortigni b. 11 Feb 1947
 5-Joshua Lenham aka Joshua Hall b. 4 Feb 1982
 4-Kenneth aka Kenny Hall d. Cir 1997, Port Elizabeth
 3-Eddie Catherine aka Eddie West b. 3 Jan 1915, d. 28 Jul 1977, Port Alfred
 +Christopher Arthur aka Chris Fletcher b. 1 Jun 1912
 4-Rodney Peter aka Rodney Fletcher b. 22 Feb 1936
 +Phyllis Mary aka Phillis Honeywill b. 21 Feb 1942
 5-Marie-Lou aka Marie-Lou Fletcher b. 8 Jan 1964
 5-Peter Andrew aka Peter Fletcher b. 30 Mar 1965
 5-Mary-Anne aka Mary-Anne Fletcher b. 10 May 1968
 5-David John aka David Fletcher b. 24 Apr 1970
 4-Lorraine Margareth aka Lorraine Fletcher b. 10 Aug 1941
 +John Alexander aka Sandy Inglis b. 4 May 1937
 5-John Alexander aka John Inglis b. 12 Dec 1960
 5-Ian Bryce aka Ian Inglis b. 20 Feb 1964
 +Melanie Henry
 6-Taryn Inglis b. Cir 1992
 6-Andrea Inglis b. Cir 1995
 5-Bridget Sandra aka Bridget Inglis b. 26 Sep 1969
 +Kit Beaton
 6-Camryn Beaton b. 1 Feb 2001
 6-Chelsea Beaton b. 20 Sep 2006
 3-Andrew Stephan aka Boy West b. 8 Sep 1916, d. 1 Mar 1981, Cape Town
 +Doreen Rosalind aka Doreen Brink b. 6 Aug 1919
 4-Gloria Rosalind aka Gloria West b. 16 Mar 1939
 +Clive Frank aka Clive Sholtz b. 25 Dec 1935
 5-Laurie Anne aka Laurie Scholtz b. 22 Sep 1958
 +Gary Anderson aka Gary Barnes b. 29 Jun 1956
 6-Warren Clive aka Warren Barnes b. 13 Sep 1983
 5-Barry Ward aka Barry Scholtz b. 17 Feb 1964
 4-Andrew Stephen aka Andrew West b. 8 Mar 1940, d. Abt 2006
 +Sharon Arlene aka Sharon b. 15 Oct 1940
 5-Craig Richard aka Craig West b. 9 Jun 1964
 5-Lindsay Ann aka Lindsay West b. 29 Aug 1968
 +Samuel van Aswegen
 4-Patricia Anne aka Pat West b. 11 Jul 1948
 +Michael aka Mick Devito-French b. 29 Jun 1947, d. Abt 2009
 5-Summerly aka Summerly Devito-French b. 3 Jul 1976
 +Markus aka Markus Kustermann b. 2 Oct 1978
 6-Taman aka Tam Kustermann b. 15 Nov 2006, London
 6-Elodie aka Elodie Kustermann b. 27 Jan 2011
 5-Samuel aka Sam Devito-French b. 14 Dec 1979
 5-Saskia aka Saskia Devito-French b. 9 May 1984, London
 +Daniel aka Dan White b. 23 Jun 1962
 6-Patrick aka Patch White b. 27 Jun 2008
 6-Thomas aka Tom White b. 1 Mar 2010
 +Cornelia Gerber b. Cir 1928, C 2009
 4-David West b. 11 Mar 1964
 +Natalie van As b. 17 Oct 1970
 5-Jarryd Nathan aka Jarryd West b. 10 Jun 1994
 5-Hayley West b. Cir 1997
 4-Kevin Wade aka Wade West b. 6 Jun 1967
 +Vanessa
 5-Jean West b. Cir 1983
 5-Chanli West b. Cir 1990

5-Danica West b. Cir 1993
 5-Gabriel West b. Cir 2004
 5-Lucien West b. Cir 2004
 3-Evelyn Kirkwood aka Lyn West b. 28 Jul 1920
 +Marjorie Elaine aka Marjorie Naude b. 8 Sep 1921, d. Cir May 2012
 4-Kirkwood Naude aka Kirk West b. 29 Apr 1946
 +Ingrid Elizabeth aka Ingrid Krefl b. 13 Sep 1948
 5-Martin aka Martin West b. 6 Mar 1980
 +Carla aka Carla Freeman b. 22 Jun 1979
 6-Grace Isabella West b. 31 Aug 2010
 5-Philip aka Philip West b. 2 Oct 1981
 4-Andrew Stephan aka Andy West b. 25 Sep 1948
 4-Lynette Elaine aka Lyn West b. 25 Mar 1958
 +Michael Edward aka Mike Well-Beloved b. 21 Feb 1956
 5-Amanda aka Amanda Well-Beloved b. 21 Feb 1977
 +Robin Kilian
 6-Katelyn aka Katelyn Kilian b. Cir 2012
 5-Brett aka Brett Well-Beloved b. 13 Nov 1979
 +Brooks (see Lynette Elaine aka Lyn West on page 2)
 3-George aka George West b. 1922, d. As child
 2-Katherine Christine aka Kate West b. 20 Feb 1892, d. 18 Nov 1982, Standerton

CHAPTER 20

Mary Jane West the ancestor of more than 600 descendants (1856-1937)

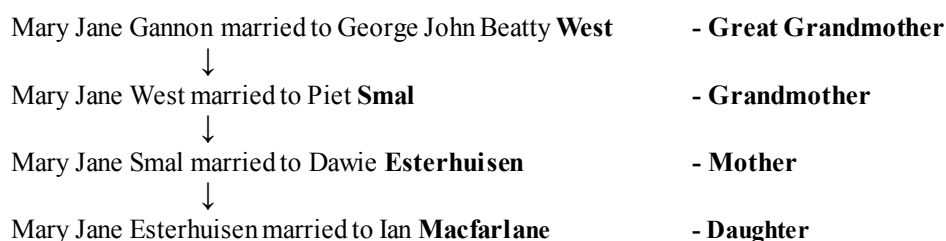


Mary Jane, the fifth child of George West and Mary Jane Gannon was born on Wednesday the 30th January 1856 in Caledon where her father was a mason at that time. She was named after her mother Mary Jane Gannon. She grew up in Villiersdorp where her father was a constable and later a mason as well as a part time farmer.

The names of Mary Jane Gannon, her daughter Mary Jane Smal, her granddaughter Mary Jane Esterhuisen and her great granddaughter Mary Jane Macfarlane could become very confusing. To distinguish between them we refer to them on their surnames.

LEFT: Mary Jane West b 1856

Diagram of four generations of Mary Jane(s):



At the age of 18 Mary Jane West was in a relationship with her nephew, George John Beattie aka George Raats of Villiersdorp. She ended the relationship because they were nephew and niece. George died of inflammation 6 months after Mary Jane ended their relationship.

With the death of her mother on the 16th June 1879 at Hoopjiesrivier, Mary Jane West was 23 years old. On Monday the 30th October 1882, three years after her mother's death and two years after her father's second marriage, the 26 year old Mary Jane West married the then 25 year old farmer, Petrus Johannes aka Piet Smal from Breëvlei, near Tesselaarsdal.

Piet was born on the 11th August 1857. His daughter Mary Jane Esterhuisen, described him in a document of 1958 as a succesfull, strong, disciplined and hard working farmer. He bought the farms Sandfontein and Kraligen near Breëvlei in the Caledon district. During the Boer War he sold the farms and bought erven at Caledon where he built a house near the graveyard. Later he bought more erven and built houses which he rented out. Piet farmed with vegetables, grain, sheep and everlastings (sewejaartjies). The everlastings grew in the mountain and every year up to 30 workers came to pick and dry the flowers. He then sold it to a Mr Johnny Walsh of Caledon. The everlastings were exported to Germany. It was before the towns Riviersonderend and Bot River existed. The only big shops in Caledon were Laing and the Walsh brothers. B P Laing was

still a small shop.

Mary Jane Esterhuisen wrote in *"The West Family"* about her mother, Mary Jane Smal: *"In the beginning his father was very rich, but he lost a great deal of money through shares. That is why my mother (Mary Jane Smal born West) was so against shares up to her death". "His father"* refers to William Claudius West the father of George John Beatty West. Perhaps her fear of shares was the reason why Mary Jane's husband Piet Smal bought land and houses in Caledon which he rented out.

In 1958 Mary Jane Esterhuisen wrote from her home in 36B, Mill Street, Caledon about her mother Mary Jane Smal: *"Ons was 'n baie gelukkige huisgesin. My vader was baie streng met ons maar verder baie goed. Ons het ook 'n dierbare moeder gehad. Sy was baie sag en baie beskeie. Ag, kon ons maar almal haar voorbeeld volg. Ons was almal baie christelik opgebring. Dans, kaart speel en drank was nooit in ons huis toegelaat nie. Ons het net pret gehad by onself – alles eenvoudig maar onskuldig".* (We were a very happy family. My father was very strict with us but very kind. We also had a dear mother. She was very kind and humble. Oh, if all of us could follow her example. We received a very strong christian upbringing. Dancing, playing cards and drinking were not allowed in our house. We just had fun by ourselves – everything was so homely and innocent).

The manuscript of Mary Jane Esterhuisen of 1958 (Appendix 2 to this chapter) is worth reading. It gives the reader an insight in the tough way the Smal daughters grew up and how hard they worked. They attended school at Diepgat, an hour's walk from their home. Daily after school they had to bake up to twelve loaves of bread for the family and farm workers. The daily washing was ironed through the night. Since there were no sons when Mary Jane Esterhuisen was young, she and her sister Bella often had to work on the lands. Sometimes they had to milk the cows before going to school at Diepgat.

Mary Jane and Piet Smal had five daughters before their first son Hendrik Hans Jacob aka Hennie was born.

The eleven children of Mary Jane and Piet Smal:

- 1 Mary Jane** aka **Jane Smal** b 08 October 1883
+Dawid Wilhelmus Esterhuisen
- 2 Isabella Lodewina** aka **Bellie Smal** b 22 August 1885
+Henry James Champion
- 3 Ellen** aka **Etta Smal** b 08 August 1887
- 4 Anna Catharina Magdalena** aka **Anna or Smallie Smal** b 06 April 1890
+Johannes Jacobus aka Japie Blom
- 5 Sarah Johanna** aka Sarah Smal b 08 June 1892
+Johannes Jacobus Swanepoel aka Hansie Langenhoven
- 6 Hendrik Hans Jacob** aka **Hennie Smal** b 29 Augustus 1893
+Margaretha Elizabeth aka Poppa de Wet
- 7 George John Beattie** aka **George Smal** b 26 October 1894
+Michael Josias aka Gielie Francken
- 8 Petrus Johannes** aka **Piet Smal** b 15 April 1897
+Hester Anna Woutrina aka Hester Rabie
- 9 William Claudius** aka **Willie Smal** b 28 May 1898
+Annorina Josephina Wilhelmina aka Annie van Deventer

10 The twins **Francois Daniël** aka **Fransie Smal** b 24 June 1899 and

11 **Eleanor Wilhelmina** aka **Ellen Smal** b 24 June 1899
+Jacobus Charl du Toit

1 **Mary Jane aka Jane**, the eldest daughter of Mary Jane and Piet Smal, married Dawid Wilhelmus aka Dawie Esterhuisen with whom she had five daughters and one son:

Mary Jane aka Jane married to Ian Kenneth Macfarlane,
Lovina Elizabeth aka Lovine,
Isabella aka Isobel married Pieter Wouter Theron,
Margaretha Johanna aka Poenie married Matthys Johannes de Jongh,
Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Liberty married Leonard Sydney aka Leonard Kerwan and
Daniël George aka Niël who died at the age of five.

Her eldest daughter Mary Jane Macfarlane, visited Ireland during 1955. On Saturday the 9th July 1955 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Mary Jane Macfarlane wrote a letter to her mother Mary Jane Esterhuisen in Caledon about her visits to the house in 30 Wexford Street where Mary Jane Gannon lived in 1827, the St Peters Church in Aungier Street where George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon were married and the pub, "*The Bleeding Horse*" where Mary Jane Gannon worked up to 1827. As far as I know, this visit of Mary Jane Macfarlane during 1955, was the first by a descendant of George John Beatty West to Ireland.

The Appendices at the end of this chapter are written accounts by Mary Jane Macfarlane and her mother Mary Jane Esterhuisen, of the stories which were often told. With these written stories I could make the necessary corrections. The five manuscripts referred to are:

Appendix 1: Extracts from a translated letter of Mary Jane Macfarlane during her visit to Ireland in 1955 to her mother Mary Jane Esterhuisen in 36B Meul Street, Caledon.

Appendix 2: Extracts from the translated manuscript by the 75 year old Mary Jane Esterhuisen relating to the West family.

Appendix 3: A few Extracts from the letter written on the 25th July 1961 from 36B Mill Street, Caledon by Mary Jane Macfarlane to Carol-Anne.

Appendix 4: "*Stukkies en Brokkies*" by Mary Jane Macfarlane

Appendix 5: "*The West Family*" by Mary Jane Esterhuisen

Mary Jane and Dawie Esterhuisen lived in Caledon where she died on the 25th August 1962.

2 **Isabella Lodewina aka Bellie**, Mary Jane and Piet Smal's second child, married Henry James aka Callie Champion. The couple had three sons and three daughters:

John Percival aka Percy Champion, Peter John aka Bunny Champion, Mary Iris aka Iris Champion, Jacoba Loise aka KobaChampion, Henry James aka Henry Champion and Isabella Lodewina Champion. Bellie and Callie lived and were buried in Caledon.

3 **Ellen aka Etta** was Mary Jane and Piet Smal's third child. This beautiful girl was named after Mary Jane Smal's grandmother, Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt. She died on the 27th April 1896 at the age of nine from a leakage in her heart. Mary Jane Esterhuisen wrote in 1958 the following about her late sister Etta who was three years younger than herself. "*Die eerste sterfgeval was Ellen (Etta). Sy het gely aan 'n lek hart en is in April 1896 oorlede. Dit was 'n harde slag vir ons almal. Sy was so mooi en maar altyd swak. Omdat sy so sieklik was het sy daardie jaar die eerste keer skool toe gegaan - net vir een kwartaal. Die 7de April het die skool gesluit en daardie dag*

het sy siek geword en op die 27ste is sy oorlede”. (The first death in the family was Ellen (Etta). She suffered from a leakage of her heart and died in April 1896. It was a great shock to all of us. She was so beautiful but always weak. Being so sickly she only went to school that year, only for a quarter. The school closed on the 7th of April and that same day she became ill and died on the 27th. JC)

4 Anna Catharina Magdalena aka Anna or Smallie, Mary Jane and Piet Smal's fourth child married Johannes Jacobus aka Japie Blom. Smallie and Japie had one son and two daughters:

Johannes aka Boet Blom,
Mary Jane aka Sippie Blom and
Hendriena Magdalena aka Hendrien Blom.

It was known that there was a good relationship between Mary Jane Smal's children and her stepmother Lenie West in Greyton. After Mary Jane Smal's halfbrother Benjamin West died in France thirteen weeks before the end of WW1, her daughter Smallie who was also known as Anna, wrote to her step grandmother on 16th August 1918. Anna addressed Lenie five times in this letter, written in Dutch, as “Ouma” (Grandmother):

Erica, Caledon 16.8.18

*Lieve Ouma*¹

Ik wil u hiermede verzekeren van mijn innige deelneming in uw zware verlies. Wij gevoelen allen met u, en het was ons allen en schok toen wij de tyding ontvingen van het afsterven van uw lieve zoon Benjamin.; Doch, lieve Ouma, laten wij proberen om ons zelve te troosten door eraan te gedenken, dat “De Heer is God, en Hij maakt geen fout”.

Lieve Ouma, pa en ma waren net hier toen ik uw brief ontving, en zij hebben mij gevraagd om hun Simpathie ook aan u mee te delen. Moeder had ongelukkig niet de tijd daartoe om aan u te schrijven, en zo had zij mij gevraagd, om aan u te schrijven en te zeggen dat beide zij en vader veel in die dagen aan u denken. Haar hart zegt zij, voelt zeer, als zij aan u denkt.

Ouma, ik was zo spijt dat ik de kaartjes niet Woensdag al aan u kon zenden, maar ik zond het pakje met een van mijn scholieren² naar de post en hij bracht het weer terug, daar er nog eerst 'n “label” moest opkomen; toen hij weer terug ging, was het te laat. Het kost 2/-³ maar ouma u behoeft het niet aan mij te zenden, want ik heb al betaald, en ik weet dat daar in zo 'n tijd veel geld nodig is.

Gee a.u.b. Mijn beste groete aan uw hele familie - Lily⁴, Daisy⁵ en al de anderen, en wil ook mijn Simpathie met hen mee-delen. Ik wil nog aan Minnie⁶ ook schrijven. George⁷ is vandag met die trein na Hansie en Sarah⁸. Mischien gaat hij nog naar Greyton ook. Bellie⁹, haar man heeft ook aangesloten, en beide hij en zijn broer zijn vertrokken naar Potchefstroom. Zij is ook in grote droefheid. Ik voel zo jammer vir haar. Het is hard om achter gelaten te worden met vijf hulpelose kindertjies¹⁰, en tegen het einde van Sept. verwacht zij haar zesde¹¹. Nu, lieve Ouma, ik beb niet meer tijd, en dus wil ik u alles van het beste toewensen.

Met liefde en deelneming Anna”

(Dear Grandmother¹

I herewith want to assure you of my deepest sympathy in your great loss. We all feel with you and were shocked when we heard about the death of your beloved son Benjamin. But, dear Grandmother, let us try and console ourselves by remembering that the Lord is God and He makes no mistakes. Dear Grandmother, father and mother were just visiting here when I received your letter and they asked me to convey their condolences to you. Unfortunately mother did not have the time to write to you and asked me to write and tell you that she and father are thinking of you during these days. She says her heart aches when she think about you. Grandmother, I am so sorry that I could not send the cards on Wednesday. I sent the parcel with one of my scholars² to the post and he brought it back because a label had to be attached. When he went there again it was too late. It cost 2/-³ but Grandmother it is not necessary to

send me the money since I already paid it and I know that during such times much money is needed.

Please give my best regards to your family – Lily⁴, Daisy⁵ and the rest. I want to convey my condolences also to them. I still want to write to Minnie⁶. George⁷ went by train to Hansie and Sarah⁸. Perhaps he will still go to Greyton. Bellie's⁹ husband also joined (the Army). Both he and his brother will leave for Potchefstroom. She is also in great sorrow. I feel so sorry for her. It is very hard to be left with five helpless little children¹⁰ and at the end of September she expects her sixth¹¹. Now dear Grandmother, I have no more time and therefore I wish you all the best.

With love and sympathy Anna)

NOTES:

- 1 Ouma is Ouma Lenie, George J B West's second wife.
- 2 Scholieren – Anna was a school teacher.
- 3 2/- was two shillings, today 20c
- 4 Lily, married to Kas Groenewald, was the half sister of Mary Jane Smal. Lily was an aunt of Anna.
- 5 Daisy, married to Stoffel Groenewald – a half sister of Mary Jane Smal. Daisy, Lily and Mien were sisters.
- 6 Minnie, married to Pieter du Toit – half sister of Mary Jane Smal.
- 7 George was Anna's younger brother married to Gielie Francken.
- 8 Sara, Anna's younger sister and her husband Hansie Langenhoven, farmed at Nethercourt, 15 km from Greyton.
- 9 Bellie – Anna's older sister, married to Callie Champion.
- 10 The eldest of the five, Percy, was 7 years.
- 11 The sixth child of Bellie and Callie was Isabel born 10.10.1918

The school teacher Smallie was also an excellent baker. When King George and Queen Mary visited South Africa during 1947, they enjoyed the "*melktert, koeksisters and soetkoekies*" (milk tart, koeksisters and biscuits) which Smallie prepared for the occasion. When friends sent her a recipe, she always kept it in the original envelope with the address and stamp date. In that way she always knew the origin of the recipe. Smallie and Japie were buried in Cape Town.

5 Sarah Johanna aka Sarah was Mary Jane and Piet Smal's fifth child. Sarah and her younger brother Hendrik Hans Jacob aka Hennie Smal and their families were not just family and neighbours, but also best friends. Sarah and her husband Johannes Jacobus Swanepoel aka Hansie Langenhoven lived at Nethercourt while Hennie and his wife Margareth Elizabeth aka Poppa de Wet lived at Schuitsberg. These two farms were between Greyton and Riviersonderend adjacent to the Sonderend River. I grew up on the farm Cloone House situated between the Sonderend River and the Sonderend Mountains. It was within 5 kms from both Nethercourt and Schuitsberg.

Since the primary school at Nethercourt had only five children and would be closed, it was arranged that I would attend the school there so that it could remain open till the end of 1944. I can still remember the names of the six pupils in this school: Sarah's two youngest sons Eliza Marthinus aka Les Langenhoven, Daniël Johannes aka Dennis Langenhoven, her brother Hennie Smal's two youngest children Mary Jane aka Jeanne Smal and Henry Eric aka Eric Smal and Kosie Roux from the farm The Oaks and myself the then eight year old Jaco Coetzee from Clune House, today Soetmelksvlei.

I stayed for six months in the Langenhovens' house at Nethercourt. Although Sara, Hennie Smal and I were cousins, I called them aunt Sarah and uncle Hennie, since their mother Mary Jane Smal and my mother Susie were sisters. Mary Jane Smal was already 40 years old when my mother Susie, her youngest sister, was born. Sarah was four years older than my mother, her aunt Susie!

Sarah and Hansie treated me the same as their son Dennis who was only 18 days my junior.

Dennis and I shared the same bedroom. Eric, Dennis and I were for those six months like three brothers. We smoked geese dung, stole tobacco from uncle Lukas Havenga and cigarettes from Dennis's elder brothers. We usually sat in the back of Eric's father, uncle Hennie Smal's Buick when he drove through the camps to inspect the sheep. We always admired uncle Hennie's beautiful horses, his big and 110% clean farmhouse and gossiped with pride about uncle Hennie being so rich. He was a highly successful horse breeder and farmer who served on the Divisional council.

Uncle Hansie had only one leg and had a special way of talking on the telephone, especially with his neighbour brother-in-law, Hennie Smal. He would gesticulate with his hand while describing on the phone where he ploughed that day or in which camp he put his sheep. We watched him while sniggering in our hands.

The small Primary School at Nethercourt with its six children was situated next to the road from Soetmelksvlei to Krige railway station. Eric and Dennis always teased me when my father passed with his brand new green 1942 model Chev lorry loaded with 30 bags of wheat (koring). Every time, yes every time, exactly at the same spot my father would change the Chev from third to second gear. Those years the gears were not synchronized like today's vehicles and would creak "gh gh.... gh.... gh.... gh ghghgh" as my father who learned to drive at the age of 50, was struggling to double clutch the Chev to get into second gear!

Sarah Smal and Hansie Langenhoven had ten children: Mary Jane Langenhoven, Johan Godfried Fabricius aka Jan Langenhoven, Petrus Johannes aka Pikkie Langenhoven, Martha Magdalena aka Lena Langenhoven, Sarah Johanna aka Sheila Langenhoven, Johannes Jacobus aka Hannes Langenhoven, Hendrik Johannes aka Pen Langenhoven, Eliza Marthinus aka Les Langenhoven, Isabel Iris aka Isabel Langenhoven and Daniël Johannes aka Dennis Langenhoven.

Mary Jane Langenhoven was married to Benjamin Matthys aka Ben Wright. Ben was a school teacher at Oakdale Agricultural School, Riversdale.

Sarah and Hansie's son Petrus Johannes aka Pikkie, was killed during WWII on the 22nd May 1942 in Lybia where he was buried. It is told that the Allied soldiers were taken by surprise by the German Army. When they took flight Pikkie was in the front of a truck carrying a tank. An accident happened and the tank pushed forward causing his death.

6 Hendrik Hans Jacob aka Hennie Smal, Mary Jane and Piet Smal's sixth child, and his wife Margaretha Elizabeth aka Poppa de Wet had four children:

Sarah Susanna aka Esmé Smal,
Pieter aka Piet Smal,
Mary Jane aka Jeanne Smal and
Henry Eric aka Eric Smal.

Esmé's husband, Johannes Jacobus Francois Joubert, a school teacher at the Worcester School for the Deaf and children with hearing disabilities, received his doctorate degree for his studies about these children.

Piet was a highly intelligent and outstanding student. More than ten years after Piet finished his school studies at the De Villiers Graaff High School at Villiersdorp his brother Eric was continually reminded by the teachers about Piet's academic performances.

Mary Jane aka Jeanne was the first head girl of the Huis van den Berg school hostel in Caledon. She specialized in helping children with speech problems. Jeanne married Mr Fick who farmed at Nooitgedacht near Tesselaarsdal.

Eric and I were room mates in the school hostel, Malherbe House, in Villiersdorp. He was highly intelligent. Unfortunately some of the teachers continually compared him with his eldest brother Piet which discouraged him. He lost all interest and developed a resistance against his studies. However he became a very successful farmer. He married the outstanding Helena

Catharina aka Lana Milne. I can write books about those six months with the Langenhoven and Smal families at Nethercourt and Schuistsberg and the year at Malherbe House, Villiersdorp when Eric was my room mate.

7 George John Beattie aka George Smal, Mary Jane and Piet Smal's seventh child, married Michael Josias aka Gielie Francken. He farmed at Fairview between Shaw's Mountain and Hermanus. George and Gielie had five children: Petrus Johannes aka Piet, Cornelia Johanna aka Connie, Mary Jane aka Jane, Daniël Petrus aka Danie and Michiel Josias aka Gilda.

Gilda studied medicine at UCT. She told me how she and her twelve year old brother Danie gave my wife Mara Matthee who was then about two years old, salt when she wanted sugar to eat. Mara's father Pierre Matthee stayed on Piet Smal, George's brother's farm as a sub farmer or share cropper who planted crops on the farms of both the Smal brothers. Mara's mother Gerty Reynolds, when she was young, took care of the Smal children. She said that George, Gielie and the children always treated her with much respect.

8 Petrus Johannes aka Piet Smal, Mary Jane and Piet Smal's eight child, married Hester Anna Woutrina aka Hester Rabie. They lived and farmed at Vioolskloof where my wife, Mara's parents lived and where Mara was born and spent the first two years of her life. Piet and Hester had eight children:

Petrus Johannes aka Pikkie Smal married to Johanna Maria aka Joyce Milne,
Aletta Susanna Smal who died at the age of 3 months,
Jacobus Theunissen Rabie aka Rabie Smal who married Isabella Frederika aka Issie du Preez,
Hendrik Johannes aka Derrick Smal who married Hester Catharina aka Rina Marais,
Mary Jane aka Mary Smal who married Hercules Morkel aka Morkel de Villiers,
Schalk Johannes aka Schalk Smal who married Aletta Petronella aka Letta Hattingh,
Aletta Maree aka Letta Smal who married Daniël Jacobus aka Danie Theron and
George John Beattie Smal who married Anee aka Anee Walker.
Piet and Hester were buried in Caledon.

9 William Claudius aka Willie Smal was Mary Jane and Piet Smal's ninth child, He married Annorina Josephina Wilhelmina aka Annie van Deventer. Willie farmed at Rietfontein. He and Annie had twelve children: Sarah Susanna aka Sadie Smal, Pieter Johannes aka Pieter Smal, Chrisjan Lambert aka Chrisjan Smal, William Claudius aka Claude Smal, Servaas Daniël aka Servaas Smal, Mary Jane aka Jane Smal, Josephina Wilhelmina aka Josephine Smal, Hendrik Jacobus aka Henry Smal, George John Beattie aka Beat Smal, Catherina Elizabeth aka Cathy Smal, Cairncross Nesbitt aka Kerrie Smal and Unid May aka Unid Smal.

Henry and Cathy did research about the Smal family from as far back as 1735 when the teacher Johan George Smal came to the Cape. Henry and Cathy's studies gave insight and helped to understand where the different Smal families farmed in the Caledon district.

10 Francois Daniël aka Fransie and Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Ellen, the twins, were born on the 24th of June 1899, three years after the death of their sister Ellen aka Etta (child no 3). Fransie, however, died at the age of 6 months on the 14th December 1899.

11 Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Ellen, the twin sister, was named after Mary Jane Smal's grandmother, Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt. With their elder sister Ellen's death, none of the Smal children were named after their Nesbitt ancestors. Mary Jane Smal was very concerned that the Nesbitt names should remain in the family and she therefore named one of the twins, after Mary Jane's grandmother. She was married to Jacobus Charl du Toit from Caledon and they had six children:

Mary Jane aka Molly du Toit married Jurie Johan Swart aka Jurie Jordaan, Stephanus Petrus aka Fanie du Toit married Cornelia Johanna aka Corrie Swart, Petrus Johannes aka Piet du Toit married Maria Magdalena aka Magda van Dyk, Jacobus Charl aka Koos du Toit married Maria Elizabeth Anna aka Marie de Kock, Gertruida Christiena aka Kitty du Toit married Petrus Jacobus aka Piet Hugo and Ellen aka Thelma du Toit who married Matthys Christoffel aka Thys Ellis from Beaufort West. Ellen was named after her great-grandmother Eleanor Wilhelmina Nesbitt. Her daughter Marianne from Oudtshoorn was the most trustworthy, helpful and efficient person one could find.

The small, gentle Mary Jane Smal born West with her strong personality was loved and respected by people. She reminded one very much of her strong great grandmother, Elizabeth aka Eliza Beatty born abt. 1760 who died on the 28th March 1819 in Cloone, County Leitrim in Ireland. On a visit to Ireland, Mary Jane Macfarlane wrote on the 9th July 1955, describing her grandmother as follows: *"Jy sien ook baie ou mense met pragtige rooi wangetjies – soos Ouma s'n altyd was"*. (You see many old women (here in Dublin) with beautiful red cheeks – as grand mother's always have been).

Sixteen of Mary Jane Smal's descendants were named after her mother, Mary Jane Gannon, nine were named after her grandfather William Claudius, eight were named after her grandmother Eleanore Wilhelmina while six were named after her father George John Beatty West. Even today you find young Smal children with the old West and Gannon family names. At a marriage ceremony at The Oaks, a kilometer from Die Keisie where Mary Jane Smal's father settled 165 years earlier, we met a small child playing whose name was William Claudius Smal.

Both Mary Jane and Piet Smal were buried in Caledon. In 2018 they were the ancestors of about 600 descendants!

Descendants of Mary Jane West and Petrus Johannes Smal:

1-Mary Jane aka Mary West b. 30 Jan 1856, Caledon, d. 11 Jul 1937, Caledon

- +Petrus Johannes aka Piet Smal b. 11 Aug 1857, d. 4 Mar 1935, Caledon
 - 2-Mary Jane aka Jane Smal b. 8 Oct 1883, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 25 Aug 1962, Caledon
 - +Dawid Wilhelmus aka Dawie Esterhuisen b. 22 Oct 1878, d. 14 May 1949, Heart attack, Caledon
 - 3-Mary Jane aka Mary Esterhuisen b. 29 May 1910, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 31 Jul 1992, Caledon
 - +Ian Kenneth aka Ian Macfarlane b. 2 Jul 1905, d. 26 Dec 1959, Maitland
 - 3-Lovina Elizabeth aka Lovine Esterhuisen b. 13 Jan 1912, d. 18 Apr 1984
 - 3-Isabella aka Isobel Esterhuisen b. 4 Dec 1914
 - +Pieter Wouter aka Piet Theron b. 7 Apr 1909, d. 10 Dec 1951, Caledon
 - 4-Mary Jane aka Mary-Jane Theron b. 4 Nov 1941
 - +Willem Jacobus aka Willie Swart b. 14 Jan 1938
 - 5-Petrus Jacobus aka Pieter Swart b. 27 Nov 1963
 - 5-Pieter Wouter Theron aka Wouter Swart b. 11 Sep 1965
 - 5-Isabella aka Ilse Swart b. 3 Mar 1968
 - 5-Magda Maria aka Tania Swart b. 2 May 1972
 - 4-Stoffelina Johanna aka Lee Theron b. 23 Nov 1943
 - +Willem Johannes aka Willie Coetzee b. 28 Jul 1944
 - 5-Willem Johannes aka Willem Coetzee b. 14 Nov 1971
 - 5-Pieter Wouter aka Pieter Coetzee b. 1 Mar 1974
 - 4-Daniël Eliza aka Niël Theron b. 23 Oct 1945
 - +Annette aka Annette Badenhorst b. 10 Dec 1950
 - 5-Anniel aka Anniel Theron b. 24 Jul 1970
 - 5-Pieter Wouter aka Pieter Theron b. 27 May 1975
 - 3-Margaretha Johanna aka Poenie Esterhuisen b. 25 Aug 1916
 - +Matthys Johannes aka John de Jongh b. 5 Mar 1923
 - 4-Mary Jane aka Marlane de Jongh b. 6 Jul 1953
 - +Nicolas Johannes aka Nico Faber b. 15 Jun 1951
 - 5-Nicolene aka Nicolene Faber b. 7 Mar 1976

5-Mathys Johannes aka Thys Faber b. 31 Mar 1978
4-Judith Carolin aka Carol de Jongh b. 14 Dec 1956, d. 1 Nov 1979, Roodepoort
+Christo aka Christo du Plessis b. 21 Oct 1953
3-Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Liberty Esterhuisen b. 14 Jul 1918
+Leonard Sydney aka Leonard Kerwan b. 24 Oct 1916, d. 2 Sep 1983, Caledon
4-William Leo aka Billy Kerwan b. 29 Apr 1946
+Dorothea aka Retha Genis b. 1 Jun 1944
5-Eleanor aka Eleanor Kerwan b. 3 Jan 1972
5-Patricia aka Patricia Kerwan b. 12 Jun 1976
4-Mary Jane aka Maureen Kerwan b. 6 Jul 1948
+Gerhard Johan aka Gerhard Strauss b. 9 Aug 1946
5-Odette aka Odette Strauss b. 11 May 1974
5-Beàty aka Beàty Strauss b. 5 Aug 1976
5-Elaine aka Elaine Strauss b. 27 Sep 1978
4-Dawid Wilhelmus Esterhuizen aka Dawie Kerwan b. 27 Sep 1959, d. 29 Mar 1978
4-Leonard Sydney aka Lennie Kerwan b. 23 Jun 1958
+Marilize aka Marilize Viljoen b. 6 Feb 1961
5-Lenize aka Lenize Kerwan b. 5 Dec 1979
5-Leonard Sydney aka Aloysens Kerwan b. 1 Nov 1981
4-Caroline Eleanor aka Carol Kerwan b. 26 Mar 1960
+Petrus Jurgens aka Piet Smit b. 5 Jun 1947
5-Leonor aka Leonor Smit b. 13 Jun 1980
5-Renate aka Renate Smit b. 7 Oct 1981
5-Petrus Jurgens aka Pieter Smit b. 23 Feb 1983
3-Daniël George aka Niel Esterhuisen b. 5 Aug 1925, In an Accident, d. 15 Apr 1931
2-Isabella Lodewina aka Bellie Smal b. 22 Aug 1885, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 24 Oct 1918, Caledon
+Henry James aka Callie Champion b. 13 Jun 1885, d. 23 Jan 1936, Caledon
3-John Percival aka Percy Champion b. 2 Mar 1911, d. 7 Aug 1969, Strand
+Anna van Rensburg b. 17 May 1914, d. 19 Jan 1979, Strand
4-Henry James aka Hentie Champion b. 22 Jan 1937
+Dorothea Magdalena aka Doreen de Villiers b. 19 Jan 1940
5-Percival aka John Champion b. 28 Nov 1963
5-Constance aka Constance Champion b. 28 Nov 1963
5-Christo aka Christo Champion b. 30 Sep 1966
4-Petrus Johannes aka Pikkie Champion b. 28 Oct 1939
+Maria Sophia aka Marina Huggett b. 28 Oct 1939
5-John Percival aka Percy Champion b. 22 May 1963
5-Abrham Johannes aka Abie Champion b. 24 Aug 1965
5-Frederick Francois aka Francois Champion b. 6 Sep 1968
5-Christelle aka Christelle Champion b. 16 Nov 1971
4-Jane Elizabeth aka Jane Champion b. 26 Oct 1945
+Willem Andries aka Ans Germishuys b. 1 May 1945
5-Hendrik Johannes aka Hentie Germishuys b. 7 Sep 1968
5-John Percival aka Percy Germishuys b. 10 Oct 1970
5-Anèl aka Anèl Germishuys b. 21 Aug 1977
3-Peter John aka Bunny Champion b. 10 Oct 1912
+Catherina Elizabeth aka Bettie Buys b. 24 Mar 1918
4-Henry James aka Henry Champion b. 20 Mar 1941
+Margaret Isabel aka Margaret Aucamp b. 14 Jun 1943
5-Pieter John aka Pieter Champion b. 5 Mar 1970
5-Catharina Elizabeth aka Elrina Champion b. 8 Nov 1971
4-Marlina Petro aka Petro Champion b. 8 Aug 1947
+Fouché Wilhelm aka Fouché Burgers b. 17 Jan 1936
5-Izanne aka Izanne Burgers b. 2 Dec 1967
5-Ivan Fouché aka Ivan Burgers b. 20 Jan 1970
3-Mary Iris aka Iris Champion c. 6 Aug 1914
+Gerhardus Wachtendonk aka Gerrie Hauman b. 20 Nov 1895, d. 24 Jun 1957, Caledon.
4-Stephanus Jacobus aka Fanie Hauman b. 27 Jul 1936, d. 14 Mar 1981, Caledon.
4-Isabel Lodewine aka Lodine Hauman b. 18 Jul 1939
+Aubrey aka Aubrey Bronkhorst b. 16 Oct 1939
5-Mary Iris aka Marise Bronkhorst b. 12 Dec 1966
5-Felix Myburgh aka Felix Bronkhorst b. 17 Oct 1968
4-Magdalena Anna aka Alena Hauman b. 28 Jul 1943
+Gert Jacobus aka Gert Venter b. 28 Jun 1940
+Thomas Petrus Steenkamp b. 3 Nov 1940
4-Henry James aka Henry Hauman b. 9 Sep 1945

+Emma Gray aka Emma Erasmus b. 27 Jun 1947
 5-Don aka Don Hauman b. 13 Oct 1973
 5-Liezel aka Liezel Hauman b. 25 Sep 1975
 5-Tania aka Tanie Hauman b. 6 Mar 1978
 4-Gerhardus Wachtendonk aka Gerrie Hauman b. 16 Sep 1951
 +Catherina Francois aka Frances Conradie b. 27 Dec 1956
 5-Elzette aka Elzette Hauman b. 18 Aug 1980
 5-Iris aka Irise Hauman b. 10 May 1983
 3-Jacoba Louise aka Koba Champion b. 9 Sep 1916
 +Cornelius Gerhardus aka Kerneels de Kock b. 7 Jan 1917, d. 5 Sep 1980, Caledon.
 4-Barend Erasmus aka Bennie de Kock b. 13 Jun 1939
 +Susara Elizabeth aka Sue Louwrens b. 20 Apr 1944
 5-Cornélius Gerhardus aka Corné de Kock b. 10 Jun 1973
 5-Louwrens Erasmus aka Louwrens de Kock b. 9 Nov 1974
 5-John-Henk aka John de Kock b. 24 Aug 1981
 4-Anna Isabella aka Annabel de Kock b. 4 Feb 1941
 +Sarel Marx aka Sarel Visser b. 27 Aug 1942
 5-Louise aka Louise Visser b. 18 Apr 1967
 5-Christine aka Tienie Visser b. 26 Apr 1970
 5-Benjamin Brink aka Bennie Visser b. 24 Dec 1971
 4-Katarina Wilhelmina aka Renie de Kock b. 29 Sep 1942
 +Willem Andries aka André Earle b. 9 Nov 1940
 5-Louise aka Louise Earle b. 10 Apr 1967
 5-Jacob Renier aka Renier Earle b. 5 May 1970
 4-Cornelius Gerhardus aka Neil de Kock b. 1 Feb 1945
 +Sophia Adriana aka Soekie Calitz b. 1 Dec 1946
 5-Aurania aka René de Kock b. 15 Feb 1967
 5-Louise aka Louise de Kock b. 22 Mar 1968
 5-Cornelius Gerhardus aka Nelius de Kock b. 7 Apr 1967
 4-Henry James aka Henry de Kock b. 27 May 1946
 4-Jacoba Louisa aka Wiesie de Kock b. 28 Aug 1948
 +Kurt Clarence aka Kurt Schneeberger b. 10 Oct 1943
 5-Werner aka Werner Schneeberger b. 17 May 1978
 5-Konrad aka Konrad Schneeberger b. 26 Dec 1980
 4-Josias Christoffel aka Josie de Kock b. 22 Apr 1951
 +Elizabeth aka Lissie Hitge b. 25 Aug 1952
 3-Henry James aka Henry Champion b. 23 Oct 1917, d. 1 Apr 1953
 +Martha Johanna Catharina aka Joey Lingenfelder b. 20 Sep 1917, d. 1 Apr 1953, Caledon
 4-Martha Johanna Catharina aka Marina Champion b. 25 Nov 1942
 4-Pieter Wouter aka Pieter Champion b. 1 Oct 1947
 +Anna Aletta Margarita aka Lida Saayman b. 15 Aug 1953
 5-Helna aka Helna Champion b. 22 Feb 1977
 5-Carine aka Carine Champion b. 24 Oct 1979
 3-Isabella Lodewina aka Isobel Champion b. 10 Oct 1918
 +Christiaan Lodewyk de Jongh aka Chris Basson b. 13 Aug 1908
 4-Isabella Lodewina aka Lona Basson b. 6 Oct 1944
 +Bernardus Johannes aka Bernard Schoeman b. 27 Sep 1943
 5-Isabella Lodewina aka Isabel Schoeman b. 16 Sep 1971
 5-Madis Magdalena aka Madis Schoeman b. 9 Sep 1975
 5-Bernardus Johannes aka Bernard Schoeman b. 26 Oct 1978
 4-Jacoba Christina aka Christa Basson b. 25 Jan 1954
 +Nelius aka Nelius van den Berg b. 18 Feb 1982
 5-De Jongh aka De Jongh van den Berg b. 5 Nov 1981
 2-Ellen aka Etta Smal b. 8 Aug 1887, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 27 Apr 1896
 2-Anna Catharina Magdalena aka Anna or Smallie b. 6 Apr 1890, Breëvlei, Caledon, d. 27 Mar 1971, Cape Town
 +Johannes Jacobus aka Japie Blom b. 3 Jun 1893, d. 28 Mar 1975, Cape Town
 3-Johannes aka Boet Blom b. 22 Nov 1920
 +Rebecca Jane aka Bekkie Genis b. 3 Dec 1919
 4-Margaretha de Graaff aka Magriet Blom b. 6 Nov 1946
 +Ian aka Ian Daniel b. 13 Jul 1946
 5-Jessi aka Jessi Daniel b. 26 Jan 1972
 5-Sean aka Sean Daniel b. 1 May 1976
 5-Rebecca aka Rebecca Daniel b. 22 Nov 1979
 4-Johannes Jacobus aka Johan Blom b. 14 Mar 1948
 +Maria Magdalena aka Marlene Scholtz b. 12 Apr 1948
 5-Johannes aka Hannes Blom b. 13 Jul 1971

5-Thia aka Thia Blom b. 30 Mar 1973
 5-Jacobus Petrus aka Peet Blom b. 1 Apr 1974
 4-Anna Catherina aka Annelie Blom b. 29 Nov 1952
 +Russell John Moffat b. 28 Oct 1953
 5-Nicola Jane aka Nicola Moffat b. 7 Jan 1983
 +Marie Bouwer
 3-Mary Jane aka Sippie Blom b. 15 Jul 1924
 +Frans Engelbertus aka Frans Mentz b. 6 Dec 1921, d. 4 Nov 1980, Witrivier, Pumalanga
 4-Joachim Frederick aka Joggie Mentz b. 25 Feb 1948
 +Anna Johanna Susanna Bester b. 18 Aug 1947
 5-Frans Engelbertus aka Frans Mentz b. 5 May 1972
 5-Aletta Elizabeth aka Aletta Mentz b. 19 Sep 1974
 4-Johannes Jacobus aka Hannes Mentz b. 15 Mar 1949
 +Maria Johanna aka Marie Lamprechts b. 23 Feb 1950
 5-Frans Engelbertus aka Frans Mentz b. 19 Jan 1973
 5-Clarissa aka Clarissa Mentz b. 18 Jun 1975
 4-Anna-Marie aka Annamarie Mentz b. 18 Apr 1951
 3-Hendrina Magdalena aka Hendrien Blom b. 21 Jul 1931
 +Rudolf Johannes aka Dolf van den Berg b. 13 Sep 1926
 4-Anna Catherina aka Annette van den Berg b. 19 Jul 1953
 +Anthonie Johannes aka Antonie van Wyk b. 26 Feb 1954
 5-Reinette aka Reinette van Wyk b. 20 Jul 1979
 5-Anneke aka Anneke van Wyk b. 2 Jul 1981
 4-Barend Jacobus aka Ben van den Berg b. 25 Dec 1954
 +Maria Johanna aka Marie de Wet b. 11 Nov 1955
 4-Johannes Jacobus aka Koos van den Berg b. 5 Apr 1958
 4-Rudolf Johannes aka Rudolf van den Berg b. 25 Mar 1965
 2-Sarah Johanna aka Sarah Smal b. 8 Jun 1892, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 1 Sep 1983, Caledon
 +Johannes Jacobus Swanepoel aka Hansie Langenhoven b. 30 Jan 1884, d. 21 Sep 1957, Caledon
 3-Mary Jane aka Mary Langenhoven b. 16 Dec 1914
 +Benjamin Matthys aka Ben Wright b. 6 Dec 1912
 4-Cornelius Tobias aka Noël Wright b. 4 Apr 1939, d. 22 Jun 1974
 +Gillian Patricia aka Gill van Schoor. b. Circ 10.10.19.....
 5-Lisl aka Lisl Wright b. 9 Nov 1966
 5-Mary Jane aka Mary-Jane Wright b. 1 Jun 1968
 4-Sarah Johanna aka Seretta Wright b. 11 Nov 1940
 +Matthys Magielse aka Thys Smuts b. 16 Dec 1938
 5-Michael aka Michael Smuts b. 9 Dec 1966
 5-Mary Jane aka Mary-Jane Smuts b. 10 Apr 1971
 4-Johannes Langenhoven aka Hansen Wright b. 23 Sep 1944
 +Ellen aka Ellen Foster b. 14 Nov 1954
 5-Benjamin Matthys aka Benjie Wright b. 26 Jun 1977
 5-Johan Langenhoven aka Juan Wright b. 20 Mar 1980
 4-Benjamin Matthys aka Benjamin Wright b. 22 Nov 1951
 +Amanda aka Amanda Steward b. 19 Nov 1952
 5-Benjamin Matthys aka Bennett Wright b. 10 Aug 1979
 3-Johan Godfried Fabricius aka Jan Langenhoven b. 6 Jul 1916
 +Sara de Wit aka Sara Cloete b. 29 Jun 1920
 4-Johannes Jacobus aka Kobus Langenhoven b. 17 Feb 1945
 +Helen aka Helen le Grange b. Abt 23 Aug
 5-Boudene aka Boudene Langenhoven b. 26 Dec 1968
 5-Sharon aka Sharon Langenhoven b. 13 Jul 1971
 5-Cindy aka Cindy Langenhoven b. 10 Jul 1975
 4-Hendrie aka Hendrie Langenhoven b. 13 Feb 1948
 +Elsabé aka Elsabé Uys
 5-Elrine aka Elrine Langenhoven b. 6 Oct 1975
 5-Deline aka Deline Langenhoven b. 16 Feb 1977
 5-Johan Godfrey Fabricius aka Johan Langenhoven b. 30 Jan 1980
 5-Christoffel Lombaard aka Christoff Langenhoven b. 25 May 1982
 4-Elizabeth Florette aka Florette Langenhoven b. 26 Aug 1951
 +William John aka Willem du Plessis b. Abt 7 Sep
 5-Elizabeth Sara aka Liza du Plessis b. 22 Aug 1978
 5-Annerie aka Annerie du Plessis b. 25 Jan 1979
 4-Johan Godfrey Fabricius aka Godfried Langenhoven b. 11 Aug 1956
 4-Sarah Sarina aka Sarina Langenhoven b. 18 Jul 1959
 3-Petrus Johannes aka Pikkie Langenhoven b. 6 Jul 1918, d. 22 May 1942, Lybia during WWII

3-Martha Magdalena aka Lena Langenhoven b. 6 Dec 1919
 +Albertus Stefanus aka Berrie Jacobs b. 24 Jan 1916
 4-Sarah Johanna aka Selma Jacobs b. 25 Mar 1943
 +Andries Johannes Philipus aka Dries Nel b. 17 Jul 1942
 5-Andries Johannes Philipus aka André Nel b. 28 Oct 1964
 5-Madeleine aka Madeleine Nel b. 13 Jun 1967
 4-Albertus Stefanus aka Albert Jacobs b. 12 Jun 1945, d. 29 Aug 1970
 4-Johan Langenhoven aka Johan Jacobs b. 23 Jun 1952
 3-Sarah Johanna aka Sheila Langenhoven b. 4 Feb 1922
 +Lawrence John aka Laurie Sharp b. 23 Jan 1923
 4-Laura Sarena aka Laura Sharp b. 20 Sep 1948
 +David William aka David Harwood b. 30 Mar 1944
 5-Tracey-Jane aka Janie Harwood b. 9 Sep 1974
 5-Gregory David aka Greg Harwood b. 20 Aug 1975
 4-Quinton Richard aka Quinton Sharp b. 19 Dec 1951
 3-Johannes Jacobus aka Hannes Langenhoven b. 28 Mar 1925
 +Dorea de Kock b. 30 Nov 1932
 4-Rouxlé aka Rouxlé Langenhoven b. 15 Nov 1955
 +Jean Zwingley aka Jean Coetzer b. 17 Apr 1951
 5-Rouxle Isak aka Rouxle Coetzer b. 18 Jan 1974
 5-Johannes Jacobus aka Jay-Jay Coetzer b. 25 Aug 1976
 5-Jean-Pierre aka Jean-Pierre Coetzer b. 31 Oct 1981
 4-Sarena aka Sarena Langenhoven b. 15 Nov 1957
 +Albertus Johannes aka Albert de Wit b. 29 Jan 1954
 5-Nadia aka Nadia de Wit b. 23 Sep 1980
 5-Albertus Johannes aka Altus de Wit b. 7 Dec 1982
 4-Dorette aka Dorette Langenhoven b. 9 Oct 1959
 +Salmon Gerhardus Manie aka Manie Maritz b. 12 Apr 1955
 5-Marizanne aka Marizanne Maritz b. 23 Feb 1982
 4-Jeanette aka Jeanette Langenhoven b. 22 Jul 1961
 +Arno Egmont aka Arno Lategan b. 16 Nov 1959
 5-Mario Handré aka Mario Lategan b. 5 May 1980
 5-Ryno Evert aka Ryno Lategan
 4-Leona aka Leona Langenhoven b. 21 Nov 1962
 +Gerrit Hendrik aka Gerrie Ambrosius b. 26 Nov 1959
 5-Brendan Hendrique aka Brendan Ambrosius b. 8 Jun 1983
 4-Lente aka Lente Langenhoven b. 1 Sep 1966
 3-Hendrik Johannes aka Pen Langenhoven b. 5 Mar 1927
 +Cornelia Margaretha aka Corlia Meintjies b. 5 Mar 1934
 4-Cornelia Margaretha aka Coritha Langenhoven b. 16 Oct 1957
 +Mathys Johannes aka Thys Odendaal b. 24 Dec 1954
 5-Cornelia Margaretha aka Gretha Odendaal b. 27 Aug 1983
 4-Johannes Jacobus aka Johnny Langenhoven b. 12 Dec 1958
 +Charlotte aka Charlotte Ferreira b. 22 Aug 1961
 5-Chantel aka Chantel Langenhoven b. 30 Nov 1980
 3-Eliza Marthinus aka Les Langenhoven b. 30 Sep 1929
 +Catharina Elizabeth Isabella aka Rina van Zyl b. 23 Feb 1941
 4-Carol Sariana aka Carol Langenhoven b. 26 Nov 1961
 +Brian aka Brian Charles b. 16 Jan 1959
 4-Christiaan Johannes aka Chris Langenhoven b. 14 Sep 1963
 4-Eliza Marthinus aka Thinus Langenhoven b. 25 Jan 1966
 3-Isabel Iris aka Isabel Langenhoven b. 8 Jul 1932
 +Christiaan Wouter aka Chris Kroukamp b. 9 Sep 1928, d. 13 Apr 1979, Kleinmond.
 4-Sara Belinda aka Belinda Kroukamp b. 19 Jun 1955
 4-Christiaan Wouter aka Riaan Kroukamp b. 22 May 1956
 4-Johannes Langenhoven aka Hansie Kroukamp b. 21 Jan 1959
 3-Daniël Johannes aka Dennis Langenhoven b. 16 Oct 1935
 +Stephnie Petru aka Steph Joubert b. 6 Oct 1940
 4-Lance aka Lance Langenhoven b. 5 Sep 1963
 4-Mark aka Mark Langenhoven b. 2 Mar 1965
 4-Yolanda aka Yolanda Langenhoven b. 15 Jun 1967
 +Adél Malan b. 2 Jan 1948
 2-Hendrik Hans Jacob aka Hennie Smal b. 29 Aug 1893, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 30 Mar 1957, Caledon
 +Margaretha Elizabeth aka Poppa de Wet b. 6 Oct 1895, d. 12 May 1983, Caledon
 3-Sarah Susanna aka Esmé Smal b. 27 Feb 1919
 +Johannes Jacobus Francois aka Hannes Joubert b. 13 Mar 1919

4-Johannes Jacobus Francois aka Francois Joubert b. 24 Apr 1949
 +Elmari aka Elmari van Dyk b. 27 Oct 1957
 5-Vinita aka Vinita Joubert b. 29 Jan 1982
 4-Margaretha Elizabeth aka Marguirite Joubert b. 19 Feb 1951
 +Jan Jacobus Lukas aka Lukas Boje b. 5 Aug 1947
 5-Carl Dietrich aka Carl Boje b. 31 Mar 1975
 5-Esmeri aka Esmeri Boje b. 25 Mar 1977
 5-Johannes Francois aka Hannes Boje b. 11 Jul 1979
 4-Elizabeth Christina aka Bettie-Christine Joubert b. 24 Jun 1954
 +Natale Carlo aka Natale Roelofse b. 14 Nov 1953
 5-Susanna Esmé aka Suiné Roelofse b. 28 Dec 1977
 5-Virginia Theresa aka Theresa Roelofse b. 10 Sep 1979
 5-Elizabeth Christina aka Lize Roelofse b. 27 Sep 1982
 4-Hennie Smal aka Hennie Joubert b. 24 Jul 1957
 +Wilhelmina Louise aka Wilmien Teitge b. 19 Oct 1961
 4-Sara Susanna aka Sarette Joubert b. 19 Jan 1959
 +Philip Louis aka Louis Barnard b. 17 Feb 1958
 5-Esmé aka Esmé Barnard b. 18 Mar 1980
 3-Pieter aka Piet Smal b. 21 Jan 1921
 +Katharina Luise aka Liesel Karl b. 20 Jul 1921
 4-Hennie Smal b. 10 Dec 1958
 +Magdalena aka Melanie Bosman 14 May 1974
 5-Annaliese b. 6 Dec 2000
 5-Suzaanne b. 10 May 2004
 5-Peter b. 3 March 2007
 3-Mary Jane aka Jeanne Smal b. 6 Jun 1933
 +Johannes Jacobus Delpont aka Jan Fick b. 6 Jul 1931, d. 29 Jan 1971
 4-Margaretha Elizabeth aka Margot Fick b. 25 May 1958
 4-Martha Helena aka Tanya Fick b. 27 Jan 1960
 4-Mary Jane aka Jeanine Fick b. 30 Dec 1967
 +Christiaan Ludolf Neethling aka Dolf Fick b. 4 Nov 1931
 3-Henry Eric aka Eric Smal b. 10 Jul 1934
 +Helena Catharina aka Lana Milne b. 5 Jun 1943
 4-Hennie aka Hein Smal b. 16 Jan 1964
 +Helen Carstens b 16 October 1975
 5-Jana Smal b. 22 Sept 2006
 4-James Milne aka Jacques Smal b. 14 Jan 1965
 +Vayna Jacobs
 5-Kayla Smal
 4-Sean Pieter aka Sean Smal b. 28 Jun 1967
 +Terri
 5-Vanessa Smal
 4-Eric aka Eric Smal b. 7 Mar 1969
 4-Mardene aka Mardene Smal b. 23 Feb 1978
 2-George John Beattie aka George Smal b. 26 Oct 1894, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 13 Feb 1981, Caledon
 +Michael Josias aka Gielie Francken b. 10 Nov 1900, d. 2 Feb 1992
 3-Petrus Johannes aka Piet Smal b. 24 Sep 1924
 +Catharina aka Renie le Roux b. 19 Jan 1925
 4-Annemarie aka Annemarie Smal b. 7 Jan 1959
 +Arnoldus Johannes aka Johan Williams b. 17 Jan 1959
 5-Arnoldus Johannes Petrus aka Arnold. Williams b. 12 Apr 1980
 5-Jacques Pierre aka Jacques. Williams b. 20 Jun 1981
 4-George John Beattie aka George Smal b. 22 Feb 1961
 3-Cornelia Johanna aka Connie Smal b. 7 Dec 1925
 +Hubert Vivian aka Hubert van der Merwe b. 10 Mar 1925, d. 28 Sep 1977, Cape Town
 4-André Francois aka André van der Merwe b. 19 Feb 1951
 +Derdre aka Derdre Woest b. 30 Apr 1959
 5-Linda aka Linda van der Merwe b. 8 Sep 1979
 5-Sean aka Sean van der Merwe b. 8 Feb 1983
 4-George John Beattie aka George van der Merwe b. 26 May 1953
 +Hester aka Hester Roos b. 3 Oct 1956
 4-Vivian Hubert aka Vivian van der Merwe b. 29 May 1956
 +Nicola Victoria aka Nicola Kitson b. 2 Feb 1960
 4-Peter Albert aka Peter van der Merwe b. 27 Sep 1959
 4-Marius aka Marius van der Merwe b. 24 Apr 1966
 3-Mary Jane aka Mary Smal b. 24 Apr 1927

+Samuel Alfred Smith b. 1 Jul 1927
 4-Samuel Alfred aka Alfred Smith b. 30 Apr 1957
 3-Daniël Petrus aka Danie Smal b. 8 Apr 1930
 +Maria Magdalena aka Maria Meyer b. 16 Mar 1934
 4-Aletta aka Alta Smal b. 20 Aug 1957
 +Paul aka Paul de Villiers b. 29 Dec 1952
 5-Jacobus Petrus aka Jako de Villiers b. 10 Mar 1983
 4-Michelle aka Michelle Smal b. 21 Sep 1959
 4-Beattie aka Beattie Smal b. 14 Jun 1963
 4-Nadine aka Nadine Smal b. 23 Sep 1973
 3-Michiel Josias aka Gilda Smal b. 6 Sep 1934
 +Henry Douglas aka Henry Olsen b. 15 Mar 1926
 2-Petrus Johannes aka Piet Smal b. 15 Apr 1897, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 17 Sep 1962, Caledon
 +Hester Anna Woutrina aka Hester Rabie b. 14 Mar 1904, d. 16 Mar 1948, Caledon
 3-Petrus Johannes aka Pikkie Smal b. 19 Oct 1924, d. 4 May 1983, Caledon.
 +Johanna Maria aka Joyce Milne b. 1 Jul 1927
 4-Petrus Johannes aka Piet Smal b. 17 Oct 1949
 +Anna Susanna aka Anna Du Toit. b. 22 May 1950
 5-Alida Catharina Elizabeth aka Alda Smal b. 29 Dec 1972
 5-Johanna Maria aka Marie Smal b. 20 Jul 1974
 5-Petrus Johannes aka Pikkie Smal b. 26 Jun 1981
 4-Henriette aka Henriette Smal b. 22 Jan 1951
 +Lambert Hendrik Fick aka Lambert Badenhorst b. 8 May 1949
 5-Johanna Maria aka Anna Mari Badenhorst b. 13 Feb 1979
 5-Margaretha Petronella Susanna aka Elretha Badenhorst b. 14 May 1980
 4-James Milne aka James Smal b. 12 Jan 1955
 +Anna Dorothea aka Doreen Brink b. 15 Aug 1957
 5-Margaretha Alberta aka Marguerite Smal b. 12 Jan 1982
 4-Hester Anna Woutrina aka Hester Smal b. 19 Dec 1958
 +Allen Bishop aka Len Hauman b. 15 Oct 1958
 5-Johanna Maria aka Jolandi Hauman b. 30 Nov 1982
 3-Aletta Susanna aka Aletta Smal b. 11 Oct 1925, d. 20 Dec 1925, Caledon.
 3-Jacobus Theunissen Rabie aka Rabie Smal b. 28 Oct 1927
 +Isabella Frederika aka Issie du Preez b. 29 Oct 1919
 4-Riana Isabel aka Riana Smal b. 29 Jan 1956
 4-Petrus Johannes aka Piet Smal b. 21 May 1958
 4-Theuns Rabie aka Theuns Smal b. 19 Sep 1963
 3-Hendrik Johannes aka Derrick Smal b. 30 Jul 1929
 +Hester Catharina aka Rina Marais b. 8 Sep 1935
 4-Karin Elizabeth aka Karin Smal b. 3 May 1958
 +Jacob Wynand Johannes aka Japie van Antwerpen b. 29 Aug 1957
 5-Werner aka Werner van Antwerpen b. 11 Jun 1982
 4-Hannelie aka Hannelie Smal b. 7 Oct 1960
 +Jan Andries aka Jan Truter b. 30 Jan 1957
 4-Petrus Johannes aka Pieter Smal b. 4 Oct 1962
 3-Mary Jane aka Mary Smal b. 8 Sep 1930
 +Hercules Morkel aka Morkel de Villiers b. 4 Sep 1929
 4-Hester Anna Woutrina aka Hester de Villiers b. 24 Jun 1954
 +Dawid Frederick aka David Chambers b. 3 Feb 1951
 5-Jeanne-Marie aka Jeanne-Marie Chambers b. 11 Sep 1978
 5-Riekard aka Riekard Chambers b. 24 Oct 1981
 4-Serina aka Serina de Villiers b. 4 Apr 1957
 +Eugene Charles aka Gene Chambers b. 15 Aug 1954
 5-Charl aka Charl Chambers b. 15 Feb 1981
 5-Marietjie aka Marietjie Chambers b. 25 Oct 1982
 4-Jacobus Abraham aka Koos de Villiers b. 13 Jun 1963
 +Joan Elizabeth van Heerden b. 31 Aug 1963
 5-Rozanne aka Rozanne de Villiers b. 26 Sep 1983
 3-Schalk Johannes aka Schalk Smal b. 7 Feb 1933
 +Aletta Petronella aka Letta Hattingh b. 2 Nov 1937
 4-Marieta aka Marieta Smal b. 17 Mar 1960
 4-Hester aka Hestie Smal b. 15 Oct 1963
 4-Christa aka Christa Smal b. 26 Sep 1966
 3-Aletta Maree aka Letta Smal b. 28 Apr 1935
 +Daniël Jacobus aka Danie Theron b. 22 May 1932
 4-Johanna Margaretha aka Anna-Marie Theron b. 25 Mar 1960

4-Ludolf aka Ludie Theron b. 21 Feb 1962
 4-Idielletta aka Idielle Theron b. 13 Apr 1965
 4-Pieter Daniël aka Danie Theron
 3-George John Beattie aka George Smal b. 22 Jan 1937, d. 12 Aug 2008, Somerset West
 +Anne aka Anne Walker b. 16 Apr 1940
 4-Anne-Marie aka Anne-Marie Smal b. 5 Jun 1966
 4-Jo-Anne aka Jo-Anne Smal b. 2 Jul 1974
 4-George John Beattie aka George Smal b. 1 Jul 1976
 2-William Claudius aka Willie Smal b. 28 May 1898, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 6 Nov 1967, Caledon
 +Annorina Josephina Wilhelmina aka Annie van Deventer b. 16 Jan 1901, d. 10 Mar 1964, Caledon
 3-Sarah Susanna aka Sadie Smal b. 1 Aug 1922
 +Johannes Hendrik aka Doep du Plessis b. 24 May 1919, d. 19 Aug 1979, Krugersdorp
 4-Christian Hosea aka Chris du Plessis b. 30 Oct 1946
 +Julia aka Julia Bodenstein b. 9 Oct 1949
 5-Dirk Reonard aka Dirkie du Plessis b. 1 Jun 1972
 5-Deidré aka Deidré du Plessis b. 12 Jul 1974
 4-Anneri aka Anneri du Plessis b. 11 Apr 1949
 +Andries Johannes Hendrik aka Andries Smit b. 27 Feb 1945
 5-Mariéus aka Mariéus Smit b. 17 Jan 1975
 5-Herman aka Herman Smit b. 9 Jun 1978
 4-Claud William aka Willie du Plessis b. 21 Aug 1952
 +Margaretha Johanna aka Magriet Sparks b. 27 Jun 1955
 5-Leon Willie aka Leon du Plessis b. 17 May 1983
 4-Johannes Hendrik aka Johan du Plessis b. 2 Mar 1956
 +Lindie Gertrude aka Lindie Pretorius b. 18 May 1958
 4-Deon Francois aka Deon du Plessis b. 31 Jan 1958
 3-Petrus Johannes aka Pieter Smal b. 26 Sep 1923, d. 28 Jun 1988
 +Lucilla Maud aka Maud Butler b. 31 Oct 1927
 4-William Claudius aka Claude Smal b. 24 Oct 1949
 +Ronel aka Ronel Bester b. 10 Jan 1959
 5-Alecia aka Alecia Smal b. 16 Oct 1979
 5-Coleen aka Coleen Smal b. 20 Aug 1980
 5-Piet aka Piet Smal
 4-Derek aka Derek Smal b. 19 May 1951
 4-Jean aka Jean Smal b. 19 Sep 1956
 3-Christiaan Lambert aka Chrisjan Smal b. 10 Oct 1924
 +Catharina Maria Elliza aka Trynie Delpont b. 24 Feb 1928
 4-William Claudius aka Willie Smal b. 24 Nov 1952
 +Johanna aka Hannelie Bothma b. 26 Sep 1953
 5-Sanel aka Sanel Smal b. 12 May 1983
 4-Stephanus Delpont aka Fanie Smal b. 24 Jul 1957, d. 13 May 1999
 4-Sophia Dorothea aka Tia Smal b. 12 Aug 1959
 3-William Claudius aka Claude Smal b. 6 Jun 1926 d 2019
 +Frances Philippa aka Baby de Villiers b. 21 Jun 1935 d 2019
 4-Teresa aka Teresa Smal b. 29 Nov 1959
 4-Anet aka Anet Smal b. 6 Mar 1962
 4-Claudene aka Claudia Smal b. 5 Sep 1968
 3-Servaas Daniël aka Servaas Smal b. 17 Nov 1927
 +Dina Elizabeth Johanna aka Dina Human b. 6 May 1933
 4-William Claudius aka Willie Smal b. 13 Dec 1955
 +Barbara Christina Fölscher b. 28 May 1960
 5-Servaas Daniël Smal b. 5 Nov 1982
 +Erna Roux b. 28 Jul 1976
 6-William Claudius aka Willie Smal b. 20 Jan 2011
 6-Abraham de Jongh aka Abraham Smal b. 27 March 2013
 6-Servaas Daniël aka Vasie Smal b. 22 Oct 2015
 5-Neldine aka Neldine Smal b. 30 Mar 1983
 4-Philna aka Philna Smal b. 1 Sep 1957
 +Hercules Stephanus aka Harry Viljoen b. 1 Nov 1948
 4-Awworina Josephine aka Anine Smal
 +Edward Desfontaine aka Edward Daniller b. 28 Feb 1956
 3-Mary Jane aka Jane Smal b. 12 Feb 1930
 +Hans Jacob aka Hans Moore b. 29 Apr 1923, d. 24 Mar 1964, Caledon.
 4-Sandra Maria Johanna aka Sandra Moore b. 8 Jan 1953
 +Gregory John aka Greg Strachan b. 7 May 1954
 5-Lara-Jane aka Lara-Jane Strachan b. 9 Oct 1981

4-Annorina aka Annorina Moore b. 16 Nov 1954
 +Pierre aka Pierre Brink b. 10 Jul 1955, d. 7 May 1980, Villiersdorp.
 5-Janene aka Janene Brink b. 14 Nov 1980
 4-Malcolm William George aka Malcolm Moore b. 22 Dec 1955, d. 26 Jun 1989
 +Corné aka Corné Cruywagen b. 15 Jan 1960
 +Hugo Amos aka Amie Lamprechts b. 27 Sep 1923
 4-Chrisna aka Chrisna Lamprechts b. 12 Feb 1970
 3-Josephina Wilhelmina aka Josephine Smal b. 24 May 1932
 +Jacobus Petrus aka Jackie Beukes b. 1 Oct 1927
 4-Annorina Josephina aka Tertia Beukes b. 28 Dec 1953
 +Leon Arnold aka Leon Crous b. 7 Nov 1954
 5-Francois Christie aka Francois Crous b. 15 Apr 1978
 5-Annorina aka Annorina Crous b. 14 Jul 1980
 5-Jacobus Petrus aka Kobus Crous b. 14 Dec 1982
 4-Anna Susanna Magdalena aka Anna Beukes b. 27 Dec 1954
 +Jacob Venter Lourens aka Japie Uitenweerd b. 9 Oct 1954
 5-Hendrik aka Heinrich Uitenweerd b. 12 Aug 1976
 5-Jacobus Petrus aka Jackie Uitenweerd b. 21 Aug 1980
 4-Barend Hendrik aka Boetie Beukes b. 21 Apr 1956
 +Lina Fredrika aka Alfreda Engelbrecht b. 17 Jun 1957
 5-Marlene aka Marlene Beukes b. 10 Apr 1979
 5-Jacobus Petrus aka Jackie Beukes b. 21 Aug 1981
 4-William Claudius aka Claude Beukes
 +Lizette aka Lizette Roux b. 16 Dec 1959
 5-Jacobus Petrus aka Jacques Beukes b. 15 Feb 1982
 4-Sara Susanna aka Dolla Beukes b. 11 Feb 1959
 +Theunis Charles aka Theunis Brand b. 26 Apr 1953
 4-Jacobus Petrus aka Jackie Beukes b. 21 Jan 1961
 4-Catharina Elizabeth aka Carine Beukes b. 21 Jun 1966
 4-Petrus Johannes aka Pierre Beukes b. 28 May 1968
 4-Isak Stephanus aka Sakkie Beukes b. 24 Nov 1970
 4-Christaan Lambert aka Christie Beukes b. 24 Nov 1970
 3-Hendrik Jacobus aka Henry Smal b. 30 Jun 1934
 +Sophia Johanna Jacoba aka Sophie Steyn b. 22 Aug 1936, d. 26 May 1998
 4-Heidi aka Heidi Smal b. 11 Sep 1959
 +William Eric aka Eric Johnson b. 27 Jul 1957
 5-Henry Rainford aka Henry Johnson b. 14 Mar 1983
 4-Pieter Henry aka Henty Smal b. 27 Aug 1961
 4-Sonje aka Sonje Smal b. 27 Sep 1966
 +Tertia Theron b. 2 Aug 1944
 3-George John Beattie aka Beat Smal b. 13 Oct 1937
 +Hester Arina aka Hester Tresise b. 13 Dec 1943
 4-Celia Lorraine aka Celia Smal b. 24 Dec 1964
 4-Moira Leonie aka Leonie Smal b. 25 Jun 1966
 4-Sharon Elizabeth aka Sharon Smal b. 8 Aug 1968
 4-Deborah Ann aka Debbie Smal b. 11 Jan 1973
 3-Catherina Elizabeth aka Cathy Smal b. 6 Sep 1939
 +Albré aka Nippie Sparks b. 9 Jan 1934
 4-Louis Charles aka Louis Sparks b. 8 Aug 1961
 4-William Claudius aka Willie Sparks b. 27 Sep 1963
 4-Albert Peter aka Albert Sparks b. 24 Sep 1967
 4-Christo Lambert aka Christo Sparks b. 28 Jun 1969
 4-Johan André aka Johan Sparks
 3-Cairncross Nesbitt aka Kerrie Smal b. 30 Mar 1942, d. 18 Nov 2012, bur. 21 Nov 2012, NG Moederkerk,
 Somerset West.
 +Elizabeth Maria Johanna aka Bettie Engelbrecht b. 4 Jul 1947
 4-William Claudius aka Willie Smal b. 15 Sep 1969, d. 17 Oct 1998
 4-Annette aka Annette Smal b. 8 Jul 1972
 3-Unid May aka Unid Smal b. 31 May 1946, d. 25 Mar 1980
 +Josias Andreas aka André Engelbrecht b. 11 Feb 1943, d. 25 Mar 1980, Wellington
 4-Annemie aka Annemie Engelbrecht b. 19 Apr 1968
 4-Sonje aka Sonje Engelbrecht b. 31 Jan 1970
 4-Sybrand Abraham aka Sybrand Engelbrecht b. 31 Jan 1972
 2-Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Ellen Smal b. 24 Jun 1899, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 10 Sep 1979, Caledon
 +Jacobus Charl aka Koos du Toit b. 14 Jul 1898, d. 2 Jan 1976, Caledon
 3-Mary Jane aka Molly du Toit b. 14 Oct 1920

- +Jurie Johan Swart aka Jurie Jordaan b. 10 Oct 1918, d. 29 Sep 1969
 - 4-Barend Johannes aka Bernard Jordaan b. 30 Mar 1946
 - +Beverley aka Beverley Rutter b. 21 Oct 1948
 - 4-Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Eleanor Jordaan b. 15 Feb 1953
 - +Jan Marthinus aka Jan Terblanche b. 31 Dec 1953
 - 5-Marthinus aka Thinus Terblanche b. 5 Jan 1981
 - 5-Lean Brenda aka Lean Terblanche b. 20 Mar 1983
- 3-Stephanus Petrus aka Fanie du Toit b. 1 Apr 1921
- +Cornelia Johanna aka Corrie Swart b. 20 Mar 1927, d. 13 Jun 1956, Bredasdorp.
 - 4-Jacobus Charl aka Koos du Toit b. 2 Feb 1952
 - +Erma aka Erna Lourens b. 12 Jul 1953
 - 5-Merle aka Merle du Toit b. 26 Sep 1977
 - 4-Marthinus Rensburg Swart aka Tienie du Toit b. 2 Aug 1953
 - +Amanda Van Greunen
 - 5-Helga aka Helga du Toit
 - 4-Stephanus Petrus aka Fanie du Toit b. 30 Aug 1956
 - +Lovedia Maria aka Lovedia Coetzee b. 13 Sep 1960
- 3-Petrus Johannes aka Piet du Toit b. 6 Mar 1924
- +Maria Magdalena aka Magda van Dyk b. 16 Aug 1926
 - 4-Elzanne aka Elzanne du Toit b. 24 Jul 1959
- 3-Jacobus Charl aka Koos du Toit b. 15 Sep 1926
- +Maria Elizabeth Anna aka Marie de Kock b. 13 Aug 1924
 - 4-Jacobus Charl aka Kosie du Toit b. 12 Aug 1953
 - +Mari Magdaleen aka Mari Poggenpoel b. 1 Dec 1957
 - 4-Maria Elna Stien aka Marlene du Toit b. 11 May 1955
 - +Jan Hendrik aka Henry Victor b. 5 Jun 1958
 - 4-Douw Gerbrand aka Deon du Toit b. 6 Sep 1964
 - 4-Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Lynn du Toit b. 20 Feb 1967
- 3-Gertruida Christina Catharina aka Kitty du Toit b. 25 Aug 1929
- +Petrus Jacobus aka Piet Hugo b. 28 Jan 1914, d. 9 Jan 1959, Caledon
- +Abraham Petrus aka Aubrey Oosthuizen b. 23 Jun 1932
 - 4-Riaan John aka Riaan Oosthuizen b. 2 Jun 1960
 - +Alicia Alice aka Alice Horn b. 31 Oct 1962
 - 5-Johan Abrie aka Johan Oosthuizen b. 6 Jul 1980
 - 5-Louis Leon aka Louis Oosthuizen b. 5 Jan 1982
 - 4-Jacobus Charl aka Jacques Oosthuizen
 - 4-Pierre aka Pierre Oosthuizen b. 11 Jan 1966
- 3-Ellen aka Thelma du Toit b. 27 Apr 1937
- +Mathys Christoffel aka Thys Ellis b. 6 Dec 1938
 - 4-Marius aka Marius Ellis b. 30 Jun 1962
 - 4-Marianne aka Marianne Ellis b. 17 May 1965
- 2-Francois Daniël aka Fransie Smal b. 24 Jun 1899, Breëvlei, Caledon., d. 14 Dec 1899

Henry Jacobus Smal, a grandson of Mary Jane West and Piet Smal, did research on the broader Smal family. He published two books namely: *“Die Smal-familie van Caledon”* and *“Descendants of Petrus Johannes Smal and Mary Jane West of Breëvlei Caledon”*. I thank him for this information which I could use.

APPENDICES TO CHAPTER 20

APPENDIX 1: Extracts from a translated letter of Mary Jane Macfarlane during her visit to Ireland in 1955 to her mother Mary Jane Esterhuisen in 36B Meul Street, Caledon.

Clarence Hotel

DUBLIN

9th July 1955

When the plane neared Ireland I became so emotional that my eyes filled with tears! Everything was so beautiful and so green. I first searched for the St Peters Church in Aungier Street. At 5 o'clock I at last found the church. It is known as The Church of Ireland. It is an old building. I took a few photos. Since the door was open I went inside. It was musty. I thoroughly looked at everything possible. The pews, made of dark oak wood, looked much the same as in our church. I went there again the next morning and met the minister Mr Dowse. He went through the church records and gave me a copy of the marriage certificate. (I saw it myself where it was written). He told me that there were still many Gannons belonging to his church.

On the certificate, the address of George West is given as Sandymount and he was an Esquire. According to Mr Dowse it meant that he was a landowner. Sandymount is an upper class area about 2 miles from Dublin CBD which was in the past an agricultural area.

Jane Gannon's address was given as 30 Wexford Street. I have just been there. At present it is not a very decent area. No 30 is a three storeyed attachment house. On street level is a butchery P Hogan and next door is the front door of the house. I took photos and saw a lady opening the door. When I asked whether there were still Gannons in the house she said "no" but invited me inside. You enter into a long passage (really dirty and slummy). We went up to the first floor where she lived. It was very dirty and shabby. The lady went to the upper storey to ask a man whether he knew anything. I then went to him, a Mr Clark, who worked for the National Window Cleaners. They were poor but much cleaner. He was very helpful and said he is sure that the building was the same as earlier. He also told me that the only inn in that area was "The Bleeding Horse" which they now refer to as a public house.

The building is where two streets met. I took a photo. I walked round the building but as there was a strike for higher wages for barmen, I could'nt enter. I would dearly love to have a beer there! It looked just like a bar, not a hotel as there seemed to be no rooms – only a bottle store. There is a signboard of a horse with the date 1710. I wrote a letter to the owner, asking him for more information. I am sorry to say Mother but this is all I could find out. I would like to come here for a long holiday. The land attract me.

The city is very old and in general the people here look poor. The women selling flowers, vegetables and fruit on the street are not only dirty and shabby but their carts are old prams. One also see many old people with beautiful red cheeks, like grandma's always was. I enjoyed the two days in Ireland very much, much more than London and wish I could stay longer.

Love to all,

MARY

PS. Grandpa West only had one sister – Eleanor Wilhelmina, first married to bank man and then archdeacon (Talbot and Hutchinson)".

APPENDIX 2: Extracts from the translated manuscript by the 75 year old Mary Jane Esterhuisen relating to the West family.

Many stories were told about George, Mary Jane and the West family in Ireland and we are fortunate to have some in writing. These written stories were the same which were told to the West descendants by their parents. We are grateful that the Smal family kept this 13 page document written by Mary Jane Esterhuisen in safety.

36B Meul Street,
CALEDON
1958

My Dear Children, Family and Friends:

I am now going to write to you what I can remember from my youth days and the things my parents told me about our ancestors and other happenings". After telling the history of the Smal family she continued with the West family: "My mother was Mary Jane West, born 30th January 1856 and died on the 11th July 1937, two years after my father..... Her Father and Mother were from Ireland where they were married. My great great grandfather West was William Claudius and my great great grandmother was Eleanor Wilhelmina. I think her surname was Nesbitt. They were very rich when my grandfather grew up. My mother told us that her grandfather lost much money with shares. My grandfather was never interested in shares. He had two or three estates. The one was Clooney House and the other one where my grandfather was married was Sandy Mount near the capital Dublin in Ireland.

My grandfather was called George John Beattie. He was the only son and had one sister who's name was Eleanore Wilhelmina. My grandmother was Mary Jane Gannon. Her parents lived in no 30 Wexford Street in Dublin. That house is still there, a three storey building. When Mary went oversea she visited all those places, also the church where my grandfather and grandmother were married. We have photos of the church and the house. My grandmother grew up at her uncle's place. She and her sister were still small when their parents died. The uncle had a hotel in Wexford Street. The hotel is still there and is called "The Bleeding Horse" - a bottle store.

My grandfather's parents were very upset about their marriage because he was not yet 20 years old and still at university. There were so many opportunities for him since he was the only son and his father was a great great grandson of the Earl of Delaware. My grandfather also had the old Earl's full name – George John Beattie. Don't think that I want to brag but it is the genuine truth. My grandfather grew up very rich but here he was so poor. Another reason why his parents were so dissatisfied was because my grandmother's uncle where she grew up, was Roman Catholic and the Wests were staunch Protestants.

My grandfather West was George John Beattie, born 15th June 1827.

My grandmother was Mary Jane Gannon born 1824.

They were married on the 14th May 1847.

In those days it was said that there were good chances for young men to go to South Africa to learn how to farm. How they managed it I don't know, but he came in contact with old Captain Bailie of The Oaks near Greyton. Shortly after they were married they came to South Africa on a sailing vessel. They were very disappointed when they arrived here because everything was so primitive. My mother told us that grandmother cried so much when they landed in Cape Town because it was the capital of the country and everything was so primitive. Old Captain Bailie sent an ox wagon with an elderly dark skinned coloured man to fetch them. My grandmother was so frightened because he was the first coloured man whom she saw. When they went to the unknown Oaks, they did not know the language and were soon without money. Grandfather could not learn, understand and cope with farming. Later he went to Villiersdorp where he was a teacher, then a sergeant in the Police and still later a mason who built houses.

When I think about them I feel so sad that they who grew up in luxury and could afford the best in Ireland, came here to stay in a foreign country without family and friends and also very poor.

My grandfather and grandmother had six sons and three daughters. Aunt Ellie Raats was the eldest daughter, my mother the second and aunt Annie Knight the youngest – all passed away. The sons were uncle Willie who died in Johannesburg, uncle George who died at Bot River, uncle Jim died in Standerton, uncle John died on Sir Lowry's Pass, uncle Henry died in an accident near Kimberley and uncle Cairncross died in Vryburg. My mother was the last of the family who died here in Meul Street on the 11th July 1937.

My grandfather did not inherit anything from his father since it seems his father was so dissatisfied about their marriage. Years after his father's death, his mother also died in Dublin. He ought to receive money from her but it seems as if he did not get his full portion. In a letter from his sister to him she mentioned about £1200 interest that he ought to receive. There was also a letter in which mention is made about the store rooms which they cleaned and so many clothes and other things that were eaten by moths. She asked whether she should send it to him as the transfer money by ship was too much. Then grandfather also said that the clothes his mother wore was worthless here since she always wore the most delicate silk dresses. In any case, the inheritance he had to receive, never arrived here. My grandmother said that all which grandfather brought here was a dozen hand gloves since they never were without hand gloves there.

My grandfather's sister was Eleanor Wilhelmina. She was married with a "Barrister" Russell and after his death with Talbit. He was the manager or head of the Bank of Ireland. They had 1 daughter who was also married to a West. She did not have any children but I reckon that he was from America and later went back to America.

My grandfather's uncle John West was very rich. He only had one daughter who unfortunately was not attractive. She had the mark of a mouse on her face. She never went out and always wore a veil. He said that when she became of age (21 yrs old) she already owned sixty thousand pounds while she still had to inherit from her parents. Therefore my grandfather always said there would be much money as the family was nearly extinct. Years ago notice was given of a big inheritance for the Wests but as they were negligent and did not have all the information about the family and my grandfather and grandmother already died, the money went back to the orphan chambers. Daisy West later wrote but she did not have all the facts and there was no money to go overseas. Perhaps it is a good thing as the family are so large that each one would receive very little.

That is now enough of our forefathers. I wrote it down because when I am not there anymore, our children will not even know from where we came. Oh how I wish that I could ask more and could talk to grandfather himself. I was very young when he died in Greyton.

On 30th October 1882 my parents were married in the English Church. I think it was the Rev Welsher who conducted the service. At that time my grandmother Smal still stayed at Breevlei. After their marriage, my grandmother stayed in another house on the same farm. At that stage uncle Hendrik, uncle Frans and aunt Miemnie were still in the house". Then she gave the name and dates of birth of the Smal children.

"All of us were born on Breëvlei. We lived in the old house until 1893. Then my father built a house – in those days it was a beautiful and big house – wooden floors and sash windows. It was the most beautiful house in that area and was referred to as "the new house". On Monday the 21st August we took up residence in the house and the same week – it was Saturday – Hennie was born – a well built boy after there were five daughters.

We were a very a very happy family. My father was strict with us but otherwise very good. We also had a beloved mother. She was sweet, gentle and humble. Could we all follow her example. We were brought up in a very christian way. Dance, playing cards and alcohol were never allowed in our house. We had lots of fun together by ourselves – simple but innocent.

Our first contact with death was Ellen (Etta). She suffered from a leaking hart and died during April 1896. It was a big blow to all of us. She was beautiful but always weak. Since she was very sick

she only went to school during that year, only for a quarter. On the 7th April, the day the school closed she became sick and died on the 27th.

As said before, the youngest were twins. Fransie was nearly 6 months when he died on the 14th December, suffering of a stomach problem.

As my father farmed and worked very hard, he later bought the farms Sandfontein near Breëvlei. It is the 3 farms where the Ritters stay. Later on father sold it and then bought Kraligen from old Mr Hermanus Groenewald. During the Boer War father sold it and then bought plots in Caledon. He built a house on one, opposite the grave yard, now the property of Mr P Hoffman.

Now back to Breëvlei. All of us loved our old farm. It was mixed farming consisting of vegetables, grain, sheep and everlasting flowers. It was quite an occasion every year when it was time for picking flowers. Father then went to hire about 30 people to pick flowers. During October they all came for about a month. Then it was very busy on the farm. When it was finished and settled, and the payments were done, everyone was treated with coffee, milk tart and cake. The everlastings gave a very good income.

Mr Johnny Walsh was the buyer. All the flowers were being dried on canvas on reed platforms in the attic. When dried it was put into big crates which was lined with blue paper, taken to town from where it was mostly sent to Germany. I cannot remember how much my father received but the flower pickers received 2 shillings per bag of 42 pounds. In those days it was quite a good salary for the people as money was very scarce and people earned very little. Good pickers gathered up to 6 bags per day – that is 12/-.

The nearest school to us was at Diepgat at old Mr Sias de Kock's farm. His daughter Anna was our teacher – for 6 years Bellie and I walked there. It was an hour's walk. I can tell many stories of those school years. We as children were still very young with little difference in age. Bellie and I worked very hard in the mornings to be able to attend school. Often we had to bake bread and iron the washing during the night because my mother always had small babies and mostly just one faithful servant. After arriving home after school in the afternoon my mother sometimes would say: "Children you will not be able to attend school tomorrow as the shepherd took the sheep up to the mountain and you will have to bake bread and slaughter (a sheep) very early so that food can be taken to the mountain (for the shepherd) and there is also the big bundle of washing which must be ironed". We then secretly planned to finish some of the work during the night. You must understand that there were no stoves at that time – just an open oven which had to be heated with shrubs. Soon after our parents then went to bed we started sifting the unsifted flour because there was no sifted flour as today. We then started to splash the washing. One of us would knead the white bread and the other one the brown bread – usually 4 white loaves and 6 brown loaves. Then we would continue splashing the washing and started ironing with coal irons – the coals were firstly prepared and then put into the irons. Yes everything took so much time, not like today where you get everything easily and ready. When our parents woke in the morning the chairs with ironed washing stood there and the 10 to 12 loaves of bread were baked. This did not only happen once but quite often. Nothing bad happened to us. Usually before leaving for school, we first had to clean the house. We often also had to milk the cows before going to school because we five daughters were the eldest children and father with the workmen had already left to work on the lands.

Yes my dear people, these were no stories, it is the whole truth. All the honour and praise can be given to our Heavenly Father Who gave us the strength to do all those things. We had a shepherd who is still alive today. He is Stefanus Brand from Hermanus – truly a sincere and thorough man. All of us loved Stefaans as we called him. He worked for 28 years for us – even today we still respect Stefaans and Lizzy his wife. I always visit them when I go to Hermanus.

Just before the Boer War my father built a house for us in the town – when the war started we were still on the farm. My mother's youngest brother was uncle Carry as we called him. He came from Vryburg first to Swellendam (I suppose it was to buy horses and mules). Later he moved from there to our house in Station Road where he stayed until the war was over. He then went back to Vryburg and

we moved into town. That was during March 1903. We children all attended school here – old Mr Kleinschmidt was the principal. Soon after we moved in here the children contracted measles. Yes it was quite a fuss – eight children were simultaneously sick in bed. I think I was the sickest of them all because I was already 19 years old and the measles could not come out. Very soon after the measles we got whooping cough. Sarah became very very ill – Belly and I had already had whooping cough on the farm.

When we relocated to town, my father did not sit still – at first he planted the trees near Klipheuwel and then rented land which he sowed. After that he encamped the town lands with poles and wire. I wonder whether it is still the same poles and wire which are there today.

We relocated during March and from the first of April I started working with Mr I Nemark in the garment industry. Old Miss Ducktie was the supervisor. I always wanted to learn to become a dressmaker and stayed there until the end of June. From the first of July I started working with Mr F H Laing in his business where I worked for three years. They were very kind to me. I was just like one of the family because Mrs Laing's sister Anna and I were close friends. The work was very tough. There were no shops outside the town. Riviersonderend and Bot River did not yet exist. Everybody came and bought everything in town.

Walsh Brothers and F H Laing were the biggest shops - you could find anything from a threshing machine (dorsmasjien) to a needle. B P Laing was a small shop. Do you know what my salary was - £3 per month and later £3-10 shillings. We started at 6 o'clock in the morning – in winter it was still pitch dark and we worked by lamp light. There were no closing times - usually until 8 pm and even 9 pm. Some Saturday evenings we sometimes worked until 11 o'clock. Yes, you won't believe it but it is the whole truth.

The shop was closed on Thursday afternoons but often we had to work until about 4 o'clock to finish the orders. Mr F H Laing had two other shops, one at Tesselaarsdal and the other one at Brakkom. I was very happy in my work but later my health deteriorated - the work being too much and my father did not want me to continue there. I was very sad when I gave notice that I was not able to continue with my work.

During 1903, the year in which we relocated to town, I met my future husband for the first time. That year with Christmas and New Year, I went with the Laings to Hermanus. The business was closed for only a week. Dawie stayed with his brother Berend. We often went out together since there was already an understanding between us. Those years the shops did not give holidays. It was only the week with New Year. Oh, we worked so hard. In Mr Laing's shop were Anna du Toit, sister of Mrs Laing, Benna Geldenhuys, Doppie le Roux, Koosie du Plessis, Connie Geldenhuys (died recently very rich) and myself, except Cornelius Lourens and old Piet Pompie who worked as handymen and also did outside work.

Before I met my husband I had many male friends. I shall name one: He was my cousin George Raats from Villiersdorp. I was only sixteen years old when he started visiting me and he was ten years older than me. After he visited me regularly for two years at Breëvlei, I ended the relationship. I shall never forget it. It was the same day that our railway line was opened on the first August 1901 or 1902. I was only 18 years old and he wanted to become engaged. When at last I realised the implications I said "No, we are close family". I also did not have the feeling that I could marry him. He was a very pleasant and decent chap and also not poor. But perhaps it had to be that way. Five months after the intimate mutual understanding was ended, he died from inflammation.

I deeply felt his death. Those days there were not yet motors or telephones. He was already buried when I received the message of his death. There were also letters and a telegram about his illness in the post. I did not even know that he was ill.

After we were relocated in town, my father bought plots and built houses for rent. He also built another house for us as a residence. It is the one in which aunt Tootjie van Dyk now lives. It is opposite the pound. Bellie and I were married while we stayed in that house.

As mentioned before, I met Dawie for the first time during 1903. He visited us for six years and on

the 18th August 1909 we were married. During that time there was not a minister. Old Rev Krige was still our minister but was on long leave. The Rev Spratt confirmed our marriage. Bellie was married six weeks previously. In those days it was so different. While their marriage banns were announced in church, we had to be ready to receive visitors who came to congratulate them. Since my mother was not so well and I being the only adult daughter in the house, we decided to get married with a license. We were married at 9 o'clock in the morning because the train would leave at 11 o'clock. The reception was in our house and attended by many people. Since Dawie played in the local "Brass Band", they entertained us with music in front of the house. Those days there were no motor cars. We went with a spider and horses to the station, then by train to Sir Lowry's Pass and from there again with a spider to Gordons Bay where we stayed in the hotel until the next Thursday. From there we went to Cape Town and returned home on the Saturday.

Our first house was in Meul Street where Mr Hennie Roux now lives. We lived there until the house was sold (it was Bennie Esterhuisen's house). Then we bought the house which is still my property. We called it the 1817. We bought it during March 1917. The house was just 100 years old.

Mary was born in 1910 on the 29th of May, Lovine on the 13th January 1912, Isabel the 4th December 1914, Marguerite (Poenie) on the 25th August 1916, Eleanor (Liberty) the 14th July 1918 and Niel the 5th August 1925, died 15th April 1931.

When we were married, my husband owned a shop. He first had a tailor shop and made harnesses.

We were very happy, not rich, but content and lacking nothing.

In March 1917 we bought the 1817 house here in Meul Street. Liberty and Niel were born there. In 1931 we built the big house with the shop and while building it, Niel died in an accident. It was a tragic happening in our lives. He was such a tough and healthy boy. He was taken away from us in a blink of an eye. Only the Lord knows why it happened.

I also had my dark days:

On the 15th April 1931 Niel died in an accident.

On the 14th May 1949 my beloved husband died suddenly from a heart attack without saying good bye. On the 10th December 1951 Piet Theron died in an accident. He was much loved by all, yes he was like my own son.

On the 30th March 1957 Hennie (Smal) died in his sleep.

In July 1957 Gerrie Hauman died. He was sick for a while.

On the 21st September 1957 Hansie Langenhoven died instantly from a heart attack.

I suppose that everything happened to remind us that life is unpredictable. We do not know the time nor the hour when we will go therefore we must always be ready.

Lets go back now: After our marriage I joined the Womens Missionary Society and later the ACVV (Afrikaans Christiaan Womens Association). Before my marriage I was a full time member of the Stewers Vereniging also called The Endeavour Society and the Jongeliede Vereniging (Youth Society). We also had a choral society. Every Sunday afternoon we went to sing in the old church. Yes, when we were married we were poor but very happy. Dawie was such a good husband and we got along so well. He was very fond of his children and it is a pity that he could not say good bye to any of us.

The year before his death he had a very severe heart attack. He was in bed for 6 weeks and had to be kept very calm. Just before he became ill, we rented out the shop to Albertyn, Piet de Wet and Edgar Hurter for 5 years at £17-10/- per month. It was very cheap but that was Dawie's way of doing things - he rather lost a little than let somebody pay too much.

At first he let the garden to J A Albertyn - I think Albertyn used the garden for 12 years at £4 per year. That was also next to nothing.

While our children were still small, I started with a dress making business which kept me very busy. Mrs Lukas Havenga, Niel Germishuys (now Groenewald) and Neelie Grewe worked in the dressmaker shop. They were excellent workers. We had lots of work but during the war we could not get hold of

the necessary equipment and decided to stop the dress making.

In 1941 Mary joined the Army. Her daddy was at first dissatisfied but later resigned to the inevitable. She was away for 4 years, first in Cape Town, then Egypt and from there to Italy. She returned safely with lots of experience she acquired.

Lovine was 28 years with L H Metcalf who at first was Van Blommestein and Metcalf. Later the two separated and then it was just Metcalf. At present she already works for 4 years at Mr Philip Fourie. I have no idea how long she will stay there.

After Albertyn, De Wet and Hurter bought their own business, Bloom's Furniture occupied the shop for more than a year.

After Dawie's death Lovine and I stayed on in the big house for nearly 6 years. I then sold the house to my son in law Leonard Kerwan. He later converted the building into flats. We now already stay for 5 years in a flat where the shop once was.

APPENDIX 3: A few Extracts from the letter written on the 25th July 1961 from 36B Mill Street, Caledon by Mary Jane Macfarlane to Carol-Anne.

It seems that Mary Jane Esterhuisen's daughter, Mary Jane Macfarlane, wrote this letter to Caroline Eleanor aka Carol Kerwan the daughter of Mary Jane Macfarlane's sister Liberty to inform her about her West and Gannon ancestors. What is confusing is the fact that for a time the mother Mary Jane Esterhuisen and her daughter Mary Jane Macfarlane both lived in 36B Mill Street, Caledon since Mary Jane Macfarlane cared for her mother. This letter was written 13 months before the death of the then 78 year old Mary Jane Esterhuisen. I only make a few Extracts that were not mentioned in the 2 other appendices above.

"(he) was studying law, medicine and several languages". (Referring to our ancestor, George John Beatty West)

"So his father disinherited him. He did not get a penny from his father." (Also referring to George John Beatty West)

APPENDIX 4: "Stukkies en Brokkies" by Mary Jane Macfarlane

The most of these 9 sayings in **"Stukkies en Brokkies"** (pieces and fragments) were already covered in the other appendices above.

Paragraph 4: of the above mentioned paper stated: *"A few years ago there was an article about aunt Lily by a correspondent of Kleinmond (I think it was on one of aunt Lily's birthdays) in which it was stated that aunt Lily said that she was the granddaughter of the Earl of Delaware. Unfortunately I did not keep the article but perhaps Ben does still have it".*

Paragraph 5: *"It seems that Grandmother Mary Smal was baptised in the English Church but with her marriage to Grandfather Piet she went over to the Dutch Reformed Church".*

Paragraph 6: *"With the death of Grandmother Mary (Smal) on the 11th June 1937, she was the grandmother of 56 grandchildren. After her death another 4 was born. That bring the total to 60".*

APPENDIX 5: The West Family by Mary Jane Esterhuisen

In this document **"The West Family"**, Mary Jane Esterhuisen summarized what she and her daughter Mary Jane Macfarlane already mentioned in the other appendices above. As far as the so called "big inheritance" is concerned, she wrote: *"My grandfather had a letter with all the particulars, but one of the sons took the letter to school to show his grandfather's handwriting and the letter was lost. Grandfather was so cross and told them that it was the last chance they could get a big inheritance".*

We are so grateful that Mary Jane Esterhuisen and her daughter Mary Jane Macfarlane put the stories that were told and believed by the children of George John Beatty West, in writing. We discuss the correctness of those stories in Chapters 1,5,6,7,9,11,14 and 15.

CHAPTER 21

John Beattie West (1858-?) who gave his father's wagon and oxen as security

John Beattie aka John West, was the sixth child of George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon. He was named after his father's well-known uncle, John Beatty West QC and Member of Parliament for Dublin. The name John Beatty can be traced back for more than 300 years. Ten generations previously there was an ancestor John Beatty of Farranseer who was born in the late 1500's and died about 1641.

With the birth of John Beattie West on the 13th April 1858 in Villiersdorp, his father was a police constable. His much younger half brothers and sisters called him "Boetie John". He was baptized in the Anglican Church of Villiersdorp on 27th of June 1858 by Deacon William Bramley.

Boetie John was 21 when his mother Mary Jane died at Hoopjesrivier. On the 11th of April 1881, the Rev John Eedes married the 22 year old Boetie John and 18 year old Christiena Maria Gertrude aka Stienie Geldenhuys in the Holy Trinity Church in Caledon. In the marriage register Boetie John's profession was entered as "Farmer". It is not clear whether he farmed with his father at Hoopjesrivier at that time.

Boetie John and Christiena had three sons and three daughters:

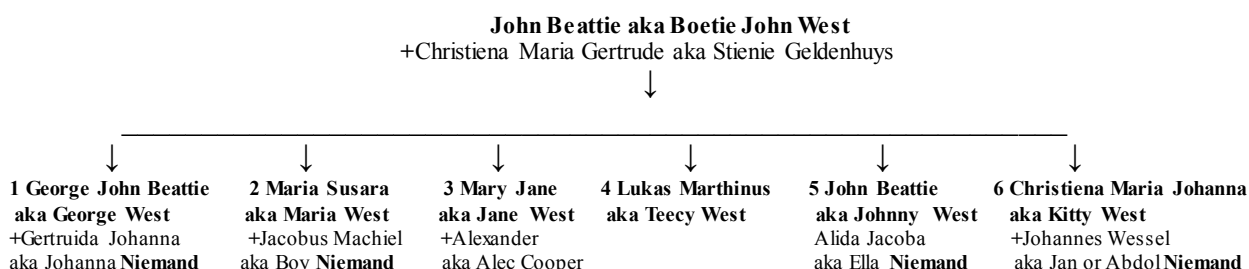
George John Beattie aka George West,
Maria Susara aka Maria West,
Mary Jane aka Jane West,
Lukas Marthinus aka Teecy West,
John Beattie aka Johnny West and
Christiena Maria Johanna aka Kitty West.

Four of their six children were married to a Niemand.

Their two sons George and Johnny were married to the two Niemand sisters Johanna and Ella. The daughter Maria married Johanna and Ella's brother, Boy Niemand! Only Mary Jane married out of the Niemand family. Their son Teecy died young.

To make it more confusing, Boetie John and Christiena's youngest child, Christiena Maria Johanna aka Kitty also married a Niemand. I found only one person who could help me to fit this Niemand-West-Niemand puzzle and that was Rita Grätsch of Cape Town!

Diagram Boetie John, Christiena and their 6 children:



1 George John Beattie aka George West, Boetie John and Stienie's eldest child, was born on the 23rd January 1882. He was named after his grandfather George John Beatty West. George married Gertruida Johanna aka Johanna Niemand and they had ten children. The couple lived in Onrustrivier. I have 291 descendants of my nephew George and his wife Johanna on my records! It include their spouses. Seventeen of their descendants have names referring to George or John or Beattie. His Beatty and West ancestors in Ireland would have been very proud of George that even today after more than 400 years the names John Beatty is still in the West family.

The following are the ten children of Boetie John and Stienie's eldest son George John Beattie aka George West and Johanna Niemand

George John Beattie → aka George West (1st child) +Gertuida Johanna aka Johanna Niemand	↳	John Beattie aka John Dikke West b 27 January 1906
		+Magrietha Petronella Wilhelmina aka Grieta Fourie
	↳	Jacobus Magiel aka Koos Nappie West b 19 June 1907
		+Helena Debora aka Lenie Swart
	↳	George John Beattie aka Jock West b 08 October 1909
		+Francina aka Fransie
	↳	Maria Magdalena aka Maude West b 08 October 1909
		+Jacobus Johannes aka Koos Swart
	↳	Christina Maria aka Stienie West b 28 April 1912
		+Lukas Martinus aka Lukas Geldenhuys
↳	Paul Lodewyk aka Paul West b 11 August 1914	
	+Jacomina Wesselina aka Ryna Geldenhuys	
↳	Mary Jane aka Jane West b 08 March 1917	
	+Jacobus aka Koos Langenhoven	
↳	Gertruida Johanna Jacoba aka Jous West b 16 June 1918	
	+Cornelius Johannes aka Corrie Cooper	
↳	Susanna Magdalena aka Susie West b 30 August 1921	
	+Petrus Gerhardus aka Piet Swart	
↳	Lukas Martinus aka Lukie West b 06 July 1927	
	+Elizabeth Susanna Johanna aka Lettie Ladson	

George and Johanna's **eldest child**, John Beattie aka John Dikke West and his wife Grieta had a son George John Beattie West who was born on the 4th May 1935 and lives in Kimberley.

George's **second child** Jacobus Magiel aka Koos Nappie West was married to Helena Debora aka Lenie Swart. Koos Nappie and the late Prime Minister dr Hendrik Verwoerd were friends in spite of their political differences. They often went fishing when dr Verwoerd was at his holiday home in Bettys Bay.

Koos Nappie and Lenie had seven children. Their third child, Jacobus Nesbitt aka Nesbitt West, was married to Jossie Jordaan Snr. Jossie died with the birth of their daughter Johanna Jacoba aka Jossie West Jr. After Jossie Snr's death, her parents Kok and Helen Jordaan took care of the children. When Kok and Helen died Jossie Snr's sister Barbara took care of the children. Barbara later married into the Beukes family of Caledon. Jossie Snr's husband, Jacobus Nesbitt West, did not have control over his drinking habits. Nesbitt and Jossie Snr had a very intelligent, hardworking and exemplary son, Jacobus Nesbitt aka Nesbitt West. In 1993 he was the Dux student of the Overberg High School in Caledon. It is said that influential Greek families in Caledon the Picconi and Yamoyanis saw his talents and encouraged him to study further. From 1994-1998 he studied law at the University of Stellenbosch where he obtained his BA LLB degrees. About 2005 he became the vice President of M&A and Equity Capital Markets at ABN AMRO Bank, Royal Bank of Scotland. Later he moved to the Netherlands where he married Eefjef Kasterin. He became Senior Legal Counsel at PGGM Investments.

Koos Nappie and Lenie sixth child, John Beattie West from Port Elizabeth is an unique, highly talented but humble musician. His love and care for disadvantaged children is impressive. He will be remembered by many for his talent, patience and success with his orchestra and dance

group of mentally disabled children. Another grandson of *Koos Nappie* and Lenie is the well known artist Ronald West of Bredasdorp whose work can be seen in many art shops in the country.

George and Johanna's **third child** George John Beattie aka Jock West worked as the driver of a road grader for the Divisional Council. He died on the 28th July 1959 at the age of 49 in an accident with his grader.

George and Johanna's **fourth child** was Maria Magdalena aka Maude West. She married Jacobus Johannes aka Koos Swart and they had four children. My brother Deon visited Aunt Maude and was impressed with her knowledge of the West family. She was very outspoken and openly discussed the good and the bad of her ancestors. It was she who told Deon about her grandfather Boetie John West who died in poverty and was buried in an unmarked grave on the farm Knorhoek near the town of Sir Lowry's Pass.

George and Johanna's **fifth child**, Christina Maria aka Stienie West married Lukas Marthinus aka Lukas Geldenhuys with whom she had four children. Her eldest son Lukas Marthinus aka Martin Geldenhuys born 6th June 1935 was my school friend and room mate in Malherbe House, Villiersdorp. I remember him as a gentleman with integrity and high standards. He became a school teacher and it is a pity that he died so young at the age of 46. Martin and his wife Catharina were childless.

George and Johanna adopted Lukas Martinus aka Lukie West. Lukie was accepted by the Wests as family. He married Elizabeth Susanna Johanna Ladson aka Lettie who died on the 3rd July 1919.

Boetie John and Stienie's son **George John Beattie aka George West** died in a car accident on the 11th August 1963 while travelling with the Anglican priest in the priest's Metropolitan car. His wife Gertuida Johanna aka Johanna Niemand died on the 10th July 1961 after she was hit by a car when she visited the grave of her son George John Beattie aka Jock West.

2 Maria Susara aka Maria West, Boetie John and Christiena's second child, married Jacobus Machiel aka Boy Niemand (a). They lived in Kleinmond where they died and were buried. Maria and Boy had eight children. (*See the diagram below*).

Jacobus Machiel aka Boy Niemand 's (a) eldest daughter, Christina Maria Marthina aka Christina Niemand, married Jacobus Magiel aka Koos Niemand (b) .

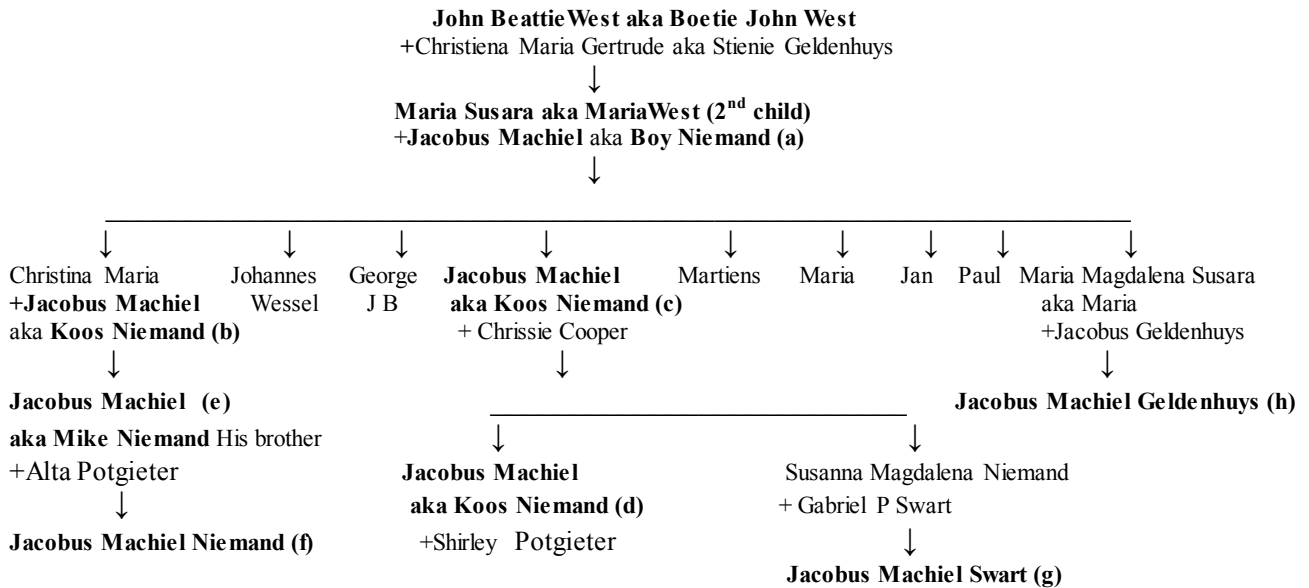
At the end Christina had

- a father Jacobus Machiel aka Boy Niemand (a)
- a husband Jacobus Magiel aka Koos Niemand (b)
- a brother Jacobus Magiel aka Koos Niemand (c)
- a son Jacobus Machiel aka Mike Niemand (e)
- a grandson Jacobus Machiel Niemand (f)
- a brother's son Jacobus Machiel aka Koos Niemand (d)
- a brother's daughter married to a Jacobus Machiel Swart (g) and
- a sister's son Jacobus Machiel Geldenhuys.

For the reader who did not know them, Jacobus Magiel aka Koos Niemand's (d) sister Sally married Gabriël Petrus Swart and their son was named Jacobus Magiel aka Mike Swart (g) fortunately not another Jacobus Machiel Niemand. And, to confuse the reader more, Maria Susara aka Maria West who was married to Jacobus Machiel aka Boy Niemand (a) had a daughter Maria Magdalena Susara aka Maria Niemand who was married to Jacobus Geldenhuys and their second son was named Jacobus Magiel aka Kobus Geldenhuys (h).

Jacobus Machiel aka Boy Niemand had a son Jacobus Machiel aka Koos Niemand, a son in law Jacobus Machiel aka Koos Niemand, two grandsons Jacobus Machiel Niemand (Mike and Koos), a great grandson Jacobus Machiel Niemand, a grandson Jacobus Machiel Geldenhuys and a great grandson Jacobus Machiel Swart.

Diagram indicating how the 8 different Jacobus Magiels were connected:



Again I must confess, it is only Rita Grätsch who could place all these Jacobus Magiels in their right places! To have a brother and a brother in law with the same names of Jacobus Magiel Niemand can be terribly confusing!

Zunette Niemand, a grand daughter of Christiena Niemand and Jacobus Machiel Niemand did a great work by organizing gatherings of the West, Niemand and Swart families. When the family tell you about their experiences and the stories told at those gatherings one realizes the truth of the Afrikaans expression: *"Bloed is dikker as water"*.

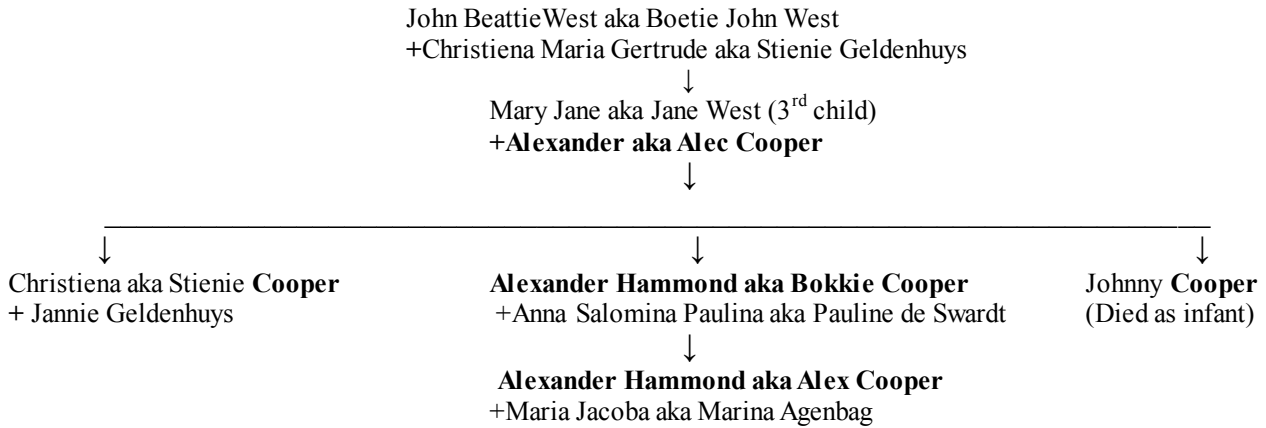
3 Mary Jane aka Jane West, Boetie John and Christiena's third child, lived in Hawston. She married Alexander aka Alex Cooper from Caledon. Jane and Alex had three children: Christiena aka Stienie Cooper who married Jannie Geldenhuys and the twins Alexander Hammond aka Bokkie Cooper and Johnny Cooper. Johnny died with his birth on the 8th June 1912. Their mother Jane died on 11th June 1912, three days after the birth of her twin sons. Then Alex had a huge problem with his three day old baby son, Bokkie. Fortunately for him his sister in law Maria Susara, wife of Boy Niemand, gave birth a month later on 7th July 1912 to a son Martinus Lukas Niemand. The problem was solved. Maria Susara Niemand fed both her son Martinus Lukas and Bokkie.

Bokkie married Anna Salomina Paulina aka Pauline de Swardt. Bokkie was very witty and well known for his remarks towards the richer people of the town. To this day he is still remembered for the remark he made when the respectable Mr Hall said to him: *"Bokkie, ek sê, koper is 'n ding wat blink"* and he immediately replied: *"Mister Hall, ek sê, Hall is 'n ding wat stink"*. Unfortunately it cannot be translated!?

Bokkie and Pauline had three children: Alexander Hammond aka Alex, Annemarie Helene and Ingrid-Jane. Alexander Hammond aka Alex Cooper was an excellent English teacher. He and his

wife Maria Jacoba aka Marina Agenbag had a daughter Mari. He died in Caledon on the 23rd May 2018. Annemarie Helene was married to Johannes aka Hans Bakker and Ingrid-Jane was married to Johan Burger. Their daughter Idané Burger came first in the Northern Cape when she was in grade twelve and later obtained a Masters degree in the design of jewelry.

Diagram indicating the three Alexander Coopers:



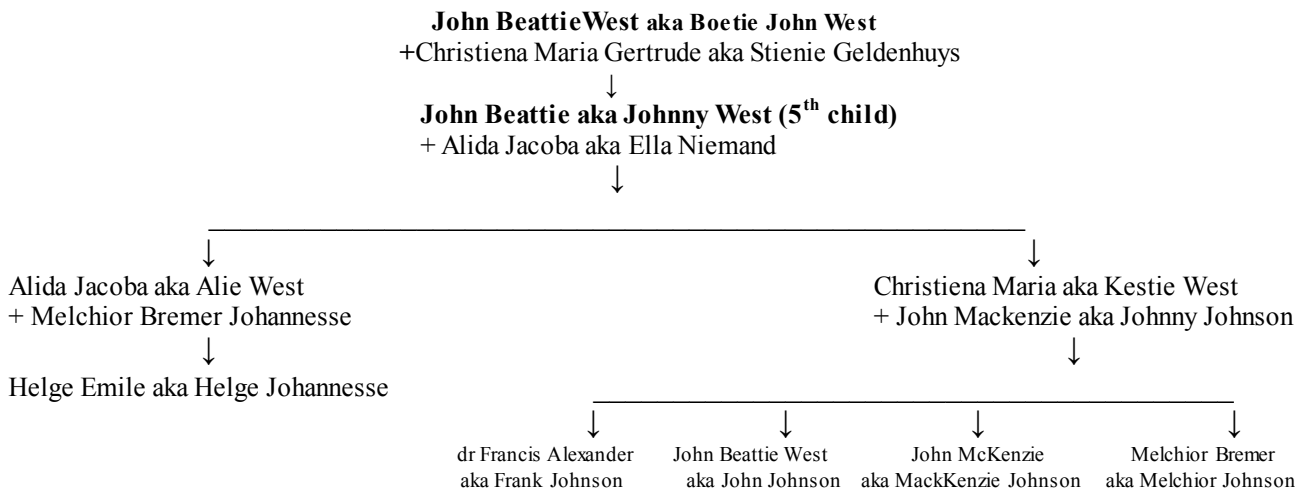
Interestingly three of the West family married Coopers:

- (a) Mary Jane aka Jane West who married Alexander Cooper, Bokkie's father,
- (b) Maria West and Boy Niemand's son Jacobus Magiel aka Koos Niemand, who married Christiena Johanna aka Chrissie Cooper and
- (c) Gertruida Johanna Jacoba aka Jous West, the daughter of George John Beattie West and Johanna Niemand who married Cornelius Johannes aka Corrie Cooper.

4 Lukas Marthinus aka Teecy West, was Boetie John and Christiena's fourth child. Unfortunately he contracted leprosy and both he and his mother Christiena died on Robben Island about 1923.

5 John Beattie aka Johnny West, Boetie John and Christiena's fifth child, married Alida Jacoba aka Ella Niemand. They had two daughters: Alida Jacoba aka Alie West married to Melchior Bremer Johannesse and Christiena Maria aka Kestie West who married John Mackenzie aka Johnny Johnson. Kestie and Johnny Johnson's had four children: dr Francis Alexander aka Frank Johnson, John Beattie West aka John Johnson, John MacKenzie aka MacKenzie Johnson and Melchior Bremmer aka Melchior Johnson. John Mackenzie Johnson owned a transport as well as the brick making business near Oudtshoorn.

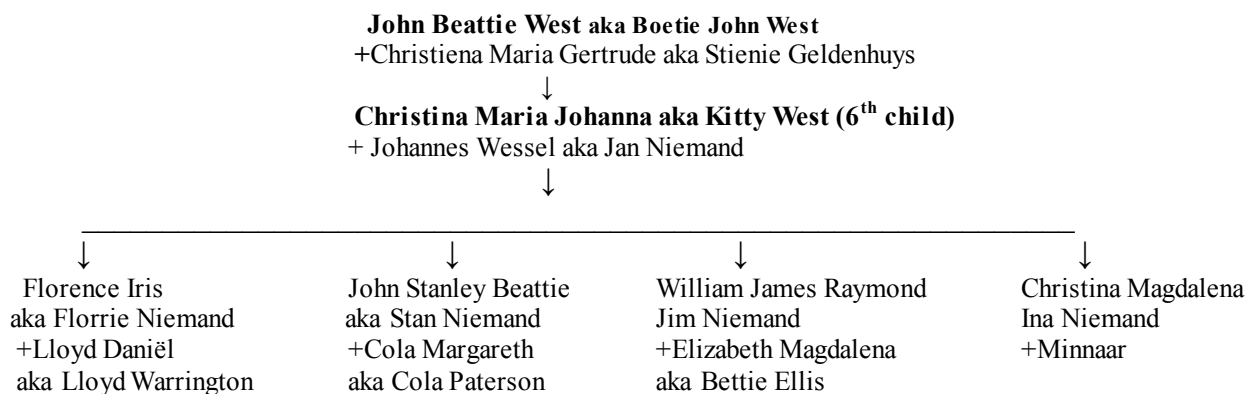
Diagram depicting the descendants of Johnny West and Ella Niemand:



6 Christina Maria Johanna aka Kitty West was the sixth and youngest of Boetie John and Maria Christiena's children. She attended an English school and was fluent in both English and Afrikaans. Unfortunately she, her mother and brother Teecy contracted leprosy and was sent to Robben Island. After she came back she became a teacher. Kitty married Johannes Wessel aka Jan Niemand. Kitty and Jan had four children:

- Florence Iris aka Florrie married Lloyd Daniël aka Lloyd Warrington
- John Stanley Beattie aka Stan Niemand who married Cola Margareth aka Cola Paterson
- William James Raymond aka Jim Niemand married Elizabeth Magdalena aka Bettie Ellis
- Christina Magdalena aka Ina Niemand married Minnaar.

Diagram depicting the children of Kitty West and Jan Niemand:



Boetie John's granddaughter Maria Magdalena aka Aunt Maude Swart born West told my brother Deon that her grandfather John Beattie West aka Boetie John did not have control over his alcohol intake and as a result there of was very irresponsible with his money. This was confirmed by Boetie John's half brothers and half sisters.

I can still remember how his half brother Klasie West told us about Boetie John's drinking problem and that it was the cause why their father lost the court case against the rich Mr Beyers.

Boetie John's brother Cairncross Nesbitt West also referred to a person who ruined their father financially. **In a letter dated 24th December 1894, Cairncross wrote to their father about such an incident which could have been the above mentioned case:**

Dear Father

I received your dear letter on 20th of which I was not little pleased to hear from you again although not of the very best news you sent me for it certainly is no good news to hear of all your losses and to give almost everything to a man³ whom you never owed a penny in your life that is very hard news but such seems to be the way of the world & such seems to be your luck in it. I really my dear father feel for you. Mr v.d. Merwe was here some time ago and he narrated all to me from the beginning to end, its certainly something never to forget, how wonderful this world seems to exist nothing but deceit from the one end to other. But one thing I can say that of what I an aware you have never deceived, and therefore you will always live and die happy.

When Cairncross wrote this letter on the 24th December 1894, Boetie John was a thirty six year old married man with six children between the ages of one and twelve years. His half sister Daisy was then thirteen and his half brother Klasie twelve years old, both of them old enough to remember such an important and much talked about event in the West family.

According to the marriage register Boetie John was a farmer on the 11th April 1881. Because of his inability to control his alcohol intake, he landed in financial problems and could not provide for his wife and children. His father George John Beatty West lent Boetie John his wagon and oxen to do transport as an additional income. When Boetie John again needed money he gave without consent his father's wagon and oxen as security to Mr Beyers who lent him the money. When Boetie John could not repay the loan, Mr Beyers, a successful and take-no-nonsense business man, took the wagon and oxen. George, in stead of discussing the problem with Mr Beyers, took Mr Beyers to court against the advice of his friends and lost the court case. Outside the court the farmers who attended the case said to George something like: We told you not to go to court. George, not knowing that Mr Beyers stood behind him and could hear every word answered: *"I would not have lost the case but Beyers is a thief and he lied"*. Mr Beyers who heard every word, immediately turned around, went to the magistrate and made a case against George. George was found guilty of defamation of character and contempt of court. This stubbornness of George and the irresponsibility of his son Boetie John ruined him financially.

In spite of John Beattie West's personal problems, he and Stienie gave their children a good upbringing. A number of their descendants were highly talented people who reached great heights.

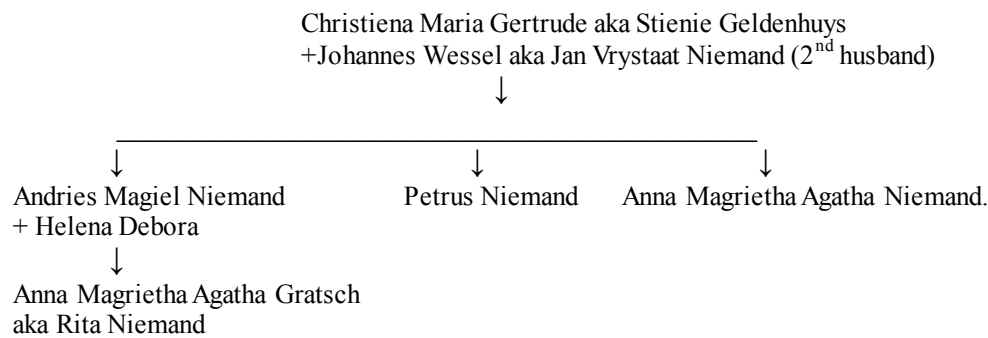
According to Aunt Maude her grandfather John Beattie West died in poverty and was buried in an unmarked grave on the farm Knorhoek near Sir Lowry's Pass.

After Boetie John's death, his wife Stienie married Johannes Wessel aka Jan Vrystaat Niemand. Stienie and Jan had three children:

Andries Magiel Niemand,
Petrus Niemand, and
Anna Magrietha Agatha Niemand.

Their eldest son Andries Magiel Niemand was the father of Rita Grätsch born Niemand. Although Rita is not a direct descendant of the Wests, she is the person who worked so hard, made so many phone calls and gave me so much information about the descendants not only of John Beattie West but also the descendants of his brothers and sisters, the other children of George and Mary Jane. Being a former professional translator for the Medical School, Rita Grätsch is very accurate in her details.

Diagram showing the children from Stienie Geldenhuys' 2nd marriage with Jan Vrystaat Niemand:



Stienie, now Niemand, and a daughter and son born from her first marriage with Boetie John West, namely Kitty West and Teecy West contracted leprosy. As it was done in those years, the mother with her son and daughter were sent to the leprosy colony on Robben Island. My mother in law, Gerty Matthee born Reynolds, was a pupil at the Primary School Solitaire. She often spoke of that day when she and the other school children stood on the stoep of the school, watching the cart with the Niemand woman and her two children on their way to Cape Town to be sent to the leprosy colony on Robben Island. The school children knew that leprosy was very infectious and stood crying, realizing that it was possible for the Niemand family never to return. Stienie Niemand and her son Teecy died and were buried there on Robben Island.

Jan Vrystaat Niemand had a son Jan Wessel Niemand by his first wife. This son Jan Wessel Niemand married Christina Maria Johanna aka Kitty West the youngest child of his Stepmother Christiena Maria Gertrude aka Stienie Geldenhuys and the then late John Beatty West. After His marriage with Kitty, his father became his stepfather!

During those years there were many intermarriages between members of certain families living in the same area. Quite a number of marriages between members of the West, Geldenhuys and Niemand families took place. The following are marriages between members of the Geldenhuys, West and Niemand families:

- 1 Christiena Maria Geldenhuys married John Beatty West.
- 2 Lukas Marthinus Geldenhuys aka Lukas married Christiena Maria Gertruida aka Stienie West, George and Johanna's fifth child
- 3 Jacomina Wesselina aka Ryna Geldenhuys married Paul Lodewyk aka Paul West, the younger brother of Stienie West
- 4 Jacobus Geldenhuys married Maria Magdalena Susara aka Maria Niemand, the youngest daughter of Maria Susara aka Maria West and Boy Niemand
- 5 Jannie Geldenhuys married Christiena Cooper, daughter of Mary Jane aka Jane West.
- 6 Gertuida Johanna aka Johanna Niemand married George John Beattie West, eldest son of John Beattie West
- 7 Boy Niemand married Maria Susara aka Maria West, the eldest daughter of John Beattie West.
- 8 Alida Jacoba aka Ella Niemand married John Beattie aka Johnny West, the third son of John Beattie aka John West
- 9 Johannes Wessel aka Jan Niemand married Christiena Maria Johanna aka Kitty West, the youngest child of John Beattie aka John West
- 10 Beattie John aka Beattie Niemand kept it in the family and married Marjory Swart, daughter of Susanna Magdalena aka Susie West. Susie West was the youngest daughter of George and Johanna West.

11 To finish it off, Dennis Jacobus aka Dennis Niemand married Margareth Leoni aka Margareth Niemand. Margareth was Kitty West's grand daughter.

I have the names of 525 of Boetie John and Stienie's descendants and their spouses on register. They are a very proud and close family who often have West family gatherings.

The descendants of John Beattie aka Boetie John West and Christiena Maria Gertrude aka Stienie Geldenhuys:

1-John Beattie aka John West b. 13 Apr 1858, Villiersdorp, c. 27 Jun 1858, St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp by Rev William Branley Deacon d. Knorhoek, Sir Lowry's Pass

- +Christiena Maria Gertrude aka Stienie Geldenhuys d. Had leprosy and died Robben Island
- 2-George John Beattie aka George West b. 23 Jan 1882, d. 11 Aug 1963 Onrustrivier
- +Gertruida Johanna Hermina aka Johanna Niemand b. 26 Apr 1881, d. 10 Jul 1961, Onrustrivier
- 3-John Beattie West aka John Dikke West b. 27 Jan 1906, d. 18 Jan 1974 Stikland
- +Magrieta Petronella Wilhelmina aka Grieta Fourie b. 11 Jan 1906, d. 25 Jun 1965 Stikland
- 4-Catharina Maria West aka Katie West b. 3 Jun 1933
- +Gordon Hans aka Gordy Patterson b. 19 Nov 1929
 - 5-William Charles aka Willie Patterson b. 28 Oct 1955
 - +Lorraine aka Lorraine Botes
 - 5-John Beattie aka Jannie Patterson b. 4 Sep 1957
 - +Francina aka Fransie van Schalkwyk b. 10 Sep 1959
 - 6-Chantel aka Chantel Patterson b. 22.03.19
 - 6-John Beattie Patterson b. 25 Feb
 - 5-Gordon Hans aka Gordon Patterson b. 31 Jan 1962
 - +Louise b. 12 Nov
 - 6-Juan-Pierre aka Juan-Pierre Patterson b. 29.04.19
 - 5-Ronelda aka Ronelda Patterson b. 11 Apr 1969
 - +Pieter aka Pieter Pienaar b. 4 Jun 1969
 - 6-Desmond Pieter aka Desmond Pienaar b. 11 Aug 1995
 - 6-Luané aka Luané Pienaar b. 27 Mar 2002
- 4-George John Beattie aka Beattie West b. 4 May 1935
- +Cornelia aka Corrie Wentzel b. 5 Nov 1944
 - 5-John Beattie aka JohnBeattie West b. 31 Oct 1971
 - +Elizabeth aka Lizel Genis b. 14 Oct 1973
 - 6-Michelle aka Michell West b. 2 Oct 1995
 - 6-Charlize aka Charlize West b. 8 Mar 2000
 - 5-Suzette West b. 25 Sep 1969
 - +André aka André van der Vyver b. 11 Nov 1966
 - 6-Peter John van der Vyver b. 30 Jul 1996
 - 6-Abigail aka Abigail van der Vyver b. 6 Oct 2007
- 4-Louis Phillipus aka Louis West b. 6 Jul 1939, d. 13 Nov 2000, Kraaifontein
- +Beatrix Hendrina aka Beatrix Truter b. 11 Jan 1946
 - 5-Maria Doritia aka Marietjie West b. 11 Aug 1967
 - +Michael van der Linde aka Mike West b. 13 May 1968
 - 6-Ethan aka Ethan West b. 1 Aug 1998
 - 6-Reef aka Reef West b. 26 Jul 2002
 - 6-Mieke aka Mieke West b. 16 Apr 2004
 - 5-Louise aka Louise West b. 10 Nov 1969
 - +Frederick Albrecht aka Erick van Zyl b. 21 Jul 1968
 - 6-Albrecht aka Albrecht van Zyl b. 22 Jun 2000
 - 6-Bea Elizabeth aka Bea van Zyl b. 1 Nov 2006
 - 5-John Beattie aka John West b. 2 May 1974
- 4-Gertruida Johanna aka Gerda West b. 5 Oct 1941
- +Johannes Jacobus aka Hansie Swanepoel b. 13 Jan 1936
 - 5-Marieta Petronella aka Marieta Swanepoel b. 11 Feb 1968
 - 5-Hansie Jacobus aka Hansie Swanepoel b. 12 Apr 1971
 - +Janine Wentzel
 - 6-Hein Swanepoel
 - 6-Sonja Swanepoel
 - 6-Mia Swanepoel
 - 5-Hanlie Swanepoel b. 28 Jan 1975
- 4-Margaretha Petronella Wilhelmina aka Margareth West b. 13 Aug 1949

+Daniël Jacobus aka Danie le Roux b. 28 Sep 1948
 5-Tronel le Roux b. 3 Aug 1973
 +Ettiene aka Ettiene Rabe b. 9 Jul 1969
 6-Jean-Ray aka Jean-Ray Rabe b. 19 Aug 1998
 6-Diaan Rabe b. 1 Nov 2002
 5-Daniël Jacobus aka Daniël le Roux b. 29 Jul 1976
 +Pamela aka Pamela b. 26 Dec 1980
 6-Emily Georgia aka Emily le Roux b. 28 Jun 2004
 6-Joshua Daniël aka Josua le Roux b. 16 Apr 2007
 3-Jacobus Michael aka Oom Koos Nappie West b. 19 Jun 1907, d. 27 July 1989 Kleinmond
 +Helena Deborah aka Lenie Swart b. 19 Jun 1910 ?
 4-George John Beattie aka George West b. 13 Feb 1933, d. 5 Mar 2001
 +Mara aka Mara Lane b. 30 May 1933
 5-Michael aka Michael West b. 28 Mar 1955, d. 22 Dec 2004
 5-William Henry aka Willie West b. 13 Dec 1957
 4-Petrus Gerhardus aka Piet West b. 21 Sep 1934
 +Petronella Hendrika aka Nancy b. 21 Jun 1934
 5-Gerald Michael aka Gerald West b. 4 Feb 1964
 +Wilhelmina Hendrika aka Wena Zeeman b. 8 Jun 1968
 6-Zoë aka Zoë West b. 5 Mar 1996
 6-Lüc aka Lüc West b. 1 Sep 1998
 5-Lynette Pedro aka Lynette West b. 11 May 1965
 +Arnoldus Francois aka Arnold Roodt b. 6 Dec 1965
 6-Francois aka Francois Roodt b. 8 Mar 1995
 6-Andrea aka Andrea Roodt b. 19 Jul 1997
 5-Janine Debra aka Janine West b. 6 Sep 1966
 +James Goldsbury aka Goldy Fuchs b. 6 Oct 1962, d. 23 May 1992
 6-Goldy Fuchs b. 13 Dec 1991
 4-Jacobus Nesbitt aka Nesbitt West b. 4 Feb 1936, d. 1 Jul 1988, Caledon, bur. Caledon
 +Johanna Jacoba aka Jossie Jordaan b. 11 Jul 1942, d. 12 Jul 1976, Caledon, bur. Caledon
 5-Magdalena aka Malene West b. 1 Sep 1964
 5-Michael Alexander aka André West b. 17 Dec 1968
 5-Jacobus Nesbitt aka Nesbitt West b. 7 Aug 1975
 +Eefjef Kasterin
 6-Cornelius Nesbitt aka Matts West
 5-Johanna Jacoba aka Jossie West b. 6 Jul 1976
 4-Ronald Martin aka Ronnie West b. 5 Sep 1941, d. 7 Feb 2014
 +Petro Meiring
 5-Debbie West
 5-Wendy West
 5-Ronald Martin West
 4-Susanna Magdalena West b. 21 Jul 1947
 +Daniël aka Danie Pienaar d. Abt 2001
 5-Ruan Mighail aka Ruan Pienaar b. 6 Nov 1986
 4-John Beattie aka John West b. 24 Apr 1952
 4-Albert John aka Bertie West b. 4 Nov 1954, d. 1 Sep 2006
 +Maria Elizabeth aka Marlize Muller b. 5 Aug 1951
 5-Claire Lavinia West b. 17 Nov 1975
 5-Shaun West b. 9 Apr 1980
 +Anna Catherina aka Annie Liebenberg b. 25 Jul 1947 (see Albert John aka Bertie West
 5-Juan Albert aka Juan West b. 16 Jun 1987
 +Charise
 6-Shaelyn West
 6-Lorcan John-Frans aka Lorcan West
 3-George John Beattie aka Jock West b. 8 Oct 1909, d. 28 Jul 1959
 +Francina Elisabeth aka Fransie Swart born Kuhn b 21 Sept 1922, d 3 Jan 2012
 4-George John Beattie aka Aubrey West b. 18 May 1958
 4-Amanda West b. 1 Dec 1961
 +Johannes Albertus aka Johan Smal b. 9 Apr 1957
 5-Werner Smal b. 3 Mar 1882
 +Madré Haughton b. 6 Sep 1988
 6-Damon Smal b. 16 Nov 2012
 6-Meah-Lee Smal b. 2 Jun 2016
 5-Eugen Smal b. 8 Aug 1992
 +Letisha Marië Weyers b. 6 Aug 1992
 3-Maria Magdalena aka Maude West b. 8 Oct 1909, d. 15 Oct 1991

+Jacobus Johannes aka Koos Swart b. 5 Aug 1902, d. 1 Jun 1966 Onrusrivier
 4-Petrus Gerhardus aka Piet Swart b. 1 Apr 1932, d. 28 Aug 1986
 +Margaretha aka Magriet Human b. 18 May
 5-Johannes Jacobus aka Johan Swart b. 15 Mar 1958
 5-Fanus aka Fanus Swart b. 26 Jan 1966
 4-Gertruida Johanna aka Joan Swart b. 3 Nov 1941
 +Gabriel Willem aka Gawie Stoman b. 30 Jun 1933, d. 24 Jan 1976
 5-Jacobus Johannes aka Jaco Stoman b. 6 Jun 1972
 4-Susanna Sophia Margaretha aka Cynthy Swart b. 17 Sep 1946
 +Willem Johannes aka Willem van der Westhuizen b. 22 Jan 1942
 5-Magdalene aka Elaine van der Westhuizen b. 10 Oct 1965
 5-Karen van der Westhuizen b. 24 Jul 1967
 5-Willem aka Wimpie van der Westhuizen
 4-George John Beattie aka George Swart b. 17 Nov 1948, d. 13 Jul 1992
 +Gloudiena Jacoba aka Dina Engelbrecht b. 29 Apr 1953
 5-Jacoba Ronel aka Ronel Swart b. 3 Feb 1977
 5-Jacobus Johannes aka Kosie Swart b. 20 Dec 1979
 3-Christina Maria Gertruida aka Stienie or Pollie West b. 28 Apr 1912, Hawston, d. 5 Oct 1985,
 +Lukas Marthinus aka Lukas Geldenhuys b. 29 Apr 1909
 4-Lukas Martin aka Martin Geldenhuys b. 6 Jun 1935, d. 5 Jun 1981, Ashton
 +Catharina aka O Rice Van Niekerk b. 12 Jan 1957
 4-Gertruida Johanna aka Joyce Geldenhuys b. 27 Apr 1938
 +Isak Schalk aka Sakkie du Toit b. 11 Jul 1936
 5-Petrus Lodewikus aka Wikus du Toit b. 24 Aug 1970
 5-Lukas Marthinus aka Inus du Toit b. 19 Feb 1973
 5-Isak Schalk aka Schalk du Toit b. 31 Aug 1976
 4-George Beattie aka Westie Geldenhuys b. 25 Feb 1945
 +Elizabeth aka Betsie Pretorius b. 16 May
 5-Berdeen aka Berdeen Geldenhuys b. 11 Sep 1973
 5-Lukas Martin aka Marlu Geldenhuys b. 16 Nov 1976
 5-Chrismari aka Chrismari Geldenhuys b. 14 Sep 1979
 4-Cornelia Susanna aka Elna Geldenhuys b. 29 Jul 1956
 +Nicolaas Deetlefs aka Klasie du Preez b. 3 Sep 1953
 5-Mariska du Preez b. 7 Jan 1982
 5-Frederick Jacobus van Zyl aka van Zyl du Preez b. 14 Jun 1983
 3-Paul Lodewyk aka Paul West b. 11 Aug 1914, d. 28 Nov 1990
 +Jacomina Wesselina aka Myna Geldenhuys b. 1 Sep 1919
 4-George John Beattie aka George West b. 23 Apr 1938
 +Hester Helena aka Hetta van Antwerpen b. 21 Jul 1941
 5-Paul Pieter aka Paul West b. 21 Jan 1965
 5-Jacqueline West b. 12 Sep 1971
 5-George John Beattie aka George West b. 5 Feb 1973
 4-Pieter Daniël Paul aka Pieter West b. 7 Nov 1940
 +Cynthia Theresa aka Cynthia Parker b. 4 Sep 1944
 5-Belinda aka Belinda West b. 20 Aug 1969
 4-Victor Paul aka Victor West b. 14 Sep 1942
 +Petronella Johanna aka Petro Smeda b. 14 Apr 1944
 5-Anton Paul aka Anton West b. 1 Jun 1968
 5-Jennifer Lynette aka Jennifer West b. 10 Aug 1969
 4-Henry Jacobus aka Henry West b. 11 Jun 1944, d. 13 Oct 2006
 +Shiline Christina aka Shiline Kuhn b. 27 Aug 1949
 5-Gerald Peter aka Gerald West b. 5 Jan 1970
 5-Maryke Rianna aka Maryke West b. 29 Aug 1971
 5-Henriette West b. 5 Feb 1977
 4-John Beattie aka Johnny West b. 17 Apr 1946
 +Yvonne Cornelia aka Ewonne Hayman b. 26 Jan 1953
 5-Beattie-John West b. 22 May 1972
 +Nakita van Renen
 5-André West b. 24 Mar 1975
 5-Thelma Irene aka Thelma West b. 5 Jan 1977
 +Unknown
 6-Jan Beattie West b. 20th Nov 2000
 4-Benjamin Johannes aka Kees West b. 11 Mar 1948, d. 10 Sep 2016
 4-Johanna Christine Gertruida aka Juline West b. 22 Jun 1950
 +Louis Wessel aka Louis Fourie b. 19 Jan 1948
 5-Louis Wessel aka Louis Fourie b. 22 Dec 1969

5-Dewald Frans aka Dewald Fourie b. 9 Feb 1978
 5-Minette Fourie b. 22 May 1980
 4-Eric Michael aka Eric West b. 13 Jan 1952
 4-Claude aka Claude West b. 16 May 1954
 +Sandra Margaretha aka Sandra Singleton b. 22 Nov 1958
 5-William Paul aka William West b. 21 May 1980
 4-Marius Wessel aka Marius West b. 19 Aug 1956, d. 8 Dec 2004
 +Elizabeth Maria aka Elmarie van Eeden b. 16 Nov 1961
 5-Marissa West b. 27 Dec 1981
 4-Francois West b. 12 Mar 1959
 +Lorraine Johanna aka Lorraine Singleton b. 21 Feb 1962
 4-Marinda Magdalena aka Marinda West b. 20 May 1962, d. 9 Jul 2007
 3-Mary Jane aka Jane West b. 8 Mar 1917, d. 26 Mar 1984
 +Jacobus aka Koos Langenhoven b. 17 Feb 1907, d. 12 Nov 1968, Onrustrivier
 4-Basil Harold aka Harold West b. 15 Jan 1938
 +Feline (see Basil Harold aka Harold West on page 4)
 4-Daphne aka Tossie Langenhoven b. 31 Aug 1956
 +Christiaan Rudolph aka Rudé Heyns b. 12 Mar 1946
 5-Mary Jane aka Jeanine Heyns b. 16 Feb 1977
 5-Magdalena Catharina aka Nonique Heyns b. 5 Sep 1978
 5-Sonja Heyns b. 23 Apr 1980
 3-Gertruida Johanna Jacoba aka Jouf West b. 16 Jun 1918, d. 1 Aug 1994
 +Cornelius Johannes aka Cornie Cooper b. 25 Nov 1913, d. 25 Jul 1978, Gordans Bay
 4-Cornelius Hamman aka Kerneels Cooper b. 25 Mar 1940, d. 10 Jul 1991
 +Esmé Swart
 5-Neville Cooper
 5-Juanita Cooper
 5-Barney Cooper
 5-Riana Cooper
 4-George Beattie Cooper aka Jerry Cooper b. 30 Nov 1943
 +Sarie Geldenhuys
 5-Neil Cooper
 5-André Cooper
 4-Cecil John aka Cecil Cooper b. 18 Apr 1947
 +Susanna Margaretha aka Retha Geldenhuys
 5-Marriette Cooper
 5-Jean Cooper
 4-Brian aka Brian Cooper b. 23 Jan 1955
 +Bellie Lamprechts
 5-Cornie Cooper
 5-Gerhard Cooper
 3-Susanna Magdalena aka Susie West b. 30 Aug 1921, d. 12 Oct 1989
 +Petrus Gerhardus aka Piet Swart
 4-Marjory aka Marjory Swart b. 22 Febr 1940
 +Beattie John aka Beattie Niemand b. 8 Feb 1938, d. 14 Febr 2011, bur. Kleinmond
 4-Petrus Gerhardus aka Pierre Swart b. 7 Jul 1942
 +Martha Magdalena Geldenhuys b. 24 Dec 1945
 5-Gerhard Swart d. Died as a child
 5-Pierre Swart b. 4 Sep 1970
 +Heilie du Toit
 5-Heinrich Swart d. Died as a child
 5-Mandy Swart b. 12 Aug 1978
 4-Vernus Martin aka Vernie Swart b. 24 Aug 1945
 4-Rudie Swart b. 15 Apr 1949
 4-Juliana Swart b. 22 Jan 1955
 +van Wyk
 4-George John Beattie aka Augie Swart b. 22 Jan 1944
 +Unknown
 5-Liezele Maria aka Liezele Swart b. 1 Jan 1975
 +Adrian Jonker b. 8 Feb 1971
 6-Lizaan aka Lizaan Jonker b. 5 Dec 2006
 5-Monya Swart b. 29 Oct 1976
 +Philip George aka Philip du Plessis b. 7 Jun 1975
 6-Nia du Plessis b. 22 Apr 2004
 6-Philip George du Plessis b. 10 Mar 2006
 5-Ryno Swart b. 3 Oct 1977

3-Lukas Marthinus aka Lukie West b. 6 Jul 1927, d. 12 Dec 2003
 +Elizabeth Susanna Johan aka Lettie Ladson b. 3 Jul 1919
 2-Maria Susara aka Maria West b. 4 Dec 1883, d. 19 Mar 1918, Kleinmond
 +Jacobus Machiel aka Boy Niemand b. 21 Feb 1885, d. 4 Jan 1975, Kleinmond
 3-Christina Maria Marthina aka Christina Niemand b. 25 Jun 1903
 +Jacobus Machiel aka Koos Niemand b. 8 Sep 1896, d. 12 Sep 1948
 4-Maria Susara aka Rina Niemand b. 15 Dec 1922
 +Piet Kuhn
 5-Wessel Niemand Kuhn
 4-George Matheus aka George Niemand b. 23 Jan 1924
 +Catharina Jacoba aka Irene b. 18 Nov 1924, d. 12 Aug 1957, Kuilsrivier
 5-Jeanette aka Janie Niemand b. 23 Jun 1948
 +Johannes Andreas aka Jan Immelman
 6-Johannes Andreas aka Jannie Immelman
 6-Catharina Helena aka Irene Immelman
 6-Maryna Immelman
 6-George Mathews aka George Immelman
 4-Jacobus Machiel aka Mike Niemand b. 8 Jan 1927
 +Lydia Magdalena aka Alta Potgieter b. 28 Oct 1928
 5-Beulah Niemand b. 17 Sep 1950
 +Christiaan aka Chris Lassen
 6-Ebin Lassen
 6-Divar Lassen
 6-Wynand Lassen
 6-Roal Lassen
 5-Dennis Jacobus aka Dennis Niemand b. 4 Jan 1952
 5-Desmond Petrus Lodewyk aka Des Niemand b. 13 Jan 1953
 +Antionette du Toit b. 13 Jun 1953
 6-André Desmond aka André Niemand b. 9 Mar 1972
 6-Morné Niemand b. 17 Dec 1973
 6-Rainier Niemand b. 25 Oct 1975
 6-Anton Mario aka Anton Niemand b. 4 Apr 1979
 6-Chantel Antionette aka Chantel Niemand b. 12 Jun 1982
 5-Aubrey Machiel aka Aubrey Niemand b. 22 Sep 1954, d. 4 May 1981, Paarl
 5-Riaan Martin aka Riaan Niemand b. 18 Jun 1956
 5-Wanda Niemand b. 17 Jan 1958
 5-Beattie John aka Beattie Niemand b. 11 Aug 1960
 5-Chrisna Niemand
 5-Jacobus Machiel Niemand
 4-Beattie Johannes Marthienus aka Beattie Niemand b. 8 Feb 1940, d. 14 Febr 2011
 +Magaretha Susanna Swart aka Marjorie Swart b. 22 Feb 1940
 5-Zunette Magdalena aka Zunette Niemand b. 18 Mar 1963
 +Truter
 3-Johannes Wessel Niemand b. 1906, d. 1909
 3-George John Beattie aka George Niemand b. 11 Sep 1908, d. 23 Jun 1931, Hawston
 3-Jacobus Michiel aka Koos Niemand b. 31 Oct 1910, d. 16 Oct 1967, Onrustrivier
 +Christiana Johanna aka Chrissie Cooper b. 2 Dec 1902, d. 26 Dec, Onrustrivier
 4-Christiena Johanna aka Matty Niemand b. 15 Jul 1934
 +George Ebenezer de Wint aka Lökkies Fourie b. 10 May 1932
 5-Benita Fourie b. 17 Jan 1954
 +Jan Jacobus aka John Swart b. 23 Mar 1937
 6-Eben Swart b. 14 Feb 1982
 6-Janita Swart b. 21 Oct 1983
 5-Emmerentia Mariana aka Emmerentia Fourie b. 13 Feb 1963
 5-Eben de Winter aka Eben Fourie b. 21 Jan 1966
 4-Jacobus Machiel aka Koos Niemand b. 24 Feb 1937
 +Shirley Truda aka Shirley Potgieter b. 8 Dec 1941
 5-Sonia Niemand b. 9 Jun 1964
 5-Christiena Johanna aka Sussie Niemand b. 20 Dec 1966
 4-Susanna Magdalena aka Sally Niemand b. 17 Nov 1938
 +Gabiël Petrus Swart b. 14 Mar 1936
 5-Juliana Christiena Cornelia aka Juliana Swart b. 9 Aug 1960
 5-Johan Michael George aka Johan Swart b. 7 Jan 1964
 5-Jacobus Michael aka Mike Swart b. 14 Aug 1966
 5-Jolanda Charmaine aka Jolanda Swart b. 22 Jul 1971
 4-George Ebenezer Cooper aka George Niemand b. 20 Aug 1941

+Adele Louisa Rayner
 4-Maria Elizabeth aka Marie Niemand b. 30 Apr 1952
 +Barend Petrus Smal b. 18 Feb 1951
 5-Hans Jacob aka Hansie Smal b. 20 May 1971
 5-Adele Louisa aka Adele Smal b. 21 Apr 1972
 5-Barend Petrus aka Bennie Smal b. 21 May 1975
 3-Marthinus Lukas aka Martiens Niemand b. 7 Jul 1912, d. 1919
 3-Maria Magdalena Susara aka Maria Niemand b. 21 Feb 1914
 +Jacobus Geldenhuys b. 2 Dec 1908
 4-Maria Magdalena Susanna aka Myra Geldenhuys b. 7 Jun 1935
 +Eddie Deysel
 4-Lukas Marthinus aka Tienie Geldenhuys b. 1 Apr 1941
 +Alta Obbes
 5-Jaco Geldenhuys
 5-Maralize Geldenhuys
 +Jan Ellis
 5-Wiebe Geldenhuys
 4-Jacobus Machiel aka Kobus Geldenhuys b. 17 Sep 1948
 3-John Beattie aka Jan Niemand b. 15 Jun 1916, d. 2 Nov 1953, Hawston
 3-Paul Lodewyk Pieter aka Paul Niemand b. 19 Feb 1918, d. 1 Apr 1951, Hawston
 2-Mary Jane aka Jane West b. Circ 1886, d. 11 Jun 1912, Hawston
 +Alexander Haman aka Alex Cooper b. Circ 1877, d. Circ 1942, Caledon
 3-Christiena aka Stienie Cooper
 +Jannie aka Jannie Geldenhuys
 4-Cornelia Johanna Elizabeth aka Cora Geldenhuys b. 21 May 1934
 +Willem Rudolf aka Rudolf Basson b. 18 Dec 1935, d. 2 Dec 2009
 5-Geldenhuys aka Johan Basson
 4-Jannie Geldenhuys
 +Anneleen Bauermeister
 5-Michelle Geldenhuys
 +Greyvenstein
 3-Alexander Hamman aka Bokkie Cooper b. 8 Jun 1912, d. 21 Dec 1996, Caledon
 +Anna Salomina Paulina aka Pauline de Swardt b. 15 Nov 1922, d. 13 Jun 2007, Caledon
 4-Alexander Hammond aka Alex Cooper b. 11 Mar 1948
 +Maria Jacoba aka Marina Agenbag b. 11 Jun 1946, d. 6 Aug 1993
 5-Mari aka Mari Cooper b. 12 Oct 1979
 +Marius aka Marius Bekker b. 20 Dec 1977
 4-Annemarie Helene aka Annemarie Cooper b. 2 Mar 1953
 +Johannes aka Hans Bakker b. 23 Nov 1946
 5-Werner aka Werner Bakker b. 17 Apr 1977
 +Melanie aka Melanie Vorster b. 19 Jun 1975
 6-Kayleigh Bakker b. 16 Jun 2010
 5-Salomi aka Salomi Bakker b. 16 Aug 1980
 +Gerhard aka Gerhard Kruger b. 25 Nov 1977
 4-Ingrid-Jane aka Ingrid Cooper b. 17 Sep 1957
 +Johan aka Johan Burger b. 11 Jun 1950
 5-Alana Burger b. 4 Feb 1983
 5-Idané aka Idané Burger b. 12 Jul 1985
 5-Johan aka Johan Burger b. 8 Jun 1990
 3-Johnny Cooper d. 8 Jun 1912, Died as child
 2-Lukas Marthinus aka Teecy West d. Abt 1923, Robben Island
 2-John Beattie aka Johnny West b. 24 Jun 1891, d. 2 Dec 1968, Kleinmond
 +Alida Jacoba aka Ella Niemand b. 10 Sep 1893, d. 6 Jul 1931, Kleinmond
 3-Alida Jacoba aka Alie West b. 29 Sep 1916
 +Melchior Bremer Johannesse b. 6 Aug 1904, d. Stellenbosch
 4-Helge Emile aka Helge Johannesse b. 2 May 1941
 3-Christina Maria aka Kestie West b. 10 Nov 1922
 +John Mackenzie aka Johnny Johnson b. 23 Apr 1918, d. 19 Mar 1982, Stellenbosch
 4-Dr. Francis Alexander aka Frank Johnson b. 30 Jul 1945
 +Maud Wilhelmina Johanna aka Minnie Ellis b. 6 Nov 1946
 5-JohnMacKenzie aka John-MacKenzie Johnson b. 25 Oct 1969
 5-Willem Ellis aka Ellis Johnson b. 19 May 1971
 5-Francis Alexander aka Francis Johnson b. 1 Aug 1980
 5-Jennifer aka Jennifer Johnson b. 26 Jul 1983
 4-John Beattie West aka John Johnson b. 25 Feb 1948, d. 30 Apr 2012, bur. 8 May 2012
 +Johanna Maria Catherina aka Johanna Thiar b. 13 Nov 1948

5-Yolandé Johnson b. 2 May 1975
 5-John-Mackenzie Johnson b. 26 Sep 1976
 +Johanna Maria Catherina aka Johanna Thiar
 4-John MacKenzie aka MacKenzie Johnson b. 4 Jan 1950
 +Jesse Magdaleen aka Jess de Villiers
 5-Mariza Johnson
 5-Chrisna Johnson
 4-Melchior Bremer aka Melchior Johnson b. 1 Mar 1956
 +Salome aka Salome Van Rensburg b. 29 Aug 1957
 5-Margaux Johnson b. 2 Jun 1980
 5-Michelle Johnson b. 4 Mar 1982
 5-Maurine Johnson b. 10 Jan 1987
 +Dolly
 +Bean
 2-Christina Maria Johanna aka Kitty West b. 1 Oct 1893, d. 12 May 1981, Hermanus
 +Johannes Wessel aka Jan Niemand b. 10 Oct 1892, d. 28 Nov 1961, Hermanus
 3-Florence Iris aka Florrie Niemand b. 12 Dec 1924
 +Lloyd Daniël aka Lloyd Warrington b. 26 Jun 1926, d. 22 Jun 2009 (see Florence Iris Niemand)
 4-Patrick James aka Pat Warrington b. 11 Apr 1950
 +Ellie Johanna aka Ellie Rossouw b. 25 Apr 1953
 5-Lloyd Daniël aka LD-Lloyd Warrington b. 19 Apr 1980
 5-Elricka aka Elricka Warrington b. 16 Mar 1983
 +Gerhard aka Gerhard de Jager b. 25 Jan 1986
 4-Leonora Veronice aka Nora Warrington b. 27 Apr 1951
 +Okkert Cornelius aka Okkert Brits b. 29 Mar 1947, d. 6 Feb 2003
 5-Okkert Cornelius aka Okkie Brits b. 5 Febr 1976
 +Samantha Andrea aka Sam Clark b. 10 Jun 1979
 6-Jenna aka Jenna Brits b. 25 Jan 2006
 6-Megan aka Megan Brits b. 2 Aug 2009
 5-Corné aka Corné Brits b. 23 Nov 1978
 +Pieter Kruger aka Pieter Venter b. 9 Jun 1978
 6-Elroné Venter b. 24 Oct 2007
 4-Marlene aka Marlene Mala Warrington b. 27 Sep 1952
 4-Rhenda Mercedes aka Rhenda Warrington b. 1 Oct 1953
 +Johannes Phillupus aka Johann Theart b. 9 Dec 1954
 5-Simoné aka Simoné Theart b. 16 Apr 1980
 +Frederick Johannes aka Derik Scheepers b. 3 Feb 1975
 6-Anzel aka Anzel Scheepers b. 14 Apr 2008
 6-Imke Scheepers b. 2 Nov 2009
 5-Rohann aka Rohann Theart b. 3 Dec 1984
 4-Cedric John aka Cedric Warrington b. 8 Jan 1958
 +Dina Carolina aka Toy Burns b. 6 Jun 1961
 5-Cedric John aka Cedric Warrington b. 15 Oct 1980
 5-Johndré aka Johndré Warrington b. 27 Aug 1987
 5-Zain aka Zain Warrington b. 26 Nov 1992
 3-John Stanley Beattie aka Stan Niemand b. 7 Oct 1927, d. 25 Apr 2007
 +Cola Margareth aka Cola Paterson b. 11 Aug 1927, d. 1 Jan 2010
 4-Valerie Mary Westina aka Valerie Niemand b. 7 Jan 1952
 +Lourens Petrus aka Lourens Greyling b. 3 Jul 1946, d. 19 Jan 2005
 5-Lourens Petrus aka Lourens Greyling b. 25 Apr 1971
 5-Reinette Margaret aka Reinette Greyling b. 19 Aug 1973
 +Neal aka Neal Wilson b. 10 Jun 1971
 6-Connor John aka Connor Wilson b. 27 Sep 2008
 5-Natasja aka Natasja Greyling b. 11 Apr 1979
 +Bennett Lee aka Bennett Short b. 25 Nov 1975
 6-Yin Lee aka Yin Short b. 13 Jan 2004
 5-Marius aka Marius Greyling b. 13 Aug 1985
 +Jan Adriaan aka Attie Nienaber b. 11 Dec 1956
 4-Jeffrey John William aka Jeffrey Niemand b. 16 Apr 1953
 +René aka René Kotze b. 21 Aug 1953
 5-Carika aka Carika Niemand b. 20 Feb 1978
 +Gert Jacobus aka Jacques Kotze b. 14 Jun 1973
 6-Alexander aka Xander Kotze b. 7 Jan 2008
 6-Mila-Nell Kotze b. 9 Oct 2010
 5-Nicolie aka Nicolie Niemand b. 15 Oct 1985
 4-Stanley Beattie aka Stanley Niemand b. 7 Jul 1954, d. 7 Mar 1974

4-William Charles aka William Niemand b. 3 Aug 1955
 +Monica aka Monica Vink b. 4 Sep 1955 (see William Charles aka William Niemand on page 9)
 5-Heidi aka Heidi Niemand b. 24 May 1978
 5-John Stanley aka Stanley Niemand b. 26 Mar 1979, d. 16 Sep 2000
 5-Pieter William aka Pieter Niemand b. 15 Nov 1988
 4-Margaret Leoni aka Margaret Niemand b. 24 Jan 1958
 +Dennis Jacobus aka Dennis Niemand b. 14 Jan 1952
 -Denise Cola aka Denise Niemand b. 26 Feb 1974
 +Unknown
 6-Nicol Niemand
 5-Mark Mike aka Mark Niemand b. 6 Jun 1977
 +Unknown
 6-Savanna Breeze Niemand
 5-Dennis Jacobus aka DJ Niemand b. 18 Mar 1979
 3-William James Raymond aka Jim Niemand b. 29 Jun 1933
 +Elizabeth Magdalena aka Bettie Ellis b. 22 Sep 1938
 4-MariëtteVelda aka Mariëtte Niemand b. 29 Jun 1959
 +Le Roux aka Le Roux Burmeister b. 26 Nov 1958
 5-Raymond aka Raymond Burmeister b. 26 Nov 1984
 5-Aletta aka aletta Burmeister b. 6 Feb 1988
 4-Vincent John aka Vincent Niemand b. 26 Jun 1960
 +Ina Ann aka Ina Tallie b. 25 Aug 1960
 5-Vincent John aka Vincent Niemand b. 13 Aug 1984
 5-Elizma aka Elizma Niemand b. 14 Jul 1985
 5-Talitta aka Talitta Niemand b. 15 May 1989
 +Elizabeth Susanna aka Sonja du Toit b. 13 Jul 1959
 4-Karen aka Karen Niemand b. 16 Feb 1962
 +Jacobus Johannes aka Koos Jacobs b. 19 May 1955
 5-Louis Johannes aka Louis Jacobs b. 23 May 1988
 4-Lizette Helmien aka Lizette Niemand b. 2 Nov 1965
 +Chris Johannes Smit aka Chris Lategan b. 9 Dec 1959, d. 14 Jan 2006
 5-Zanell Lategan b. 22 Sep 1990
 5-Christiaan Johannes aka Christiaan Lategan b. 9 May 1994
 4-Reinette Rayda aka Rayda Niemand b. 12 Mar 1971
 +Charl Henry aka Charl Heynes b. 13 Oct 1956
 5-Jack Henry aka Jack Heynes b. 12 Jun 2003
 3-Christina Magdalena aka Ina Niemand b. 9 Mar 1935, d. 16 Mar
 +Minnaar

CHAPTER 22

Henry Nesbitt West (1860-1886) (No 1) who died so young in an ox wagon accident

My mother, her brothers and sisters always told us about their unmarried halfbrother, who died very young in an ox wagon accident in the Northern Cape. He was Henry Nesbitt West (no 1), the 7th child of George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon. Henry was born at Villiersdorp on 16th July 1860 and baptized on the 8th October 1860. At the time of his baptism in Villiersdorp, his father was a police constable, mason and part time farmer. It was told that when Henry (no 1) died in an oxwagon accident on the 11th December 1886 he was unmarried and childless.

On the 15th of May 1888, seventeen months after Henry's (no 1) death, George John Beatty's second wife Lenie gave birth to another son. George named him also Henry Nesbitt West (15th child). As far as they were concerned, George's 7th child, Henry Nesbitt West (no 1) died unmarried and without descendants. The West family in the Cape were not aware that Henry Nesbitt (no 1) was indeed married, had a son and that his widow was expecting another child.

George John Beatty reminded his children that the Nesbitt names were very important to him and that he wanted it to remain in his family. Henry Nesbitt was the name of George's grandfather, the father of his mother.

On January the 24th 2015 I received a short email from a DRC minister, the Rev Bas Pieters of Port Elizabeth, which would result in the discovery of a branch of the West family that remained unknown to the rest of the family for 120 years. It read as follows: "*Goeie Naand. Een van my gemeentelede, **Henry Nesbit West** wil graag sy familie terugneem tot by die stamvader. Sy vader was Henry Nesbit West gebore 12/07/1887 en sy moeder was Rachel Catharina Gerharda Scholts. Sy vader se broer was John Beattie West. Die stamvader het in 1856 na SA gekom vanaf Ierland. Skakel dit in u familie?*" (Good Evening. One of my parish members, Henry Nesbit West wants to take his family back to their original ancestor. His father was Henry Nesbit West born 12/07/1887 and his mother was Rachel Catharina Gerharda Scholts. His father's brother was John Beattie West. The ancestor came to South Africa in 1856 from Ireland. Does it fit in with your family?)

After I obtained his telephone number from the Rev Pieters, I visited uncle Henry Nesbitt West (no 4) in Port Elizabeth. When he told me that his grandfather, Henry Nesbitt West (no 1) died in an ox wagon accident, I immediately knew that I have found a new branch of our West family! I phoned my brother Deon in Greece to share my excitement with him.

Uncle Henry West (no 4), a real gentleman, told me that his grandfather Henry Nesbitt West (no 1) was indeed married when he died in the ox wagon accident. It was quite in contrast with what the family in the Cape believed. He also told me that his grandfather, Henry Nesbitt West (no 1), became a farmer and transport driver with his wagon and oxen. It seems that he settled in the Douglas-Plooyburg-Biesiesvlei area where he met and married Sophia aka Sophie van Heerden. On Saturday the 11th December 1886, a summer's day, Henry was asleep in the shade of the wagon. The leader of the oxen, unaware that Henry (no 1) was asleep under the wagon, lead the oxen on and the wagon went over him. On his death notice, filed 31 January 1887 is stated that at the time of his death he was a married farmer of about 25 years, that he died on the 11th December 1886, was run over by a wagon at Koppijedam, Kimberley, that he had a

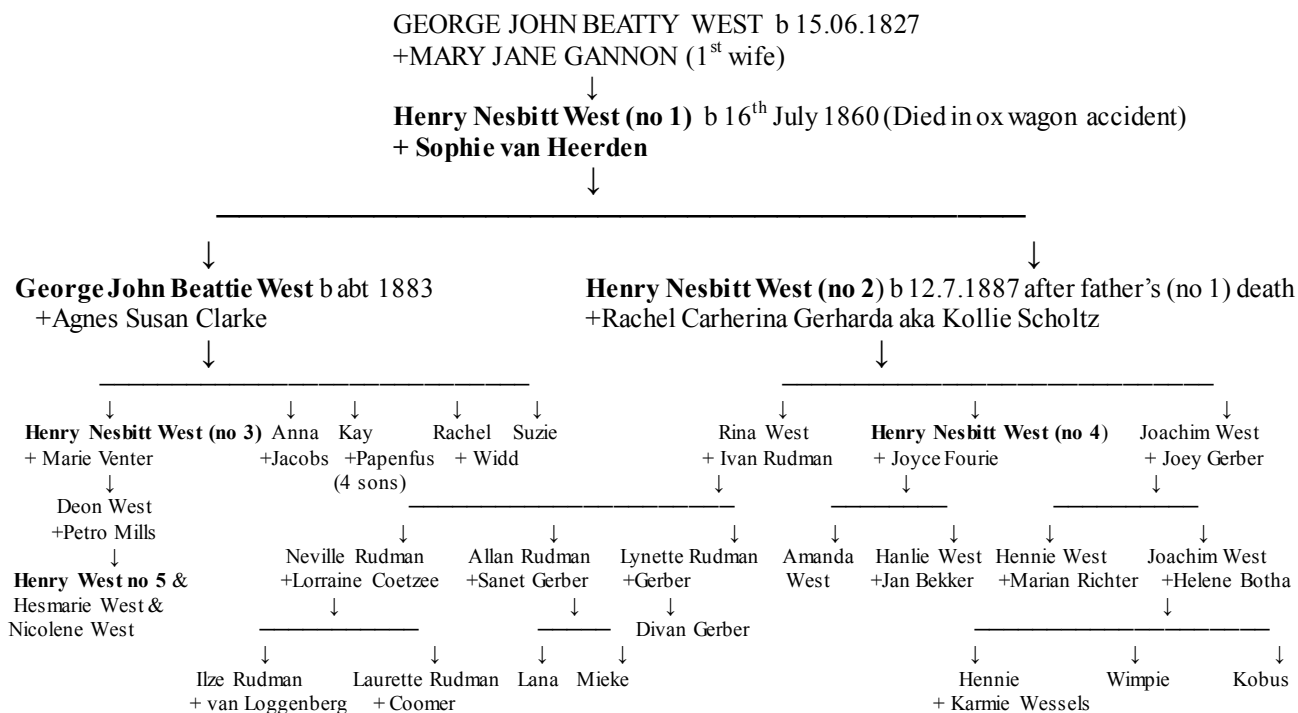
minor George John B.West and that he had cattle to the value of £54.15.0. Koppijedam is near Plooyburg. It is unsure where he was buried. His widow Sophie later married Frans Lotz but the couple did not have any children.

With Henry Nesbitt West's (no 1) death, he and his wife Sophie had a son **George John Beattie West** born about 1883 and she was expecting their second child. When this second child was born on the 12th July 1887, Sophie named him after his late father **Henry Nesbitt West (no 2)**. This son Henry Nesbitt West (no 2) became the father of uncle **Henry Nesbitt West (no 4)** of Port Elizabeth.

Many years later when the late Henry's (no 2) eldest brother William Claudius West lived in the same area near Douglas and two of his brothers, Cairncross Nesbitt West, James West and his half sister Elizabeth Petronella aka Daisy West lived in the Vryburg area, nothing was mentioned in their correspondence about their late brother Henry Nesbitt West or his wife Sophie and their two children.

Meanwhile in Genadendal, on the 15th of May 1888, George John Beatty West's second wife, Magdalena Johanna van As aka Lenie, gave birth to his fifteenth child. As mentioned before, George felt strongly that the name and surname of his late grandfather Henry Nesbitt should remain among his descendants. "Knowing" that with the death of his son Henry Nesbitt West (no 1), his grandfather's name was going to disappear from the future generations, he also named this fifteenth child Henry Nesbitt West.

Diagram indicating the descendants of Henry Nesbitt West and Sophie van Heerden



Henry Nesbitt West (no 1) and Sophie van Heerden's son George John Beattie West's son was born about 1883. He married Agnes Susan Clarke. **George John Beattie West** and Agnes had the following five children:

- Henry Nesbitt (no 3),**
- Anna (married Jacobs),
- Kay (married Papenfus),

Rachel (married Wiid), and
Suzy.

Their eldest son Henry Nesbitt West (no 3) born 5th November 1927 married Maria Dorothea aka Marie Venter born 27th June 1933. Henry (no 3) and Marie had an adopted child Cornelius Gideon aka Deon West. Deon married Petronella Margaretha aka Petro Mills and their children were Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West (no 5) born 13th April 1976, Hesmarie married Marais and Nicolene married Adam Cronje. Henry Nesbitt (no 3) died 17th Junie 1994 at the age of 66.

George John Beattie West's wife Agnes died on 18th September 1932 and was buried between Douglas and Hopetown on the farm Daantjiesdam, Soutpan. **George** died 11th May 1946 at the Kimberley Hospital at the age of about 63. He was buried next to his wife at Daantjiesdam. Unfortunately I could find no information about their children Anna, Kay, Rachel, Suzy or their descendants.

Henry (no 1) and Sophie's **second son** whom Sophie named **Henry Nesbitt West** (no 2) was born on 12th July 1887, seven months after his father's death. He was named after his father Henry Nesbitt (no 1) and great grandfather Henry Nesbitt. Henry (no 2) married Rachel Catharina Gerharda aka Kollie Scholtz born 11th July 1898.

Henry Nesbitt West and Kollie West had three children:

Rachel Catharina Gerharda aka Rina West,
Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West (no 4) and
Joachim Jacobus West.

Henry (no 2) and Kollie West's eldest daughter Rina born 12th September 1925, married Ivanhoe aka Ivan Rudman and lives in Nigel. Rina and Ivan have three children: Neville b 8th April 1956, Lynette b 18th February 1958 and Allan b 30th March 1963. Neville Rudman is married to Lorraine Fredrika aka Lorraine Coetzee and lives in Heidelberg, Gauteng. Lynette Rudman was married to Gerber. Allan Rudman is married to Sanet Gerber and lives in Perth, Australia.

Henry and Kollie West's (no 2) second child, **Henry Nesbitt West (no 4)** lives in Port Elizabeth. He gave me interesting facts about what developed on Biesiesvlei, Plooyburg and Douglas. When George John Beattie's wife Agnes Susan Clarke died on the 18th September 1932 their son Henry Nesbitt West (no 3) was only 4 years old. The widower George John Beattie West, realized that he could not take the necessary care of the young son Henry Nesbitt (no 3). Therefore he asked his brother Henry Nesbitt West (no 2) and his wife Kollie to take care of his son. But believe it or not, Henry Nesbitt West (no 2) and his wife Kollie also had a son Henry Nesbitt West (no 4) born on the 15th of May 1928. Now in the one house on the West's farm Biesiesvlei, there were simultaneously three Henry Nesbitt Wests.

The father Henry Nesbitt West (no 2) born 12th July 1887,
his son Henry Nesbitt West (no 4) born 15th of May 1928 and
Henry Nesbitt West (no 3), born 5 November 1927, the son of George John Beattie and wife Agnes Susan Clarke.

Imagine that for more than twelve years, the two cousins Henry Nesbitt West lived in one house, were in the same class at school, differing only six months in age and played rugby for the same team. Their teachers and friends differentiated between them as "klein Henry" and "groot Henry". Since their childhood, they were the best of friends.

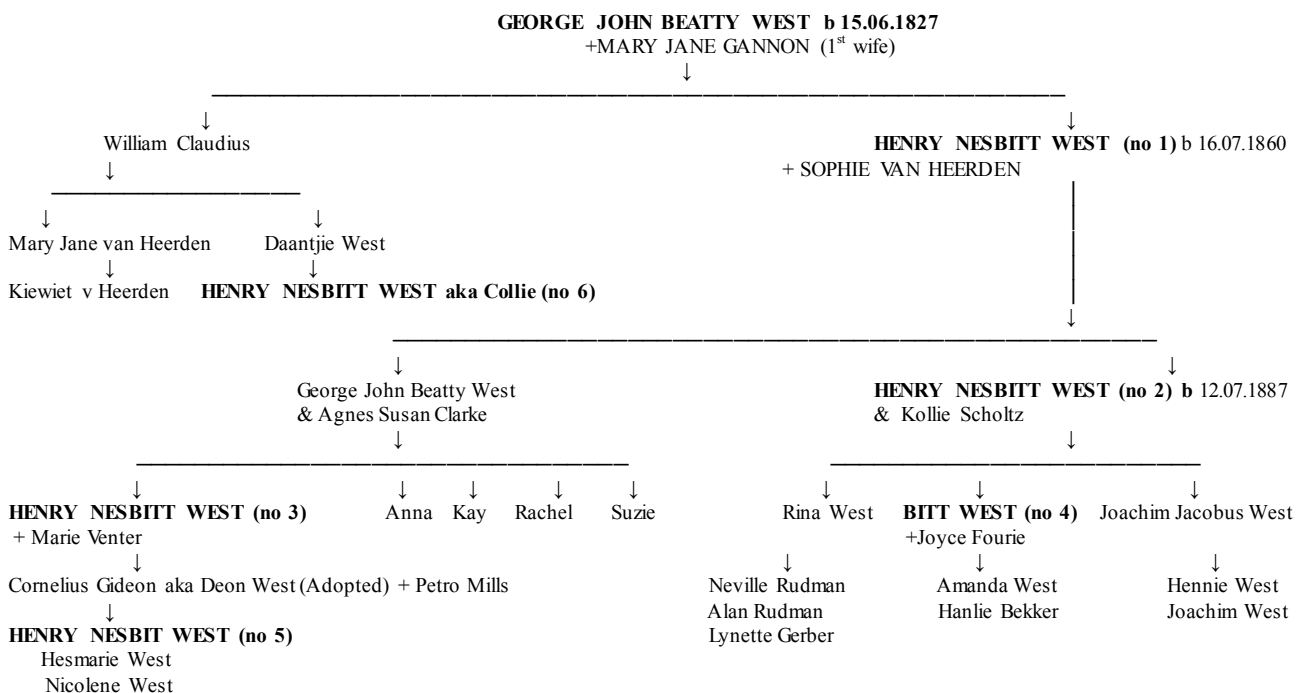
Uncle Henry, Henry Nesbitt West (no 4), also told me the following: *"My grandfather (Henry*

Nesbitt West no 1), had an elder brother William Claudius West who also lived in the Douglas area for a while. William Claudius had a daughter Mary Jane West who was born 22 June 1881. After her marriage to Jacob Andries Cornelius van Heerden they lived on the farm Tafelberg near Douglas-Plooyburg. Mary Jane and her husband often visited her nephew Henry Nesbitt West (no 2), that is my father, on the farm Biesiesvlei. Mary Jane and Jacob van Heerden, had a son William Claudius West aka Kiewiet van Heerden. Kiewiet and his nephew Henry Nesbitt West (no 2), that is my father, served simultaneously on the Church council of the DRC of Plooyburg. Kiewiet was a deacon and my father, Henry Nesbitt West (no 2) was an elder”.

Our ancestor George John Beatty West however had seven descendants named Henry Nesbitt West. It can be very confusing. They were:

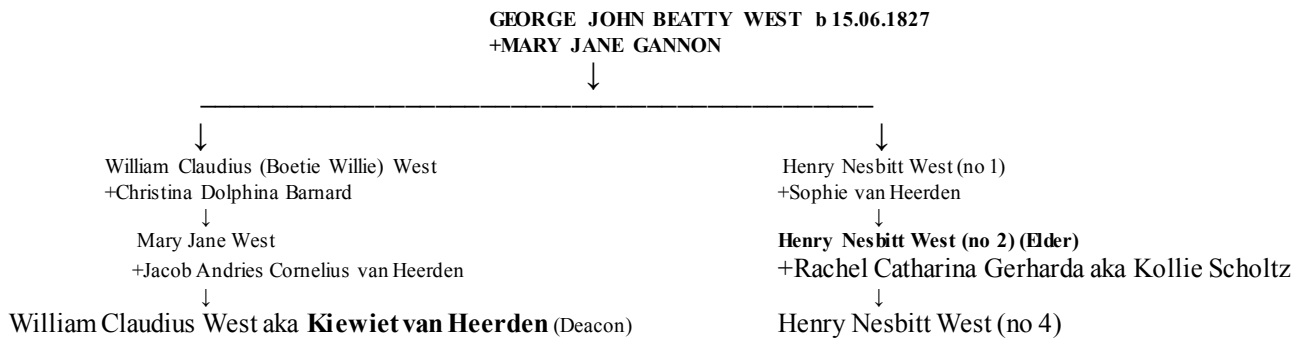
- Henry Nesbitt West (no 1) - the son of George West and Mary Jane Gannon (he died in an ox wagon accident)
- Henry Nesbitt West (no 2) - the son of Henry Nesbitt West (no1) and Sophie van Heerden. (Born after the death of his father Henry Nesbitt West (no1))
- Henry Nesbitt West (no 3) - the grandson of Henry Nesbitt West (no 1). His parents were George John Beatty West and Agnes Susan Clark.
- Henry Nesbitt West (no 4) - the grandson of Henry Nesbitt West (no 1). His parents were Henry Nesbitt West (no 2) and Kollie Scholtz.
- Henry Nesbitt West (no 5) - the grandson of Henry West (no 3) and Marie Venter. His parents were Deon West and Petro Mills.
- Henry Nesbitt West (no 6) - he is Henry Nesbitt West aka Collie, the grandson of William Claudius West (Boetie Willie). His grandfather, Boetie Willie was the eldest brother of Henry Nesbitt West (no 1).
- Henry Nesbitt West (no 7) - the much younger halfbrother of Boetie Willie and Henry Nesbitt West (no 1).

Diagram showing the seven Henry Nesbitt Wests:



Henry Nesbitt no 7 was the Henry Nesbitt West born on 15.08.1888, twenty eight years after his half brother **Henry Nesbitt West no 1** who was born on 16 July 1860. **Henry Nesbitt no 7** was the son of George John Beatty West by his second wife Lenie van As.

Diagram showing the connection between the church deacon Kiewiet and the church elder Henry Nesbitt West (no 2):



One must remember that during the decades of my and my brother Deon's research there were never even a possibility of descendants of our uncle, Henry Nesbitt West (no 1) who died in this, I must admit, for us a strange ox wagon accident. Now we suddenly knew about seven Henry Nesbitt Wests. When the son of my brother in law bought the farm Daantjiesdam between Hopetown and Douglas he found the grave of a George John West and his wife Agnes Susan Clarke. I went to the farm, took photos of the tombstone and sent it to Deon in Greece. We agreed that there was no relationship between this George John West of Daantjiesdam and our West family. We were so "sure" about our conclusion that I even destroyed the photos of the tombstone. Meanwhile it was the tombstone of our nephew George John Beattie West, the eldest son of Henry Nesbitt West (no 1) and his wife Sophie! And the West family in the Cape knew nothing about them ...

Uncle Henry West, the Rev Bas Pieters, Uncle Henry's sister Rina, her son Neville Rudman, the Rev Hennie West, and Nicolene Cronje born West, were of great help and encouragement. With their help we found about 50 new Wests in our family.

Descendants of Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West and Sophia aka Sophie van Heerden:

- 1-Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West b. 16 Jul 1860, Villiersdorp, c. 8 Oct 1860, St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp Rev H.M.M Wilshere, d. 11th December 1886 in an ox wagon accident at the farm Koppijedam (Koppiesdam) near Kimberley.
- +Sophia aka Sophie van Heerden
- 2-George John Beattie West b. Abt 1883, d. 11th May 1946, Kimberley Hospital, bur. Daantjiesdam, Soutpan, between Douglas and Hopetown.
- +Agnes Susan Clarke d. 18th September 1932, bur. Daantjiesdam, Soutpan, between Douglas and Hopetown.
- 3-Henry Nesbitt West b. 5 Nov 1927, d. 17th June 1994
- +Maria Dorothea aka Marie Venter b. 27th June 1933, d. 12th Aug 1999
- 4-Cornelius Gideon aka Deon West
- +Petronella Margaretha aka Petro Mills
- 5-Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West b. 13th April 1976
- 5-Hesmarie West
- +Marais
- 5-Nicolene West
- +Adam Cronje
- 6-Henri Gideon Cronje
- 3-Anna West
- +Jacobs
- 3-Kay West
- +Papenfus
- 4-Four Sons Papenfus
- 3-Rachel ? West
- +Wiid
- 3-Suzie West
- 2-Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West b. 12 Jul 1887, d. 28 Feb 1944, bur. On farm Biesiesvlei between Plooyburg and

Vermont.

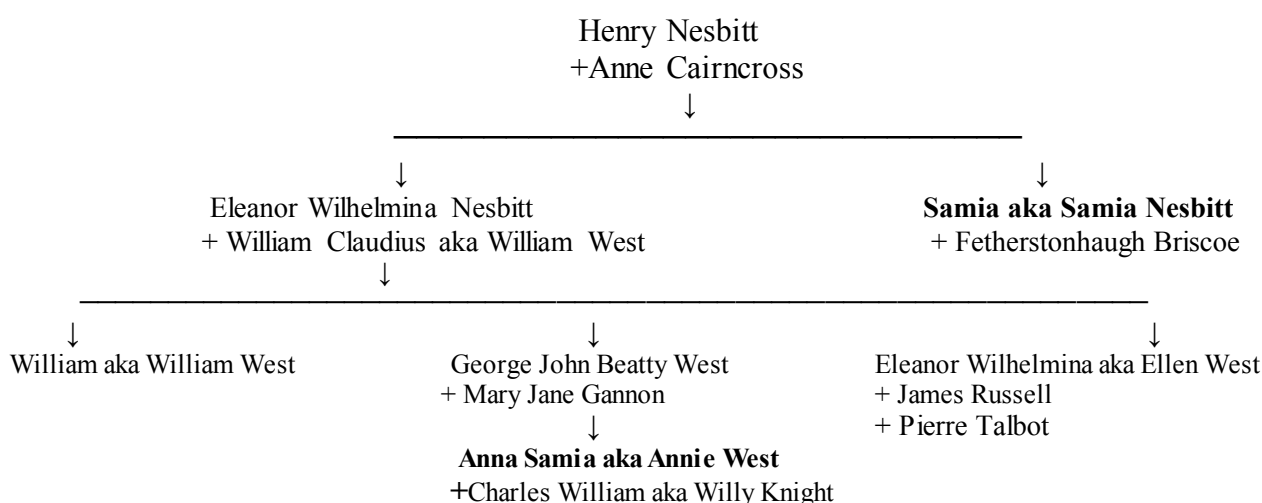
- +Rachel Catharina Gerharda aka Kollie Scholtz b. 11 Jul 1898
- 3-Rachel Catharina Gerharda aka Rina West b. Saturday 12 Sep 1925
- +Ivanhoe aka Ivan Rudman b. Dec 1931, d. 30th Jan 1980
 - 4-Neville aka Neville Rudman b. Sunday 8th April 1956
 - +Lorraine Fredrieka aka Lorraine Coetzee b. Wednesday 13th August 1958
 - 5-Ilze aka Ilze Rudman b. 15th Febr 1984
 - +Van Loggerenberg
 - 5-Laurette aka Laurette Rudman b. 7th March 1986
 - +Coomer
 - 4-Allan aka Allan Rudman b. 30th March 1963
 - +Sanet aka Sanet Gerber b. 3rd October 1962
 - 5-Lana aka Lana Rudman b. Friday 9th June 1995
 - 5-Mieke aka Mieke Rudman b. Thursday 12th September 1996
 - 4-Lynette Gerber (Divorced) b. 18 Febr 1958
 - +Gerber
 - 5-Divan aka Divan Gerber b. 4th July 1986
- 3-**Henry Nesbit** aka Henry West b. 15 May 1928
- +Johanna Elizabeth aka Joyce Fourie b. 10 Aug 1931 d 2019
 - 4-Amanda West b. 20th Febr 1955
 - 4-Hanlie West b. 16th Oct 1959
 - +Jan Bekker b. 1st May 1950
- 3-Joachim Jacobus West b. 22 Nov 1932, d. 1977-1978
- +Johanna Katriena aka Joey Gerber b. 9th May 1938
 - 4-Henry Frans aka Hennie West b. 29th Nov 1962
 - +Marian Richter b. 26th May 1968
 - 5-Hennie Frans aka Hennie West b. 6 Mar 1991
 - +Karmie Wessels
 - 5-Wilhelm Joachim aka Wimpie West b. 15th Aug 1993
 - 5-Jacobus Bernard aka Kobus West b. 31st May 1996
 - 4-Joachim Jacobus aka Joachim West b. 14th Jan 1968
 - +Helene Botha

CHAPTER 23

Anna Samia West (1862-1935) – the wife of a harness maker in Villiersdorp

Anna Samia aka Annie West, the eighth child of George John Beatty West and Mary Jane Gannon, was born in Villiersdorp on the 29th June 1862. Her father was a mason at that time. She was baptized by Curator A Jefferey in the St Augustine Anglican Church, Villiersdorp on the 27th August 1862. Annie was named after Samia Briscoe born Nesbitt the beloved sister of her grandmother Eleanor Wilhelmina West. Samia Briscoe often stayed with her sister Eleanor Wilhelmina West.

Diagram depicting the relationship between Samia West and Samia Briscoe born Nesbitt:



There are quite a few references in Eleanor Russell's letters to "aunt Briscoe". In her letter of 27th May 1853 Eleanor referred to aunt Samia: *"Aunt Briscoe is living in the Isle of Man But what do you think of Aunt Briscoe going to be married to a Manxman a Mr Cowan. She says she is only thinking about it but you know the man who deliberates is lost"*. A Manxman is a man living on the Isle of Man. On the 5th September 1867 aunt Samia Briscoe herself wrote a letter to George in South Africa. See complete letter in Chapter 20, Appendix 2.

Annie grew up in Villiersdorp and later on the farm Hoopjesrivier where her mother Mary Jane died on the 16th June 1879. At the the time of her mother's death, Annie was 16 years old and her younger brother Cairncross Nesbitt West only 14. On 20th July 1880, when she was 18, her father married Lenie van As. Lenie's children, her half brothers and sisters, called her Sus Annie out of respect for the age difference. Annie only stayed a year or two with her father and his new wife Lenie at Hoopjesrivier before she married Charles William aka Willy Knight a harness maker of Villiersdorp. A month before Annie was 20, her first child Charlie was born. Sus Annie and Willy had thirteen children, seven of whom were named after her West parent's family.

Anna Samia aka Annie and her husband Charles William Henry aka Willy Knight's thirteen children:

- 1 **Charles William Henry aka Charlie Knight** b 28 May 1882
- 2 **Mary Jane aka Jane Knight** b 26 December 1883
- 3 **Anna Georgina aka Anna Knight** b 11 October 1885
- 4 **Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Ellen Knight** b 4 October 1887
- 5 **George John Beattie aka George Knight** b 5 November 1888
- 6 **James Cairncross aka Jim Knight** b 12 October 1891
- 7 **Anna Gertrude Calanan aka Gertie Knight** b 25 March 1893
- 8 **William Claudius aka Claude Knight** b 28 May 1894
- 9 **Ellen West aka Lily Knight** b 19 May 1896
- 10 **Caroline Wilhelmina aka Caroline Knight** b 10 August 1897
- 11 **Cairncross Nesbitt aka Cairncross or Boy Knight** 10 October 1898
- 12 **Thomas James Little aka Tom Knight** 27 October 1899 and
- 13 **Grace aka Grace Knight** 31 July 1901.

1 **Charles William Henry aka Charlie Knight** married Isabella Hendrina aka Isabel Brand. The couple lived in Caledon where they were buried. They had three children: Cornelia Gertrude aka Corrie, Isabella Myra aka Myra and Charles William Henry aka William. I had the privilege to visit Myra at the Old Age Home in Caledon. She was married to Josias aka Sias Hamman,. Myra and Sias had three children namely Isabella Myra aka Isabel, Anna Elizabeth aka Amanda and Josias Hendrik aka Sas. William and his wife Kitty had a son Charles.

2 **Mary Jane aka Jane Knight** died on the 10th February 1906 at the age of 22 and is buried in Caledon.

3 **Anna Georgina aka Anna Knight** married Pierre Francois aka Tommy Theron. The couple had four children: Pierre Francois, William Charles aka Willie Boy, Charles Henry aka Charlie and Anna Georgina aka Jean. Two of their children played rugby for Caledon. It was said that Willie Boy was an outstanding fly half. Anna and Pierre stayed in Caledon where Anna died on the 5th June 1939. Pierre died in Caledon on the 10th October 1943.

4 **Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Ellen Knight** died on the 1st January 1888 when she was only three months old.

5 **George John Beattie aka George Knight** married Julia Caroline aka Poppie Geldenhuys. They had a daughter, Julia Samia Roline aka Rolene who married Jacobus Marthinus aka Jack Neethling. Rolene and Jack have four children namely Carol Julia aka Carol, Cornelius Johannes Godfrey Ernst aka Godfrey, George John Knight aka George and Jacques. George and Poppie lived in Caledon where they were buried.

6 **James Cairncross aka Jim Knight.** Jim married into my father's family, the Coetzees. In both the West and Coetzee families Jim was very infamous. My father, Gideon Petrus Coetzee, had a sister Sarah Coetzee who married Hendrik Brand the shepherd of their father, Dirk Jozua Coetzee. We called Hendrik, Oom Tamaat. Oom Tamaat was a very simple hearted man. During his last days when he was very weak, my brother Colas and I used to take cooldrink, jelly and soup for him.

My Coetzee grandfather, Dirk Coetzee sold his farm Klipfontein near Bonnievale for £12 000

and bought Soetmelksvlei for £5 000. He kept £7 000 cash under his bed in a trunk.

When Dirk Coetzee was a widower and very frail oom Tamaat and Sarah's only daughter, Sara Susanna aka Sal stayed in his house and took care of him. Sal later married James Cairncross aka Jim Knight.

One morning the bedroom window stood open and the trunk with cash was gone. My sister Iza could still recall how my father Gideon Petrus Coetzee came into our house and told the story of what he thought had happened. He had an idea who the thief was. He went to Soutkloof, two kilometers from the house and found the trails of a car which stopped and parked there. The police came, compared the trails of the car with Jim's car's trails and found Jim in Caledon in the bar with his friends, paying for the drinks with £5 notes. They recovered most of the money in the attic of Jim's mother's house. He was found guilty and I am not sure whether he was sent to jail. Whether Sara knew about the theft of the money I can't tell.

Jim was quite a chancer. It was told that once when Sal was in the Caledon Hospital, their neighbours from Onrustrivier visited her and insisted that she should go home immediately because Jim was selling her dairy cows.

Jim and Sal did not have children of their own and adopted a boy named Harry. The couple was buried in Onrustrivier in a grave with a very expensive tombstone.

7 Anna Gertrude Calanan aka Gertie Knight married Koos Geldenhuys and had a son Johnny Geldenhuys.

8 William Claudius aka Claude Knight married Pearl Iris May aka Pearl Holden. They lived and was buried in Cape Town. They had a daughter Welma Isobel Anna aka Welma and a son Hector William aka Hector. Welma married Norman John Pregnolato with whom she had two children, Carol and Michael Norman. Hector was married to Elaine Ruth aka Elaine Whitehead. They have a son Sean.

9 Annie and Willie's fourth child Ellen died as a baby. Eight years later they had another daughter and also named her Ellen West aka Lily Knight. Eleanor Wilhelmina are the names of Annie's grandmother, Eleanor Wilhelmina West. **Ellen West aka Lily Knight** married Joseph Carl aka Fritz Richter. The couple had five children: Anna Samia aka Nancy, Sonny, Billy, Joseph George aka Bobby and Danny. Nancy was married to Mannie Cilliers and Bobby to Joan Robin Kearn.

10 Caroline Wilhelmina aka Caroline Knight was married to Jacob Casper aka Jack Sowden who owned a hotel in Caledon. The couple had two children: Richard Charles Henry aka Tinky Sowden and Claudine Ann aka Claudine Sowden. Tinky remained a bachelor. He died at the age of 42 and was cremated in Maitland. Claudine married Gerald Meyer aka Gerald Halperen. They have three sons, Ian Joel aka Ian, Peter Brent aka Peter and Michael John aka Michael.

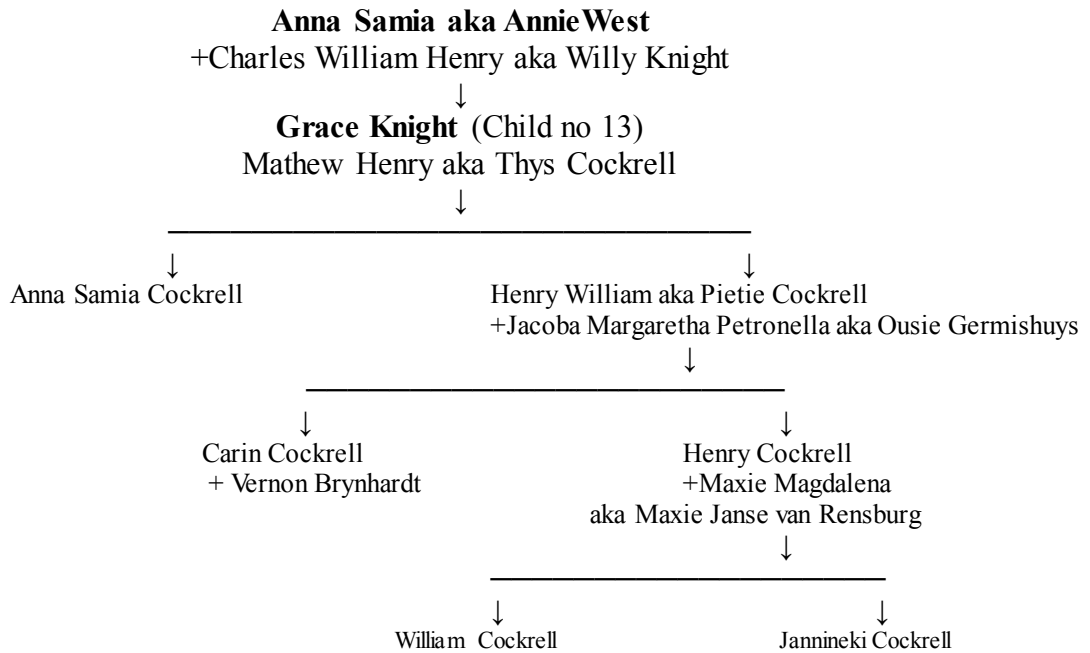
11 Cairncross Nesbitt aka Cairncross or Boy Knight died in Caledon at the age of 21.

12 Thomas James Little aka Tom Knight died as a bachelor in Stikland.

13 Grace aka Grace Knight was the youngest of Annie West and Willy Knight's thirteen children. Grace married Mathew Henry aka Thys Cockrell. The couple have a daughter Anna Samia aka Ann Cockrell and a son Henry William aka Pietie Cockrell. Ann remained a spinster and lived in Bellville where she worked as a doctor's receptionist. She and her mother Grace was buried on the same day.

Pietie Cockrell married Jacoba Margaretha Petronella aka Ousie Germishuys. Pietie and Ousie had a daughter Carin Cockrell and a son Henry Cockrell. Carin married Vernon Brynhardt. Henry, a civil engineer, married Maxie Magdalena aka Maxie Janse van Rensburg. Henry, Maxie, their son William and daughter Jannineki live in Hoekwil near George.

Diagram of the descendants of Grace Knight and Thys Cockrell:



On 27th Aug 1900, when Annie was 38 years old and 10 months after the birth of her 12th child, her health must have been in a very poor condition because on that date her half sister Daisy wrote to their parents: *"It pleased me much to hear that Sister Annie improved in health while with you. I was so sorry for her when I saw how weak & careworn she looked that I advised her to go to Greyton for a change"*. Anna Samia died in Caledon on the 16th July 1935 at the age of 73, only three months after her husband Charles William Henry aka Willy Knight.

The name Anna Samia was in the family for five generations. Anna Samia aka Annie West had two granddaughters named after her: Anna Samia aka Ann Cockrell and Anna Samia aka Nancy Richter.

Descendants of Anna Samia aka Annie West:

- 1-Anna Samia aka Annie West b. 29 Jun 1862, Villiersdorp, c. 27 Aug 1862, St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp by Curator A Jeffery, d. 16 Jul 1935, Caledon
- +Charles William Henry aka Willy Knight d. 22 Mar 1935, Caledon
- 2-Charles William Henry aka Charlie Knight b. 28 May 1882, d. 12 Aug 1939, Caledon, bur. Onrustrivier
- +Isabella Hendrina aka Isabel Brand b. 5 Jan 1883, d. 1966, Caledon
- 3-Cornelia Gertrude aka Corrie Knight b. 19 Dec 1915
- 3-Isabella Myra aka Myra Knight b. 21 Mar 1918, d. 2009, Caledon Old Age Home
- +Josias Hendrik aka Sias Hamman b. 22 Dec 1923
- 4-Isabella Myra aka Isabel Hamman b. 12 Mar 1945
- +Albertus Petrus aka Bertie Hanekom b. 14 Jun 1939
- 5-Izel Myra aka Izel Hanekom b. 10 Aug 1971
- 5-David Jacobus aka Dawie Hanekom b. 17 Sep 1976
- 4-Anna Elizabeth aka Amanda Hamman b. 30 Dec 1949
- 4-Josias Hendrik aka Sas Hamman b. 23 Aug 1950
- +Alida aka Alida Hitchcock b. 25 Apr 1953
- 5-Josias Hendrik aka Hendrik Hamman b. 2 Oct 1976
- 5-Jean Thomas aka Jaytee Hamman b. 9 Oct 1981

3-Charles William Henry aka William Knight b. 2 Aug
 +Kitty b. 23 Jan 1907, d. 22 May 1980
 4-Charles aka Charles Knight b. 8 Feb 1948
 +Amanda Maria aka Amanda Auret b. 22 Mar 1953
 5-Julian Henry aka Julian Knight b. 28 Aug 1976
 5-Bianca aka Bianca Knight b. 15 Nov 1980
 2-Mary Jane aka Jane Knight b. 26 Dec 1883, d. 10 Feb 1906, Caledon
 2-Anna Georgina aka Anna Knight b. 11 Oct 1885, d. 5 Jun 1939, Caledon
 +Pierre Francois aka Tommy Theron b. 18 Jul 1883, d. 10 Oct 1943
 3-Pierre Francois aka Maun Theron b. 16 Oct 1910
 +
 4-Jean Jacques Theron
 +Lisette aka Lisette du Toit b. 12 Jul 1942
 5-Pierre Francois aka Pierre Francois Theron b. 18 Jun 1975
 4-Pierre Francois Theron
 +Joan Lawson
 4-Frank William Theron died as a child in Caledon 12 Sep 1947
 4-Anne Marie Theron
 +Philippus Rudolph aka Philip Kuhn b. 4 Jan 1947
 5-Ralph Ulrich aka Ralph Kuhn b. 19 Jun 1974
 5-Angela aka Angela Kuhn b. 9 Feb 1977
 3-William Charles aka Willie Boy Theron b. 26 Mar 1915
 +Unknown
 4-Patricia Elizabeth Theron
 +Udo Karl Herman aka Gerrie Neugebauer b. 3 Nov 1938
 5-Mark aka Mark Neugebauer b. 27 Jun 1958
 5-Gary aka Gary Neugebauer b. 3 Jul 1961
 4-Charles Michael Theron
 +Henrietta aka Rita Bonthuys b. 1 Feb 1951
 5-Nadine Chantal aka Nadine Theron b. 16 Dec 1974
 5-Janine Monique aka Janine Theron b. 29 Jan 1980
 4-William Peter Theron
 +Lucille aka Lucille Barenblatt b. 7 May 1957
 5-Jason Isaac aka Jason Theron b. 23 Apr 1976
 5-Farryn Lenore aka Farryn Theron
 3-Charles Henry aka Charlie Theron b. 25 Sep 1918
 +Unknown
 4-Peter Charles Theron
 +Beverley aka Bev Jones b. 13 Feb
 4-Elizabeth Anne Theron
 +John Ovenstone
 5-Jayjay Ovenstone
 5-Melanie Ovenstone
 5-Peter Ovenstone
 4-Susan Janice Theron
 +Andrew Ronald aka Andy James b. 31 Jul 1948
 5-Bruce Andrew aka Bruce James b. 13 Dec 1978
 3-Anna Georgina aka Jean Theron b. 21 Nov 1923
 +Gibberd
 4-John Peter Gibberd
 +Shelagh aka Shelagh Janse van Rensburg b. 27 May 1955
 2-Eleanor Wilhelmina aka Ellen Knight b. 4 Oct 1887, d. 1 Jan 1888
 2-George John Beattie aka George Knight b. 5 Nov 1888, d. 1 Dec 1936, Caledon
 +Julia Caroline aka Poppie Geldenhuys b. 1883, d. 9 Mar 1961, Caledon
 3-Julia Samia Roline aka Rolene Knight b. 18 Apr 1920
 +Jacobus Marthinus aka Jack Neethling d. 1982
 4-Carol Julia aka Carol Neethling
 4-Cornelius Johannes Godfrey Ernest aka Godfrey Neethling b. 23 Apr 1949
 4-George John Knight aka George Neethling b. 24 Jul 1954
 4-Jacques aka Jacques Neethling b. 14 Feb 1962
 2-James Cairncross Nesbitt aka Jim Knight b. 12 Oct 1891, d. 29 Sep 1957, bur. Onrustrivier
 +Sara Susanna aka Sal Brand b. 25 Sep 1908, bur. Onrustrivier
 3-Harry Knight
 2-Anna Gertrude Calanan aka Gertie Knight b. 25 Mar 1893
 +Koos Geldenhuys d. Caledon
 3-Johnny Geldenhuys

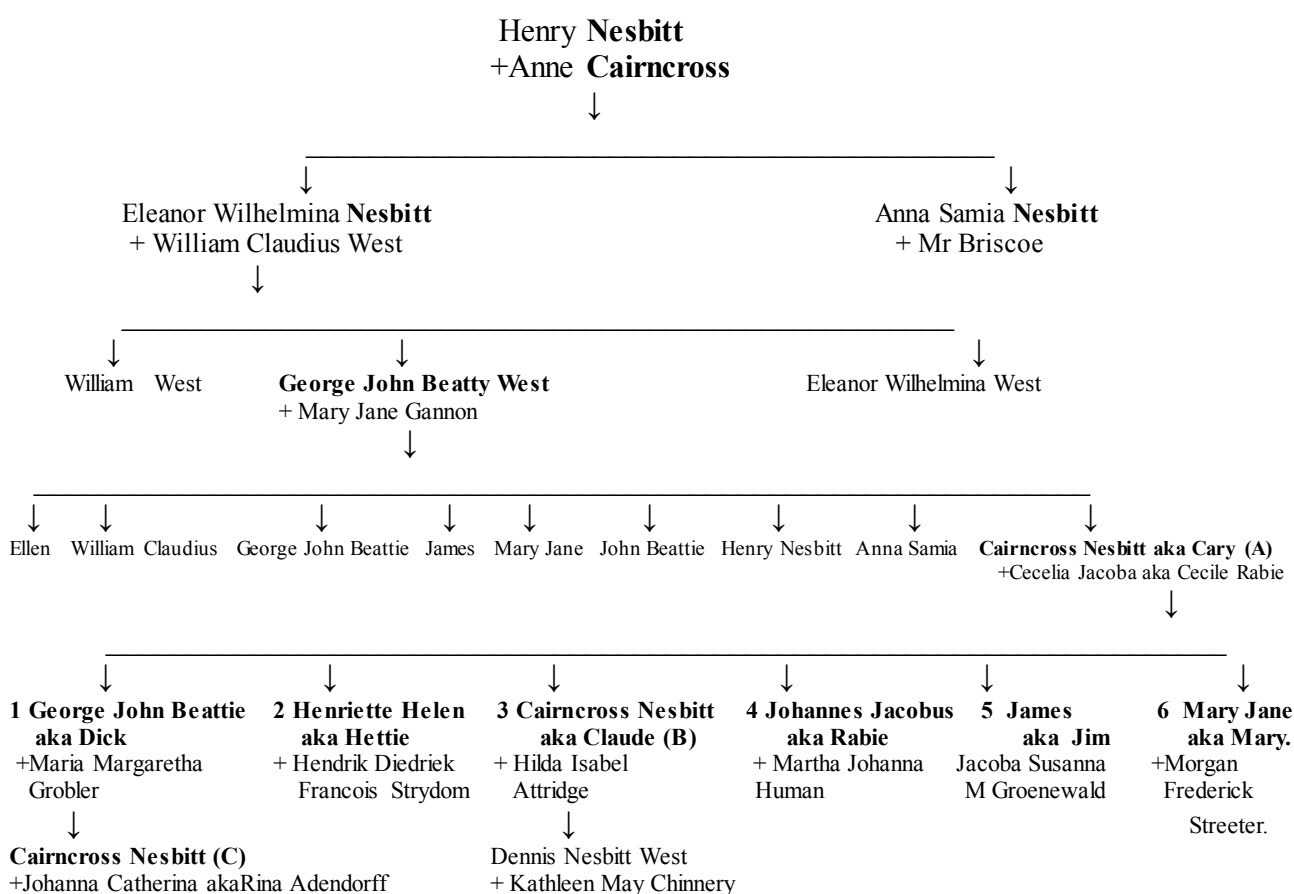
2-William Claudius aka Claude Knight b. 28 May 1894, d. Cape Town
 +Pearl Iris May aka Pearl Holden d. Cape Town
 3-Welma Isobel Anna aka Welma Knight b. 8 Jan 1928
 +Norman John aka Norman Pregnolato b. 15 Nov 1925
 4-Carol aka Carol Pregnolato b. 14 May 1950
 4-Michael Norman aka Michael Pregnolato b. 18 Jan 1953
 +Elaine Ruth aka Elaine Whitehead b. 1 May 1955
 5-Sean aka Sean Pregnolato b. 21 Jan 1981
 3-Hector William aka Hector Knight b. 2 Nov 1930
 +Mary Patricia aka Pat Crighton b. 15 Aug 1931
 4-Diane Claudine aka Diane Knight b. 27 Jun 1963
 4-Sharyn Francina aka Sharyn Knight b. 2 Febr 1969
 2-Ellen West aka Lily Knight b. 19 May 1896, d. 19 Sep 1962 Cape Town
 +Joseph Carl aka Fritz Richter d. abt 24 Sep 1970. Cape Town
 3-Anna Samia aka Nancy Richter b. 10 Jan 1918
 +Mannie Cilliers b. 10 Jul 1914
 4-Dennis Keith Cilliers
 4-Lynette Ellen Cilliers
 +Liddle (see Lynette Ellen Cilliers on page 2)
 3-Sonny Richter
 +Unknown
 4-Michael Richter
 4-John Richter
 4-David Richter
 3-Billy Richter
 3-Joseph George aka Bobby Richter b. 14 Febr 1925
 +Joan Robin aka Paddy Kearm b. 1 Aug 1926
 4-Janet Enid aka Janet Richter b. 28 Dec 1955
 +Peter Alfred aka Peter Burmeister b. 27 May 1954
 5-Simone Louise aka Simone Burmeister b. 16 Sep 1981
 3-Danny Richter
 2-Caroline Wilhelmina aka Caroline Knight b. 10 Aug 1897, d. 1 Nov 1968, Cremated in Maitland.
 +Jacob Casper aka Jack Sowden b. 15 Sep 1890, d. 27 Nov 1976, Cremated in Maitland.
 3-Richard Charles Henry aka Tinky Sowden b. 10 Jul 1920, d. 2 Aug 1962, Cremated in Maitland.
 3-Claudene Ann aka Claudine Sowden b. 1 Nov 1930
 +Gerald Meyer aka Gerald Halperen b. 1 Febr 1928
 4-Ian Joel aka Ian Halperen b. 15 Sep 1959
 4-Peter Brent aka Peter Halperen b. 7 Apr 1961
 4-Michael John aka Michael Halperen b. 8 Nov 1963
 2-Cairncross Nesbitt aka Cairncross and Boy Knight b. 10 Oct 1898, d. 23 Dec 1919, Caledon
 2-Thomas James Little aka Tom Knight b. 27 Oct 1899, d. Abt 1970, Stikland
 2-Grace aka Grace Knight b. 31 Jul 1901
 +Mathew Henry aka Thys Cockrell b. 17 Nov 1908, d. 16 Nov 1970, Stikland
 3-Anna Samia aka Ann Cockrell b. 10 Jun 1931
 3-Henry William aka Pietie Cockrell b. 23 Febr 1933
 +Jacoba Margaretha Petronella aka Ousie Germishuys b. 3 Nov 1938
 4-Carin aka Carin Cockrell b. 2 Febr 1964
 +Vernon aka Vernon Brynhardt b. 11 Apr 1962 ?
 4-Henry aka Henry Cockrell b. 25 Nov 1967
 +Maxie Magdalena aka Maxie Janse van Rensburg b. 24 Sep 1968
 5-William aka William Cockrell b. 28 Apr 1998
 5-Jannineke aka Jannineke Cockrell b. 3 Nov 2000

CHAPTER 24

Cairncross Nesbitt West (1865-1927) farmer and speculator in Vryburg

Cairncross Nesbitt aka Cary West (A) was the ninth and youngest child of George and Mary Jane. He was born at Villiersdorp on the 9th May 1865 and baptized by Rector H M M Wilshere in the St Augustine Anglican Church Villiersdorp on 26th September 1865. Was he named after the very rich and well known Cairncross Nesbitt in the Nesbitt family or was his name a compilation of the surnames of his father's grandparents Henry Nesbitt and Anne Cairncross?

Diagram depicting the Nesbitt and Cairncross great-grandparents of Cairncross Nesbitt West:



Cairncross Nesbitt West (A) was known by different names e.g. Kerry, Cary, Carry, Carney and Cairney while his younger half brothers and sisters called him “Boetie Cary”.

The West family moved from Villiersdorp to Hoopjesrivier where Cary spent his childhood. His mother Mary Jane died when he was fourteen. Cary was fifteen when his father married Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie van As on the 20th July 1880.

Cary married Cecelia Jacoba aka Cecile Rabie, born 15th April 1869. Cecile’s father was a rebel during the Anglo Boer War and was later caught by the British. The couple had six children: **George John Beattie aka Dick, Henriette Helen aka Hettie, Cairncross Nesbitt aka Claude (B), Johannes Jacobus aka Rabie, James aka Jim and Mary Jane aka Mary.**

- 1 In his letter of 31st July 1900 Cary (A) told his father that he put his eldest son, the five year old Dick in school: *"Dicky is going to school since yesterday just to keep him from mischief"*. **George John Beattie** whom his father called Dicky, married Maria Margaretha Grobler. Dick and Maria stayed in Vredefort where he died on 13th January 1963. They had two children, Cairncross Nesbitt West (C) and Wilna West. Cairncross Nesbitt (C) was a land surveyor. He became the Land Surveyor General of the Free State and Registrar Land Surveyor in South Africa. His daughter Jenny also became a land surveyor and was Chief Draughtsperson at the Ethekwini Municipality. Jenny and her family visited the grave of our ancestors William Claudius West and Eleanore Wilhelmina Nesbitt in Irishtown, Dublin. Cairncross Nesbitt's (C) wife Johanna Catherina aka Rina lives in Benoni and has a keen interest in the West family. Their son George John Beattie West was a pharmacist in Bloemfontein. Wilna West married Petrus Stefanus aka Piet Fourie. Their daughter Janette practice as medical doctor in Klerksdorp.
- 2 **Henriette Helen aka Hettie West**, the second child of Boetie Cary and Cecile, married Hendrik Diedrik Francois aka Hendrik Strydom. They had two daughters, Helen and Magdalene. Magdalene died as a child. Helen married Petrus Albertus aka Pietjie van Velzen. During WWII Captain Petrus Albertus aka Pietjie van Velzen was a pilot in the South African Air Force, 15th sqdn. His plane and the planes of his comrades Lt R M Tucker and Lt L M Meiring were shot down by Bf 109's on 28 October 1943 near Crete in the Mediterranean Sea. It is unsure what exactly happened there.
- 3 **Cairncross Nesbitt (B) aka Claude West**, Boetie Cary and Cecile's third child, married Hilda Isabel Attridge. Their only child, Dennis Nesbitt West married Kathleen May Chinnery. Dennis and Kathleen lives in Port Elizabeth. They have two sons, Paul Nesbitt West and Mark Nesbitt West. Mark is a well known photographer in Port Elizabeth.
- 4 **Johannes Jacobus aka Rabie West**, the fourth child of Boetie Cary and Cecile, married Martha Johanna aka Martie Human. Their only son, John Rabie West, married Susanna Franciena aka Susan Pieterse. Rabie West died on the 23rd June 1981 in Rustenburg.
- 5 **James aka Jim West** was the fifth child of Boetie Cary and Cecile. He married Jacoba Susanna Maria aka Joan Groenewald. They had two children Joanita aka Nita and Colleen Denise aka Denise West. Jim died on 10 February 1982 in Pretoria.
- 6 **Mary Jane aka Mary West**, Boetie Cary and Cecile's youngest child, married Morgan Frederick Streeter.

Letters, movements and other activities of Boetie Cary

During 1894 George West in Genadendal and his two sons Cary and Jim in Vryburg, went through difficult times. We have five letters which Boetie Cary wrote between 24 December 1894 and 18 September 1900 to his father. During those years George John Beatty West lived in Genadendal and later, after his retirement, in Greyton. George urgently sought help from his sons in Vryburg. The context in which Cary wrote the letter on **24th December 1894** gives an idea of the difficult times through which Cary and his wife in Vryburg as well as his parents in Genadendal went. A Mr van der Merwe from Greyton visited Boetie Cary and told him about *"a certain man"* through whom his father lost money. It is not certain who this man could have

been but it seemed that his father was very kind towards "this man".

On Thursday the 20th December 1894 Cary received a letter from his father. His father George and Lenie still lived in Genadendal with seven children between the ages of six months and thirteen years. Their finances were in shambles. The sickly 67 year old George was a police constable in Genadendal and still had to work.

On Monday 24th December 1894, only one day before Christmas, Cary was in a horrible situation. He and his wife Cecile was at his farm Doornkloof near Vryburg. He was 29 years old. Cecile was 25 and three months pregnant with their first child. They had only one shilling and nine pence in the house! Although Boetie Cary addressed his father as "G J B West Esquire" I could not ascertain that his father had any property at that time.

George's older children were unable to help him. Cary contacted his brother Jim for help but he and his wife Catherine were also unable to assist their parents. Cary felt so upset, ashamed and depressed about his inability to help that he wrote the following letter to his father:

Doornpoort
Dec. 24th, 1894

G J B West Esquire
Genadendal

Dear Father

I received your dear letter on 20th of which I was not little pleased to hear from you again although not of the very best news you sent me for it certainly is no good news to hear of all your losses and to give almost everything to a man whom you never owed a penny in your life that is very hard news but such seems to be the way of the world & such seems to be your luck in it. I really my dear father feel for you. Mr v.d. Merwe was here some time ago and he narrated all to me from the beginning to end, its certainly something never to forget, how wonderful this world seems to exist nothing but deceit from the one end to other. But one thing I can say that of what I am aware you have never deceived, and therefore you will always live and die happy. I really feel very depressed under the circumstances and what makes me feel thousand times worse, is that for the first and probably will be for the last time you need a son's assistance and that the son is too incapable to offer it. What a shame it is to us not to be able to help you out of your troubles. I also talked the matter over with brother Jim but he is equally hard up at present. You can believe me my dear father that my position is tonight of cash I think 1/9d. But however should the future avail itself of such an opportunity we shall try our very best to forward it as soon as possible.

I wrote you a letter last week and just before I sent to the post I received one from Ma. So I just sent a few lines to Ina to certify the receipt of the letter. She made me aware of another brother for which I must congratulate you hoping you may live to see much pleasure of them all. You said you intended to come down to see us but that circumstances prevented it. What a pleasure it would have been to us all. I wonder if it ever shall happen. I truly hope so for whenever I will be in the position again to come and see you is a question. I truly hope so for whenever I will be in the position again to come and see you is a question I can't answer myself.

I must now conclude with fond love to you all and wishing you all a happy Xmas & New Year. And believe me as ever your

Affectionate

Son

C.N. West.

(Cairncross Nesbitt West)

Answer soon.

NOTES:

- Although Cairncross was 15 when his father married his stepmother Lenie, he always referred to her as "Ma".

- The "Ina" he referred to seems to be Cornelia Wilhelmina West born Langenhoven, the wife of his elder brother George, who lived at Salandra, Botrivier.
- The "another brother" to whom Brother Cary referred, was Benjamin, child no 18, born on the 28th June 1894. It was said that Benjamin was born in Greyton but according to the address on this letter the West family was still living in Genadendal with Benjamin's birth.

On the 15th July 1900 Cary wrote the next letter to his 73 year old retired father in Greyton:

I am sending to Daisy an old Bulawayo stamp enclosed. C.W.

Vryburg 15, th July 1900

(To) Mr G.J.B. West Greyton

Dear Father

Only a few lines to acknowledge the beauty of your last letter for which accept many thanks. I am very glad to hear that you are much better again hoping by this time you have (entired convenience???).

I had a letter from Brother George a few days ago they are all well and nothing new as usual. I wrote to him mostly to enquire the address of (Cause doctores???) as a brother P Fischer has got it in his lip and I wrote for him which Brother George lost no time in Sending.

Dear Father kindly tell Daisy that brother Jim & myself spoke to the secretary of the school board as regards getting an employment for her as promised, but am very sorry to state that there are no vacancy what so ever at present. He informed us that two of the teachers are leaving on account of not having sufficient children to attend to, but how ever promised to let us know as soon as there are a vacant place, but of course she cannot depend on that as if it might take years for all that we know especially with this unsettled state of affairs, but I was thinking of getting her an employment in one of the stores rather in one of the show rooms although I have not made any enquiries as yet as I thought will first hear from her. But I will in the mean time make all enquiries and also about the pay which I think is £5=0=0 per month, or rather always have, think it would be as will such times as she might be able to get something better. But she must let me know at once in the meantime I will find out.

I also want you please to find out quite about cattle as usual and let me know as I might take a time(?) up there afa as soon as things are a little more settled. Even if I have to have them there for a while. Also about prizes & conditions.

As regards the Rebels I think brother Jim sent all the pricable names including which you will find my father in law. I was told they are trying to get hold on P. Fischer too whether they have any clue or not I cannot say.

Ok. As re the claim I sent for, for carrying refugees I got paid before I left Cape Town but of course they did not pay me what I claimed for but got all in all £229=0=0 less 5.0 commission of which of course I was very glad. The other people did not get paid.

Yet good bye Dear Father and Mother and all the children.

Your loving son

C.N. West

P.S. We are having a sale of cattle on Aug - 70 head. C.W.

NOTES:

- In this letter of 15th July 1900 Boetie Cary referred to his "Brother George". "Brother George" is Boetie George, his 48 year old elder brother George John Beattie West, who farmed at Salandra between Bot River and Hermanus.
- Boetie Cary and his 46 year old brother Jim both lived in the Vryburg district where Boetie Cary made a living from buying and selling cattle. He closed his letter with: "We are having a sale of cattle on Aug - 70 head. C.W.". He often asked his father to look for cattle to buy for the British army and other people as he wrote:
- "I also want you please to find out quite about cattle as usual".

From Cairncross's letters it is very clear that he, his father and brother Jim were all on the side of

the British during the Boer War. He referred to the Boers, his father in law included, as "The Rebels". Cary were also "carrying refugees" for which he was payed "£229-0-0 less 5.0 commission". Measuring Worth's formula shows that the £229-0-0 of 1900 is in 2018 worth at least £23 550-0-0 or R440 000-00. From this letter it seems that Cary received preference payment from the British. Who the refugees were, is not clear. Maybe it referred to the black and white people who were removed from their kraals and farms by Lord Roberts after the fall of Pretoria in June 1900.

The two brothers, Cary and Jim, tried very hard to find a job for their half sister Daisy because she could not find a teaching post near Greyton. Money was very scarce for the West family in Greyton. The reason why teaching posts were so scarce was because during the Boer War, "with this unsettled state of affairs", the numbers of school children were decreasing, resulting in teacher vacancies becoming scarce in Vryburg. Being unsuccessful in getting her a post as a teacher, her two brothers then tried hard to get her a work as a saleslady at one of the stores for £5=0=0 a month. The £5 in 1900 is today £504-80-0 or R9 072-00 in today's Rand. At last they succeeded to get her a post as teacher for five children at Brussels station, less than 20 kms from Vryburg.

On July the 31st 1900, two weeks after the above letter, Cary wrote to his father:

Vryburg
July 31st 1900.

Mr G.J.B. West
Greyton

Dear Father

Just a few lines to let you know how we are getting on or to show that we are still alive, which is about all I can boast of at present. Things are very dull here at present.

There is no business to do except a little speculating and for every ox or cow to be sold there's about ten buyers so that you cannot make much in that either. . . . r Carson has gone down to Kimberley the week before last to buy cattle and up till today I have not heard a word from him. I don't know where he has gone to he may have gone up your way for all I know.

Brother Jim is still in town he sold all his sheep and I suppose is ready to proceed to the Transvaal as soon as things are settled.

We are going to have a big sale here on Aug 8. inst. of about 400 head of cattle and about 400 sheep & goats 100 Donkeys and so on we are selling at the same time about 70 head of our cattle. As it is very dangerous to keep a large stock on hand on account of the Kaffirs stealing and also the Boers. You cannot altogether trust them yet. So we have decided to sell them if we got a fair price.

As regards Daisy I believe Brother Jim wrote to you all particulars so that it is useless for me to say anything about it as only that you can be quite at ease about her, as it is very nice English people residing at Brussels siding about 12 miles South of Vryburg. As you will doubtless remember. She has got to teach 5. children only. I only hope she will like the place & people of course she can come in to us by train every Saturday and stay till Sunday evening.

Brother Jim had a letter from brother George yesterday.

You might let me know how cattle is there as it dosent cost any thing to find out. I saw two cows yesterday which I bought from J. Brand that time at Hemel en Aarde but I would just like him to see them now I am sure he will never know them as regards the war we hear all sorts of rumours but cannot get at the proper truth of anything.

We hear that Klerksdorp have been reoccupied by the Boers and that they are going from one town to another but whether that is correct or not of course remain to be proved.

I see that General Hunter captured 5000 Boers & guns and a large convoy of wagons in the Free State or rather the Orange River Colony which is a very good piece of work and which will also break the heart of the Boers in the Free State.

I only hope that the thing is over, for as I have said you cant do anything at all at the time a person

must him(?).

Dick is going to school since yesterday just to keep him from mischief.

Give my very best love to ma and all the children and not forgetting your self.

And believe me as ever fond and affectionate

Son

C.N. West

P.S. Write soon please.

NOTES:

- In this letter, written during the Boer War, Boetie Cary assured his father in Greyton that his beloved daughter Daisy is well cared for and safe as she stayed with *"very nice English people"*. This is in contrast with the dishonest Boers and Black people whom he described as follows: *"As it is very dangerous to keep a large stock on hand on account of the K.....rs stealing and also the Boers. You cannot altogether trust them yet"*. He went on and wrote about the span of 16 oxen which he sold to the Government for £11.15s.0d, that is £1 186 of R21 350.00 in 2018 (Measuring Worth).. They were *"are a bit low in condition but still for work I am going to put them in Govt Service"*!
- He sounded very proud about General Hunter's success when he captured 5 000 Boers with their guns and wagons in the Orange Free State and saw it as *"a very good piece of work and which will also break the heart of the Boers in the Free State"*.
- Referring to the Boer War, Cary twice mentioned the name of a P Fischer and his brother. It seems that P Fischer (and his brother) were Rebels.
- Boetie Cary again told his father that he asked his brother George to look for cattle to buy. He referred to the two cows which he bought from J Brand from Hemel en Aarde. Hemel en Aarde is only a few kilometers from Salandra where his brother George farmed and in the same area where his sister Mary and her husband Piet Smal and their sons farmed. It is also only a few kilometers from Hoopjesrivier where Boetie Cary grew up.
- It seems that on the 31st July 1900, his brother James aka Jimmy already planned to leave Vryburg for the Transvaal as the latter had already sold his sheep: *"Brother Jim is still in town he sold all his sheep and I suppose is ready to proceed to the Transvaal as soon as things are settled"*.
- He closed his letter saying about his four year old son George John Beattie West, born 18th June 1895: *"Dicky is going to school since yesterday just to keep him from mischief"*.

A month later, on August the 29th 1900, Cary wrote to his father:

Vryburg
Aug 29th. 1900

Mr. G.J.B. West
Greyton

Dear Father

I only received your welcome letter and was glad to find that you are much better & since I sincerely trust that you will full strong and fresh again before long. As regards my own health I havent anything to boast of as I really cannot mention the day when last I felt altogether well there's always something wrong with me somewhere or other but of course nothing serious but at the same time it makes a person feel disgusted. I really have very little news to share with you. As we are simply locked up in this miserable hole and cant go anywhere since these Boer Commando's seems to be running all over the country. I wish to goodness this war was over so that a person can go about again and try and make something. As things are now you cannot get a pass to go anywhere so it was really for that reason that we joined the town guard, it is not much but still better than nothing anyhow we are getting 7/6 per day. Then we only work 3 hours of the 24. But myself Brother Jim & few others are at present doing day duty one of us at each main road that leads away from town to axamen (examine) people going in & out to see whether they have passes and to arrest any suspicious characters trying to sneak in or out without passes so we that is on day duty are doing six hours in stead of 3 but would rather be on day duty then night. The most rebels from Vryburg have been sent away to Kimberley as also my father in law. It seems to me they are

going to get off much easier than we expected.

Dear Father you might in your next letter let me know more or less the prices of cattle up there now and how many you think a person would be able to pick up of course you must understand that I don't intend coming up there just yet as it will be no good because I won't be able to get them away if I do buy them for the Railways are so full of Govt stuff that a private individual has no show but a person doesn't know how soon this they might come to a close, I cannot tell you anything about Daisy as she has not been here for the last couple of weeks but I had a letter from her last week and I also see a young fellow who live in the same place yesterday and he informs me that she is doing well besides we are expecting her to come in by the end of the week to come & stay with us till Monday, we had a sale here on 8th a lot of Cattle Horses donkeys & sheep of which a great portion was loot(?) everything fetched enormous prizes. I got as much £13.2.6 for cows and one cow was sold for £17-0-0 and I think cattle are still going dearer for the country is completely chanced (?) out of cattle now.

Now Dear Father give my very best love to ma & all the children and not forgetting your dear self.
And believe as ever your Loving son

C.N. West

P.S. Jim left here for Kimberley about 6 weeks ago and I never heard a word of him yet I don't know what became of him. C.N.

NOTE:

- In the letter above, Cary told his father about the uncertainty and frustration in Vryburg as result of the Boer War "since these Boer Commando's seems to be running all over the country". He and his brother Jim joined the town guard to earn 7/6d a day, that is £37.57 or R676 per day in today's money. (Measuring Worth). He mentioned in a quite cool and calm way that his wife Cecile's father was sent with the other rebels to Kimberley! "The most rebels from Vryburg have been sent away to Kimberley as also my father in law. It seems to me they are going to get off much easier than we expected".

While travelling through Worcester and on his way to Heidelberg (Cape) and Riversdale, buying cattle, Cary lived in Swellendam from where he wrote on 18th September 1900 about his doings:

Swellendam
18th Sept. 1900

Mr G.J.B. West
Greyton

Dear Father

I wrote you a few lines from Worcester the other day concerning cattle you might if you please write to this place and let me know what you have done in the matter. I am going from here to Heidelberg, Riversdale and will probably be back in eight days time. Cattle is very dear and scarce here I hope they are much cheaper your way.

How are you all getting on when I last hear Daisy it was just 14 days yesterday that I left Vryburg and only had one wire from there.

I see in the Argus that Sweitzer Reineke are surrounded by the Boers for the last two weeks and that they are sending reinforcements from Vryburg which is only 40 miles away that place of course is in the Transvaal. I am anxious to hear how they are getting on in Vryburg not there is any danger but because they can always tell such a lot of lies especially the wives of the Rebels. You can rest assured that the boers will never get into Vryburg again. I think the war is nearly over as it is old Paul is clearing out to Holland president Steyn is sick & I think so is the rest of them.

Give my very best love to all the children, ma & yourself.

And Remain as Ever

Your Affectionate

Son

C.N.WEST

NOTE:

- In this letter, written from Swellendam, Cary referred to the telegram (*a wire*) which he received from his sister Daisy in Vryburg. As in nearly every letter the topic of the Boer War came back as he referred in a humiliating way to President Paul Kruger as "*old paul*". This time Cary described the Boer women with contempt "*they can always tell such a lot of lies especially the wives of the Rebels*".

On the **10th October 1900**, while Cary was still buying cattle, his father George wrote to Daisy about Boetie Cary: "*My Dearest Girl I duly received your truly welcome letter and was glad to find you quite well as your Mother writes today along with this I really dont know what to say and to leave unsaid the only thing of importance is Cairncross's silence. I have not had a word from him since he wrote from Worcester and then he was of the intention of going to Heidelberg and Riversdale - - - - - all along the line and he could have wired from any place but still he has not done so although he promised in his letter to do so. If you have heard anything about him be sure to let me know at once*".

In **November 1900** Boetie Cary and his wife Cecile still lived temporarily in Swellendam, buying cattle for speculation. On **21st November 1900** his father wrote to Cary's sister Daisy: "*You are under a mistake as to Cairncross's residence, he is now living at Swellendam*". On **14 December 1900** George wrote to Daisy that Cary is still living in Swellendam. "*I suppose you will have heard by this time that Brother Carney's (Cary) wife had a son at Swellendam and is quite well considering*". The "*son*" to whom George referred was actually their daughter Henrietta Helen aka Hettie West who was born on the **1st November 1900** and later married Hendrik Strydom.

Boetie Cary was very concerned about his parents. He kept contact and sent money to their assistance until two months before his father's death. His father missed him and mentioned that he would like to visit his children in Vryburg. On the **10th March 1901**, their father George wrote to Daisy about his son Cary: "*I have had a few letters from Brother Cairney he does not appear to know what to do with himself as every thing is at stand still he included to come and see me but up to the present he has not turned up. When I was at the worst he sent me £2 to assist in getting medicine & which I can assure you was very acceptable and helped a deal in getting me all right again*". (The £2 of 1901 is today worth £205.90 or R3 706.00 in 2018- Measuring Worth).

From Boetie Cary's letters it is clear that he had a good relationship with his stepmother Lenie as well as with his half brothers and sisters. In the letters of 15 July, 29 August and 18 September 1900 he referred to Lenie as "*Ma*". It is interesting that, although his stepmother was only ten years older than himself, he always addressed her as "*Ma*". According to his cousin Mary Jane Esterhuizen, Cary stayed during March 1903 in their house in Caledon. In 1958 the 75 year old **Mary Jane Esterhuizen** who lived at 36B Mill Street, Caledon, wrote on page 9 of her letter to her descendants about her uncle Carry: "*My moeder se jongste broer was, soos ons hom genoem het, Uncle Carry. Hy het van Vryburg eers na Swellendam gegaan (ek meen in verband met perde en esels kopery). Toe daarvandaan het hy hier in ons huis in Stasieweg kom woon totdat die oorlog oor was; toe is hy weer terug Vryburg toe en ons het toe ingetrek dorp toe. Dit was Maart 1903*". (My mother's youngest brother was, as we called him, Uncle Carry. He first went from Vryburg to Swellendam, I think about buying horses and mules. He stayed in our house in Station Road until the end of the war; then he returned to Vryburg and we moved into town. It was March 1903). Station Road refers to Station Road, Caledon. I could not determine the exact time that Cary stayed in Swellendam and Caledon.

Cairncross went back to Vryburg where he died on the 15th August 1927 at the age of 62. After his death, his wife Cecile moved to Rustenburg where she died about 1933 at the age of 64.

Descendants of Cary West and Cecile born Rabie:

1-Cairncross Nesbitt aka Cary West b. 9 May 1865, Villiersdorp, c. 26 Sep 1865, St Augustine Angligan Church Villiersdorp by rector H M M Wilshire, d. 15 Aug 1927, Vryburg

- +Cecelia Jacoba aka Cecile Rabie b. 15 Apr 1869, d. 1933, Rustenburg
- 2-George John Beattie aka Dick West b. 15 Jun 1895, d. 13 Oct 1962, Vredefort
- +Maria Margaretha Grobler b. 1 Jan 1897
 - 3-Cairncross Nesbitt West b. 5 Aug 1920
 - +Johanna Catherina aka Rina Adendorff b. 26 Oct 1926
 - 4-George John Beatty aka John West b. 28 Dec 1948, d. 3 Jan 2009, Bloemfontein
 - +Sharon Davidson b. 14 Jun 1950
 - 5-Irene Ellen May aka Ellen West b. 10 Jun 1977
 - +Cornelia Dorothea Maritz nee Kleingeld
 - 5-Cairncross Nesbitt West
 - 4-Jennifer Mary aka Jenny West b. 18 Oct 1950
 - +Frederick Freddie aka Freddie Gray b. 3 Aug 1947
 - 5-Frederick Walter August aka Frederick Gray b. 28 Mar 1979
 - 5-Sean Eric Thomas aka Sean Gray b. 5 Feb 1981 +Kirsty
 - 6-West George Eric Gray b. 30 Apr 2013
 - 5-Clayton Harold Nesbitt aka Clayton Gray b. 29 Mar 1982
 - 4-Carol Ann aka Carol West b. 3 Sep 1954
 - +André Hugo aka André van Tonder b. 20 Jul 1952
 - 5-Tiffany Catherina aka Tiffany van Tonder b. 8 Feb 1983
 - 3-Wilna aka Wilna West b. 28 May 1927
 - +Petrus Stefanus aka Piet Fourie b. 18 Dec 1919
 - 4-Marie Antionette aka Antionette Fourie b. 24 Oct 1951
 - 4-Susanna Jacoba aka Suzette Fourie b. 22 May 1954
 - 4-Janetta Johanna aka Janette Fourie b. 18 Dec 1957
 - 4-Mariette Fourie b. 7 Sep 1963
 - 2-Henrietta Helen aka Hettie West b. 1 Nov 1900, Swellendam, d. 11 Mar 1924, Vryburg
 - +Hendrik Diedriek Francois aka Hendrik Strydom b. 13 May 1887, d. 18 Feb 1953, Vryburg
 - 3-Henriette Helen aka Helen Strydom b. 2 Jun 1920
 - +Petrus Albertus aka Pietjie van Velzen b. 9 Oct 1918, d. 28 Oct 1943
 - 4-Henriette Helen aka Hettie van Velzen b. 1 Apr 1942
 - +Petro Buitendag b. 5 Nov 1933
 - 5-Carl Gustav aka Gustav Buitendag b. 30 Dec 1964
 - 5-Petrus Albertus aka Chappie Buitendag b. 3 Sep 1967
 - 5-Jacques Petro aka Jackie Buitendag b. 2 Apr 1974
 - 3-Magdalene Strydom b. 11 Mar 1924, d. 1924, Died as child Vryburg
 - 2-Cairncross Nesbitt aka Claude West b. 7 Dec 1903, d. Jun 1964
 - +Hilda Isabel Attridge b. 3 Jun 1900, d. 7 Oct 1982, Port Elizabeth
 - 3-Dennis Nesbit aka Dennis West b. 23 Jul 1930
 - +Kathleen May aka Kathleen Chinnery b. 30 Apr 1940
 - 4-Paul Nesbitt aka Paul West b. 8 Feb 1967
 - 4-Mark Nesbitt aka Mark West b. 21 Jun 1969 +Chantal
 - 2-Johannes Jacobus Rabie aka Rabie West b. 3 Mar 1905, d. 23 Jun 1981, Rustenburg
 - +Martha Johanna aka Martie Human b. 15 Aug 1909
 - 3-John Rabie aka John West b. 23 Oct 1945
 - +Susanna Franciena aka Susan Pieterse b. 5 Dec 1945
 - 4-Anita Francis aka Anita West b. 9 Jun 1967
 - 4-John Rabie aka John West b. 13 Oct 1971
 - 2-James aka Jim West b. 27 Jun 1907, d. 30 Jan 1980
 - +Jacoba Susanna Maria aka Joan Groenewald b. 29 Sep 1909, d. 10 Feb 1982, Pretoria (see James aka Jim West)
 - 3-Jonita Christine aka Nita West b. 5 Jul 1933
 - +Christiaan Ernst aka Chris Schutte b. 20 Sep 1931
 - 4-Beverley Joan aka Beverley Schutte b. 6 Jan 1954
 - +Peter Sidney aka Peter Kurz b. 25 Nov 1951
 - 5-Taryn Kurz b. 13 Feb 1976
 - 5-Jayson George aka Jayson Kurz b. 29 Oct 1977
 - 4-Christiaan West aka Theuns Schutte b. 25 Oct 1959
 - 3-Colleen Denise aka Denise West b. 13 Jan 1947
 - +Richard Selmar Sterne b. 21 Jul 1946
 - 4-Tatum Sterne b. 26 Jun 1975
 - 2-Mary Jane aka Mary West b. 10 Apr 1912, d. 26 Mar 1984, Onrustvriër
 - +Morgan Frederick Streeter b. 1921
 - +Jacobus Izak Langenhoven

CHAPTER 25

George John Beatty West and Lenie van As (20th July 1880 – 10th May 1901)

After Mary Jane's death, George met his 2nd wife, the spinster Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie van As from Bot River, a small village between Caledon and Grabouw. When they got married in the Holy Trinity Church in Caledon on 20th July 1880, Lenie was only 25 and George 53 years old. Their first two children Elizabeth Petronella West b 27th June 1881 and Nicolas van As West b 9th October 1882 were born at Hoopjesrivier.

During 1883, about the time that George and Lenie left Hoopjesrivier for Genadendal, his daughter Ellen was already married to Jasper Raats, his son Willie to Dolphina Barnard, James to Catherina Smith, George to Cornelia Langenhoven, Mary Jane to Piet Smal, John Beattie to Stienie Geldenhuys, Henry Nesbitt to Sophie van Heerden and the 21 year old Anna Samia to Willy Knight. It was only the 18 year old Cairncross Nesbitt who could help George on the farm.

About 1883, after the birth of George and Lenie's 2nd child Klasie the 56 year old George, his 28 year old wife Lenie, and their two young children left Hoopjesrivier for Genadendal where he worked as a police constable.

George and Lenie stayed for at least twelve years in the "police house" at Genadendal (1883–c. 1895). According to the Rev Chris Wessels, the house was referred to as "The West House". Afterwards it was called "The Meyer House" referring to the policeman who lived there. The house has a view on the beautiful Moravian Church Square. Later it was used as a creche.

In Genadendal an unknown son who died as an infant was born about 1883/84. Their children Pieter Louis b. 01.09.1885, Charles b 1886/87, Henry Nesbitt b 15.05.1888, Magdalena Johanna b 28.09.1890, Wilhelmina Sara b 06.07.1892 and Benjamin b 28.06.1894 were also born at Genadendal. Charles died as an infant and was buried there. As the custom was at the Moravian Mission stations, the children Daisy, Klasie, Pieter and Henry would have attended school at Genadendal until they left for Greyton about 1895.

The policy of the Moravian Church was not to become involved with the politics of the countries where they did mission work and that they co-operated with the political party and government of the day. In this case it was the British government. This suited the pro British, anti Irish and anti Boer constable George John Beatty West quite well. I presume that George, the pro British police constable would have felt at home with the pro British inhabitants of Genadendal. I can imagine how he enjoyed the conversations with the soldiers of Genadendal who fought for England during the Boer War.

During December 1894 the 67 year old George lived at Genadendal with his 39 year old wife Lenie and their seven children, the eldest being the 13 year old Daisy and the youngest was Ben a baby of 6 months. How they could survive under those circumstances is today unthinkable. When he got married as a 19 year old student in Ireland George had the idea that his father was rich but now he as a 67 year old man struggled with financial problems. He still worked as a policeman and experienced a financial crisis. In his letter which his son Cairncross received on the 20th December 1894 George informed him about those financial problems. For the first time

in his life he asked his children for help. Since his son John Beattie West cheated him previously, he could not ask him for assistance. His son William Claudius already gave his properties in Villiersdorp as security and could not help his father. Jim and Cairncross in Vryburg did not have money to help him and George was too proud to ask his sons-in-law Piet Smal, Willy Knight and Jan Raats for help.

After the visit of a Mr van der Merwe to Cairncross in Vryburg, and the letter of his father, Cairncross wrote on the 24th December 1894:

"Dear Father

I received your dear letter on 20th of which I was not little pleased to hear from you again although not of the very best news you sent me for it certainly is no good news to hear of all your losses and to give almost everything to a man whom you never owed a penny in your life that is very hard news but such seems to be the way of the world & such seems to be your luck in it. I really my dear father feel for you. Mr v.d. Merwe was here some time ago and he narrated all to me from the beginning to end, its certainly something never to forget, how wonderful this world seems to exist nothing but deceit from the one end to other. But one thing I can say that of what I am aware you have never deceived, and therefore you will always live and die happy. I really feel very depressed under the circumstances and what makes me feel thousand times worse, is that for the first and probably will be for the last time you need a son's assistance and that the son is too incapable to offer it. What a shame it is to us not to be able to help you out of your troubles. I also talked the matter over with brother Jim but he is equally hard up at present. You can believe me my dear father that my position is tonight of cash I think 1/9d. But however should the future avail itself of such an opportunity we shall try our very best to forward it as soon as possible".

The 67 year old George was financially broken by, as Cairncross put it: *"a man whom you never owed a penny in your life . . ."* This *"man"* to whom his son referred could be the Mr Beyers with whom George had a court case.

Uncle Klasie West and his brothers and sisters often told us with enthusiasm the story below about the court case of their father George and Mr Beyers.

George John Beatty West lent his wagon and oxen to his son John Beattie West to do transport for a living. Unfortunately John Beattie landed in financial problems as the result of his inability to control his alcohol intake and could not provide for his wife and children. He borrowed money from Mr Beyers and without his father's knowledge gave his father's wagon and oxen as security. Mr Beyers was a successful and take-no-nonsense business man. When John Beattie did not pay back the loan Mr Beyers took the wagon and oxen.

Against the advice of his friends, George did not discuss the problem with Mr Beyers but took him to court. He lost the case. Outside the court the farmers who attended said to George something like: *"We told you not to go to court with Mr Beyers"*. George, not knowing that Mr Beyers stood behind him and heard every word answered: *"I would not have lost the case but Beyers is a thief and he lied"*. Mr Beyers turned around, went to the magistrate and made a case against George. George was found guilty of defamation of character and contempt of court. This stubbornness of the 67 year old George and the irresponsibility of his son John Beattie West broke him financially.

It seems that this court case and the *"man whom you never owed a penny in your life"* which Cairncross mentioned is the same incident. Klasie told us about George's stubbornness but Cairncross emphasized that their father was an honest, responsible and hardworking man.

George also planned to leave the Caledon district for the first time to visit his sons in Vryburg but because of his financial troubles it never materialized. On the 24th December 1894 Cairncross wrote to his father: *"You said you intended to come down to see us but that circumstances prevented it. What a pleasure it would have been to us all. I wonder if it ever shall happen. I truly hope so for whenever I will be in the position again to come and see you is a question I can't answer myself"*.

In the above mentioned letter to his father George in Genadendal, Cairncross referred to a letter from his stepmother: *"I wrote you a letter last week and just before I sent to the post I received one from Ma. So I just sent a few lines to Ina to certify the receipt of the letter. She made me aware of another brother for which I must congratulate you hoping you may live to see much pleasure of them all"*. This brother that Cairncross referred to was Benjamin, born 28th June 1894. He was George's last child to be born in Genadendal. Ina seems to be his daughter in law who stayed at Salandra. Could it be his granddaughter Ina Groenewald, the daughter of his daughter Lily?

It is interesting to note that Cairncross addressed his father as *"G J B West Esquire"*. This proved that during December 1894 George was a property owner. Where this property was situated is not clear. It could be that he then already bought a house in Greyton for retirement.

It seems that as a young student George could have been anti British and pro Irish and therefore married a Catholic lady. Later in his life he changed his mind and became strong pro-British, anti Irish Rebels and anti South African Rebels.

The fact that Cairncross addressed his letter of 24th December 1894 to his father: *"Mr G J B West Esquire, Genadendal"*, indicated that George then still stayed at Genadendal and that the West family left Genadendal after December 1894. He was about 68 when he retired and he and his 40 year old wife Lenie with their children Daisy 14, Klasie 13, Pieter 10, Henry 7, Lily 5, Mien 3 and Ben 1 year old, left for Greyton where his youngest child Susie was born in 1896.

The friendship between the West family, and the missionaries and people of Genadendal continued long after the Wests left Genadendal. George's youngest daughters Mien and Susie often told us how they walked the 5 km from Greyton to Genadendal to visit "die ou tannies", their mother Lenie's friends. In later years the Rev Schmidt of the Moravian Church in Genadendal often visited Susy and her husband on their farm Clune House. Then they would discuss in detail his homeopathic medicine as well as the books which Rev Schmidt wrote about the history of the Moravian church and Genadendal.

It was very difficult to establish when George left Genadendal and settled in Greyton. On the 24th December 1894 his son Cairncross still addressed his letter to *Mr G J B West Esquire, Genadendal*. George's youngest child Susie was born in Greyton on the 12th July 1896. It is therefore clear that George retired as policeman and left Genadendal between 24th December 1894 and the 12th July 1896.

In Greyton the 70 year old, very hardworking and responsible George's health deteriorated. He still had to do general work for an income. George and Lenie's children attended school in Greyton. At first the West family lived in Ds Botha Street in the house near the old Post Office. Deon explained to me that when Daisy came back to Greyton, George sold this house and bought another house in Cross Market Street, about 400 meter nearer to the school where she was a teacher. This house was situated between the present Dutch Reformed Church and the Hotel.

There is a West street in Greyton. I could not establish whether it was named after George or his son Henry Nesbitt West the later mayor for more than twenty years.

We are fortunate to have eight letters which George wrote to his daughter Daisy in Vryburg. In his letter of 23rd September 1900, George described with contempt Paul Kruger as “Old Paul” and expressed his very strong anti-Boer sentiments:

Greyton
Sept 23rd/00

Miss Daisy West
Brussels siding
W Vryburg

My Dearest Daisey

Not having a letter from you since last Saturday week we have become a little anxious and all the more as I see in the papers that the Boers have attacked an out station about 40 miles from where you are so do not be under the impression that we do not watch every twist and turn of anything in or about Vryburg.

I have just to get a letter from brother Cairrey. He writes from Swellendam and - - - that cattle on my - - - dear(?) out in that direction, he intends going from there to Heidelberg & from there to Riversdale and will be back in about 10 to 14 days. I also got a letter from him from Worcester where he told me he had bought 175 head and that he had the refusal of 100 others at Bredasdorp but in his last letter he does not mention how many had altogether.

I think I mentioned in my last that the children had all passed their examinations with the exception of Mr Mays daughter Maria and Jan de Kock of Jagersbosch.

I see in the papers that Lord Roberts has proclaimed peace in the Transvaal, at least the war is over as a war, it being now to be looked upon in altogether in a far different light as the head of the state has run away and gone of going to Europe there (looking for help?) to carry on war of course the war is at an end as a war the prisoners now taken may tried criminally for theft or robbery or murder as to the case may be, of course you can very well understand that it would not be allowed to any civilized nation that private people could when they were so inclined make war on their own – looks so I try to explain the why and therefore of the proclamation above referred to, in order so far as possible to prevent any misunderstanding on the subject as there are all sorts of stories flying about. This would be rebels of this Village are very down in the mouth about old Pauls' flight and the last Victory of General French at Barberton when the Boers was completely beaten and smashed up. 700 have run into Portugese territory old Paul is still at Delgoa Bay - - - - - are these three English ships of war but what they intend doing no one can find out.

I forgot to mention when writing the above about brother Cairrey that he says he has had - - - - - from his people since he has been up - - - - -. I suppose you have been in Vryburg you locate last.

As your Mother intends writing also by this opportunity I will close my short letter not to take the wind out of the sails and tell all the news.

Miss Wessie (Bessie) Kroukamp has asked me to give her kindest regards also old Mrs. Mays and Mrs. Kroukamp.

And believe me as always your affectionate Father
G.J.B. West

P.S. I forgot to mention, I am much better this week or ten days. G.W.

From the letters of his three children from Vryburg, James, Cairncross and especially Daisy, we learn that the Wests and their children were friends with Mr Heath, the Kroukamps, Solms's and Viljoens in Greyton.

In his letter of 10th October 1900, he referred to the General Elections in England as the “General

Elections at home". For George "Home" is definitely England and not Ireland or South Africa.

Greyton Oct 10th/00

My Dearest Girl

I duly received your truly welcome letter and was glad to find you quite well as your Mother writes today along with this I really dont know what to say and to leave unsaid the only thing of importance is Cairncross's silence. I have not had a word from him since he wrote from Worcester and then he was of the intention of going to Heidelberg and Riversdale - - - - - all along the line and he could have wired from any place but still he has not done so although he promised in his letter to do so. If you have heard anything about him be sure to let me know at once.

It appears by the papers that the Boers are contemplating another attack on Aliwal North this side of the Orange river. It is certainly very instructive to look on at their doings in fact I stated at the time the Rebels laid down their arms that they would take them up again at the first favourable opportunity. The English government are far too lenient but wait a bit and they will find out the way to deal with them.

If you have not seen the papers lately I may tell you that the greatest question of the day is now the General Elections at home as so much has been said and written that this was of Chamberlains concoctions that the government to which he belongs resigned office and went to the Country to find out if the people of England were satisfied with his actions and the result is so far gratifying that by last accounts he and his party had a majority of 165 that is out of 340 seats already voted for them are (as) however 170 members to be chosen altogether you may think I have gone unnecessary trouble to try to explain the situation but the fact is apparent to the Casual observer that the future of South Africa and in fact our future is bound up in those very elections so you may confidently say the fate of South Africa is trembling in the balance in fact a Victory at the Polls is of more consequence than this Relief of Ladysmith & Kimberley and Mafiking all together.

I see the troops are doing good, mark down Barberton and they have seized Komati Poort that is on the Delgoa Bay line we have now command of all the Railway lines in Transvaal.

Oom Paul is still at Delgoa Bay waiting for a Dutch Man of War to take him away. There are three English war ships also in the Bay it appears that he has pertained a lot of the Transvaal Documents and England demands this returned should they even see the light of day then there will be some fun up with the bond Gentry. They look now very blue indeed, but as a drowning man will catch at a straw they try vice at every little - - - - on trains that is wrecked on the line.

Give my best love to brother Jim and his wife and family also to sister (Cillie?) and the little ones and believe me as always your affectionate father

G.J.B. West

P.S. Don't on any account forget to send your address as soon as you can.

G.West

NOTES:

- *".. all along the line"* in the first paragraph referred to the Railway line to Riversdale. . . .
- a *"Dutch Man of War"* was the name of the Dutch war ship which took Paul Kruger to Europe.

On the 29th October 1900 George wrote to Daisy about his enemy, the Irishman Mr Joe Mays of Greyton. *" . . .the Bonds (?) Clique be the Englishman of Dutch Renegade is the most Joe Mays he is now ultra Loyal per word of mouth. . ."* It could be assumed that George the pro British Irish Protestant did not drink water out of the same fountain as Mr Mays who seems to have been a pro Irish Catholic who hated the British and therefore who would have been pro-Boer. It was told that Mr Joe Mays was a boxer in Ireland and that George accused him that he committed a crime in Ireland and changed his surname from Mace to Mays to avoid prosecution. It is ironic that in spite of the antagonism between the two men, Mrs Mays and the West daughters had a good relationship and were close friends! On the ninth February 1910, Greyton became an independent municipality with the first mayor Mr J H Mays! After Mr Joe Mays, George's sons, Pieter West and Henry West were for decades the mayors of Greyton. (*Die Geskiedenis van die N G*

Gemeente Greyton 1918-1968).

The 73 year old George also referred to his own health: *"So far as I am concerned my health has improved much since the warm weather has set in. Now and then my stomach troubles me but on the whole I am much better but I cant work as yet"*. (The Bonds, see letter of 14 December 1900)

In the same letter to Daisy, George referred with contempt to the Afrikaner Rebels and went on to compare them with the Catholic Irish Rebels: *". . . if they are not now put down and kept down the same as they are in Ireland thus the government play no tricks with the Rebels thus in fact they keep them "Nose to the Grinding Stone and their back to the wall" it will have to be same now that is if the English choose to keep the country"*.

Greyton
Oct 29th/00

To Miss Daisy West
Klippies Vlaakte
Vryburg.

Dearest Daisey

We received your very welcome letter and am glad to find you had entered on your new duties under such apparent favourable conditions as it seems you like the place & people. I always like and believe in first impressions they seldom as ever turn out to be wrong.

I am sorry that you did not mention anything about Brother Cairncross whether he has come home or not as I have heard nothing about him for a long time.

Neither have I heard whether Brother Jim has given in any Claim for compensation by the Commission now sitting in Vryburg. You mentioned in you last letter that the Rebels were also sending in claims for compensation but that does not say that they will get any thing. As I take it the commission has been appointed to enquire into all claims but not to try whether the parties applying may be Rebels or not there is another Commission appointed by the Parliament to try and punish those mixed up in the late Transvaal "Fix es" it is time enough to cry out where they renumerated for their actions in fact if they are there you may be confident that this war is not the last of it as my opinion is that they are only waiting for a more favourable opportunity to take up arms again if they are not now put down and kept down the same as they are in Ireland thus the government play no tricks with the Rebels thus in fact they keep them "Nose to the Grinding Stone and their back to the wall" it will have to be same now that is if the English choose to keep the country.

I saw some time ago in the "Times" a proposition to send the whole box & dice out of the country Loyals and all as the apparently Loyal is the greatest Rebel of the two. I mean of course the Bonds (?) Clique be the Englishman of Dutch Renegade Englishman is the most - - - Joe Mays he is now ultra Loyal per word of mouth. So is Rit Rossouw as your ma writes along with this and I suppose has told you all the village news and concerning the reported deaths of William Dryver? at Jacobsdal from wounds received in action but the telegram does not say when of where the fight took place as he was stationed at Modder River.

So far as I am concerned my health has improved much since the warm weather has set in. Now and then my stomach troubles me but on the whole I am much better but I cant work as yet. Your ma sends the stockings in a parcel by post.

I think I have said everything I would wish to say. So I must stop now for want of space and remain your loving Father.

G.J.B. West

In his last letters to Daisy, George emphasized his deteriorating health, the Boer War and *"The Rebels"*. On the 21st November 1900 he wrote: *"So far as myself is concerned I am thank God much better but my breath is still very short. I would like so much to go to the strand for a time"*.

He described his experience with the Boers: "... they are not to be trusted in any degree" and of "a woman in the Transvaal a Boer Spy but I keep it for another opportunity it shows how all the women became spies for the Boers and consequently have now to be sent altogether out of the country as they cant be trusted any longer...". With this "woman in the Transvaal a Boer Spy", George could refer to the well-known Johanna Brandt b. von Warmelo.

Greyton
Nov. 21st/00

To Miss Daisey West
Klip vlaakte
n' Vryburg

Dearest Daisey

I can assure you we were delighted to have received your welcome letter yesterday and to find that you were still in good health and spirits.

It appears that you are not so much troubled about the Boers, but a person should not be too confident that it will always go well as they are not to be trusted in any degree. There is at present very little Daisey in the way of fighting as a great many men are gone home and to Australia their time being expired and their places have to be filled up by others who are on the way out and then Baden Powell¹ is getting together 12,000 men to act as police in Transvaal and Orange River Colony to catch up those band of thieves that are roving about the country under the pretence of making war but in fact to shoot and murder.

General Brabant² is also getting his old Division together again of Colonial born men and will shortly take the fields in person, he having been down at Cape Town to attend the sitting of Parliament. So we may expect something in short time.

There has been a good fight at Botha's Ville (Mr Heathers town) the fight lasted five hours when the Boers run away leaving behind Eight Cannons and 100 prisoners 25 killed and 30 men wounded all their ammunition carts and Wagons in fact the whole Laager and drove seven miles till they were all - - - over the country.

I see yesterday's paper that there was another fight at Edinburg near Bloemfontein the Boers lost again and left 75 on the fields killed and wounded further particulars not yet at hand.

You are under a mistake as to Cairncross's residence, he is now living at Swellendam. I had a letter from him there he says he intend remaining there until after New year he also mentions that Brother Jim came up with him and that he was gone further on but he does not say where I have not heard from him yet. I dont think it likely that either of them will come along this way.

So far as myself is concerned I am thank God much better but my breath is still very short³. I would like so much to go to the strand for a time.

I suppose your ma has told you all the village news so there is no need of me repeating it.

Give mt best love to Jims wife and children and accept the Love from your fond & affectionate old father.

G.J.B.West

P.S. I write so much about the war as you say you get very little news out your way. I would like to send you a cutting from the English paper of a woman in the Transvaal a Boer Spy but I keep it for another opportunity it shows how all the women became spies for the Boers and consequently have now to be sent altogether out of the country as they cant be trusted any longer. G.W.

NOTES:

- (1) Lt General 1st Baron, Robert Stephenson S. Baden Powell, served in the British Army during the 2nd Boer War. With the siege of Mafeking he made use of under age young boys to stand guard. He was the founder of the Scouts movement and a writer of military books. He was buried in Kenia.
- (2) Major-General Sir Edmund Yewd Brabant was knighted for his service (since 1877) in several South African wars. His son Lt. Arthur Edward Brabant died on 05.11.1899 of wounds during the siege of Ladysmith.

On 14th December 1900 George again referred bitingly to Mr Joe Mays as he wrote to Daisy: *"You would not believe it but such is the case that Mr. Mays and all the Rossouw's have completely turned round as not one of them went to the Meeting at Worcester. Piet Rossouw and Mr Mays left here a few days before the Meeting was to be held and - - - - all expected they had gone there but lo and behold on the very day it was held, they came home again and had been down to Bredasdorp to fetch a load of fish. I never was so surprised in my life when I saw them back again as they talked so big before starting - - - Hugo and Fischer both were there but I cant find they did anything"*.

He also told Daisy about an important happening in the history of South Africa namely *"the great Bond Meeting at Worcester"*. *"The Bond"* referred to the Afrikaner Bond. The aim of the Afrikaner bond was a united free and independent South Africa without the British flag. The Bond meeting at Worcester, held during December 1900, was great news over the world. The Sydney Morning Herald of 03 December 1900 referred to the meeting and reported from Australia *"that 3000 Troops encamping at Worcester in the Western Cape Colony where the Afrikaner Bond will shortly meet in Congress"*.

He again referred to his deteriorating health because at the age of 73 he had to work in the water to provide for his wife and young kids. *"So far as I am concerned I am much better but I have a small piece of work by the Municipality building a - - - - - at Mr. Mays and as I had to work in the water most of the time, I got a fearful pain in my back and was quite unable to move about, but I got Mother to put a Mustard plaster on my back and I am now much better although not quite well yet"*.

Greyton
Dec 14th / 00

Miss Daisey West
Vryburg

My dearest Daisey

We were indeed delighted to receive a letter from you yesterday and to find you were still quite well and happy. I suppose you will have heard by this time that Brother Carneys wife had a son¹ at Swellendam and is quite well considering.

You will be surprised no doubt to hear that Mr. Carson has turned up at last at Cape Town. I had a wire from him on Wednesday last making enquiry for Brother Carneys whereabouts. I wired to him yesterday morning stating that he was at present living at Swellendam.

We have neither seen nor heard anything about Brother Jim indeed it is altogether a mystery to me about him. Surely he could have written if it was inconvenient for him to come this way at present.

The great question of the day has been the great Bond Meeting at Worcester when they grievously insulted the government and the English people all round. I have just had a speech of the Governor to the deputation sent by the meeting. He tells them that they are responsible for all the trouble and the lives of both sides who are killed in the now hopeless struggle now going on by keeping alive false hopes, after the war is to all intents and purposes at an end and further resistance has become a crime.

So far as I am concerned I am much better but I have a small piece of work by the Municipality building a - - - - - at Mr. May's and as I had to work in the water most of the time, I got a fearful pain in my back and was quite unable to move about, but I got Mother to put a Mustard plaster on my back and I am now much better although not quite well yet.

You would not believe it but such is the case that Mr. Mays and all the Rossouw's have completely turned round as not one of them went to the Meeting at Worcester. Piet Rossouw at Mr Mays left here a few days before the Meeting was to be held and - - - - all expected they had gone there but lo and behold on the very day it was held, they came home again and had been down to Bredasdorp to fetch a load of fish. I never was so surprised in my life when I saw them back again as they talked so big before starting - - - Hugo and Fischer both were there but I cant find they did anything.

I must wish you and your good Sister Cathrina? And her children a Happy Xmas and a merry New Year and that we may live to be again reunited before the year is at an end again.

It appears by the papers that old Paul Kruger can not get away the least encouragement at any of the Courts of Europe and his visit there is a complete fiasco. None of Potentates will excuse him dont want to affront England in any way.

I suppose your Ma has told you all the home news so there is use? in my going over it again.

Best love to you all from your affectionate father

G.J.B. West

P.S. Poor Mr - - - - is very sick it looks to be Rhumatic fever. G.W.

NOTE:

1 Cairncross's wife Cecile had a daughter Henrietta Helen aka Hettie who was born on 10.11.1900 and not a son.

The address on the envelope of George's letter to Daisy, dated 14th January 1901, read as follows: *To Miss Daisey West, c/o James West Esq, Vryburg, Bechuanaland.* Vryburg was the capital of the "Boer Republic" British Bechuanaland. The Bechuanaland Republic of 133190 square kms only existed from 30 Sept 1885 till 16 Nov 1895 and did not refer to the Botswana of today.

He saw himself, Daisy and her brothers as "loyalist" to the British throne and the anti British Boers as "a lot of undesireables". We must remember that since he arrived in South Africa during 1848, his father and later his mother, regularly sent him the conservative protestant and pro-British Dublin newspaper "The Warder".

It is important to note his remarks about his health to Daisy. *"Now a word or two about myself. I think I told you about a severe pain I had in my Back and how I got it. I may say that it was every day getting worse and worse but when your Ma went to Genadendal the Missionary doctor there recommended me to take Syrup which I did you cant conceive what an alteration for the better in some short a time the pain having now nearly gone away and I hope to be able to work again soon".* When he could not stand the pain in his back, he sent his 46 year old wife Lenie from Geyton to Genadendal to ask help from the Moravian Missionary who was also well trained in medicine.

Greyton

Jan 14th /01

Dear Daisey

You can well believe we were not a little rejoiced to receive your two letters on Saturday, at the same time a letter came from S. Roome? Of Caledon containing a receipt in your favour for £5.8.9. We also received post office order payable in Genadendal for £2.19. of which your mother paid Johanna de Kock £1.19 being the amount of your account by her which is now paid in full. Ma says she will keep the receipt by her till you will come home.

We were very anxious to hear from you again as there were all sorts of stories flying about here about the train being broken up this side of Kimberley and that all communications had been cut off, but it has all turned out to have been a lot of lies.

I am glad to be able to inform you that the government has at last get alive to the awful lies propagated by "Ons Land" . . . The Editor has been in custody in Cape Town and the paper itself is to all intents and purposes at an end, nothing now being allowed to be published only advertisements you can well conceive what a state the dis loyals are here they are down in the mouth. The martial law has been proclaimed in Worcester, Stellenbosch, Paarl, Malmesbury, Pequetberg and I hear Roberson and Swellendam. I am not sure of the two last. We are yet exempt but I will be glad tomorrow it wont interfere with us is any way.

I wrote to you shortly after New Year stating that brothers Jim and Cairney were here and they were kind enough to done for me I mention it again now in - - - the letter might have miscarried I haven not heard from them either of them since they left. We send you a little box of "Kaatjieperings"²

I hope they will come tom hand (have) all right and ----- otherwise they may spoil.

I see in the papers that there have been a lot of endesireables sent out of Vryburg to Kimberley men and women, it must must be great relief for you Loyals. I don't see anything about the lot of Boers --- in to Bechuanaland at Brussels siding last I have heard of them they were at Geluk? and had looted.

----- and drove them away to Vryburg⁵. This may be all ancient history to you but I just mention it so that you can see I keep an eye on all doings down your side.

Now a word or two about myself. I think I told you about a severe pain I had in my Back and how I got it. I may say that it was every day getting worse and worse but when your Ma went to Genadendal the Missionary doctor there recommended me to take Syrup which I did you cant conceive what an alteration for the better in some short a time the pain having now nearly gone away and I hope to be able to work again soon.

As Mother also writes and will doubtless tell all the news I will conclude with kindest love to all and believe me as always

Your fond and affectionate father

G..J.B. West

NOTE: The *Ons Land* was the Cape Dutch pro republic newspaper with the editor F S Malan, and *Kaatjepierings* are Gardenia flowers.

In his letter of 11th February 1901, 3 months before his death, George wrote with optimism to Daisy that in spite of his deteriorating health he hoped to be able to work again soon: *"The fact is that I have been very bad with my back the last 14 days so that I was unable to sit to write but now I think I can say that I am something better the worst is at night from about 11 o'clock 'till 2 or 3 in the morning when pain gradually goes away during the day I feel nothing but the back is very weak"* and *"I hope to be able to work again soon"*. It is clear that the intelligent, very proud but extremely poor and ailing George, a man of 73 years, still felt very responsible to work hard with his hands in difficult circumstances to support his wife Lenie with their young children.

*Greyton
February 11th 01*

Dearest Daisey

After beating about the bush for a long time I at last took the pen to try and send you a few lines as I know you will be glad to get a letter from my own hand.

The fact is that I have been very bad with my back the last 14 days so that I was unable to sit to write but now I think I can say that I am something better the worst is at night from about 11 o'clock 'till 2 or 3 in the morning when pain gradually goes away during the day I feel nothing but the back¹ is very weak.

We have Martial law¹ here now in all its glory. I have sent in all my firearms to the Commandant they are "Commandeering" all the horses and mules of those people who were too wide awake to bring their things in in time who got good prizes for those they brought and if they required the horses for their work they were allowed to keep them if sold ready money. Now the horses taken under Commando law they don't get the full value and then must wait for the money till the war is over. ----- so they would not bring in their horses till time was expired when they ----- in to Caledon.

They were offered £45 for their pain but would not sell as they could get £50 from S? Roome they sold to him but had to take the horses back and then they only got £40 and must wait for the money till the war is over, serve them right.

I see in the papers that the Boers ----- about Vryburg the day after you left trying to steal the cattle but were driven away. I hope they wont interfere with you out on a lonely farm.

-- rebels here now are all ultra loyal that they cant help themselves but you know what is worth.

Pieter² is well with mr. S.J. De Kock taking up day tasks he brought the news from ----- about the horses as he was there on.

Had a wire from Cairney all well there.

Best love to Jim and his wife.

Your loving father

G.J.B.West

NOTES:

- (1) Martial law: "Military Government by which ordinary law is suspended" (Oxford Dictionary)
- (2) Pieter was his then 15 year old son Pieter van As West.

The last letter we have of George John Beatty West, was written to his daughter on the 10th March 1901. It was only 2 months before his death. He missed his son Cairncross: *"I have had a few letters from Brother Cairney he does not appear to know what to do with himself as every thing is at stand still he included to come and see me but up to the present he has not turned up. When I was at the worst he sent me £2 to assist in getting medicine & which I can assure you was very acceptable and helped a deal in getting me all right again. . ."* His health was deteriorating fast and the pain severe when the 73 year old George wrote his last letter to his beloved Daisy: *"Once again I am thank God able to write you a few lines. I have been for the last two months in a truly awful state of pain in my back but now thank God I am much better. I would not allow mother in any of her letters you know the real state what would have been the use as we could not come near each other and it would only have caused you unnecessary - - - - - and you could do nothing for me but now that the pains have nearly all left me it is different.*

George was very sick but gradually relieved from pain after he spent the £2 that Cairncross sent him, on medicine. He also missed his son James, nicknamed Jim who had left Vryburg for Gauteng.

Greyton
March 10th 01¹

Miss Daisey West
Vryburg

My Dearest Girl

Once again I am thank God able to write you a few lines. I have been for the last two months in a truly awful state of pain in my back but now thank God I am much better. I would not allow mother in any of her letters you know the real state what would have been the use as we could not come near each other and it would only have caused you unnecessary - - - - - and you could do nothing for me but now that the pains have nearly all left me it is different.

I have had a few letters from Brother Cairney he does not appear to know what to do with himself as every thing is at stand still he included to come and see me but up to the present he has not turned up. When I was at the worst he sent me £2 to assist in getting medicine & which I can assure you was very acceptable and helped a deal in getting me all right again.

I have been waiting with Christian patience for the long promised letter from Brother Jim but have got nothing as yet if I am able to hold out sitting I will try and write to him but today I cant as I cant sit for long at a time.

The Plague¹ is still down about Cape Town there are a lot of Kaffirs have been affected by it but I dont hear of many deaths some few White people have also been affected but they appear to be those who have been in contact with Kaffirs. It is said that the sickness originated among the rats and they are dying in hundreds at the docks in Cape Town.

I am however very thankful that you are so contended in your situation and that they appear to be so nice people.

There is to be a regular cleaning up here. Doctors and inspectors are going round I may say not before it was wanted. There are usual many discontents but it wont help clean - - - - must be several of the farmers have been heavily fined for trying to evade the martial law regulations a - - - - - the - - - - - their horses and mules.

Best love to Jim if you see him and his wife and family and believe me your fond and affectionate father.

G.J.B. West

P.S. The back is just tired? Out.

NOTE:

- (1) *"The Plague"* referred to in the letter, was the outbreak of the bubonic plague (buile pes) on 7th February 1901 in Cape Town. In 1901 there were, according to dr F. K. Mitchell, 766 cases and 371 deaths caused by the bubonic plague.

It seems from Daisy's letter of 4th September 1904 to Jemima in Ireland that George did not discuss his family in Ireland with his younger children. Jemima was the only surviving child of his sister Eleanore. Daisy described him as *"a true Irishman"*: *"While he was living he never would tell us much about his relatives in dear old Ireland. It is only lately that I found your address among his letters from his sister - Mrs. Eleanor Talbot. It would give me so much pleasure to hear from poor dear Father's relatives; for Father loved his country & his people to the last as only a true Irishman can"*. As mentioned previously it was not a true description of George West, as in fact he became very pro-British in South Africa.

Many West descendants asked whether his third name was written Beatty or Beattie. George's third name Beatty was the surname of his grandmother Elizabeth Beatty. In Ireland the surname Beatty was written in many different ways such as Beatty, Beattie, Beatie, Beaty etc but Elizabeth's surname was written as Beatty. I could trace the names of Elizabeth's ancestors John Beatty and George Beatty back to the early 1600s. In South Africa the spelling of the name was originally written as Beatty but after the 5th December 1852 changed by the Rev Wilshere to Beattie.

On the 5th December 1852 when George's third child George John Beatty West was baptized in the Anglican Church Caledon, the Rev H M M Wilshere registered the baby as George John Beatty West while he wrote the father's name only as George. This was the only case where one of George's descendants' name was written as "Beatty" while all the others were written "Beattie". When a grandson of George was baptized on the 9th of June 1874 the same Rev Wilshere registered the baby as George John Beattie West. During 1858 and on 26.09.1865, 20.07.1880 and 11.04.1881 the name was always written in the records of the Anglican Church as Beattie. In the marriage certificate of his marriage with Mary Jane Gannon on 14.05.1847 in the St Peters Church in Dublin, he is only named "George", while on the certificate with his marriage to Magdalena Johanna van As on 20.07.1880 in Caledon, his name was written George John Beattie West.

George died on the 10th May 1901 at the age of 73 and was buried in Greyton in the local graveyard. He was the father of 19 children of whom two died as infants. At the time of his death he had 41 grandchildren and 9 great grand children. His widow Lenie was left with 8 children: Daisy 19, Klasie 18, Pieter 15, Henry 12, Lily 10, Mien 8, Ben 6 and the five year old Susy.

CHAPTER 26

His second wife **Lenie Van As – A strong leader in Greyton (1855-1935)**

George John Beatty West's second wife, Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie van As, was a descendant of Johannes van Asschen from Harlingen, Friesland, Netherlands and the slave Angela van de Kaap. Angela was also known as Angela of Bengale and Maaij Ansela (beautiful Ansela). It is said that Angela was from an aristocratic family in the Ganges Valley (Bangladesh) and that she was intelligent and beautiful. Her owner, landdrost Pieter Kemp who brought her to the Cape, sold her to Jan van Riebeeck. On the 19th April 1662 van Riebeeck sold her to the fiscal Abraham Gabbema who set her and her sons Jacobus van As, Johannes van As and her daughter Anna de Coningh free on the 13th April 1666. She was the third slave to be set free in the Cape. Gabbema asked Thomas Christoffel Muller to take care of her for six months. Angela was given a plot of land in Heerenstraat. After her baptism as a Christian she became a burger of the Cape on the 29th April 1668 and on the 15th December 1669 she married Arnoldus Willemsz Basson. Angela's daughter Anna de Coningh later married Olof Bergh and became the ancestor of the Bergh and Basson families. The ex-slave Angela became a highly successful business lady. She was the owner of the farm Kronendal in Hout Bay and the small farm Hondswijck in Drakenstein. After Olof Bergh's death, Anna de Coningh, lived as a widow on the farm Constantia which Olof bought from Simon van der Stel.

Ancestry of Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie van As:

Johannes van As aka van Aschen and van Assen (1637-1692)
+Angela van de Kaap aka Mooij Angela aka Maaij Ansela aka Angela from Bengale (-1720)
↓
Jacobus van As (1667-1713)
+Maria Clements (-) da of Matthys Michiel Clements (-)
↓
Willem van As (1703-)
+Anna Margaretha Schenk (1708-) da of Jost Rynhard Schinke and Sara Bothma
↓
Joost Rijnard van As (1733-)
+Wilhelmina De Waal (1748-) da of Arend De Waal and Maria van Breda
↓
Willem van As (1768-1808)
+Sophia Alida Brink (1768-) da of Jan Godlieb Brink and Susanna Maria de Kock
↓
Willem Rynhard van As (1794-1835)
+**Magdalena Johanna Hartwich** (-)
↓
Carel Rijnhard van As (1823-)
Anna Stoffelina Susanna Avenant (-)
↓
Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie van As (1855-1935)
George John Beatty West (1827-1901)

Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie van As, was the daughter of Carel Rijnhard van As and Anna Stoffelina Susanna Avenant and named after her grandmother Magdalena Johanna Hartwich the wife of Willem Rynard van As. Lenie's father Carel Rynhard van As also had a sister Magdalena Johanna van As b 5 July 1829 who was married to Joseph Josia Wilkinson.

Bot River (09.03.1855 – 20.07.1880)

Lenie came from the little hamlet Bot River, about 15 km from the farm Hoopjes River where George farmed when his wife Mary Jane died on the 16th of June 1879. Lenie was born on Friday the 9th of March 1855. She had four sisters: Annie married John Swanepoel while the other three, Kitty, Nellie and Willie remained spinsters. The three spinsters stayed in one house in Bot River where Kitty took care of them until their death. I can still recall our visit to them when I was a small boy.

Delene du Toit told me of how the relationship between George and Lenie started. After Mary Jane's death, George had a relationship with Annie van As, a lady from Bot River,. His friend John Swanepoel was in a relationship with Annie's sister Lenie Van As. One evening while walking home, John confessed to his friend George that he did not know how to put it to him but that he had a problem and felt guilty about it. He admitted that he was not so much in love with his girlfriend Lenie but that he felt stronger towards her sister Annie who was George's girlfriend. What a relief it was for George. He immediately admitted that he had the same problem. He was more in love with Lenie than with his girlfriend Annie. The two friends immediately swapped girlfriends and both were later married to their "new" girlfriends. The 25 year old Lenie and the 53 year old George married on Tuesday 20th July 1880 in the Holy Trinity Church, Caledon. The marriage was conducted by the Rev John Eedes. It was custom that marriages were conducted for free or cheaper on Tuesdays.

Ben Groenewald, a grandson of George told me that when Mary Jane was very ill, George could not cope with both the farming and the household. As the custom was in those years, it was arranged that the Van As sisters came and assisted him with the caring of his wife. After Mary Jane's death the relationship with the van As sisters started.

Hoopjes River (20.07.1880 - ±1883/84)

After their marriage, Lenie and George stayed at Hoopjes River for about three or four years before they left for Genadendal. Here at Hoopjes River Lenie gave birth to their first daughter Elizabeth Petronella aka Daisy on 27th June 1881 and on the 9th October 1882 their second child Nicolas West aka Klasie was born. The West family left Hoopjes River between October 1882 and 1883/84 .

When George married his 25 year old fiance Lenie, his 32 year old eldest daughter Ellen was already the mother of three children. She was seven years older than his new wife. His four eldest children Ellen b 1848, William b 1850, George b 1852 and James b 1854 were all older than his wife Lenie. His two youngest children, Anna Samia was eighteen and Cairncross Nesbitt fifteen years old when George married Lenie. From his letters it seems that both Cairncross and Anna Samia had good relations with their stepmother Lenie. In the letters of 15 July, 29 August and 18 September 1900 Cairncross referred to her as "Ma", although his stepmother was only ten years older than himself.

Genadendal (±1883/84 - ± 1894/95)

During 1883/84 the thirty year old Lenie and George moved from Hoopjesrivier to Genadendal where they lived for about eleven years up to 1894/95. Seven of their ten children were born in Genadendal:

- Shortly after their arrival an unnamed son was born who died seven days after his birth. He was buried at Genadendal.
- Pieter Louis West b. 01.09.1885
- Charles who also died as an infant and was buried at Genadendal
- Henry Nesbitt West 15.05.1888;
- Magdalena Johanna West 28.09.1890;
- Wilhelmina Sarah West 06.07.1892 and
- Benjamin West 28.06.1894.

At Genadendal Lenie and George lived in what was called the "West House". It is the house adjacent to the police station and only a few hundred meters from the Moravian Church and "Werf" where the Moravian missionaries and personnel stayed. Later years the house was referred to as the "Meyer House". The house was later used as a creche and is still in a good condition.

Lenie, George and their children befriended the missionary families as well as some families of Genadendal. Those friendships and contact during birth, sickness and the deaths of their two children certainly influenced the views of the West family. I can imagine how the ladies of Genadendal came to the West house to assist and pray with Lenie and George during the dark days, especially with the death of her children.

The custom was that the children of the Moravian Missionaries attended the same school as the local children on the mission stations. I could find no clarity with any of the West family whether Lenie's children Daisy (14), Klasie (13), Pieter (10) and Henry (7) attended school at Genadendal but I imagine they did. All Lenie's children and even many of her grandchildren always talked with respect about the people of Genadendal and the Moravian Church as if they were part of them. The eleven years that Lenie lived at Genadendal certainly could be a reason why she became so involved in the Womens Missionary Association (Vroue Sending Bond) in Greyton.

During 1894/95 Lenie's husband the 69 year old George West retired as police constable at Genadendal and settled with his 40 years old wife in nearby Greyton where she stayed for the rest of her life. She was only 46 years old when her husband died on the 10th May 1901 and left her with Daisy 19, Klasie 18, Pieter 15, Henry 12, Lily 10, Mien 8, Ben 6 and the only four year old Susy.

Lenie, the poor but disciplined, dedicated and devoted christian with high moral values, was a respected leader in the Womens Missionary Association of the Dutch Reformed Church in Greyton. She was a close friend of the much beloved Rev Botha who was said to have actually been a missionary. In his absence she would lead the women's prayer meetings.

She referred with great respect to Mrs Driver with whom she often had tea. Mrs Driver was from a highly respected family of "mixed race" who lived in Greyton. Nobody called her on her name but addressed her as "Mrs Driver". She was a qualified nurse and midwife who helped my mother with the birth of my eldest brothers and sisters.

Mirs Kitty Vigne who's husband was a descendant of Herbert Vigne, was a dear friend of Lenie. Herbert had a very eventful youth with a number of children born out of wedlock. As a result he was banned from the farm Tygerhoek where Riviersonderend is today. Herbert's brother Henry was married to a cousin of Lady Ann Barnard. His brother George married a sister of sir George Grey. Herbert Vigne himself was married to Elizabeth Belshaw, 27 years younger than him. The

Vigne couple settled at Bosjanskloof and later acquired the adjacent farm Weltevreden which is the Greyton of today. Vigne Lane in Greyton is named after Herbert Vigne.

Although a widow, Lenie gave her children under these difficult circumstances a good education. She taught them the value of self respect and inspired them to attend school. Her four daughters became teachers and her sons qualified as artisans at Worcester.

As seen in a previous chapter, Lenie's husband, although Irish, became very pro British. She and George taught their children to be proud of their aristocratic background and to admire England. From the letters of Lenie's step sons, Cairncross Nesbitt and James, it is clear that they were on the side of the British during the Boer War and helped them by buying cattle for them. The husbands and wives of Lenie's children had no choice but to accept the pro British views of their spouses!

We are privileged to have a letter of her to Benjamin in Worcester after Benjamin decided to leave his job with Mr Browning and join the army during World War 1. She was still very dependent on his monthly contributions as she wrote: "*gy moet zien om my die maand 12 schillings te stuur voor de rente*" (you must send me 12 shillings this month so that I can pay my debts). In her letter of the 4th September 1914 she quite openly reprimanded Ben for being selfish and reminded him of everything she put into his education and now that he could help with the education of his sisters, he was going to war: "*zy moet weet dat dit my dan tot grootse droefheid zal weezen want zy moet denk hoe veel ik opgeoffer en wat moeite en geld ik voor u betaal heb en Minie en Susy*" (...you must know how sad I am because you must think how much I sacrificed and how much input and money I had to pay for you and also Minnie and Susy . . .").

Greyton¹
4. 9. 14²

Lieve Benjamen

ik voel vandag zoo harzeer? Omdat zy my u Discharge³ laat vraag ik wonder wat het meen ik ben bevrees dat u weder gaan om dienst te neem⁴ en zy moet weet dat dit my dan tot grootse droefheid zal weezen want zy moet denk hoe veel ik opgeoffer en wat moeite en geld ik voor u betaal⁵ heb en Minie en Susy heb zoo gedacht om tog plezier van u te hebben als u voor u zelf iets kan verdien en ook aan hen kan geben wat zulle voor u gedaan heb ik was bly dat Mr Browning⁶ u by hem gehouden heb en met die wat zy duur verdien heb hen u klaar kom en ook nog elke maand aan my 10 schilling geef dan kan ik het by makkaar maak om de schuld af te betaal. Ik is dagen nacht bezwaard over de arme Peter wat nu al 9 maande op het veld is⁷ en de Lieve Heere weet alleen hoe lank het nog zal duur Henry zeg ook zy macht tog niet er aan denk om het te doen en ek wil het ook niet loof het is voor my zoo vreemd dat ek al zoo lank van u geen brief gehad eb ik weet niet wat het is ons is alle wel door des Heeren genade oom Wessel Van Deventer is gestorven laats week en ou Barend Havenga is ook zoo ziek Lieve Ben ik heb u brief deze morge ontvang en was blyde om van u te hoore dat u nog wel ben en dat u uit de Kerk gekomen is dit is tog altyd goed om in Gods huis te wees en laat u plaats daar nooit ledig wees als u het kun doen ik was gister zoo onteverd (ontevrede?) toe u telegram hier komen en heb toen dadelyk begend aan u te sckryf u zal wel verstaan wat myn vrees is en als moeder een verkeerde gedachten heb dan moet u my dit tog niet kwalik neem en wees altyd een zoet en gehoorzaam kind pas u dienst goed op wees gehoorzaam als aan u eigen ouders bestied ook u geld altyd op de regte manier en niets voor wat u niet nuttig is gy moet zien om my die maand 12 schillings te stuur voor de rente verder is ons alle wel door des Heeren genade hoop het gaat u ook wel en vergeet den Heere niet ik denk Bessie zal ander maand trow en dan is de Ileen dat aunt Lizzy ook met haar zal mee gaan om daar te blyf dit zal ook voor my zoo naar wees als ik dit nog beleef dat aunt Lizzy hier weg moet gaan maar hier is alles veranderlik ek heb van Peter nog geen tyding weer hier is ook niets byzonderd om te schryf, Cotje Willemse was weer na Zuc's??? dat zy zoo ziek was maar is net zoo weer terug gekom zy gebruik ook van de Bruin ??? Dochter. Goed maggee??? van tant Annie is ook niet wel Mrs Krouse heb zoo een zeer voet dat zy in bed zit ik stuur u Discharge en - - - -

*Browning zyn brief ik zal nu maar eindig met hartelike groete van ons alle en blyft
u liefhebbende moeder
M West*

NOTES:

- 1 The address on the envelope is: Mr Benjamin West, Worcester, 54, High Street (not Benjamin)
- 2 04 September 1914
- 3 The "Discharge" that he asks could refer that he was discharged when he decided to join the army.
- 4 "Diens te neem" – join the army
- 5 "geld ik voor u betaal" Money paid for his studies to become a tailor
- 6 Mr Browning was his employer, the tailor in Worcester, who were like a father and friend to him.
- 7 "In the veld" - refers to the army?

(Dear Benjamin

My heart is very sore today because you asked that I must give you a discharge³. I wonder and fear that you are going in service. It made me so sad to think what I suffered and the money I paid for you. Minie and Susy expected some help and repayment from you when you work and earn money. I always appreciated it that Mr Browning kept you. In that way you earned money and you could send me 10 shillings a month with which I could pay my debts. I feel very burdened about Peter who is in the veld (*army*) for 9 months and Henry is also going . . .

. . . Dear Ben, I received your letter this morning and was so glad to hear that you attended Church. It is always good to be in God's House and may your place never be empty there. I was very dissatisfied after I received your telegram yesterday. I immediately started to write to you. You will understand what my fear is as your mother. Do not have wrong ideas about me and do not resent me for it. You must always remain an obedient child. Look after your work and be obedient as if it is your own parents. You must send me 12 shillings this month so that I can pay the rent. Further we are well through the grace of the Lord's Grace and hope you are also well and never forget the Lord. I think that Bessie will marry next month and then it is Ileen that aunt Lizzy had to go to stay with her. It will also be sad for me when aunt Lizzy had to leave from here. Here everything is changing. I have not received any news from Pieter. Here is nothing particular to write about. Cotje Willemse again went to Zuc's. She was so ill and had to come back. She also use de Bruin??? Dochter from aunt Annie is also not well. Mrs Krouse had such a sore foot that she sits in the bed. I send your Discharge anda letter to Browning. I shall end now with sincere greetings from all of us and remain your beloved mother.

M West.)

On the 12th September 1916 Benjamin wrote from the training camp at Potchefstroom that he sent his mother £2 per month and that he was in the same brigade as his elder brother Pieter.

She received the following letter from the Command Paymaster:

*Command Paymaster South Africa
26 Jan 1917*

*Mrs. M J West, Greyton, Dist Caledon, C.T.
Pte B. West, No 102324, 4th S.A. I.*

Madam

Enclosed please find Quarterly form of life certificate, which far... to complete. Please complete and return same to the to this at your earliest convenience avoid delay of payment.

Yours Faithfully

W.E. Cleaoles

Command Payment

During her last years Lenie stayed with her son Henry Nesbitt West the mayor of Greyton in Grey Street. Nineteen years later on Tuesday the 1st October 1935, two days after my birth and near the end of her life she still did not own much as she closed her letter to my mother Susie with the following: *"ik heb ook niets om te stuur"*.

Greyton
1 10 35

Lieve Susy

ik is zoo spyt dat ik niet van morgen na u kan kom ik voel so sleg van de verkoude en voel siek of ik kan uitgaan ik wensch u van harte geluk met die kleine en hoop maar het zal verder goed gaan harteluk geluk ook met Stefanus zyn geboorte dag al is dit al verby als de Heere ons spaar en ik beter voel dan wil ek graag aan plan maak om u te zien want ik verlang zoo om u te zien met de kleine laat Ena een brieve stuur nee met veel liefde ik heb ook niets om te stuur.

U lieve moeder M West"

(Dear Susy

I am so sorry that I can not come to you this morning. I feel so bad with a bad cold and I feel too ill to go out. I send you my best wishes with the little one and hope that everything will go well. Congratulations also with the birthday of Stefanus although it is passed. If the Lord save us and I feel better I want to make a plan to see you because I long to see you with the little one. I let Ena send a (the) letter with much love. I have nothing to send you.

Your dearest mother M West.)

NOTE:

- The words *"De Kleine"* (the little one) refer to my birth on 29 September 1935 and Stefanus (Gideon Petrus Coetzee) referred to my father's birthday on the 30th September. Ouma Lenie, with the help of her daughter in law, also Lenie, prepared the lunch for the family with my baptism on the 1st December 1935 in the DRC Greyton. After lunch she went to her bedroom, made herself comfortable on the bed, covered her legs with her apron, became ill and died 11 days later on Wednesday the 11th December 1935.

Lenie lost her left eye when she was hurt during an accident with the horse cart. Photos were always taken from the right side.

On Saturday the 21st December 1935, the following appeared in the *Caledon Venster* under the heading: **"Greyton: Wyle Mev M J West Hooggeagte Dame Heengegaan". Die berig lui:**

"Die samelewig van Greyton is diep geskok deur die skielike dood van wyle mev Magdalena Johanna West. Sy het die ouderdom van byna 81 jaar bereik. Sy was 'n baie voorbeeldige, alombekende en beminde moeder en 'n ware steunpilaar in die gemeente van Greyton. Sy was nie alleen 'n ywerige lid van die Vroue Sendingbond nie maar ook leier van die Susters biduur in die afwesigheid van ds Botha.

Haar man het haar dertig jaar gelede vooruitgegaan en hoewel sy toe as 'n weduwee met haar kroos agtergelaat is, het sy alles in haar vermoë gedoen om haar kinders op die beste manier op te voed. Hulle het dan ook tot haar blydschap belangrike betrekkinge ingeneem. Haar vier dogters nl. mevv Daisy Groenewald, Lily Groenewald, Mimmie du Toit en Susie Coetzee was almal onderwyseresse en neem nou nog prominente plekke in die samelewig in. Haar drie seuns nl. mnr Klaas, Pieter en Henry West, waarvan mnr P West burgermeester was en mnr H West dit nou op die oomblik is, het haar hart baie verbly. Dit was vir haar en familie 'n harde slag toe hulle broer Benjamin in die laaste groot oorlog gesneuwel het. Sy het baie weldade gedoen, veral aan die ou susters in die gemeente.

Hiervan is 'n duidelike bewys die aantal opgemaakte en geadresseerde pakkies wat in haar kamer gevind is.

Tot haar ou dag het sy die liefde en agting van haar kinders behou. Sy het ook in die laaste jare in die huis van haar seun mnr H West, die burgermeester ingewoon. Hoewel sy in die laaste tyd siekerig was en haar gestel nie meer so sterk was nie, het sy getrou die kerk besoek. Haar krankheid was van 'n baie korte duur want na feitlik 'n dag se siekte het die dood ingetree. En is die ou moeder Woensdag agtermidag sonder dat een van haar kinders aan haar bedstede was aan hartverlamming stil die ewigheid ingegaan.

Haar kinders behalwe mev M du Toit was teenwoordig by die begrafnis. Mev du Toit gee onderwys te Bethal in Transvaal en het eers gister hier aangekom.

Vrydagoggend om 10 uur is die stoflike oorskot ter aarde bestel. By die begrafnis was daar baie mense teenwoordig waaronder die groot familiekring en vriende van elders wat haar die laaste eer wou bewys.

Ds D S Botha het die begrafnisrede gehou en 'n baie mooi woord aan die treurende familie gerig uit Joh 15:5. Ook het mnr Uys 'n paar woorde gesê oor Joh 17:4. Daarna is die stoet na die begraafplaas en het as draers opgetree haar drie seuns nl. mnr Klaas, Pieter en Henry West en haar skoonseuns mnre Koos en Stoffel Groenewald en Stephanus Coetzee.

By die geopende graf het eerw Schmidt van Genadendal wat haat man ook geken het, 'n paar woorde gesê.

After her death a long tribute to her appeared in the local "Caledon Venster" of 21 Dec 1935. They described her as a lady who was admired, respected and loved by the community. She was a pillar of support in the local church and in the absence of the Rev. Botha, she regularly held prayer meetings for the women. The text of the Rev Botha at her funeral service was from St John 15.5. The Rev Uys, then a minister of the Dutch Reformed Mission Church in Calvinia, gave the congregation St John 17 v 4: "I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work which thou gave me to do". In spite of her own financial position, she worked hard and urged the women to help Mr Uys financially with his studies when still a missionary student at Wellington. The Rev L R Schmidt of the Moravian Church of Genadendal spoke a few words at the grave. After her death a number of parcels addressed to poor women of the church were found in her room.

Some Van As ancestors and family members of Lenie van As (later West):

1-Johannes van As aka van Asschen and van Assen b. Cir 1637 - Harlingen, Friesland Netherlands, d. Cir 1692

+**Angela van die Kaap aka Mooij Angela b. Bengale, Bangladesh, d. Cir 1720**

2-Jacobus van As b. Cir 1667, d. Cir 28 Jul 1713

+Maria Clements

3-Willem van As c. 25 Nov 1703

+Anna Margaretha Schenk b. Cir 1708

4 Joost Rijnard van As b. 20 Sep 1733

+Wilhelmina De Waal c. 19 May 1748

5-Willem van As c. 25 Dec 1768, d. Cir 1808

+Sophia Alida Brink c. 2 Oct 1768

6-Willem Rynhard van As c. 29 Aug 1794, d. 15 Nov 1835

+**Magdalena Johanna Hartwich**

7-Carel Rijnhard van As b. 3 Dec 1823, c. 18 Mar 1830, Caledon

+**Anna Stoffelina Susanna Avenant**

8-Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie West b. 9 Mar 1855, d. 11 Dec

1935, Greyton, Western Cape, SA, bur. Greyton, Western Cape, SA

+**George John Beatty West b. 15 Jun 1827, Cloone House, Cloone, Co Leitrim, Ireland, d. 10 May 1901, Greyton, Western Cape, bur. Greyton, Western Cape**

9-Elizabeth Petronella aka Daisy West b. 27 Jun 1881,

Hoopjesrivier, Botrivier, Caledon, d. 21 Aug 1945, bur. Kleinmond

9-**Nicolas van As** aka Klasie West b. 9 Oct 1882, Hoopjesrivier, Botrivier, Caledon, d. 10 Aug 1962, Kleinmond

9-Unnamed son West b. Abt 1883-1884, Genadendal, d. After 7 days,

Genadendal
 9-**Pieter Louis van As** aka Pieter West b. 1 Sep 1885, Genadendal, d. 15 Jul 1961, Greyton, Western Cape, SA, bur. Greyton, Western Cape, SA
 9-Charles aka Charles West b. c.1887 or 1888, Genadendal, d. Genadendal. Infânt
 9-Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West b. 15 May 1888, Genadendal, d. 2 Apr 1953, Greyton, bur. Greyton
 9-**Magdalena Johanna** aka Lily West b. 28 Sep 1890, Genadendal, d. 15 Sep 1982, bur. Kleinmond
 9-**Wilhelmina Sarah** aka Mien West b. 6 Jul 1892, Genadendal, d. 9 Feb 1985, Cape Town
 9-Benjamin aka Ben West b. 28 Jun 1894, Genadendal, d. 7 Aug 1918, North West France, Died in action WW1., bur. Plot 5, Row D, Grave no 36, Longueness Souvener Cemetry, St. Omer, France
 9-**Susanna Anna** aka Susie West b. 12 Jul 1896, c. Greyton, d. 10 Aug 1970, Caledon, bur. Soetmelksvlei, Caledon
 8-Anna Susanna aka Annie van As
 +John Swanepoel
 8-Louis Peter van As
 8-Jacoba Classina aka Koosie van As
 8-Elizabeth Petronella aka Beth van As
 8-Basie van As
 7-**Wilhelmina Sara** van As b. 25 May 1822, c. 18 Mar 1830, Caledon
 +Paul Lodewyk Avenant
 7-Pieter Voltelin van der Bijl van As b. 27 Aug 1825, c. 18 Mar 1830, Caledon
 7-**Magdalena Johanna** van As b. 5 Jul 1829, c. 18 Mar 1830, Caledon
 +Joseph Josia Wilkinson
 7-Willem Nicolaas Swart van As b. 29 Jun 1827, Caledon, c. 18 Mar 1830, Caledon
 +**Petronella Magdalena Elizabeth** Avenant
 7-Willem Johannes van As b. 14 May 1833, c. 30 May 1853, Somerset West
 7-Susanna Henriëtta van As b. Cir 1831
 +Johan Christiaan Radyn Avenant b. 12 May 1825
 6-Susanna Maria van As c. 28 Aug 1792
 6-Sophia Alida Maria van As c. 19 Jun 1804
 +M van der S Myburgh
 +Johanna Phillipina Morkel c. 14 Dec 1794 (see Willem van As on page 1)
 5-Maria Catharina van As c. 6 Jan 1771
 +Johannes Hendricus de Wit
 5-Maria Wilhelmina van As c. 5 Apr 1767
 5-Elizabeth Hendrina van As
 +Francois Smit
 5-Wilhelmina Josina van As c. 10 May 1778
 +Lourens Jacobus Van Niekerk
 5-Jacobus Petrus van As c. 7 May 1780
 +Anna Gertuida Woeke c. 1 Sep 1776
 5-Arend van As c. 25 Jul 1773
 +Aletta Elizabeth Kuhl c. 2 Jun 1776
 6-Wilhelmina Maria Aletta van As c. 17 Nov 1803
 5-Anna Jacoba van As c. 15 Jan 1775
 +Marinus Vervaert
 5-Josina Maria van As c. 3 Apr 1785
 +Gerard van Sitter
 4-Helena Sara Bergh c. 13 Nov 1729
 4-Jacobus van As c. 14 Jan 1731
 4-Wilhelmina Wium c. 27 Jul 1732
 +Wium
 4-Christiaan van As c. 27 Mar 1735
 4-Anna Eksje van As c. 23 Sep 1736
 4-Maria Wilhelmina van As c. 5 Apr 1767
 4-Engela Maria van As c. 28 Sep 1736
 +Moritz Herman Otto Woeke
 4-Willem Jacob van As c. 25 Jun 1741
 4-**Nicolaas van As** c. 13 Dec 1744
 +Geertruy Christina Blanckenberg c. Cir 1707 (see Willem van As on page 1)
 +Unknown (see Willem van As on page 1)
 4-Captain Willem van As c. 3 Sep 1750

+Catharina Dorothea Antoinette Hemmy
 4-Jacoba Helena van As c. 13 Aug 1752
 +Maj John Gragie
 4-Maria Josina van As c. 11 Aug 1754
 3-Anna Isabella van As c. 1 Aug 1694
 3-Johannes van As c. 6 Apr 1692
 3-Matthys van As c. 21 Jun 1696
 +Catharina van Wyk (see Matthys van As on page 2)
 +Helena van der Merwe (see Matthys van As on page 2)
 3-Johanna van As
 3-Engela van As
 3-Sophia van As c. 12 Jun 1707
 3-Jacoba Helena van As c. 27 Apr 1710
 +Johan Georg Keyserling
 +Geertruy Wilhelm Emsighoff
 4-Maria Magdalena Emsighoff c. 31 Jul 1763
 +Gabriel Rossouw
 4-Pieter Gerrit Emsighoff
 +Anna Cornelia van Emmenes
 5-Catharina Emsighoff c. 23 Sep 1787
 5-Maria Magdalena Emsighoff c. 11 Jan 1789
 +J J van Emmenes
 5-Matthys Emsighoff c. 9 Oct 1791
 +Unknown
 +Martha Magdalena B Swart
 5-Aletta Sophia Emsighoff c. 16 Oct 1796
 +J J Visser
 5-Gerrit Emsighoff
 +Aletta Johanna Marais
 5-Pieter Jacobus Emsighoff c. 17 Jan 1802
 +Anna Maria Visser
 5-Gabriel Johannes Emsighoff c. 23 Sep 1804
 +Hester Maria Cilliers
 6-Pieter Gerrit Emsighoff b. 20 May 1833, c. 24 Aug 1833, Caledon
 +Catharina Margaretha Rosenkrantz b. Cir 1834
 5-Anna Catharina Emsighoff c. 5 Oct 1807
 2-Pieter van As
 2-Johannes van As
 +Catharina (see Johannes van As aka van Asschen and van Assen on page 1)
 2-Jannetjie van As
 2-Louis van As
 2-Elsje van As
 2-Maria van As
 2-Matthijs van As

CHAPTER 27

Elizabeth Petronella West – teacher near Vryburg (1881-1945)

Elizabeth Petronella aka Daisy West was the eldest child of George and his second wife, Magdalena Johanna aka Lenie van As. It is unclear after whom she was named since she had an aunt Petronella Magdalena Elizabeth Avenant and a great grandmother Elizabeth Beatty. Daisy was born at Hoopjesrivier on Monday 27th June 1881 where she as a toddler spent her first few years. The West family left Hoopjesrivier for Genadendal after the birth of Niklaas on the 9th September 1882 and before the birth of the unknown child who died as an infant in 1883/84. They lived for about twelve years in a house next to the Police station only a few hundred meters from the Moravian Church in Genadendal. When Daisy was about 14 her parents left Genadendal and moved to Greyton.

DAISY:	DATE:	AGE:
Born	27 June 1881	
Moved to Genadendal	± 1883/84	±3
School Genadendal/Greyton?	± 1887-1890	±6-9
School Greyton	1891-1898	10-17
Moved to Greyton	±1895	±14
Pupil Teacher Greyton	1895–1898	14-17
Teacher Brussels Vryburg	August 1900	19
Birth her eldest child	6 th January 1903	22
Birth of her youngest child	13 February 1921	39

I could not establish whether she attended school at first with the children of the missionaries and the children of Genadendal or whether she attended school at Greyton. The practice of the Moravian Church was that the children of the missionary personnel attended school with the local children. According to the testimonial dated Dec. 1898 of her school Principal, Ursula Solms she attended the Primary School at Greyton for 7 years. She either started school at Greyton at the age of 10 while they still lived in Genadendal or she attended school at Genadendal up to the age of 10 and then went to school in Greyton.

The last three years, from the age of fourteen to seventeen, Daisy was a “Pupil Teacher” in Greyton. A pupil teacher was a pupil who was also teaching and thus preparing herself to become a teacher.

In December 1898 Miss Solms gave Daisy the following testimonial:

“This is to certify that Miss. E.West has been under my instruction for 7 years, three years she served as a pupil Teacher: I take pleasure in stating that I ever found her deportment¹ excellent & lady like; she was studios² & her progress most praise-worthy.

She attained a high standard in her studies & in the practice of teaching her tact & skill were most conspicuous³ her power in discipline was full and effective, her manner was frank, genial & firm.

I can recommend her as uncommonly well qualified to act as an elementary teacher in any of the Public Schools of this Colony.

Ursula Solms

Principal

Prim School, Greyton Dec. 1898”

NOTES:

- 1 "Deportment"- behaviour e.g. a person was of impeccable behaviour.
- 2 "Studios" – anxious to learn
- 3 "Conspicuous" -obvious.

Ursula Solms was an older lady when she married Abraham de Villiers aka Bram. They did not have children. Abram was an uncle of Pieter du Toit, the husband of Daisy's sister Minnie. Miss Solms was related to Barbara Solms, the girlfriend of Daisy's youngest brother Benjamin West. The West sisters and Miss Solms were great friends.

Before Daisy started teaching she and the rest of her West family had to survive with little money. During those years it was difficult to find work as a teacher. Her brothers Boetie Cary and Boetie Jim who lived near Vryburg urgently tried to find work for her in a store in Vryburg at £5 per month. At that time Vryburg was part of British Bechuanaland. One must differentiate between Bechuanaland Protectorate and Bechuanaland. Bechuanaland Protectorate is the Botswana of today while British Bechuanaland refers to a small Boere republic of about 365 by 365 kms which existed from 30 Sept 1885 till 16 Nov 1895, with Vryburg as its capital. It is interesting to note that five years later in 1900, our ancestor George John Beatty West still referred to Vryburg as situated in Bechuanaland!

The £5 in 1900 is today £504-80-0 or R9072-00 in today's Rand (Measuring Worth). At last they found her a post at Brussels Siding as a teacher for five children. On July 31st 1900 her brother Boetie Cary assured their father that Daisy would be quite well as he wrote: *"As regards Daisy I believe Brother Jim wrote to you all particulars so that it is useless for me to say anything about it as only that you can be quite at ease about her, as it is very nice English people residing at Brussels siding about 12 miles South of Vryburg. As you will doubtless remember. She has got to teach 5 children only. I only hope she will like the place & people of course she can come in to us by train every Saturday and stay till Sunday evening"*.

She started teaching between 6th August and 21st August 1900. The 19 year old Daisy stayed with the Mansfield family. She enjoyed *"free board and lodging"* and received a salary of *"forty pounds a year"* instead of the £5 a month at the store where I suppose she would have to pay for her own *"board and lodging"*. The £40-0-0 a year in 1900 is worth about £4 039-0-0 in 2017 (Measuring Worth). At R18 to the pound it is R72 700-00 a year or R6 058 per month.

Collection of Letters

We have eight letters which George wrote between 23rd September 1900 and 10th March 1901 to Daisy in Vryburg. In her letter of the 21st August 1900, the 19 year old self assured and outspoken school teacher accused her father with humor of *"natural laziness"*. (I can still remember the outspoken and humorous conversations in later years of the four West sisters during visits to our farm Clune House). She mentioned that she saw the Tommies during a church service and that *"you would scarcely find an Africander more respectful"*.

*Brussels,
Aug 21st, 1900*

Dear Parents

I received the letters from home this morning & was so very glad, for I could not make out what caused your silence. I was surprised to find that Pa did not attempt to put in a few lines to me, but I put it down a natural laziness. Anyhow I was glad to get one from Henry. I sent a wire to you on Monday asking to

write. I do not think you got in though. I did it only to let you know that I was well, for as our letters must be censored I did not know whether the letters were still lying in the office.

I do not think you need to worry about me at all. I do not think here is danger at all. I think I will go in Vryburg again one of these Friday evenings.

The English (Anglican) Minister was out here last Tuesday for service. Some of the Tommies (British soldiers) attended too. They sang so well, and you would scarcely find an Afrikaner more respectful. I enjoyed the service. It was quite different to what I have heard sometimes.

I was going out for my first ride this afternoon; but the wind was so strong that we postponed it till tomorrow afternoon, if we are spared. The news are scarce here, for you are not supposed to write anything relating to the war.

I am so glad Father is better. I sent you the £1 let me know whether you received it. You must please write to me a lot of long letters. Make a whole parcel. Do surprise me for once in a while? If I get the parcel of letters I will surely say "Am I myself; am I dromish?"

With much love.

I am, your loving Daughter,

Daisy West.

P.S. Pa must please write. D.W.

As eldest sister and teacher, earning her own salary, the 19 year old Daisy grew in self confidence towards her younger brothers and sisters as can be seen in her letter to her twelve year old brother Henry. On the 21st August 1900 she wrote to him thanking him for his letter. She accused her 15 year old brother Peter: "Tell Peter I am surprised at his laziness" and her 8 year old sister Minnie with a "Is Minnie still so cross?" She again compared the Afrikaners with the Tommies when she wrote to Henry: "I do wish you could see all the Tommies. If you do, you will wish the more to become one one day".

Brussels
Aug. 21st 1900

Dearest Henry,

I was so glad to get a letter from you and mother this morning. I really did not think you would write to me first. Tell Peter I am surprised at his laziness. What are Minnie, Ben and Susie doing? Is Minnie still so cross? How is Klaas getting on? I wonder whether he has answered Koos' last letter punt. I hope you are all good and obedient to Ma and Pa. I think you will like this country much when you come here one day.

Here are three boys in the house whom I must teach. One is in the IV St. and two in the third standard. One looks very much like you, only I hope you are not such a block head. Both of them are so stupid in arithmetic. They can simply do no problems at all. They keep on telling me they have not learnt the rules yet.

I do wish you could see all the Tommies. If you do, you will wish the more to become one one day. I must close now. Tell the others to write to me. You asked whether I read about the plot in Pretoria? (Chapter 3). I did see something about it, but not in the "Cape Times".

With much love. I am Your dear Sister,

Daisy

On 27th August 1900 Cary wrote to their father about Daisy: "I cannot tell you anything about Daisy as she has not been here for the last couple of weeks but I had a letter from her last week and I also see a young fellow who live in the same place yesterday and he informs me that she is doing well besides we are expecting her to come in by the end of the week to come & stay with us . . ."

On the 27th August 1900, after her first experience in horse riding, she mentioned that they rode such a distance that: "We could see the Transvaal. I was surprised to see how near to the enemy's country we were living". Vryburg was near the border of Transvaal to which, as a result of the Boer War, she referred to as "the enemy's country".

Brussels,
Aug. 27th, 1900

Dear Parents,

I received your very dear letter last Saturday. I was so thankful to hear that you were all well. It pleased me much to hear that Sister Annie¹ improved in health while with you. I was so sorry for her when I saw how weak & careworn she looked that I advised her to go to Greyton for a change.

Poor old Miss Solms has indeed suffered much from her chest already. I hope she will get well again. It must be an awfully sad time for Miss Solms & then the house is so full of boarders.

Old Mr Norman is no doubt the greatest old fool at 76 if he marries Annie. I think it will be a case of marry in haste & repent at leisure with him. I wonder how aunt Annie will secretly give her spleen vent on them. I wish I could hear her. I can just see pa laughing in the first at all her expressions.

I was out for my first ride already. I did so enjoy it. But I must say that my whole body feels stiff of it. I find it very easy to ride & I don't think I will fall off, only the mounting I find hard. They were all surprised that I could ride so well at first, & they would have it that I could ride. We went out with a party of five. We were two girls and three boys. We could see the Transvaal. I was surprised to see how near to the enemy's country we were living.

I have not been in Vryburg since I was there last. They are still well, for I had news from them this morning.

Mother wants to know how many boys here are. I have three in school, & besides them here is a little boy of about two years. Mrs. Mansfield eldest son of 17 years & a young Mr. Heather from Pretoria of 14 years. So we have altogether 6 boys & three girls in the house.

I have exhausted my little stock of news by this time.

Give my best regards to Mr. Heath, the Kroukamps, Solms, Tant Annie & all the others.

Best love to yourselves & children. Kisses to Ben & Sue².

I am, Your loving daughter

Daisy West

P.S. Love to the Viljoens. Tell Tant Martje she must let me know when she is going to have her house white washed on the outside, for I still remember what she told me going to happen then.

D.W. (Daisy West)

NOTES:

1 Because of the difference in age, the children of George's second wife never referred to the first wife's children, their older half brothers and sisters, just on their names. They always called them "sus" (sister) and the brothers as boetie (older brother). Daisy's reference to "Sister" Annie shows that she referred here to her halfsister Anna Samia West who was married to Charles William Henry Knight aka Charley.

The next reference to Annie without the "sister" in front, seems as if she referred here to another Annie because Sister Annie's husband Charley, only died on 12.08.1939.

At the end of this letter, she referred to an Annie as "Tant" Annie. "Tant" is the abbreviation of the Afrikaans word "Tante" which means "Aunt". This Annie and "Tant" Annie can be the same person.

2 Ben and Sue referred to her youngest brother Benjamin, aged six and her four year old youngest sister Susie.

In his letter of the 23rd September 1900 George was still worried about the Boer War and the safety of Daisy because his son Cairrey (as he wrote it) was not in Vryburg but in Swellendam buying cattle. "Not having a letter from you since last Saturday week we have become a little anxious and all the more as I see in the papers that the Boers have attacked an out station about 40 miles from where you are so do not be under the impression that we do not watch every twist and turn of anything in or about Vryburg".

Between the 23rd September and the 29th of October, Daisy's address changed from Brussels Siding to Klippies Vlaakte where according to her father's letter, she enjoyed the place and the people. On the 29th October 1900 her father wrote to her in Klippies Vlaakte Vryburg: "Dearest Daisey, We received your very welcome letter and am glad to find you had entered on your new duties

under such apparent favourable conditions as it seems you like the place & people”

Although Daisy and her brothers Cary and Jim all lived in and near Vryburg, she was not always aware of their movements. On the 21st November 1900 George wrote to her: *“You are under a mistake as to Cairncross's residence, he is now living at Swellendam. I had a letter from him there he says he intend remaining there until after New year he also mentions that Brother Jim came up with him and that he was gone further on but he does not say where I have not heard from him yet. I don't think it likely that either of them will come along this way. So far as myself is concerned I am thank god much better but my breath is still very short. I would like so much to go to the strand for a time”*. George also gave Daisy the following view of the Boer “women spies”. He probably referred to the well-known Johanna Brandt b. von Warmelo. *“P.S. I write so much about the war as you say you get very little news out your way. I would like to send you a cutting from the English paper of a woman in the Transvaal a Boer Spy but I keep it for another opportunity it shows how all the women became spies for the Boers and consequently have now to be sent altogether out of the country as they cant be trusted any longer. G.W.”*

George was very fond of his daughter Daisy and sent her flowers when she was in Vryburg. In his letter of 14th January 1901 to Daisy he mentioned: *“I wrote to you shortly after New Year stating that brothers Jim and Cairney were here and they were kind enough to done for me I mention it again now in - - - - the letter might have miscarried I haven not heard from them either of them since they left. We send you a little box of “Kaatjiepierings I hope they will come to hand (have) all right and - - - - - otherwise they may spoil”*.

In her father's last letter to her dated 10th March 1901 he concluded with: *“... I am however very thankful that you are so contended in your situation and that they appear to be so nice people”*.

Daisy married the carpenter Christoffel Andries Petrus aka Stoffel Groenewald born 19th March 1874. On the 6th January 1903 with the birth of their eldest child Jan Hendrik aka Jan Groenewald the couple lived in Greyton. They still lived in Greyton on the 4th September 1904 when she wrote a letter to her cousin in Ireland. It was three years after the death of her beloved father. Daisy was the child who knew most about him. She informed her cousin Jemima about her father George's death on the 10th May 1901. Daisy knew that her cousin Jemima Russell was married to John Beatty West and that the couple lived in Cloone House, Cloone in County Leitrim. The address on the envelope of this letter was *Mrs. John Beatty West, Cloone House, Cloone, Co. Leitrim, Ireland*. Interestingly the Post Office date stamps on the envelope were as follow:

<i>Dromod</i>	<i>26 Sept 3.00 am</i>		<i>(back of envelope)</i>
<i>Mohill</i>	<i>27 Sept (19)04, 9.00 pm</i>		<i>(Front of envelope)</i>
<i>Dromod</i>	<i>27 Sept 11.45 pm (19)04,</i>		<i>(Front of envelope)</i>
<i>Longford</i>	<i>28 Sept (19)04, 2.30 am</i>		<i>(back of envelope)</i>
<i>Longford</i>	<i>28 Sept (19)04, 9.30 am</i>		<i>(Front of envelope)</i>

Dromod (Drumod)	to Mohill	abt	6 km
Dromod (Drumod)	to Longford	abt	12km
Longford	to Mohill	abt	18 km
Mohill	to Cloone	abt	6 km

On the front of the envelope was written "Gone. No address, J.G." At the back was a stamp "Returned". The letter was sent back to Daisy in Greyton.

Jemima was the only surviving child of George's sister Ellen. Jemima and John Beatty West was married on 26th September 1871. She had a miscarriage during September 1873 and had no children afterwards. They lived in Cloone House but later left for Drumdarkin, three miles from Cloone House. On the 15th October 1896 when she was only 41 her husband died. Between the death of her husband in 1896 and the date of this letter (1904), Jemima must have left Cloone. Daisy had a very good relationship with her father George and knew the most about him and his family in Ireland. She was nearly twenty when her father died while her youngest sister Susie was only four years old. She knew about Jemima and John Beatty West who lived at Cloone but did not know that Jemima had left Cloone (and Ireland?).

It is so tragic but this was the last attempt to contact the family in Ireland. The only West relatives with whom I could make contact was Rachel Smith of Bainbridge Island in the state of Washington, USA and Carol Sue West born 3rd December 1931 in Chicago, Illinois. Rachel is a descendant of William Claudius West's sister Mary who was married to the Rev George Crawford. Carol Sue is a descendant of Munns West and Ann Purdon and was thus related to The Yankee, Jemima's father in law.

Daisy's letter to her cousin Jemima West born Russell in Cloone, Co Leitrim, Ireland

Greyton. Sept. 4th, 1904.

Mrs. J.B. West, Cloone House.

Dear Cousin ,

I daresay you will be much surprised to get a letter from Africa again, & from one you have never known about.

I am the eldest daughter of Mr. George John Beatty West by his second marriage. Father's eldest daughter, by his first marriage to Mary Jane Gannon, is called Ellen. My name is Elizabeth.

My object in writing to you is to tell you that poor Father died three years ago. He caught a severe cold while indisposed with influenza. He suffered for more that a year, and died on May 10th, 1901.

While he was living he never would tell us much about his relatives in dear old Ireland. It is only lately that I found your address among his letters from his sister - Mrs. Eleanor Talbot .

It would give me so much pleasure to hear from poor dear Father's relatives; for Father loved his country & his people to the last as only a true Irishman can.

Dear Cousin, if this letter should reach you, kindly answer and tell me whether aunt Eleanor is still living, & give me her address too?

We have two photos of yourself, & three of aunt Eleanor.

If I hear from you again, I will write & tell you all you perhaps wish to know about your Uncle.

I am,

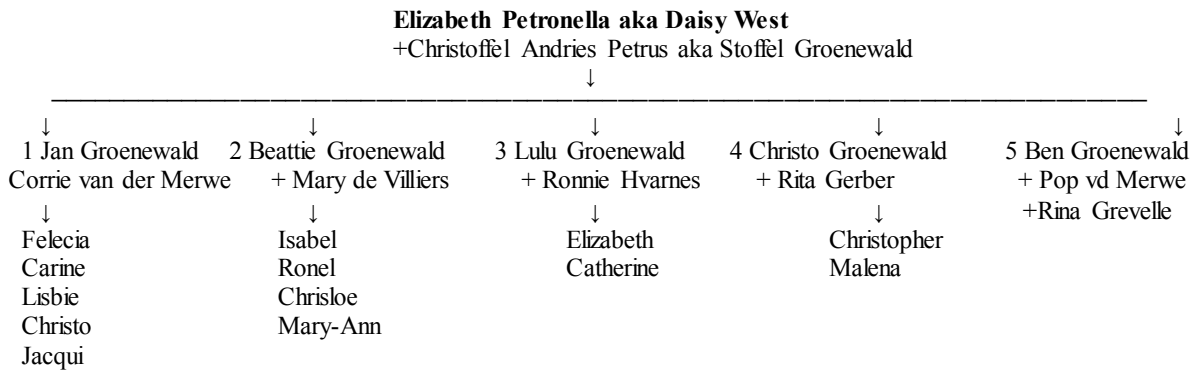
Yours Sincerely,

Elizabeth West.

Address: (Miss) Eliz. West, Greyton, Dist. Caledon, Cape Colony.

Daisy and Stoffel had five children: Jan Hendrik aka Jan Groenewald, George John Beattie aka Beattie Groenewald, Magdalena aka Lulu Groenewald, Christoffel Petrus aka Christo Groenewald and Benjamin West aka Ben Groenewald.

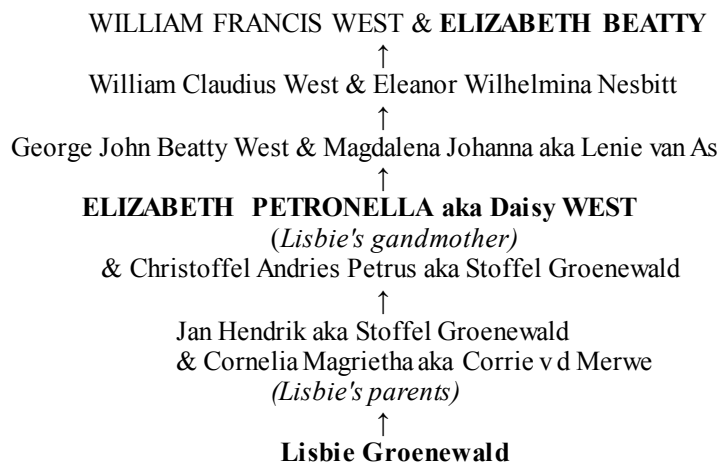
Diagram of Daisy and Stoffel's 5 children:



1 Jan Hendrik aka Jan Groenewald, Daisy and Stoffel's eldest child, was born on 6th January 1903. He was a highly intelligent but also very humble person. He was a well-read man who could talk about nearly any subject. After WW2 he became a bookkeeper. He worked in Harrismith while continuing with his studies. There appeared an article about him in the Harrismith Chronicle Newspaper after he received awards from England. Jan was married to Cornelia Magerutha aka Corrie van der Merwe. They had five children: Felecia Groenewald, Carine Groenewald, Lisbie Groenewald, Christo Groenewald and Jacqueline Groenewald. Jacqueline died on the 18th June 2014 and Christo on the 15th December 2018.

After the birth registration of Lisbie, her grandmother Daisy was very upset about the name Lisbie. She said the child's name should have been Elizabeth Beatty Groenewald and not Lisbie Groenewald. The name Lisbie is derived from Elizabeth Beatty. It seems to be quite clear that Daisy knew about her great grandmother Elizabeth Beatty, the wife of William Francis West.

Diagram to show where the name Elizabeth Beatty occurs in Lisbie Groenewald's ancestry:



2 George John Beattie aka Beattie Goenewald, Daisy and Stoffel's second son, born 11 November 1914, joined the South African Air Force and fought in Italy during WWII.

Beattie was short but strongly built and had the nickname of Shorty. Beattie, Paul Rhode of Senekal, Laurie Hugo of Rondebosch and another friend were caught by the Germans and kept as prisoners of war in Padua near Venice. While the Italians surrendered and the Germans took over in Italy, the four of them made use of the chaos and escaped. They fled about 480 km to Naples in the south. Although they walked during the night and hid themselves during the day, the Germans caught them a few times. Often, when they escaped from the Germans, they fled in four different directions and met again at a previously arranged place. Sometimes they were hidden by friendly Italians who helped them with food and shelter. At other times they stole potatoes during the night to survive.

During their escape they only had a Joseph Rodgers knife, a burning glass (a lens) and a pair of hair clippers.

They used the knife to slaughter sheep which they sometimes stole and also to take the thorns out of their feet. The burning glass was used to make fire and the pair of hair clippers to make themselves acceptable.

More than two months after their escape they reached the Canadian soldiers near Naples. The Canadians took them to Naples and handed them over to the South African Army. From Naples they were sent to Cairo where they recovered in the Smuts House. It was there in Cairo where his younger brother Ben met Beattie and where the story of their escape was told. (See the handwritten copy of Ben's book: *Oom Ben Vertel by Benjamin West Goenewald P 37-38*). Beattie never discussed those experiences of their escape in Italy with his family or friends in South Africa.

Beattie never forgot what hunger is. When he was a policeman in Grabouw, he often, without saying a word, took vegetables from his garden and took it to hungry people. As a child I often listened to his mother and her sisters talking about WWII and the concentration camp experiences of my nephews. Beattie's experiences are one of the most moving stories in the West family.

Many years later, he would often become quiet on a Sunday afternoon, take his wife and children and visit Laurie

Hugo near Cape Town. Then the comrades would get aside and talk softly with each other. The family never knew what was discussed. He also kept contact with Paul Rhode of Senekal.

(According to Wikipedia between 3% and 4% of the world population died military deaths or deaths due to military activities during WWII. In a country like Belarus 25.3% of the population died during WW2.)

George John Beattie aka Beattie Goenewald married Mary-Ann aka Mary de Villiers. They had three daughters and a son. Isabella died as a child. Elizabeth Petronella aka Ronel or Nonnie, married Stefanus Kellerman aka Kelly Hanekom. Ronel and Kelly have two children, Renette Hanekom and Stefan Hanekom. Renette married Nicol Geldenhuys.

Beatty and Mary's son, Christopher Loedorf aka Chrisloe, married Corine Laubsher. They live in Morreesburg. Chrisloe still has the Joseph Rodgers knife which his father and his three friends used in Italy during their escape in WW2.

Mary-Ann the youngest daughter of Beattie and Mary married Herman Abram aka Manie Bosman. Manie is the owner of the transport company D J BOSMAN. He is an outstanding person who, when his father was crippled in an accident, left school and as a sixteen year old boy, took over all the responsibilities of his father. Manie and Mary-Anne have three children, Adaan Bosman, Herman Bosman and Annene Bosman.

3 Magdalena aka Lulu Groenewald, Daisy and Stoffel's only daughter, born 20th September 1916, was a disciplined and motivated school teacher with high standards. Lulu married Ronald Hvarnes who was in the Police force when he joined the Army during WWII. They have two daughters Elizabeth Hvarnes and Catherine Hvarnes. Elizabeth married Gunther Johannes Kluge and their children are Johannes and Judith. Johannes married Sonja Zeelie. Judith who is a medical doctor married Paul Macey. Catherine married Irwin Roland Manne Jukes and their children are Rosalie Claire and Hilary Jane. Rosalie married Mathew James Overett and Hilary is married to Scott Adam Farndell. Both Rosalie and Hilary emigrated to Australia.

4 Christoffel Petrus aka Christo Groenewald, Daisy and Stoffel's fourth child was born the 1st February 1919. We called him Oom Kraak. He was a man with a spirit of enterprise and started a factory to process bamboo near Kleinmond. Later he became a shop owner in Kleinmond. He and his wife Margaretha aka Rita Malan had two children, Christopher and Malena. Rita and her sister in law Lulu were best friends. Christopher and his wife Linda Oosthuizen have two children: Jacques and Jolaine. Malena married Johan Raats. They have two daughters Morguax and Juané.

5 Benjamin West aka Ben Groenewald the youngest of Daisy and Stoffel's five children was born on the 13th February 1921. He was named after his mother's youngest brother Benjamin West. On his birth certificate is stated that his father Stoffel was a carpenter. Benjamin told me that his father worked for a while in the Orange Free State. Although at times very stubborn, Ben will be remembered for his sharp wit, high intellect and good memory. He and his first wife Johanna Magdalena aka Pop loved to fish together. He did pioneer work for the Department of Forestry in Northern Natal and Bloueliesbos in the South Eastern Cape. He was an experienced traveller, who, at the age of seventy six backpacked alone through Australia and New Zealand. He retired in Sedgefield where he met his second wife, the highly talented retired attorney Rina Grevell. Later the couple moved to Santos Haven in Mossel Bay where I visited them regularly.

Ben wrote his autobiography. A friend, Mrs Braganza, typed the first chapters and the rest remained in his own handwriting. I compiled the book and named it: "Oom Ben vertel". A few copies were printed and given to friends and relatives. For those who knew him it was quite an experience to read it.

Near the end of his life his wife Rina Grevell lovingly cared for him. She spoiled him and daily stood at his side till his death on 21st March 2012. Since it was his last wish, Rina and I strew his ashes in the sea at The Point in Mossel Bay.

Daisy and her husband lived in Kleinmond where he died on the 11th September 1941. Daisy died on the 21st August 1945 and was buried next to her husband.

Descendants of Daisy West and Stoffel Groenewald:

1-Elizabeth Petronella aka Daisy West b. 27 Jun 1881, Hoopjesrivier, Botrivier d. 21 Aug 1945, bur. Kleinmond

+Christoffel Andries Petrus aka Stoffel Groenewald b. 19 Mar 1874, d. 11 Sep 1941, bur. Kleinmond

2-Jan Hendrik aka Jan Groenewald b. 6 Jan 1903, d. Pretoria

+Cornelia Magerutha aka Corrie van der Merwe b. 26 Mar 1911

3-Felecia aka Felecia Groenewald b. 5 Oct 1933

+Athur Philip Milns b. 21 May 1933

4-Edward James aka Edward Milns b. 4 Jun 1956

+Ann aka Ann Saunders b. 31 Jan 1958

5-Taryn aka Taryn Milns b. 18 Jun 1978

4-Coleen aka Coleen Milns b. 11 Mar 1958

+Patrick Beattie Moffat b. 19 Apr 1954

5-Malcolm Philip Moffat b. 28 Apr 1982
 4-Desiré aka Desiré Milns b. 8 Dec 1960
 4-Vanessa aka Vanessa Milns b. 27 Jun 1966
 3-Carine aka Carine Groenewald b. 11 Apr 1938
 +Petrus Rudolph Johannes aka Pieter Labuschagne b. 10 May
 4-Cornelia Margaretha aka Corrie Labuschagne b. 10 May 1964
 4-Carine aka Carine Labuschagne b. 11 Jun 1965
 3-Lisbie aka Lisbie Groenewald b. 21 Aug 1940
 +John Joseph Roberts b. 11 Aug 1937, d. 15 Apr 1971
 4-William aka William Roberts b. 29 Sep 1961, d. 7 Aug 2002
 +Adele aka Adele Waugh b. 20 Dec 1965
 5-Lisbie aka Lisbie Roberts b. 26 Apr 1992
 5-John aka John Roberts b. 5 Febr 1995
 5-Robert aka Robert Roberts b. 22 Feb 1999
 4-Henri aka Henri Roberts b. 28 Jun 1966
 +Benita aka Benita
 4-Delyse Roberts b. 26 Oct 1967
 +Morne aka Morne Ras b. 8 Nov 1965
 5-Lindi aka Lindi Ras b. 30 May 1995
 +Thom McDonald aka Tom West b. 14 Jan 1936, d. 5 Aug 2012, Pretoria
 +Jan aka Jan Weenink b. 17 Nov 1941, d. 22 Feb 1998
 3-Christo aka Christo Groenewald b. 12 Sep 1946 d 15 Dec 2018
 +Lynn Glenda aka Lynn Rossouw b. 6 May 1949
 4-Gizela Groenewald b. 9 Mar 1974
 +Deon aka Deon Upton
 5-Armen Upton b. 26 Jun 1996
 4-Marc Groenewald b. 5 Nov 1976
 +Yolanda aka Yolanda
 5-Ivan aka Ivan Groenewald b. 26 Apr 2007
 3-Jacqueline aka Jacqui Groenewald b. 24 Apr 1949, d. 18 Jun 2014
 +Abraham Frederick aka Frikkie van der Merwe b. 19 Jan 1948
 4-Ruslo van der Merwe b. 9 Nov 1969
 4-Dudley van der Merwe b. 2 Jan 1971
 4-Derek van der Merwe b. 25 Feb 1973
 4-Wilma van der Merwe b. 29 Aug 1979
 2-George John Beattie aka Beattie Groenewald b. 11 Nov 1914, d. 10 Mar 1970 Strand
 +Mary-Ann aka Mary de Villiers b. 14 Apr 1922
 3-Isabella aka Isabel Groenewald b. 5 Jan 1945, d. Died as child
 3-Elizabeth Petronella aka Ronel Groenewald b. 17 Mar 1946
 +Stefanus Kellerman aka Kelly Hanekom b. 14 Dec 1941 (see Elizabeth Petronella aka Ronel Groenewald)
 4-Renette Hanekom
 4-Stefan Hanekom b. 10 Jun 1972
 3-Christopher Loedorf aka Chrisloe Groenewald b. 11 Feb 1949
 +Corine Laubscher b. 29 Jun 1954
 4-Susanna Petronella aka Sael Groenewald b. 18 Feb 1980
 4-Mary-Ann Isabella aka Marisa Groenewald b. 18 Feb 1982
 3-Mary-Ann aka Mary-Ann Groenewald b. 4 Nov 1953
 +Herman Abraham aka Manie Bosman b. 25 Jul 1952
 4-Adaan Bosman b. 21 Jan 1977
 4-Herman Bosman b. 23 Mar 1978
 4-Annene Bosman b. 14 Apr 1982
 2-Magdalena aka Lulu Groenewald b. 20 Sep 1916
 +Ronald aka Ronnie Hvarnes b. 13 Sep 1914
 3-Elizabeth aka Elizabeth Hvarnes b. 23 Sep 1946
 +Günther Johannes Kluge b. 9 Sep 1937
 4-Johannes aka Johannes Kluge b. 1 Jun 1975
 +Sonja aka Sonja Zeelie b. 18 Jul 1976
 5-Josua Hvarnes Kluge b. 25 Jan 2012
 4-Judith aka Judy Kluge b. 14 Mar 1977
 +Paul Hugh aka Paul Macey b. 18 Apr 1972
 5-Anne Amelia Macey b. 24 Sep 2011
 3-Catherine aka Catherine Hvarnes b. 17 Mar 1948
 +Irwin Roland Manne aka Irwin Juckes b. 16 Jul 1945
 4-Rosalie Claire aka Rosalie Juckes b. 19 Nov 1979
 +Matthew James aka Matthew Overett b. 15 Jun 1977
 5-Vivien Lerato aka Vivien Overett b. 27 May 2010

4-Hilary Jane aka Hilary Jukes b. 12 Nov 1977
 +Scott Adam aka Scott Farndell b. 06 Jan1978
 5-Phillip Grace aka Pippa Farndell b. 16 Dec 2009
 2-Christoffel Petrus aka Christo Groenewald b. 1 Feb 1919
 +Margaretha Malan aka Rita Gerber b. 30 Jun 1918
 3-Chrisopher aka Christopher Groenewald b. 18 Jun 1949
 +Linda aka Linda Ooshuizen b. 20 Mar 1960
 4-Jaques Groenewald b. 10 Apr 1985
 4-Jolaine aka Jolaine Groenewald b. 26 Sep 1988
 3-Malena Groenewald b. 11 Jun 1953
 +Johannes Albertus aka Johan Raats b. 29 Oct 1951
 4-Morguax Raats b. 8 Jun 1978
 +Allen aka Allen Knibbs b. 13 Mar 1978
 4-Juané Raats b. 21 Sep 1981
 +Martin aka Martin Lotz b. 9 Febr 1976
 2-Benjamin West aka Ben Groenewald b. 13 Febr 1921, d. 21 Mar 2012, Santos Haven, Mossel Bay., bur. The Point,
 Mossel Bay, Ashes placed in the sea by Jaco and Rina, as he wished.
 +Johanna Magdalena aka Pop van der Merwe b. 22 Oct 1917, d. 27 Dec 1993
 -Rina Grevell

CHAPTER 28

The cheeky dwarf – Nicolas van As West (1882-1962)



George and Lenie's second child, Nicolas van As aka Klasie West, was born on Monday the 9th October 1882 on the farm Hoopjesrivier between Bot River and Hawston. Klasie spent his childhood up to his thirteenth year at Genadendal. It is not clear whether he attended school at Genadendal or Greyton.

Klasie was a midget of about 1.275 meters with very short legs and arms. My mother told us how he and his two brothers Henry and Pieter once walked in the Sonderend Mountains near Greyton. Klasie with his short legs could not keep up and fell while a stick penetrated his chin. He lost quite a lot of blood but survived.

LEFT: Klasie West next to a 44 gallon drum to show his length.

He was an excellent craftsman. I still have a beautiful copper water jug which was hand made by him. As a qualified craftsman he worked at the whaling station near Kleinmond and later for the Divisional Council between Bot River and Kleinmond. He lived on his own and was an avid bird lover. Once he went to Greyton to fetch the birds which his mother had kept for him. In her letter of 15th August 1914, his mother Lenie wrote in Dutch to Klasie's youngest brother Ben: "*Klaas heb de vogeltjes ook mee genomen nu versmist het zoo veel ik was*". (Klaas took the birds with him and now I miss them so much).

"Oom Klasie" West was well known in Kleinmond and Greyton. He was also very sharp witted and had a funny and unorthodox way of saying and doing things. When someone made a negative remark about him, especially referring to his lack of height, that person could expect to come second best.

A man of not such good appearance one day passed oom Klasie where he, because he was so short, stood upright to shoe a horse. The man remarked: "*Môre ou Klasie. Ek sê, ek dog dis 'n man wat sit, nou sien ek dis 'n man wat staan*" where upon Klasie immediately answered: "*Môre Hendrik. Ek sê, ek dog dis 'n man wat huil, nou sien ek dis 'n man wat lag*". (Morning Klasie. I say I thought it is a man who sits but now I see it is a man who stands, where upon Klasie immediately answered: "Morning Hendrik. I thought it is a man who cries but now I see it is a man who laughs").

Once when oom Klasie was struggling with a job a man remarked: "*Ou Klasie, jy is so klein, ek steek jou sommer in my broeksak*" where upon he replied: "*Dis reg. Dan het jy ten minste meer verstand in jou broeksak as in jou kop*". (Klasie you are so small, I can put you in my pocket where upon he swiftly replied: "That's right. Then you will have more brains in your pocket than in your head").

He described people who just stupidly followed dr Malan and the other National Party leaders by saying: "*As dr Malan sê perde drolle is groenvye, dan eet die Nasionaliste dit*". (If dr Malan says

horse droppings are green fig preserve, the National Party members will eat it).

Standing at the old Bot River crossing, a man coming from Caledon asked Klasie the way to Hermanus. Klasie showed with his hand and said: *"Sir, if you go left you go right but if you go right you go wrong"*.

One day he walked from the whaling Station to the shop to buy himself a new pipe, tobacco and matches. On his way back he just took the new pipe, tobacco and matches and threw it in the bushes, walking on as he said: *"Klasie West rook nie meer nie"*. (Klasie West do not smoke any more). He never smoked again.

Oom Klasie loved to play patience. Once the church minister made a remark about him playing cards. He answered with wisdom: *"I bought a house with my money by playing cards"*. The minister was confused and asked: *"How can you say that?"* Oom Klasie replied: *"The card playing kept me away from wasting money in the bar and with that savings I bought a house"*.

Oom Klasie stayed for a long time with us on the farm Clune House. When he became too sickly he went to the Blake Old Age Home in the Strand where he died as a bachelor on the 10th August 1962 at the age of nearly 80. He was buried in Kleinmond.

CHAPTER 29

Pieter Louis van As West – a successful builder (1885-1961)

Pieter Louis van As aka Pieter West, the thirteenth child of George John Beatty West, was born on Tuesday the 1st September 1885. He was the first of seven West children born in West House, next to the old police station in Genadendal. He spent his first ten years in Genadendal. When his elder sister referred in her letter of 21st August 1900 to his laziness, I understand it that she only referred to his laziness to write.

Pieter qualified as a builder and became a successful building contractor. During the 1930's he built the house of his brother in law, Gideon Petrus aka Stefaans Coetzee on the farm Clune House. At that time Pieter had a builder from Greyton, Mr Simon Sekonna. Mr Sekonna was a deeply religious man. Our mother told us that once Mr Sekonna became very ill and spent much time in praying for his recovery. During such a prayer session when his mouth became dry, Mr Sekonna stopped praying, went to drink water and came back, continuing his prayers.

Pieter joined the Army in the beginning of January 1914. In her letter of the 4th September 1914 his mother Lenie wrote to his youngest brother Ben in Worcester: *"Ik is dagen nacht bezwaard over de arme Peter wat nu al 9 maande op het veld is"*. (I am worried day and night about poor Peter who is already 9 months in the field).

The family correspondence showed that during WWI Pieter was in German West Africa, that is Namibia today. He was also sent to German East Africa which is today known as Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania. His brother Ben who was eight years younger than him, wrote on the 23rd January 1917 from Rouen in France to their mother and asked: *"Is Peter at home already or is he still out in German East. I hope he will be at home ere long though"*.

On the 21st May 1917 his sister Mien wrote from the farm Witbank near Bethal to their brother Ben in London: *". . Mother writes that Peter is still very bad with the fever so are nearly all the G.E. Boys"*. (G.E. Boys are the soldiers in German East Africa).

Pieter had a girlfriend, a Miss Fourie, whom he loved dearly. During WW1 Pieter was already in his late twenties. He had to leave his beloved Miss Fourie in Greyton when he joined the Army and went to German West Africa. Returning back after WW1, a strange situation developed. Miss Fourie's own mother, the widow Mrs Sarah Johanna Fourie, born Mays, fell in love with Pieter, won the "competition" with her daughter, got her out of the love affair and married Pieter. Sarah Fourie was nineteen years his senior. Pieter was born in 1885 and the widow Fourie in 1866. The evening before their marriage, his mother Lenie told him: *"Pieter, jy sal nooit 'n nageslag hê nie"* (Peter you will never have descendants). His brothers and sisters said: *"Sarah het Pieter met 'n slapriem gevang"*. This Afrikaans remark meant that the nearly fifty year old Sarah pretended to be pregnant from the much younger Pieter. As his mother predicted, Pieter died without having children. Since Pieter's father, Mr George West and Mrs Fourie's father Mr Mays, did not see each other eye to eye, matters became even more complicated. Sarah West, former Fourie born Mays died at the age of sixty six years when Pieter was forty seven years old.

Shortly after Sarah's death, Pieter's younger sister Wilhelmina Sara aka Mien and her daughter

Delene were on the passenger bus from Caledon to Greyton to visit Mien's mother. On the bus was a very well dressed lady talking loudly. With much confidence she told everyone who wanted to listen that she was on her way to Greyton to meet a man who recently became a widower. She openly intended to catch him and marry him. Suddenly Mien and Delene realized that this straight backed well dressed lady was talking about Mien's brother Pieter. When the lady realized that Mien was a sister of her boyfriend-to-be, she remarked very sarcastically "*O ja, Jy is ook van die Wesse*" (O yes, you are also one of the Wests). The rest of this sad story is history. This lady, Magdalena Petronella aka Lena Neethling born 18th April 1888, did what she went for. She married Pieter and gave him hell. She was inexplicably neat in her house and always remained straight backed. The family blamed her for the hostility between the two brothers, Henry and Pieter and their wives. Both brothers were at times the mayor of Greyton.

Pieter was a proud and disciplined person and owned a motor car long before my father bought his lorry shortly after WWII.

After their mother Lenie's funeral, her children asked Pieter and Susie to exhume the remains of their father and bury it next to their mother Lenie.

Pieter died on 15th of July 1961 and is buried in the Greyton graveyard next to his father, mother and his brother Henry Nesbitt West.

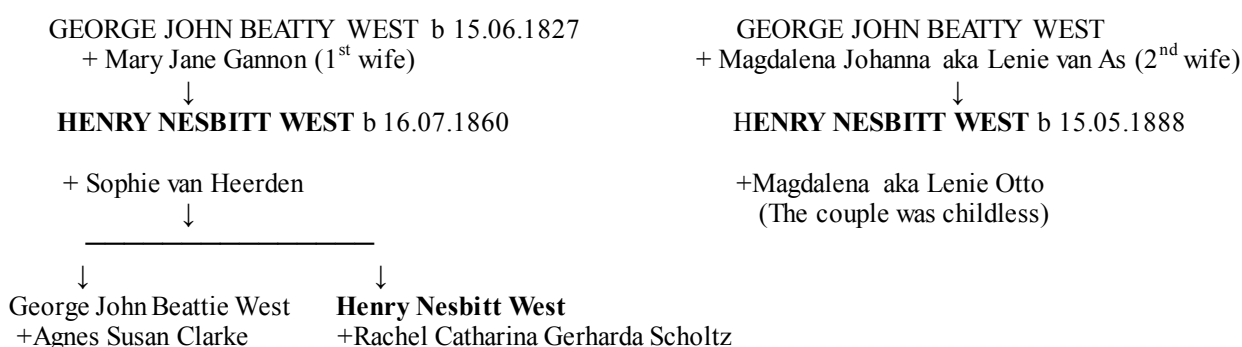
After Pieter's death his wife Lena became very suspicious and did not have a good relationships with the family. She died in the Old Age Home in Caledon and did not even wanted to be buried in the same grave as her late husband Pieter.

CHAPTER 30

Henry Nesbitt West – humble mayor of Greyton (1888-1953)

Henry Nesbitt aka Henry West was the fifteenth child of George John Beatty West. He was born on Tuesday the 15th May 1888 in the West House in Genadendal. He must not be confused with George's seventh child Henry Nesbitt West, who died seventeen months before on the 11th December 1886, in an ox wagon accident (Chapter 22). George wanted to ensure that the name of his grandfather, Henry Nesbitt remained in the family. He gave this baby the same name unaware that his late son had been married to Sophie van Heerden and had descendants.

Diagram to distinguish two Henry Nesbitt Wests:



Henry West grew up in West House, a few hundred meters from the Moravian Church in Genadendal. When he was seven years old, the family moved to Greyton where he spent the rest of his life. Because of the family's financial problems, Henry did not attend school for many years. It is reflected in his letters with the long sentences and bad spelling. He wrote his sister Susie's name as Susie, Suzy and even Suisie. Although Afrikaans speaking, he wrote his letters in English.

Henry mainly farmed with unions and potatoes. He once hurt himself when he loaded logs on his ox wagon. His mother Lenie wrote on 15th August 1914: *"Henry klaag ook van een pyn onder zyn borst. Hy heb hem zeer gemaak met de Blokke oplaai maar hy spreek daarom al weer van zy vandag plant aardappels"*. (Henry complained about pain in his chest. He hurt himself when he loaded logs but he already speaks about planting potatoes).

While Henry was in an army camp in Cape Town, he and his brother Ben were for a while in the same tent. On the 21st November 1914 Ben wrote to their sister Susy: *"Henry is with me in the same tent. I did not even know him when he came here. I will try to come home in Dec. if it can, because I long for you very much since Henry came here"*.

Collection of letters from Henry West

Waiting to go to Namibia, Henry wrote to his sister Susie, a student at Wellington:

*"Miss Susy West,
Bliss Hall, Huguenot Sem.,
Wellington.*

Lions Battery 9/2/15

Dear Susy

I received your letter this morning and was glad to see that you are still in good health it is nearly twelve days since I had a letter from home. I feel so sorry for Mother that she is all alone at home. I went to Parow the same day that you went to Wellington. I saw Lily their and also Annie Kuhn. Birdie is still in good health I saw her last Saturday.

I can get a pass hear every six days. I am now trying to get a pass to go to Greyton but I dont think I will get it dont write to mother anything about my coming home for perhaps I cant get the pass and then she will look out for me every day.

I dont know when we are going to G. S. W. but I let you know when we are going.

Your Brother

H.N. West"

NOTE:

- G..S.W. refers to German South West Africa – now Namibia.

On the 23rd February 1915 Henry was still in Cape Town, waiting to be sent to Namibia, when he wrote the following letter to his sister Susie:

*"Miss Susie West,
Bliss Hall, Huguenot Sem.,
Wellington*

Lions Battery 23/2/15

Dear Suisie

I received your letter today and was glad to see that you are still well. I was at home last week. Greyton is just the same. Jannie was very glad to see me. He know me just as I entered the house. He was so much surprised off my suit which I ware he coulend keep his eyes from me just as he saw me he ask were the mouth organ is you said I must send you some money but he wont get pay before next week and I heard we are going away the 15th on next month you must let me know how much money you want then I will sent it then you can come to Birdie and I can come and see you their, and if I am gone by that time you can just as well stay with her for that time. I think she will be glad to see you if you only let her know. I had a letter from her Thursday she said I must give you her best love. I want to go to Parow on Saturday for I havened had a pass since I got back from home write soon.

Your Brother

Henry"

On the 15th March 1915 he sent Susie 5 shillings and thanked her for the Bible she sent him. (The 5 shillings of 1915 was worth £19-0-0 in 2017, that is about R340-00).

*Miss Susie West,
Bliss Hall, Huguenot Sem.,
Wellington*

Milnerton 15/3/1915

Dearest Sussy

I received you letter Tuesday and was glad to hear that you are still well but I am surprised of Ben that he never send you the money for it is a month ago since I gave him the money. I gave him ten shillings

and he promised me that he will send you five shillings to. I haven't seen him since that time. It were at the post Office I would send it myself but he was at the Castle that time and so I thought it is the best to give it to him.

I don't know when we are leaving for G.S.W. We would have left this week but as it is not fixed up already I think we will not leave before the end of the month. I was in Parow Tuesday and stay there the night. Birdie is just the same. Aunt Allie is also in good health and all the children.

With best love, I am

Your Brother, Henry

I thank you very much for the Bible. I have my but I don't like it I will try and have taken again before I left but I can't let it be taken I will send you one of this.

On the 2nd May 1915 Henry wrote to Susie from the Castle in Cape Town that he planned to visit her but that he had missed the train.

"Miss Susie West,
Bliss Hall Sem,
Wellington

Castle CT 2/5/15

Dearest Susy

I am ashamed kept you waiting so long for an answer but I lost the address of yours now Birdie gave me the address. I don't know whether it is write but I hope you will get the letter alright.

I want to send you some money but I don't know whether it is the write address otherwise I would have send you the money but you must write soon then I will send you the money.

Yesterday I was on the way to come and see you but I get my pass too late and so I missed the train so I went to Parow there was a Basar. Aunt Allie's people is still in good health.

I had a letter from Lily yesterday. She says Mother is not at home. I am sending you a Pocho it is only one. I have been taken for sports Willemman takes it.

Now I must close with best love.

I remain

Your fond Brother
Henry"

On the 14th May 1915 Henry sent this letter to:

"Miss Susie West,
Bliss Hall Seminary,
Wellington, Cape Province

Castle. C.T. 14/5/15

Dearest Susy

I received your post card yesterday for which I now thank you very much.

I want to send you some money but yesterday the Office were close and today we can't get out we are leaving for G.S.W. Tomorrow morning. I will write to you as soon as we get there.

I was at Parow yesterday hear is no news to write. I heard the Defence Police is all going home

I am

your Brother
Henry"

(G.S.W. is German South West, today Namibia.)

On the 21st May 1915 Henry wrote his first letter from G.S.W. to:

*"Miss S West,
Bliss Hall, Huguenot Sem,
Wellington, C. Prov*

G. S. W. 21/5/15

Dearest Susy

Only a few lines to you know that we are still well hoping hear the same from you me and Ben is not on the same place but our campings is in front of all the C.J.H. you see nothing than it is and not such a bold place than they said

I can't write anything to you but when I came home one day I can tell you many things. Hear is no news that I can write to you.

With best love

I am

Your brother

Henry

This is my address

Mr. H.N. West, C.J.H., J Company, C/o Army Post Office, Cape Town"

When far away in Namibia, he wrote on 30th May 1915 about the different circumstances and experiences to his sister:

*"Miss Susie West,
Bliss Hall Sem,
Wellington, Cape Province*

G. S. W. 30/5/15

Dearest Susy

Only a few lines to let you know that I am still in good health hoping to hear the same from you we have plenty of water here is a big river and also a splendit Bridge. I wash myself for the first this morning since I left Cape Town. I don't know how long we are going to stay hear news is very scarce all I can say is that I am still in good health Ben is still allright the only thing you see no girls only black ones.

With best love

I am

your Brother

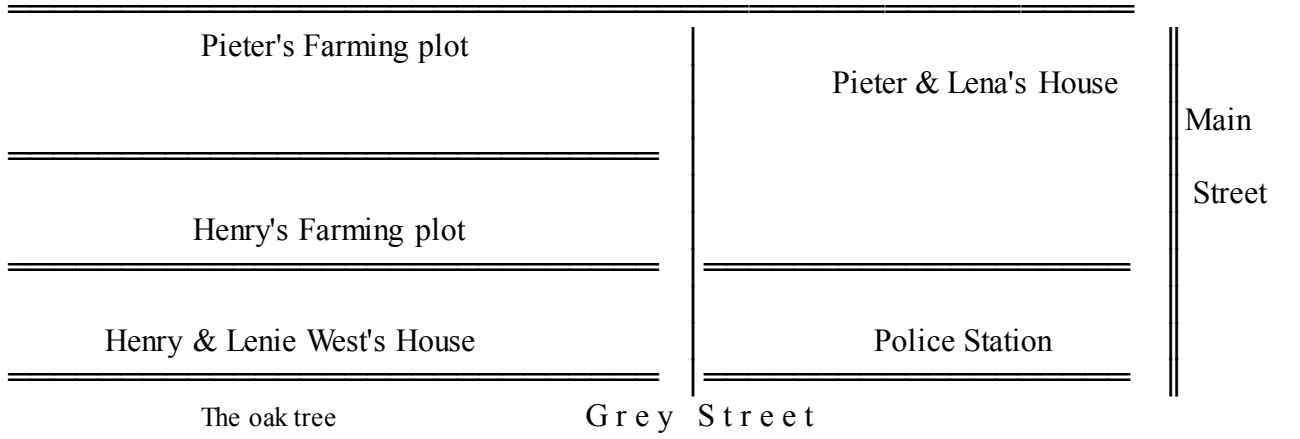
Henry

It is clear from the above letters that Henry often sent money to his 18 year old sister Susie while she was studying in Wellington.

Henry married the very motherly Magdalena aka Lenie Otto. They lived in Grey Street, next to the old Police Station and was childless. Lenie was like a mother who spoiled us with apricots and mulberries from their trees. She was a humble woman and someone whom we as her family will never forget. After the death of Henry's father George, his widowed mother Lenie lived the rest of her life with them in Grey Street, Greyton.

There was a big oak tree in front of their house where Colas, I and the Dudley children used to play. The Dudley children, Elton and Weldor, were English speaking and I can still remember the first time I heard someone speaking English. It was a miracle to me that the Lord was so clever to know that Elton and Weldor should be born English speaking so that their English speaking parents could understand them and that Colas and I were born Afrikaans speaking so that our Afrikaans speaking parents could understand us!

The humble Henry and Lenie were hardworking and well known for sharing and helping people in need. They had a good relationship with his sisters and brothers, Pieter excluded. The farming plots of the two brothers were adjacent. Pieter was the richest of the two and owned the Police station which he rented to the Government. Henry on the other hand farmed on his plot in Greyton but had too much problems with nut grass (uintjies) and therefore was also sub farming on my father's farm. On Mondays he left Greyton and cycled sixteen kilometers to Clune House where he planted onions and potatoes. A few times he came with his wagon and oxen and brought his helper Hans with him. My father gave the land, onion plants, fertilizer and water. Henry would share the bedroom with me and my brothers and leave the farm again on Fridays. At the end of the season Henry gave a portion of his harvest as payment to my father.



Henry replaced his elder brother Pieter West as mayor of Greyton and remained mayor for about 20 years (1931-1951). There were bitter antagonism between the two brothers and they did not speak to each other. Elton Dudley who's parents were the neighbours of both Pieter and Henry told me about the following incident: Pieter wanted to build a house but the municipal water canal was in the way. He deviated the canal to build his house. The Municipality with brother Henry as mayor stopped him and the case was brought before the court in Caledon. Pieter as a successful builder went to Caledon by car. Brother Henry represented the municipality in the court case. As a poorer part time farmer with only a bicycle and ox wagon he went to Caledon on his bicycle. On the way to Caledon, Pieter passed his brother Henry in a cloud of dust. Of course Pieter lost the case in court! The two brothers went back to Greyton, mayor Henry on his bicycle and brother Pieter in his car.

Whether it was the replacement as mayor or Lena, Pieter's difficult wife or both, the family could never ascertain. When there was a misunderstanding, Henry's wife Lenie, would calm him down by saying: *"Ok Henry. Let us forget it. I'll make you some coffee"*. Although Henry and Pieter served simultaneously as elders on the Church Council of Greyton they still did not speak to each other.

Just like his father George West and grandfather William Claudius West, Henry read the newspaper since a very young age. Although Afrikaans speaking, he regularly read the daily Cape Town paper, *The Cape Times*. At the age of twelve Henry was already well informed about what was going on in the Boer War and the world. It is interesting to note that he informed his teacher sister Daisy about Hans Cordua of whom he read in *The Cape Times*. On 21st August 1900 his sister Daisy wrote from Brussels Siding, Vryburg: *"...You asked whether I read about the plot in Pretoria? I did see something about it, but not in the "Cape Times". . . . The "plot in Pretoria" referred to Lt. Hans Cordua born in Hamburg who studied English in England. He was found guilty of breaking his*

parole and plotting to kidnap Field Marshall Lord Roberts and other British officers. He received the death penalty and was shot the morning of 25th August 1900 in Pretoria.

Henry was involved in the politics and belonged to the United Party (UP) of which he was the chairman of the Greyton branch. Once when the UP had a meeting in the town hall a certain P W Botha and his comrades tried to break up and disperse the meeting. Henry who was very strong, took the young Botha and worked him out through the window of the hall. This P W Botha later became the president of South Africa.

After the shocking results for the Conservative Party in Britain when Winston Churchill lost to Clement Attlee of the Labour Party, Uncle Henry made two interesting but contradicting statements: *"A workman cannot rule a country"* and *"The man that holds the spade will rule the country"*.

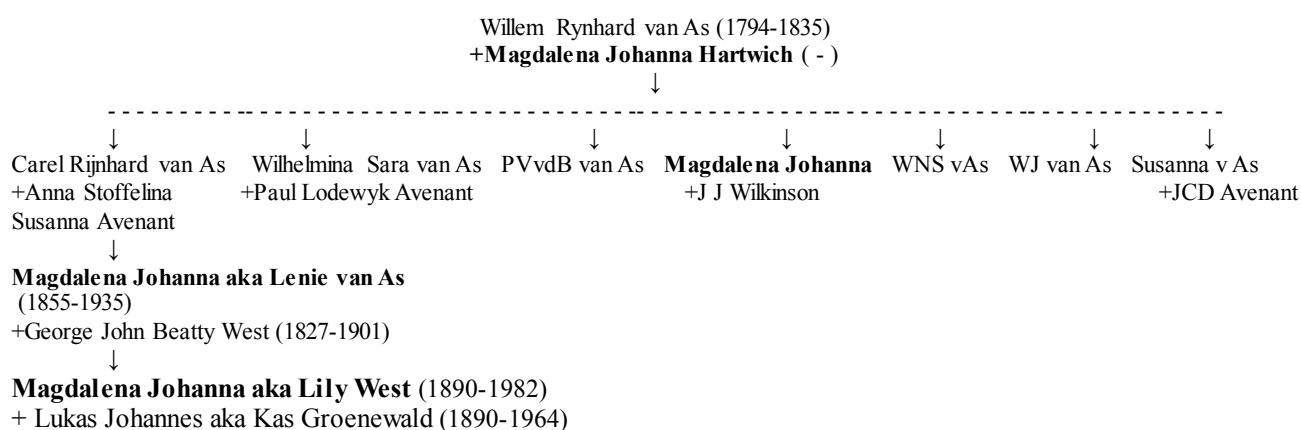
Henry Nesbitt West, the humble mayor of Greyton died on the 2nd April 1953 in Greyton and was buried next to his father George John Beatty West and his brother Pieter Louis West in the graveyard of Greyton. My brother Colas who attended his funeral told me that when the funeral procession passed people of all the groups of the community stood with bowed heads along the road and the men took off their hats out of respect. Lenie later married Mr Blom.

CHAPTER 31

Magdalena Johanna West of Kleinmond (1890-1982)

George and Lenie's seventh child, Magdalena Johanna aka Lily West, was born on the 28th September 1890 in the West House in Genadendal where they lived. Lily was named after her mother Magdalena Johanna van As. As seen in the following diagram, her mother was named after her mother's grandmother, Magdalena Johanna Hartwich, the wife of Willem Rynhard van As. (Magdalena Johanna Hartwich also had a daughter Magdalena Johanna van As born 5 July 1829 and who was married to Joseph Josia Wilkinson).

Diagram showing the Magdalena Johannas in Lily West's line of descent:



When Lily was five years old the West family moved to Greyton. She was only ten years old when her father George died. She attended school at Greyton and became a teacher on a farm near Greyton in the Caledon district where she had to stay in very bad and primitive circumstances. One night she awoke and found a man in her room. When she made alarm the intruder fled. This unpleasant experience had a very negative influence on Lily and she never went back to teaching again.

On Tuesday 15th September 1914 the twenty three year old Lily married the twenty eight year old building contractor, Lukas Johannes aka Kas Groenewald of Greyton. The Groenewald couple at first lived in Greyton and later moved to Kleinmond. Kas built the Church Hall of the Dutch Reformed Church in Greyton which is still in use today.

After Lily's death, her eldest daughter Ina unfortunately destroyed some of the West correspondence which were in her mother's possession. We are aware of only one letter which remained. **On the 2nd May 1915 when Lily was seven months pregnant with her first child, she wrote from Greyton to her youngest sister Susie, the 18 year old student in Wellington:**

*Greyton
2nd May '15*

Dear Susy

No doubt you will be surprised that I'm again writing as you have never answered my other letter but mother has gone to the Oaks to see Minnie. She wrote yesterday that she has a sore throat. Now mother is so anxious as we don't know how serious it is

Bessie¹ came home last week to ask sick-leave & went to dr. Bennett Thursday. Now he does'nt want to

*give her leave he says she is not sick. Don't mention eh!
It is a very hot day today. I felt a bit poorly yesterday but feel better today again.
Your sewing machine came did I tell you but Maria kept your book.
Daisy and her children were here this afternoon, the kiddies have both a bad cold.
Mrs de Villiers² & miss Hannah were here too.
Now with love
Your Fond
Lily*

NOTES:

- (1) Bessie was the wife of Hermanus Langenhoven.
- (2) Mrs de Villiers was formerly Ursula von Solms, the school teacher.

Lily's husband Kas was the son of the very strict and disciplined Bernardus P Groenewald and Anna M E Kroukamp. Anna was from the well known and talented Kroukamp family of Greyton. I can still remember how he described his strict parents as he used to tell my father: "*Ma was 'n bogger*" and "*Pa was 'n Bliksem*".

Kas was quite a character. When we were still children, we absolutely marvelled at his family stories told while sitting at the fireplace on our farm Clune House. The most fascinating "fireplace story" I can remember is the following about the dance near McGregor when he was still a young man: One day while he was working in his father's vegetable garden in Greyton, a friend visited him with an invitation: "*Kas there is a dance near McGregor tonight and we are going. Come with us*". Late that afternoon the group of friends left Greyton and walked more than 14 kilometers over the Sonderend mountain to the dance on a farm near McGregor. Returning early the next morning, just before daybreak and after less than a hour's sleep, his father woke him with coffee so that he could milk Antjie the cow. After milking Antjie he again had to work in the garden. Just after midday a friend came to the tired and sleepy Kas with the same "invitation" namely, "*Kas, there is a dance near McGregor tonight and we are going. You must come with us*". His objections were ignored and later the afternoon the tired and sleepy Kas left Greyton with his friends. They again walked the 14 kilometers over the Sonderend mountain to the dance near McGregor. There they enjoyed themselves and for the fourth time in two days they had to cross the Sonderend mountain again!

Near daybreak the exhausted Kas and his friends arrived back home in Greyton. When his head touched the pillow he was gone . . . but the door opened with his father standing there with a mug of coffee and the news: "*Kas, Antjie het nie gisteraand huistoe gekom nie. Jy moet haar gaan soek in die veld*". (Kas, Antjie did not come home last night. You will have to go and search for her in the veld). He was so tired and sleepy but had no choice. He knew: "*Pa was 'n Bliksem*". He walked east to the Riviersonderend side of Greyton. With the rising sun in his eyes, the tired Kas could not keep it up any longer, sat down against a tree and immediately fell asleep. He slept for "a few minutes" and when he opened his eyes the sun was still very low, until he realized that the sun was near the horizon but on the Caledon side, in the west. It was sunset not sunrise! He jumped up, luckily found Antjie grazing near him and went home. On his father's inquiry where he was for the whole day he explained all his efforts in searching for Antjie. (I walked that 14 kms through the Sonderend mountains myself, and it is a tough path!).

This foot path between McGregor and Genadendal was often used during those years. Farm workers from the McGregor side usually crossed the mountain on Fridays to attend the baptism and communion services in the Moravian Church in Genadendal. They also used it when they played rugby against the teams of Greyton and Genadendal.

aka Lois Fourie. The couple had three children, Lukas Johannes aka Luan, Pierre and Joan. Luan married Cynthia Jana aka Cynthia Strauss. They have two children, Janine and Luan. Pierre married Elsa Myburg. Their children are Mari, Joan, Ierret, Elsbeth, Ilse and Elzet.

5 Elise aka Elise Groenewald who married John Bailie was the fifth child of Lily and Kas. She was born on the 21st January 1924. Elise and John had six children namely Harry John aka Harry, Ian Richard aka Ian, Elaine Joy aka Elaine, Charles, Katryn Mary aka Kathy and John.

Harry married Annette Els. They have three daughters: Candy, Tanya and Michelle.

Ian married René de Vries and they also have three daughters: Melissa, Sarah and Ruth.

Elaine married Luis do Souto and have two children, Sacha who died in a motor accident at the age of twenty two and Chantal.

Charles married June Davidson. They have two children: Angus and Allison.

Kathy married Guy Gething. They have four children: Roxanne, Yolande, Warren and Lindsay.

John married Leigh Anne Irvine. They have two children: Roxy Leigh and John.

When Elise died on the 18th June 2018 at the age of 94 years and 5 months, she then was the descendant of George John Beatty West who reached the highest age we know about.

6 Lukas Johannes aka Aljay Groenewald, the sixth child of Lily and Kas, was born on the 21st of April 1926. He and his younger brother Claude attended high school at Villiersdorp where they stayed in the De Villiers hostel. Aljay worked for The Old Mutual and was Lily and Kas's child whom I knew best. Aljay married Heather Duncan. They had five children: Beverley, Denise, Gary, Wynn and John. His children, as their father Aljay are very interested in the history of the West family.

His son Gary who now lives in England gave me a few family photos.

Beverley married Antonie Johannes de Beer and have three sons: Alexander Nicolas, Jonathan Luke and Mathew James.

Denise married Errol Tome and have two children : Samuel Errol and Danielle Jessica.

Gary married Sharon Bronwyn Smith and have two children: Jesse Daniël and Gabriella Ruth.

Wynn married Mignon Smith and have two children: Jason and Amanda.

John married Komien Johanna Louwrens. Their children are: Jomarie, Jordan Lucas and Tiffany Heather.

7 William Claudius aka Claude Groenewald, The seventh and youngest child of Lily and Kas, was born on the 26th March 1930. Claude married Johanna Maria aka Joana van Taak. They had three children: Johan, Linda and Karin.

Johan remains a bachelor and lives in Swellendam.

Linda married Johannes Beckmann.

Karin married Emile Els. The couple have two children: Leon and Claudi.

William Claudius aka Claude Groenewald died on the 5th May 2002. His widow Joanna and her two daughters lives in Bloemfontein.

Lily and Kas were well known residents of Kleinmond where they lived for many years. Kas died on the 19th June 1964 at the age of 78 and was buried in the Kleinmond graveyard. Lily died on the 15th September 1982 a few weeks before her 92nd birthday and was buried next to her late husband.

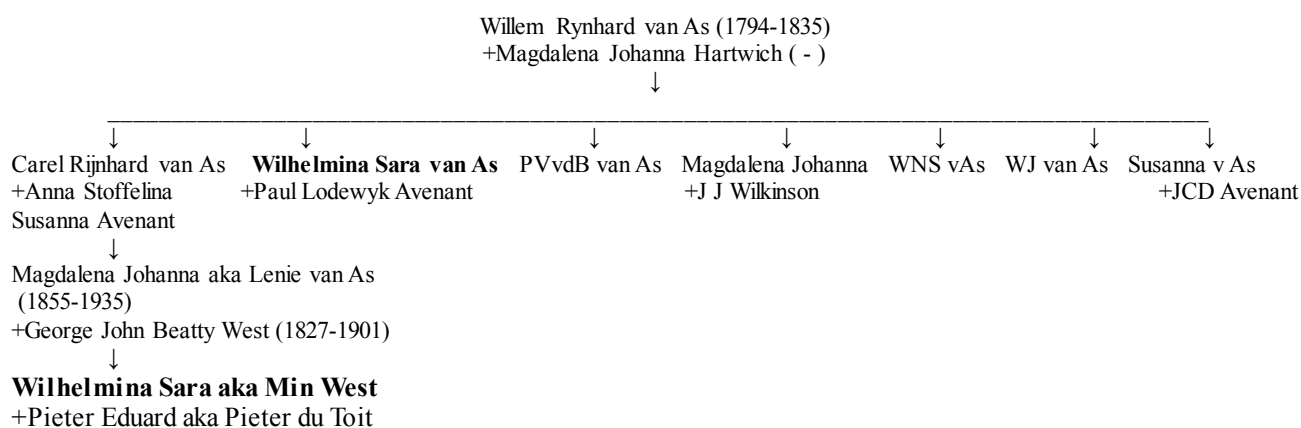
- +Guy Quintus aka Guy Gething b. 27 Dec 1958
 - 4-Roxanne Gething b. 19 Jan 1983
 - 4-Yolande Gething b. 31 Oct 1984
 - 4-Warren Gething b. 24 Jul 1986
 - 4-Lindsay Gething b. 19 Jul 1988
- 3-John Bailie b. 27 Sep 1963
- +Leigh Ann Irvine b. 19 Oct 1967
 - 4-Roxy Leigh Bailie b. 9 Apr 1989
 - 4-John Bailie b. 4 Dec 1992
- 2-Lukas Johannes aka Aljay Groenewald b. 21 Apr 1926
- +Heather aka Heather Duncan b. 12 Jun 1931
 - 3-Beverley aka Beverley Groenewald b. 14 Jun 1954
 - +Antonie Johannes de Beer b. 18 Apr 1953
 - 4-Alexander Nicolas de Beer b. 9 May 1980
 - 4-Jonathan Luke de Beer b. 17 Feb 1984
 - 4-Mathew James de Beer b. 14 Aug 1986
 - 3-Denise aka Denise Groenewald b. 22 Mar 1956
 - +Errol Tome b. 16 Aug 1953
 - 4-Samuel Errol Tome b. 11 Oct 1993
 - 4-Danielle Jessica Tome b. 4 Aug 1997
 - 3-Gary aka Gary Groenewald b. 10 Nov 1957
 - +Sharon Bronwyn Smith b. 17 Feb 1958
 - 4-Jesse Daniël Groenewald b. 22 Oct 1990
 - 4-Gabriella Ruth Groenewald b. 21 Dec 1994
 - 3-Wynn Rory aka Wynn Groenewald b. 12 Apr 1962
 - +Mignon aka Mignon Smith b. 21 Jan 1966
 - 4-Jason aka Jason Groenewald b. 26 Jul 1990
 - 4-Amanda aka Amanda Groenewald b. 17 Oct 1992
 - 3-John Alexander aka John Groenewald b. 6 Aug 1965
 - +Komien Johanna Louwrens b. 15 Apr 1966
 - 4-Jomarie Groenewald b. 6 Mar 1993
 - 4-Jordan Lucas Groenewald b. 27 Dec 1996
 - 4-Tiffany Heather Groenewald b. 27 Dec 1996
- 2-William Claudius aka Claude Groenewald b. 26 Mar 1930, d. 5 May 2002
- +Johanna Maria aka Joana van Taak b. 25 Oct 1931
 - 3-Johan Wilhelm aka Johan Groenewald b. 27 May 1959
 - 3-Linda aka Linda Groenewald b. 15 Aug 1962
 - +Johannes Hendrik aka Johannes Beckmann b. 9 Aug 1962
 - 3-Karin aka Karin Groenewald b. 18 Sep 1965
 - +Emile Samuel aka Emile Els b. 6 May 1962
 - 4-Leon Frederick aka Leon Els b. 12 Jun 1995
 - 4-Claudi aka Claudi Els b. 22 Jul 1997

CHAPTER 32

Wilhelmina Sarah aka Min West (1892-1985)

Wilhelmina Sara aka Min or Minnie West, the eighth child of George John Beatty West and Lenie van As, was born on the 6th July 1892 in West House in Genadendal where she enjoyed the first three years of her life. Wilhelmina Sara was named after Wilhelmina Sara van As, the sister of her grandfather Carl Reinhardt van As.

Diagram indicating Wilhelmina Sara aka Min West and Wilhelmina Sara van As:



Min attended school in Greyton and like her sisters Daisy and Lily, qualified as a teacher. During 1915 Minnie was a teacher at The Oaks about 10 km from Greyton. The Oaks is the farm where their father George and his first wife Mary Jane settled during 1848, sixty seven years previously, when they immigrated to South Africa.

On the 2nd May 1915, Min's sister Lily wrote to their youngest sister Susy:

Dear Susy

No doubt you will be surprised that I'm again writing as you have never answered my other letter but mother has gone to the Oaks to see Minnie. She wrote yesterday that she has a sore throat. Now mother is so anxious as we don't know how serious it is.

During 1915 Min wrote to her sister Susy

Dear Susy

Why don't you people write to me I am quite angry with you. I am sending a small parcel. The stuff is for a dress for me which Daisy must make the tie is for mother. Gather these Post Cards I am sending you and keep them for Lily.

I shall give you no Xmas box unless you answer this and a long letter.

When do you inspect (expect?) mr. Theron. I wish you will pass dear so that you too can earn your own salary.

With love

Minnie

Min also taught at Napier and Vryburg. In Vryburg she stayed with her brother Ciarncross Nesbitt's son Dick West and his wife Cecile. She also taught in Heilbron and in Bethal where she stayed on the farm Steenkoolspruit between Bethal and Kriel. There she met her future husband Pieter du Toit.

On Thursday the 19th January 1917, Min wrote the following letter with much information about herself, from Witbank in the district of Bethal to Susy who then taught at the farm Melkbosch in the district of Bredasdorp:

Dearest Susy

Now you are still at home Lucky beggar. We opened school yesterday. Will try and give a description of my principal. He short, fair, stout, nationalist, and the most conceited beggar under the sun. He fetched me at Bethal on Monday afternoon and I stayed with them till yesterday when I got a boarding place at certain Swanepoels who are very loyal. They are not too far away from school but mr Swanepoel promised to get us some donkeys to drive with.

I did not change at Joh'burg stn so Maria's fortune is all in the wind. The one who was to have fallen in love with me on the train never met my eye.

At Bethal I stayed at the Selborne Hotel and they know the Wests at Standerton very well. I intend writing to George (George West, son of their brother James West, from Standerton) but wonder how he'll treat my letter. Next week there is nachtmaal at Bethal. I hope to go then.

There are a few English families round about here and I'll but chum up with them. Please send me Girlies address. Mine in not the same I gave you at home.

Do write soon and lots of fun.

When did Sannie de Kock leave and how did Nelie behave.

Min

At the time when the British and German forces were in the severe second battle of Arras, she wrote a Post Card to her brother Ben in France. It was addressed to: *Pte. B. West, No. 10262, 4 S.A. I., D. Company, Army Field Office, London and Stamped: 1 May '17" (1917)*

Dear Ben,

Thanks for letter received. Am in sound health hope you're the same. Will start a correspondence on P.C. Now perhaps that will reach you sooner. Am in the Transvaal but there no place like Greyton to me. Mr. B. made Susie and myself each a skirt.

With fondest love

Your sister

Minnie

NOTES:

- (1) P.C. means Post Card and not Personal Computer!
- (2) Mr B is the tailor, Mr. J. Browning of Worcester for whom their brother Ben worked before he left to fight in WW1.

On 21st May 1917 Min wrote from Witbank, Bethal the following Post Card to her brother Ben in London:

Mr. Benjamin West, No 10262, 4th S.A.I., D Company, Army Field Office, London

Dear Ben

When this reaches you it will be near your birthday. I wish you a happy one.

Several boys here have volunteered even some teachers. Am going home next month (D.V.).

Mother writes that Peter¹ is still very bad with the fever so are nearly all the G.E. Boys².

With love Minnie"

NOTES:

- (1) Their brother Pieter
- (2) The G.E. Boys refer to the soldiers who fought in German East Africa that is Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania.

Leo du Toit married Josina aka Ina Boon and have a child Bernice Kathyn aka Bea. After Ina's death on 5th September 2000, Leo married Lydia Liebenberg.

Victor and Aartjie's second child, André du Toit married Charlene Dawn Gates. They have two children: Jean-Duval and Jacques.

The youngest son Marius du Toit married Johanna Catharina aka Hantie Hattingh. They have two children: Janelle and Zoë.

Victor died on 3rd April 1991.

2 Leo West Marais aka Leo du Toit, Min and Pieter's second son, the highly talented was born on 1st August 1922. He attended the Heilbron High School and afterwards joined the Army where he soon became a fighter pilot during WWII.

On Tuesday morning 21st March 1944 the 21 year old Leo and his navigator and gunner Christiaan Jacobus de Jager from Ottosdal attacked a German E-boat near Greece in their Bristol Beaufighter LZ378. It is described in THE SAAF AT WAR 1940-1984.

"During March 1944, 16 Squadron maintained their operations near Greece under Maj P (Flippie) Looock, operating from Gambut III. Six Beaufighters were sent out to attack two barges and a Siebel ferry early on the morning of 21 March 1944. An E-boat was spotted and attacked near these boats in the vicinity of Navarino. While they attacked the boat, they came under heavy fire from enemy coastal guns. On the photo Maj Looock can be seen climbing away while Lt LWM du Toit's rockets have just struck the damaged boat. He followed through too close and his right engine was put out of action by flying debris. He reported that he was going to do a forced landing on the coast. He and his observer were never seen alive again. Maj Looock tried to call him on his radio, but there was no response. Lt du Toit (21) was the youngest member of the squadron (photo). The incident had a sad sequel after the war. His father, combing the nearby islands to find out what happened to his son, eventually was taken to a piece of land where a Beaufighter was reported to have crash-landed. There he found that his son had in fact tried to crash-land but hit a low, covered stone wall which killed both him and his observer".

In a letter dated 24th March 1944, three days after Leo and Christiaan's disappearance, Lt Col Jac Lorentz wrote to Min the following letter (letter translated from Afrikaans):

102755V Lt.Col. J. Lorentz
Officer in Command
16 Squadron, S.A.A.F.
U.V.M., M.O.

Dear Mrs Du Toit

My writing to you is to sympathize with reference to the news about Leo who went missing. The announcement must have been a great shock to you.. All the officers and soldiers of this Squadron wish to identify with the expression of our sincere condolences with the anxiety which you have to suffer.

He was the pilot of an airplane which participated in an attack on a warship of the enemy and was accompanied by Lt. De Jager as navigator and observer. After he completed a most resolute and effective attack, it was seen that the starboard engine of the plane was damaged either by heavy fire of the enemy or flying debris from the ship. His message received by radio was: "I experience trouble with the starboard motor and shall land on the coast". Before the airplane went out of sight it was seen between an island and the coast nearby. Later another message was received: "I am going to make a forced landing – look after my camera – I'll be back in two weeks time". Maj. Looock who was the leader of the formation, tried to follow his airplane to see where it possibly could land. After time has passed in which he tried to find the position of the airplane, he had to turn back because of heavy enemy fire and loss of radio contact, without seeing the airplane again.

"Toitjie" the name under which your son was known and loved, was a most popular member of this unit, both with the officers and the other soldiers. His jovial nature and easy association with everybody was admired by all. He was an innovated pilot and his eagerness to partake in any operation made him an officer whose place will not easily be taken.

I have enough reason to believe that he made a successful emergency landing, especially after his last message spoken with much confidence. If any information is received, you shall of course immediately be notified. Meanwhile we must trust God and believe that better news will reach us soon.

With best wishes

Yours

J. Lorentz

Since the family could not establish what really happened to Leo, his father Pieter du Toit, himself a captain in the army in North Africa went to Greece nine months later to find out what had happened to Leo and whether he was still alive. Pieter established that Leo made a crash-landing in the mountains near Kyparissia. The Beaumont caught fire and they both died. According to the Greeks all their belongings were stolen "by the German soldiers". The Greek Orthodox priest held the funeral service. As the custom was among the poor people in those mountain areas, all the inhabitants of the village, about 5 000, attended the ceremony. Pieter found a wooden cross on their grave near Kyparissia with these words:

"Hier rus twee vlugoffisiere 21 Maart 1944". (Here rest two flight officers 21 March 1944).

On Thursday 7th December 1944 Pieter wrote the following letter from Kalmata in Southern Greece to his wife and children (letter translated from Afrikaans):

*Kalmata
Southern Greece
7th December 1944*

Dearest Wife and Children

Our blond little boy, Leo, is no more. Both he and his friend, Christiaan, died a hero's death, after they hit a German boat which exploded with all the crew members and fighters. I went to their grave where the Greek priest and 5 000 inhabitants buried them with utmost honour and respect. They planted a cross on the grave on which was written:

"Here rest two flight officers – 21 March 1944".

That is all. Before long the bodies will be exhumed and taken to Athens where they shall rest amongst the officers. There were many eyewitnesses when the airplane crashed in thousand pieces on a Greek small holding near Kyparissia. Both were killed instantly. The Greeks here have small plots and were working there when Leo tried to land on a ploughed field, high in the mountains, so that the Germans should not be able to get them and they be taken as prisoners of war. Leo had an excellent landing plan but unfortunately the wheels of the airplane touche a low stone wall and crashed heavily into the earth with both of them inside. Head quarters gave me just in time the engraved numbers and it correspond with the numbers of the two engines of their "Beaufighter". There are many other evidences that it was them.

The Germans were quickly on the scene and stole everything they could lay their hands on: watches, pocket books, money and all. Even the identification disks around their necks were stolen. According to the rules of the Geneva Convention nothing of the private belongings of officers may be stolen. But we have here to confront robbers, murderers of women and children all from Germany and no Knightly enemy.

I brought a few "souvenirs" as keepsake from the wreckage of the Beaufighter. The two men are temporarily interred in one grave until they can be buried with full military honour in Athens.

Here in Greece is a Civil War going on. I myself was once sprayed with bullets. The dangerous mountain roads are so bad that we had a slight accident. I have such a painful right arm that I find it difficult to write. Fortunately nothing was broken. We had to travel right through old German minefields and couldn't dare going a little out of the horrible bumpy roads. I could never dream that this place in the

mountains would be so dangerous and desolate. I also did not know that there were still so many backward, poor, dirty and sly Greeks, half wild, staying like Bushmen in the barren mountains. They have civil war here between ELAS (they are Communists) and EDES who are Democrats. They hate each other like the plague – and we have to keep peace between the two sides. That is why we sometimes are sprayed with bullets. Some of them are over friendly with us while the rest just watch us like assassins. When I was on the road in search of Leo the women stormed down on us with beautiful flowers, fruit, wine and food.

We went in two "Jeeps" with one Greek captain (ELAS), two of our captains and two well armed body guards. "Jeeps" are very strong little motor cars. It is only in them that one can dare drive into those wild mountains on those unspeakably bad roads and even then you are not always assured of your life.

We must send some of the parts of the airplane to the parents of Lt De Jager as kind of a token of the hero's death of their son, also to old Lampie (Fick?) (Member of parliament) and to Leo's girlfriend. I will bring it with me and hope to be soon back in the Union (of S.A.) about the end of December or beginning of January.

Leo's death swept my feet away. I feel listless and sick in soul, mind and body. A holiday of one month with you shall comfort me because I'm not yet an old hypochondriac milksop – but DEATH, even if it is a HERO'S DEATH, does hurt and let one feel dejected and is a severe blow to those who remain behind. It is quite obvious that with the severe fighting and civil war in Greece I do not know how soon I'll be able to get away.

I never knew and could never dream that the loss of a beloved in the family could hurt so much. Almost every day I meet officers who want to take vengeance and seek DEATH with a welcoming mind because the German Robot and other bombs completely destroyed their whole family: Father, mother, wife, children, sisters and brothers. None of these families remained. Funnily enough they seek DEATH by recklessly making dangerous attacks on the Germans but they do not find DEATH itself. It is only the respect, love, consideration and responsibility which I have towards my wife and children otherwise I would befriend all the officers of the "suicide squad" to take revenge on the Germans who forced . . . Greece and who are now surrounded by Tito, the Russians and our Army on the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Yugoslave.

To crown it all my arm is so painful that I need two corporals to help me dress and undress. I can't help myself properly. It is nothing serious but I definitely will not go to the Hospital and use cold compresses which help tremendously so that my arm improves by the hour. It is rather ungainly when a man can't even fasten or loosen his own pants.

I had so much hope to see our Blondhead again and to meet his friend Christiaan de Jager but now the cruel selfish DEATH interfered by taking our Blondhead away while still so young. It would be better if it was I who was taken because 60 years is behind me and poor Blondhead still had his whole life before him.

Now my arm hurts too much to write any longer. You and Sussie must please write the news to all our family and friends – not to the Pro Germans and dawn Osse (Ossewa Brandwag).

While we and our children fight, bleed and die for their freedom also, those stupid pigs hide behind our blood. "Each dog gets his day" - they will also get their day. Just you wait!

When I get home I will tell you about all the dangers which we encountered to find the grave of Leo and Christiaan.

Much love from Daddy

The bodies of the two South Africans were later taken to Athens where they were reburied in the Commonwealth Military Graveyard. The life story of Leo du Toit was one of the most touching in my West research. It was an emotional experience when my brothers Deon, Colas and I stood at the graveside of Leo and his friend Christiaan de Jager in the well kept Military graveyard situated between the blocks of flats in Athens.

The following obituary appeared in the December 1945 journal of the Heilbron High School where he matriculated: "Lt. Leo du Toit was killed in action over Southern Greece. Leo was a brilliant scholar who Matriculated in the first class in 1940 and also a first team player in both Tennis and Rugby. His was a strong vivacious personality which has left a lasting impression on the memory of

those of us who knew him. His sense of humor and fun made him a lively, jovial companion. An intrepid fighter, he was considered the ace bomber of 16 Squadron, S.A.A.F., but it was only after he had been missing for a year that he was posted officially killed in action. We shall always cherish happy memories of the boy who was popular alike with both pupils and staff".

On Sunday 12th March 1944, only nine days before his plane crashed, the twenty one year old Leo Du Toit wrote his last letter to his family from North Africa (letter translated from Afrikaans):

Lt. L. du Toit. No 206663V
16 Squadron S.A.A.F
U.D.F. - M.E.F.
c/o A.P.O. Durban,
12/3/44

Dear Fam and Wilhelm,

I am very sorry that I did not write sooner but I was under so much pressure the past month that I really was either too tired to write or just slept in the free time I had. Today I am free because I have a severe cold so I can write now. I received Mother's letter yesterday which was written from Westleigh, so I will answer it.

I hope Victor is also fine but I wondered why his health is deteriorating now. A few months ago, I myself weighed 153 pounds (a record) but I imagine that during the past month I have lost all my fat again, so it is good that I was so fat otherwise I do not know how I should handle it.

I myself am glad that Delene is so taken up with her school. If she will only make a success of it. She now is already a big girl, but I hope it help her a little that she grew up among a lot of boys like ourselves. Perhaps we three and our father shall sit behind the wall, watching the front gate for the many "callers". I suppose Wilhelm will have his boots on. I also had a letter from Lampie who gave me lots of news of Heilbron. He said that the teacher Bosman resigned to become the manager of Saamwerk. Tanner sold the shop to the Santhers. They also had a mass meeting "to pass a motion of no confidence in the Municipality". So it seems that things are still going the old way with the Municipality. Ma will definitely receive all the news when she go to Heilbron.

I do not know about Doreen's mother as Lampie said that Doreen had called him to talk with her mother so it seems not to be about faith. Further she is fairly well, she said that teaching exhaust her but she will be tired because she started the new year worn out and tired.

What do you hear about Pappie (Father) I myself haven't heard a word from him. I would really like to know where he is, because then I will make a definite plan to go and see him. Lampie also said that he had sent my birthday parcel but I will be at home before that time. I myself do not want to speculate about going home because then I just become impatient. I will just surprise you or else (of hoe)? I think it will be around June, or so I hope. In my next letter, or I will send this one in the envelope with the photo of myself.

Here the weather is very nice, it changes to summer and the rain has stopped. The other day I put on shorts and was shy of my white legs. The winter was long and cold and I could never stand the cold without my long trousers. Now it seems that when I go (home) I will again catch the winter.

Now I still have to write a number of letters, but definitely the family come first because usually I cannot get through the whole lot of them on one day so that I first get the most important away.

Everybody just marry, if they can afford it, that I do not know, it is only a few that will last.

Greetings to all, as you go home,-

Lot of love

You affectionate (or Loving) Son

Leo

3 Wilhelm Pieter Eduard aka Wilhelm du Toit, Min and Pieter's third son married Franciena aka Fransie Pieterse. Wilhelm was the manager of Old Mutual in Paarl. He and Fransie have three children: Eduard Juan du Toit, Noleen du Toit and Suegnet du Toit.

Eduard married Juanita van Wyk. They have three children: Charlene married to Werner Spykerman, Jean married Milla van Aarde and Eugene.

Wilhelm's eldest daughter Noleen married Geoff Kutash. They have one child Kyleen.

His youngest daughter Suegnet married Awie Postma.

Wilhelm died 7th March 2007 in Somerset West.

4 Magdalena Letitia aka Delene du Toit, the youngest of Mien and Pieter's children, their daughter worked at Standard Bank. Delene and her mother stayed with her uncle Henry and aunt Lenie West in Greyton during WWII while her father took part in the war. After Greyton the Du Toit family resided in Franschoek for two years. Later years Delene and her mother lived in Plumstead but after her mother's death, she moved to Somerset West. Delene became the respected and beloved matriarch of the Du Toit family who supplied me with much information and background about the West family.

Wilhelmina Sarah aka Min West spent the last years of her life in Plumstead with her daughter Delene. She always had the wish to visit England and had the privilege to enjoy her eightieth birthday in London. Min died on 9th February 1985 at the age of ninety two and was buried next to her late husband in Plumstead.

Descendants of Pieter du Toit and Min, born West:

1-Wilhelmina Sarah aka Mien West b. 6 Jul 1892, Genadendal, d. 9 Feb 1985, Cape Town

+Pieter Eduard aka Pieter du Toit b. 18 Apr 1884, d. 20 Jun 1969, Cape Town

2-Victor Jean du Toit b. 2 Feb 1920, d. 3 Apr 1991

+Aartjie aka Aartjie Brandhorst b. 10 Nov 1938

3-Leo Pieter aka Leo du Toit b. 20 Jul 1962

+Josina aka Ina Boon b. 19 Jul 1958, d. 5 Sep 2000

4-Bernice Kathlyn aka Bea du Toit b. 21 Jul 1992

+Alida Aletta Hester aka Lydia Liebenberg b. 12 Jun 1959

3-André Johannes aka André du Toit b. 10 Jul 1964

+Charlene Dawn Yates b. 18 Sep 1964

4-Jean-Duval aka Jean du Toit b. 13 Sep 1994

4-Jacques aka Jacques du Toit b. 11 Sep 2000

3-Marius Anton aka Marius du Toit b. 18 Nov 1966

+Johanna Catharina aka Hantie Hattingh b. 27 Oct 1960

4-Janelle aka Janelle du Toit b. 2 May 2000

4-Zoë du Toit b. 1 Dec 2003

2-Leo West Marais du Toit b. 1 Aug 1922, d. 21 Mar 1944, Kyparissia Greece Lt. SAAF WW2 Pilot, bur. First Kyparissia then Reburied in Athens

2-Wilhelm Pieter Eduard du Toit b. 17 Oct 1925, d. 7 Mar 2007, Somerset West

+Franciena aka Fransie Pieterse b. 1 Mar 1932

3-Eduard Jean aka Edward du Toit b. 12 Nov 1952

+Juanita aka Juanita van Wyk b. 29 Jul 1955

4-Charlene aka Charlene du Toit b. 5 Jul 1977

+Werner Spykerman

4-Jean Wilhelm aka Jean du Toit b. 9 Nov 1980

+Millicent aka Milla van Aarde

4-Eugene Nicolaas aka Eugene du Toit b. 18 Nov 1982

3-Noleen aka Noleen du Toit b. 3 Apr 1956

+Geoffrey Kutash aka Geoff b. 8 Apr 1947

4-Kyleen aka Kyleen Kutash b. 25 Feb 1987

3-Suegnet aka Suegnet du Toit b. 19 Dec 1964

+Amie aka Amie Postma b. 12 Mar 1961

2-Magdalena Letitia aka Delene du Toit b. 3 Jan 1929

CHAPTER 33

Benjamin West who died so young during WWI (1894-1918)



Benjamin West

Benjamin aka Ben West was the eighteenth child and the twelfth son of George John Beatty West. Ben was born in Genadendal on Thursday 28th June 1894. During December 1894 the West family still lived in Genadendal as Ben's brother Cary from Doornpoort, Vryburg addressed his letter of 24th December 1894 to their father "*G J B West Esquire, Genadendal*". In this letter, Cary congratulated their father with the birth of his son Benjamin: "*I wrote you a letter last week and just before I sent to the post I received one from Ma. So I just sent a few lines to Ina to certify the receipt of the letter. She made me aware of another brother for which I must congratulate you hoping you may live to see much pleasure of them all*". It is said that since his father had no more family names to give to this son he named him Benjamin after

Jacob of the Bible's twelfth son. Ben was the last of George and Lenie's children to be born in the West House next to the old Police Station in Genadendal. He was baptized in the D.R.C. Caledon on 15th August 1894. The witnesses were Ben's forty two year old half brother George J. B. West of Salandra, Bot River, his wife Cornelia W West, born Langenhoven as well as Coenraad and Cornelia Groenewald.

When Ben was about two years old the family relocated at Greyton. He was only six years old when his father died on the 10th of May 1901. After his father's death his mother Lenie West and her seven children, five of whom were younger than thirteen, found it very hard to cope financially.

Just like his grandfather William Claudius West and his cousin Jemima in Ireland, Ben was very fond of music and singing in which he excelled. On March 2nd 1905 the ten year old Ben received the Junior Certificate from the examiner Arthur Lee: "*Benjamin West has passed the requirements of the Examination in Musical Memory, singing in Time, Singing from the Modulator and in Ear Exercises prescribed in the Articles of the College for this JUNIOR CERTIFICATE*". On 25th May 1909 the fourteen year old Ben, received a certificate from THE TONIC SOL-FA COLLEGE where it stated that "*Benjamin West has fulfilled the requirements of the Intermediate Certificate of the Tonic Sol-Fa College, a certificate of attainment in reading Music at First Sight and Writing it from Ear and eligibility for an advance Choir*". Signed Athur Lee - Examiner.

After finishing primary school at Greyton, his widow mother Lenie, with much financial sacrifice, sent Ben to the *Old Drostdy Industrial School*, in Worcester where he studied as a tailor. He did his apprenticeship as tailor with *J. BROWNING, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Tailor, Russell Street, Worcester*. Mr Browning lived at 23 Adderley Street and Ben stayed at 54 High Street Worcester. He seemed to be very proud of his trade and in a letter to his younger sister Susie he referred to himself as "*the expert Tailor*".

As a young boy Ben slept alone in his room while his younger sister Susie slept with their mother Lenie. He was often afraid when he awoke during the night and then used to say that he was

thirsty. His mother, knowing that he was afraid of the dark, then invited him to come and sleep with her and Susie. Because he and Susie trusted each other with their childhood secrets he trusted her with the ups and downs in his relationship with his girlfriend Barbara Solms. They also helped each other financially. In her letter of 23 July 1916 from Kiesieskraal where she was teaching Susie reminded him of his financial responsibility.

On 2nd March 1914 after his girlfriend Barbara Solms, a close friend of his sister Susie, insulted him, he wrote to Susie: *"Is B. [Barbara – JC] Solms not angry with you, I suppose so because she have got the cheek to tell me that I am low. I told her straight that she need not be a friend of yours if I am of low class. But she say what she like I don't care a straw for her at all".* A week later on 9th March 1914 he again referred to Barbara's insulting remarks which hurt his pride: *"You say that Barbara is so friendly with you, for my part she neat'nt come in our home again as I am too low for her. Tell Barbara Solms, its the greatest lie that I showed the Willemse's any letter of her's. The only thing I said was that Barbara asked me why I didn't come to them when I was at home and that is nothing more than the truth. I didn't bring any of her letters to Greyton no not one. Perhaps you wont believe it but there is one who knows whether its true. She had a letter from me right enough, but I only wrote to her after she wrote to me, this was the letter in which she wrote that I am low and I don't know what all. So I only wrote her a letter of the same kind".*

In his letter of 15th March 1914 to Susie, he again brought up his girlfriend Barbara's remark: *"Barbara Solms can do what she like for my part, I dont care. I wonder what about she is going to write, to Engla".*

He was still smarting about Barbara's insult as he wrote to Susie on 22nd April 1914: *"Let Barbara do as she pleases why should you trouble about her, she is out of my mind since long".* As a twenty year old he referred in this letter to his forty year old brother in law, Stoffel Groenewald, as "Uncle" Stoffel: *"Tell Apie to look well after the oxen, for I want them to be fat when I come home. Give my best love to Daisy & Jannie & Uncle Stoffel".*

While working in Worcester, the Brownings and Ben had a close parent-son relationship. His mother Lenie referred to this relationship when she wrote in her letter of 15th August 1914: *"voor al zyn goedheid grace Mr & mrs Browning ik zal later aan hem sckryf"* (for all their kindness and support I shall later write to Mr and Mrs Browning). In the same letter she gave advice about his health: *"ik is Zoo bekommerd over u - - - - - en koop voor u een bottel Scholtz Emaljen en gebruik dit - - - -"* (I am so worried about you and buy you a bottle of Scotch Emulsion and use it . . .)

Just after he finished his apprenticeship as tailor and earned his own money with Mr Browning, Ben decided to join the army (WWI). According to the post card of the 4th September 1914 he then had already joined the army. This decision did not meet the approval of his mother nor the Brownings.

On the 4th September 1914 Lenie wrote to him:

Lieve Benjamen

ik voel vandag zoo harzeer? Omdat zy my u Discharge laat vraag ik wonder wat het meen ik ben bevrees dat u weder gaan om dienst te neem en zy moet weet dat dit my dan tot grootse droefheid zal weezen want zy moet denk hoe veel ik opgeoffer en wat moeite en geld ik voor u betaal heb en Minie en Susy heb zoo gedacht om tog plezier van u te hebben als u voor u zelf iets kan verdien en ook aan hen kan geben wat zulle voor u gedaan heb ik was bly dat Mr Browning u by hem gehouden heb en met die wat zy duur verdien heb hen u klaar kom en ook nog elke maand aan my 10 schilling geef dan kan ik het by makaar maak om de schuld af te betaal Lieve Ben ik heb u brief deze morge ontvang en was blyde

om van u te hoore dat u nog wel ben en dat u uit de Kerk gekomen is dit is tog altyd goed om in Gods huis te wees en laat u plaats daar nooit ledig wees als u het kun doen ik was gister zoo onteverd (ontevrede?) toe u telegram hier komen en heb toen dadelyk begend aan u te skryf u zal wel verstaan wat myn vrees is en als moeder een verkeerde gedachten heb dan moet u my dit tog niet kwalik neem en wees altyd een zoet en gehoorzaam kind pas u dienst goed op wees gehoorzaam als aan u eigen ouders bestied ook u geld altyd op de regte manier en niets voor wat u niet nuttig is gy moet zien om my die maand 12 shillings te stuur voor de rente verder is ons alle wel door des Heeren genade hoop het gaat u ook wel en vergeet den Heere niet ik stuur u Discharge en - - - -

(Dear Benjamen, I am so sad today because you asked me your discharge. I am uncertain of the complications of it. I fear you decided to join the army. You must remember that your decision saddened me greatly. You must think how much I sacrificed for you, the trouble and money which I paid. Minnie and Susy dreamed of having pleasure of you when you would be able to own your own money and that you could give back to them for what they did for you. I am so grateful that Mr Browning kept you with him. With what you earned you also sent me 10 shillings each month. I could put it aside to pay the debt. . . . Dear Ben I received your letter this morning and was glad to hear from you and that you attended the church. It is always good to visit God's house. You must never, if can, allow your place to be empty there. I was very upset when your telegram arrived here yesterday and immediately started writing to you. You shall understand my fear as I immediately had the wrong thoughts. You must not blame me for that, remain to be a sweet and obedient child and care for your work as if for your own parents. Use your money responsibly and not on worthless things. You must remember to send me 12 shillings this month to pay the rent. By the grace of the Lord we are all well and I hope that you shall never forget the Lord I send your discharge (The 10 shillings of 1914 is worth £45.61 in 2017. At R18 on the pound it is worth about R820-00. 12 shillings is about R980-00 – Measuring Worth).

(Ben's Mother Lenie, wrote the above letter on the same day, 4th September 1914, that Stefaans wrote the postcard to Ben's sister).

From the 7th to the 21st November 1914 Ben was already at Simons Town. On the 7th November he wrote from Simonstown to ask Susie that she must ask their mother to request Mr de Klerk to bring Ben's trunk from Worcester to Greyton. On 17th November 1914 he wrote to Susie: *"How are you and Barbara getting on, are you chums already, or not. Give my best love to Barbara, Sally and Ella"*.

When he joined the Army the following were given to him:

1 Rifle, 1 Bottle of oil, 1 Pull-through complete, 1 Rod, Cleaning, 1 P.W., 1 Scabbard, bayonet, sword, 1 Bottle water enameled, 1 Mills Burrows web equipment, 1 Strap, 1 Tins Mess, 1 Slings.

On 18 February 1915 he wrote from the Castle in Cape Town to the eighteen year old Susie in Bliss Hall, Wellington where she studied as a teacher:

Castle. 18.2.1915

Dear Susie

How is it that you don't write to me, I wrote to you a letter a long time ago, but I wrote it to White House Sem. I sent you a photo of mine in it. I hope that you received it. I received your letter for which I was greatly pleased. Do you see Barbara often, how are you two getting on. I am sending you a small note for B. [Barbara] will you please give it to her, if you can't manage to see her, you may burn it, but don't have it lying about. I'll send you a few bob at the end of this month hey, but tell Henry to send you some too he can do so too, if he wants to. Man I'm longing to see you & B. again. I heard that we are going to get 14 days leave, if that is true I'll come to see you but I don't know when it will be. Give my best love to Chrissie, Winnie & Barbara. Now I must close with best love to you.

I am Your True Brother, B. West

NOTE: A bob was a shilling (10c). As a student Susy would welcome any donation.

On the 27th February 1915 he again sent "a few shillings" to his student sister "Miss S West, Bliss Hall, Huguenot Sem., Wellington":-.

In March 1915, before leaving for German West (Namibia) he wrote from Camps Bay:

Dear Susy

*Just a few lines to let you know that I am quite well still & hope to hear the same from you. We are leaving for German West on Saturday 12th Fr. m. I don't think I wont see you again so I take the opportunity to say goodbye to you & Barbara. Don't excite yourself about Henry & me for we are alright we want to go. Now Susy its late already so allow me to stop with best love to you & Barbara,
I remain Your Brother, Ben West*

On the 26th April 1915 he was still in Cape Town when he wrote:

Camps Bay. 26.4.1915.

Dear Susy

Just this few lines to let you know that I am quite well still. I hope to hear the same from you. What is the matter with you & Barbara that I don't hear from you. I am cooto? At present that's why I had no time to write to you. Please give this note to B. hey. Give my best love to miss Stals hey, do you know that I got 7 days C.B. & pays stopped.

Man I hope they will send us away now, as I am tired of Cape Town already. News are but scarce in camp Susy so allow me to stop with best love to all you know.

I am Your Brother, Ben West

His next letter was from Namibia on the 21st May 1915:

21.5.1915

Dear Susy

Just these few lines to let you know that I am quite well still, hoping you are the same. We are 160 miles (256 kms) from Luderitzbucht. I saw about 200 German prisoners yesterday. It was a fine sight, I can tell you to see the Germans. I wish that I can have a fight with them. What is Barbara doing. No news Susy you know to allow me to close with but love to you & I don't know to whom else. Its out with Barbara & me you know.

I am Your B, Ben West

Add. B. West, D.Coy, C.F. H., Army Post Office, Cape Town

On 23rd July 1916 Ben's sister Susie, a teacher on the farm Kiesieskraal near the old Van der Stel Pass between Bot River and the now Theewaterskloof dam, wrote to him:

Kiesieskraal, Bot River. 23rd July

My Dear Ben,

Just a few lines to let you know that I'm still on the face of the earth & moreover still in South Africa. How are you keeping? Alright I hope.

"Mij gas is nou zo uit geskryf dat ik nie meer kan nie, ik het nou al 5 briewe geskryf maar ik wil net vir jou laat sien dat ik najou verlang".

I am so glad you are finished now & that you can earn your own living but Ben remember you owe some money to Mrs de Villiers for which rent is to be paid now please save as much as possible to pay that off. Spare 10/- every month or even more, for you don't need clothes now, and in that way it will soon be paid. & remember that mother did a lot."

[The rest of the letter is missing - JC]

Mrs de Villiers, whom Ben still owed money, was Ursula de Villiers, born von Solms aka "Aunt Ursie". Mrs de Villiers was related to Susy's friend and Ben's ex girlfriend Barbara von Solms, the one who told him he is from a low class. Susie "advised" him that he had to and how he could pay back the money to his ex-girlfriend Barbara's relative. Mrs de Villiers was for a while the school principal at Greyton. Although Ben addressed Barbara as Barbara Solms, it seems that the surname was actually von Solms.

Ben and his older brother Pieter were in the same Brigade in the Army camp at Potchefstroom when he wrote to his mother on the 12th September 1916 as he prepared to go to Europe:

Potchefstroom 12.9.1916

Dear Mother

I arrived here safely last night and in good health still, hoping to hear the same from you. You mustn't trouble about me mother I'll be alright. I am just trying to get you an allowance. So if they ask you how much I gave you a month just tell them. You know I gave you £2 a mth. It's fairly windy here today. Mother you must try and save my money for you know I'll need it when I come back. Give my best love to all at Greyton.

I am Your Loving son, Benjamin West

P.S. I am in the same Brigade as Peter [his brother] is.

NOTE: £2 in 1916 is about R2,320-00 in 2017- Measuring Worth

On the 24th September 1916 he gave his address as B West, 3rd S.A Brigade, Potchefstroom when he wrote:

Potchefstroom, 24/9/16

Dear Mother

I received your most welcome letter for which I am thanking you ever so much. I am quite well still and hope to hear the same from you. You mustn't trouble about me at all. I am quite alright still. I haven't got any news to tell you because I wrote you a letter about a day ago. Give my best love to all at home.

I am Your Fond Son, Benjamin

P.S. How did Henry's [his brother] case come off.

L O V E

While still in Potchefstroom he wrote to his mother on the 7th and the 13th October 1916:

Potchefstroom. 7.10.1916.

Dear Mother

I received your most welcome letter thanks for same. I am quite well still & hope to hear the same from you. I am surprised to hear that John Kroukamp did such a thing but can't they stop them then.

Give my best love to all the Greytoners. It is really hot up here in the day time and cold of a night time news are but scarce in camp so allow me to close with best love to all at home.

I am Your fond son, Benjamin West

P.S. Love to Lily's & Daisy's Families. L O V E

Potchefstroom. 13.10.1916.

Dear Mother

I received the wire (telegram - JC) and was very glad about it. There is nothing wrong I only wanted the money to go to Johannesburg. I hope to won't trouble about that at all because I am quite alright still. Is Barbara at home now or where is she. If she is at home give her my best love hey? Excuse scrawl please

for it's dark and I can't see a line at all.

I am, Your True Son, Benj. West

P.S. Love to all at home. what became of John Kroukamp and his girl?

Love

In his last letter from Potchefstroom and South Africa, on the 25th October 1916 he calmed his mother by saying that in England he would be more safe than in Nyassaland (Malawi):

Potchefstroom. 25.10.1916

Dear Mother

I received your most welcome letter for which I thank you ever so much. I am in good health still and hope to hear the same from you. You need not worry about me going to England because I will be much safer there than in Nyassaland. Give my best love to all at home, also to Daisy and Lily's families. I don't know yet when we are leaving, but I'll try to come home first. If I go over I'll go and see Mr. Brownings mother.

I have no more news at present so allow me to close with the best of hopes of seeing you all there before I leave.

I am Your true Son, Benjamin

He left South Africa for Europe on the Walmer Castle on Monday 6th November 1916 from where he wrote on the 10th November 1916:

Sea, 10th Nov. 1916.

Dear Mother

Just these few lines to let you know that I am in good health still and that I have'nt been sick yet. We left Cape Town on Monday. We are on the boat for five days now. I think we will be at St. Helena to morrow morning, that is Saturday. Give my best love to all at home, also all the Greytonners. News are but scarce still so allow your son to close with best love to all.

I am, Your True son, Benj. West

They reached the island of St Helana on Saturday 11th November 1916 and planned to reach Ascension Island on Monday the 13th November.

87 Walmer Castle, 12th Nov. 1916.

Dear Susy

Just these few lines to let you know that I am in good health still hoping to hear the same from you. Give my best love to Klaas (his brother – JC) and all our family, I can't write to all you know. We arrived at St. Helena on Saturday. Its really a nice island plenty of white people too. The only thing we weren't allowed on shore. I saw a lot of flying fish already. It is a pretty sight to see them. We'll be at Ascension tomorrow (Monday). We have got a long way to go still, but I hope we'll get there alright. Now I must close with best love to all.

I am Your Brother, Benjamin West

A photo of yours hey? Love.

The 30th November 1916 he was in London and sent a photo of him as he wrote to his then twenty year old sister a school teacher at Kiesieskraal near Bot River, on the letterhead of King George and Queen Mary, Victoria League Club, For Men and Overseas Forces, London:

Dear Susy

Just these few lines to let you know that I arrived here safely and is on leave in London now. I am sending you a photo of mine. It is not up to much but I pay only 3/6 a doz. Give my best love to all at Bot River, also Klaas. No news yet so allow me to close with love to you.

From, Your Brother, Benjamin

This is De Jager.



While in England they stayed in Bordon from where he wrote the following letters:

Bordon. 10.12.1916.

Dear Mother

Just these few lines to tell you that I am in good health still and hope to hear the same from you. I really can't tell you what a lot of things I saw in London but I'll tell you all when I come back again. How are you all getting on in Greyton. Still the same I suppose. Give my best love to all at old Greyton especially to aunt Sarah's people. Mother other news I have none so allow me to with best love to you Henry Mienie and those.

I am, Your True Son, Benjamin West

Bordon. 15.12.1916.

Dear Susy

I am quite well still hoping to hear the same from you. It is really cold up here and today it is snowing like anything. Fancy me walking about in the snow and playing with snowballs. I had a fine time in London when I was on leave. The people took us all over to places like the Tower of London and other such places. Give my love to Barbara when you see her again. I really should like to see her myself, but you know that's impossible. Give my best love to Aunties and all those in Bot River. Closing with best wishes for a merry Xmas and a happy new year.

From, Your Brother, Benjamin West.

Love From Ben

NOTE: "Aunties" referred to his mother Lenie's sisters the spinster Kitty van As and Annie Swanepoel born van As.

2nd Reserve Battalion, South African Infantry, Bordon, Hants. 18 Dec. 1916.

Dear Mother

I am surprised that I have'nt received a letter from you yet, but perhaps the mail was delayed. Well I am in good health still and hope to hear the same from you. Its fairly cold here and we get quite a lot of snow out here at present. It was quite white this morning. Give my kind regards to Mr. Browning when you write to him again. Please send me a few packets of Flag Cigarettes as you can't get them out here at all. A few shillings will come in handy too if possible. No time. Love to Henry, Susy, Minnie and all the family

From Benj. West

A Merry Xmas and a Happy new Year to all at home From Ben

On the 13th January 1917 he wrote from London to his mother on the letterhead of the SA Hospital and Comforts Fund, London:

13 Jan 1917

Dear Mother

I am in sound health still hoping this will reach you in the same state. I am sorry to say but have't receive one letter from home yet. I don't know what is wrong but I am still hoping to receive one sooner or later. I have't got much to tel you as I wrote all news & had already, only that we are leaving for France on the 17th of January.

Did you receive the photo's I sent? I hope so. Closing with best love to all at home and at Greyton.
I am Your True Son, Benjamin

Mother Address my letters: Pte. B. West, No 10262, 4th S.A.I. D.Coy, Army Post Office, London
Love to all

On the same day he wrote to his sister Susie on the letterhead of the King George and Queen Mary Victoria League Club, London:

13 Jan. 1917.

Dear Susy

Just these few lines to let you know that I am in sound health still, hoping you will be same. I am surprised that I have't receive a letter from home yet, but I'll live on hope perhaps they went astray. How are you all getting on at Greyton, and tell me where you are at present, also Barbara. How is she getting on. We are leaving for France on Tuesday, that is on the 17th Jan. Give my best love to all at Greyton. If you write again please address the letters as the undermentioned address. Dont add. It to Bordon anymore. Closing with love and kisses.

From Your Brother Boy, Ben
P.S. Add Pte. West, No. 10262, D.Coy, 4th S.A.I. Army Post Office, London, England

On the 28rd January 1917 Ben wrote that they had left England on the 17th January and were in Rouen in France:

Rouen. 28 Jan 1917

Dearest Mother

Just these few lines to let you know that I am in sound health still, trusting this will find you in the same condition. We left England on the 17th Jan. and are now at Rouen. It seems to me as if France is ten times as cold as England. In fact it is so cold that I can hardly hold the pencil. Is Peter at home already or is he still out in German East. I hope he will be at home ere long though. Give my best to all our family and all at Greyton.

I just met Squire Clein of Caledon today, he is in the same regiment as I am.
Closing with love and kisses.
From Your Son, Benj. West
P.S. Please send a little money and cigarettes if possible. Ben

On the 15th February 1917 he wrote from Rouen to his sister, then a school teacher on the farm Melkbosch in die district of Bredasdorp:

France, 15th Febr

Dear Susy

Just a line to let you know that I am in sound health still. It is some time that I had a letter from you last, hope you have't quite forgotten me yet. It is fairly cold today. It simply makes me long for the South African sunshine again.

I have't heard from Barbara for some time now but I hope she is in good health. I am longing for you all so much already. Let us hope it won't be too long now. Well dear I have't got much more to tell you, so I think I'll close with fond love to all @ home
Your Fond Brother, Ben

He wrote to Susie that he “have'nt heard from Barbara for some time now” but twelve days later on 17th February 1917 he referred to her in a letter to his mother:

A longer one next time Mother. No time.

17th Feb. 1917

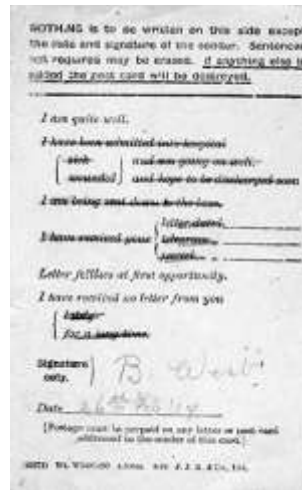
Dearest Mother

Just this note to tell you that I am faring well still, hoping you are all the same. I am sorry to say that I have'nt had a letter from you ever since I left South Africa. I am looking out for one every day though. Please add my letters B.E.F. France, that will find me. Don't forget to put the number. Give my best love to all at home hey?

From Your son, B. West

P.S. Barbara told me that Peter is coming home is that so? Love

On the 22nd, 26th and 28th February 1917 he sent pre-printed pro-forma army cards, signed by him, with the words “I am quite well” printed on it. All the other printed remarks like “I am admitted to hospital, sick, wounded, am on going well, hope to be discharged soon, I am being sent down to the base, I have received your letter telegram Parcel”, are scratched out and then again the printed remarks: “Letter follows at first opportunity” and “I have received no letter from you”.



RIGHT: Example of the pre-printed card.

Other letters from France:

6.3.1917

Dear Mother

Just these few lines to let you know that I am in sound health still. Trusting you are all the same. I received your letter dated on Xmas day, and really I felt so glad to read a letter written from home. Give my best love to all at home, and tell them that I'll write when I have time.

From Yr. Son, B. West

Best Love to all at home.

Ben wrote a few short letters and a card during the Battle of Arras which took place from 9th April till the 16th May 1917 during which the British forces had 160 000 and the Germans 125 000 casualties.

On the 17th April 1917 Ben again sent a card with only the words: “I am quite well” printed on it.

On the 19th April 1917 the card is followed up with this letter:

B.E.F., France. 19.4.1917.

Dear Mother

Your letter safely to hand, thanks for same. I am still doing well and hope you are all the same at home.

How is Peter getting on, since he came back from German E. I hope the fever has left him by now. Give my best love to Daisy's and Lily's families, hey? ma. I expect, Beatie and Johnie is quite two big boys by

now, hey? I am sorry to say, that I have'nt received the cigarettes you sent me. I only hope it will be here soon. News are out of the question here ma, so allow your son to close with love to all at home.
Benjamin West

His four letter/card and this short letter where he missed his cigarettes and his remark "News are out of the question here ma" said so much more when you read it against the background of the battle of Arras.

The brave soldier and poet Siegfried Sassoon who was awarded the Military Cross for bravery and fought during the battle of Arras when he lost a friend there, wrote in 1918 the following poem about this battle:

THE GENERAL

*"Good-morning; good-morning!" the General said
When we met him last week on our way to the line.
Now the soldiers he smiled at are most of 'em dead,
And we're cursing his staff for incompetent swine.
"He's a cheery old card," grunted Harry to Jack
As they slogged up to Arras with rifle and pack.
But he did for them both by his plan of attack.*

During this terrible battle, on the 22nd April 1917, he missed Barbara as he wrote to his sister:

B.E.F., France. 22nd Apr. 1917.

Dear Susy

Your letter safely at hand for which I am thanking you so much. I am in sound health still, and trust that you are all the same. I lost your add. (address) so I am addressing your letter to mothers. That won't make no difference will it? When last did you hear from Barbara. I should like to know how she is getting on. I am sorry that I can't write you a long letter W. but one hardly knows what to write, baring that you are well.

Closing with fond love From Your Brother, B. West

Envelope: "On active Service", Field Post Office 25 AP 17

Miss. S. West, Greyton, Caledon, South Africa. Signed: K R N Mackenzy

On 22nd April 1917 he wrote to his brother Pieter who was for a while in German East Africa (G.E.) and became sick there:

B.E.F., France. 22.4.1917.

Dear Peter

Just this note to let you know that I am still doing well. Well how did you like G.E. I daresay it is pretty rotten hey?

France is quite alright you know, but all the same. I think it is a nice country to be out of altogether. It is the cold that makes it so bad you know, although yesterday & today the sun was shining very fine. Give my best love to Henry and Mother hey?

From Your fond Brother, Benjamin West

Letter of 29th April 1917 to his mother:

B.E.F., France. 29.4.1917.

Dearest Mother

I received your most welcome letter yesterday, thanks for same. I am in best of health still and trust that this will reach you in the same state. I also received the cigarettes which came just when I was broke, but the money I have'nt received yet. I only hope it will be here soon. You know one always needs a little money. The letter must have gone astray, I think. Give my best love to all at home mother, and tell Lily I'll write to her next time.

With love From Yr son, B. West

On the 2nd May 1917 Ben wrote to either his brother Klaas or Pieter:

B.E.F., France. 2.5.1917.

Dearest Brother

Your most welcome letter safely at hand. Thanks for same. I am also in sound health still, and am glad to hear that you are same. I had a letter from ma she says that she forwarded me cigarettes and money. I received the cig. Alright, but the money has'nt turned up yet. Oh yes, as regards the cigarettes, you don't pay no duty on them, so I think you may forward them at first opportunity. I say You can be quite proud now that you have your own business hey? I daresay myself it is much better to be your own boss, than to slave for others all your lifetime. Well I must say now did a good thing, and I certainly wish you the best of luck with the business. How is Henry getting on one hardly hear of him. I am glad to say that the weather is getting fairly warm now. It makes me feel quite myself again. Well it is getting late old Boy and I have some work to do still.

Closing with kind regards to you all @ Bot River.

From Your Brother, B. West

First time wounded May 1917: Between his letter of the 2nd May and the next letter dated the 25th May 1917, Ben was wounded in his foot in North West France and was hospitalized in Richmond England from where he wrote to Susie:

Richmond 25th May 1917.

Dear Susy

I received your letter, thanks for same. I suppose you know that I am wounded, hey? So I need not tell you. Well I am progressing alright and I expect I will be out of Hospital ere long. How yourself. You ask me to tell you what England is like. Well I must say that it is most beautiful in summer but in winter it is nothing but snow. I am going to see Mrs. Browning as soon as I leave hospital. I wrote to her and she said she'd be very pleased to see me. Well news are but scarce you know as few usually?

From Your Brother, B. West

NOTE: The Mrs Browning he referred to was the sister of Mr Browning the tailor in Worcester.

In an undated letter written on or after 25th May 1917, Ben wrote from the hospital in England to his mother:

B.I. Ward, South African Hospital, Richmond, Surrey, England.

Dearest Ma,

Just this note to let you know that I am still progressing fairly well, and that I am at the above mentioned Add. Now. You need not worry about me ma because the wound aint very bad, and as I said it is getting better daily. I have'nt got time to let every body know, but I daresay they will know it pritty quick. Give my best love to all at Greyton hey?

Please give this letter to Barbara to read hey? Ma because time won't allow me at present.

From Your True son, Benjamin West

P.S. I am wounded in the foot still going strong. Love to you B. hope you will read this.
NOTE: "B" referred to Barbara Solms.

On the 6th June he sent his mother a card and followed it up with his letter of the 8th June 1917, on a letterhead reading: "King George and Queen Mary, Victoria League Club, For Men Of The Overseas Forces. Telephone: Gerrard 1112, Charing Cross Road, London W.C.2. [Charing Cross Road is today the A400 road in London – JC].

8th June 1917

Dearest Mother

I (write?) a line to let you know that I am doing well, and that I am on leave again. I wrote to you before but I heard that the boat got sunk. So I don't know whether, the letters were on that boat perhaps. I received the money & cigarettes thanks for same. I was quite surprised to see that such a lot of people died at Greyton already since I left. Give my best love to all at home.

I am Your Fond son, Benj West

On Ben's twenty third birthday the 28th June 1917 he was out of the hospital on embarkation leave before he went back to France. **He wrote a letter to his mother with the same letterhead as above, from Woking ± 40 km South West of London:**

June 28th 1917.

Dear Mother

It is my birthday today, and glad to say, I am still doing well. You know it never struck me that it was my birthday, until I sat down to write you this letter. It is about 7 o'clock now it is nearly too late to think about it now.

Give my best love to all at home hey? I am on Embarkation leave now, and I might say I'll be in France again within a few days. Worse luck. I have'nt got anything else to tell you at present so – allow your son to close with love & kisses.

From Your son, Benj. West

On 7th August he sent a "I am quite well" card to his mother and on 10th September 1917 he wrote to Susie that the war was not coming to an end very soon and that she should wait with her wedding till he was back home:

France. 10th Sept 1917.

Dear Susy

Your most welcome letter safely to hand. Thanks for same. I am in sound health still, and am glad to hear that all at home are the same. I am sorry that I lost your address so I'll have to add. it to mother. Anyway it wont be long before you have it. I had a letter from Barbara a few days ago. She is doing well too. It seems to me as if the war is going to last quite a long time still. That is only what I think you know, perhaps it might be over before Xmas. I really have'nt got much more to tell you, Sue, only don't get married before I come home, the same as Peter did hey? Yes I forgot to ask you, "What is the people like, you are boarding with". I hope they are kind to you.

Now I must close dear with fondest love.

From Your Brother, Benjamin West

In his letter to his mother on 26th September 1917 he repeated his view that the war would not end soon:

France. 26 Sept. 17.

Dear Ma

Your letter safely to hand, thanks for same. I am in sound health still and trust that you are all the same. I think I received all your letters and the money as well. I also had a letter from Susy. I am longing to be at home again, but somehow it seems as if the war won't come to an end. I have't much more news mother, so allow me to close with oceans of love to all at home.

From Your True Son, Benj. West

When the cold European winters, Christmas and New Year came nearer, he wrote to his mother on the 4th November 1917:

France. 4 Nov. 1917.

Dearest Mother

Your most welcome letter to hand today, thanks so much. I am in sound health still and hope you are all quite well. I also had a letter from Susy, she too is quite cheerful. I am longing so much to be back home again when I see it is getting so near to Christmas & New Year. I think I received about all your letters ma. It is beginning to get pretty cold out here already, and I daresay it will start snowing too in a couple of weeks. We are not downhearted yet. Give my kind regards to all @ Greyton mother and tell Henry that I hope to be at home before he gets married hey? With fondest love

From Your Son, B. West

On the envelope: On active Service. STAMP: Field Post Office 10, No 17, C.P.I. PASSED BY: H M le Rina"

In his letter to Susie on 6th November 1917 he sent four curls of his hair, one for Barbara. He asked that the family should invite her for "the table" on New Years Day:

France. 6 Nov. 1917.

Dear Susy,

Your most welcome letter safely to hand thanks for same. I was glad to hear from you again, that you are all well still. How is Barbara getting on. I daresay that when this reaches home you will be back for your holidays, that's why I am add. it home. It is getting on to New Year already hey? Would I wire at home then. I am sending you four little curls of self as a remembrance hey? Give Minnie one too and B. if she cares to have one. Will write a long letter next time hey? With fondest love

From Your Fond Brother, Benjamin West.

P.S. Think of me when you all sit at table New year's day. Invite B. (Barbara) if she is at home. Will be with you in thought."

After he received letters from Barbara and his sister Minnie, he wrote on the 30th November 1917:

France. 30 Nov. 1917.

Dear Mother

Your most welcome letter to hand, thanks for same. I am very glad to hear that you are all in good health still, & also that I am same. I just had a letter from Barbara and Minnie too. B. tells me that Peter wants to sign on for Europe. I think myself it is silly of him to get married and then to sign on. Perhaps he may think twice. Give my best love to all @ home please hey?

From Your Love son, Ben West

On 22 December 1917 after he received letters from Lily and Susie he wrote:

France. 22 Dec. 1917.

Dear Ma

Your letter safely to hand. Please accept my cordial thanks. I am in sound health still, and trust that

you are all ditto. I had a letter from Lily, also from Susy. Just ask them to excuse me for not answering theirs, just at present but (the) time would not allow me just at present. As long as you know. "I am well hey?" It is about all I can write too, because I've got no news. Well ma, I sent you a Xmas card, if you will kindly keep it will explain to you what it mean.

From Your true Son, B. West

On the 22nd January 1918 the long durance of WWI let him feel old as he wrote:

France. 22 Jan 1918

Dear Mother

Just a line to tell you that I am quite well still and trust that you are all same. It is quite a long time since I had a letter from you last, but I daresay the mail has been delayed again. I feel so tired tonight that I can hardly write, so you will excuse me for not writing a long letter hey? I had a letter from Peter too the other day, only Henry seems to be lazy. Is Noble still alive ma? I am longing so much to be at home again. One seems to grow quite old out here, it seems to me. Well ma I think I'll have to close as my eyes are nearly closed already. Closing with a real longing for you all.

Your Affectionately, Ben

On the 29th January 1918 he wrote with a longing to his family and friends in Greyton:

France. 29th Jan. 1918.

Dear Mother

I received your most welcome Xmas card yesterday, thanks ever so much for same. I am glad to hear that you are all in good health still and all the Greytonners. I am also doing fine under the circumstances. I had a little card from Lily and her family. It is fairly cold out here but today the sun is shining quite bright. I am trying to write you a long letter mother, but really what does not know what to write about. As long as you know that I am well I daresay you will be satisfied, won't you mother? Give my best love to all @ home. Am closing with a great longing for you all.

Your son, Ben

Ben was already fifteen months away from South Africa and missed the sunshine and his family when he wrote on 5th February 1918:

France. 5 Feb. 1918

Dear Mother

Just a line to let you know that I am in sound health still, trusting that you are all same. The weather out here is fairly cold on the whole, but now and then we get a nice bright day again, so we can't grumble at that, even though we miss the bright sunshine of South Africa. I have'nt heard from Lily & Susy lately but I daresay it is lazyness at their part.

had a letter from Peter the other day to my surprise. Well mother I have'nt got much news but at least I never has, so allow me to close with best love to all at home.

Your true Son, Ben

After the usual army "quite well" card of 24th February 1918 a lovely young unknown (to us) girl, C Brogan, sent him a photo of herself on the 17th March 1918 as she wrote:

Dear Ben

Just a PC [Post Card – JC] to let you know that I am sending you a photo this week. I have sent you a letter. You will likely get it alright, hoping you will likely be alright there??? you well. I want you to try get me photo of yourself all of present.

C Brogan (?), 17 March 1918.

On 18th March 1918 Ben mentioned that he longed for a few days in Blighty. Blighty is an army slang word for going to England after foreign army service.

France. 18th March 1918.

Dear Mother

Your most longing letter safely to hand, for which I am thanking you. I am pleased to hear that you are well still. As long as you are well, I am satisfied. It is really a summers day, and I am enjoying it so much. If it was'nt for the war out here, one would think you are back in Africa again. It is not far off my leave now, so I daresay a month or two will see me in Blighty again for a couple of days, if spared. Will be expecting a nice long letter.

Your loving son, Ben

Second time wounded Tuesday 19th March 1918. On the 20th March 1918, after he was gassed in France, Ben sent a card to his mother: *"I have been admitted to hospital and am going on well"*. The next day, the 21st March 1918 the 9 General Lake Side Hospital informed his mother, Mrs G West of Greyton that Pte B West no 10262 of 4th S.A.I. was admitted to the hospital. It could have been the no 9 General Hospital at Rouen which was taken over by the USA no 4 Base Hospital during 1917.

On the 27th March 1918, still in the hospital in France, he wrote that he was gassed.

France. 27.3.1918.

Dear Mother

Just this note to let you know how I am getting on. I daresay that you know by now that I am Gassed hey? Well mother I am not feeling too bad, and I hope you won't excite yourself too much about it. I am marked up to go to England and expect to be there within a few days. On the whole I do feel a bit queer. It seems to leave you for a while and then it suddenly comes on again. I have'nt received any letters from home lately, but I am expecting them soon. The weather out here, is fairly warm now. I have hardly got to tell you how I am longing for you all. You know how great a longing I have to be @ home again. With best love to all @ home.

Your Loving son, Ben.

Ben wrote the above letter during extreme heavy fighting in France. Germany had moved about 50 divisions from the Eastern to the Western front. They then had 192 divisions and 3 brigades on the Western Front and outnumbered the Allied forces. The Germans knew that the Americans were organizing sending about 300 000 soldiers very soon to France and another million later. They had to win the war before the arrival of the American troops. Two days before these heavy onslaught from the Germans in France, Ben sent the above card, dated 20 March 1918 card to his mother.

On the 31st March 1918 the South African Police of Caledon sent the following telegram to Ben's mother in Greyton:

Message 64, Words 36, Greyton, 31 August 1918.

Handed in at Caledon at 5, received here & 2.

From: Magistrate. To: Police, Greyton.

10/5 advise Magdalena Johanna West her son Benjamin West, 10262, 4th S.A. Infantry, wounded gassed x please convey my regret and if possible ask Dutch minister convey news to parents.

Three weeks after he was admitted to the hospital he wrote the following letter to his mother on a letterhead of Soldiers' Christian Association, On Active Service, S.C.A. Camp Home, France:

France. 12.4.1918

Dearest Mother

Just a line or so to let you know how your son is getting on. I am not feeling bad at present, and am glad to be able to say, that I will be quite well again ere long I hope. I wrote you several letters already since in Hospital but I long for you so much that it is a relief to write to you. It is a very long time since I had a letter from home last.

Address is 13 Con. Depot. K.Roy, B.E.F. France. Please don't forget K.Roy.

From Your True Son, Ben

It seems that while he was in the hospital in Rouen, he had not received any letters from his family. On the 23rd May 1918, two months after he was gassed and when the onslaught of the Germans were very severe, he wrote:

B.E.F., France. 23.5.1918.

Dearest Mother,

It is such a time that I had a letter from you last, that I really don't know what to do. It is four months now that I heard from you last and I feel so worried about you. The only thing that I can think of is that the letters must have gone astray. I have hardly time to write you a long letter so please accept this note. Will write as soon as possible shortly. I only trust that you are all well, would I knew for certain. Give my kind regards to all @ home, also to Daisy and Lily. Will be expecting a letter from you soon. With much love to you all.

Your Fond Son, Benjamin

On the 30th May 1918, the day that German forces advanced on Paris and captured 50 000 Allied soldiers Ben had recovered from the gas attack, and wrote to his mother:

France. 30 May 1918.

Dear Mother

Your longing letter to hand yesterday dated January (something). I was so glad to hear from home again, also that you are all well still. I am also in good health still. Give my kind regards to all at home. Will write to them later. I am back with the Regt. again and is once more a soldier up the line, would be delighted to hear from you very soon. With Fondest love to all at home.

Your Fond son, Benjamin

Three weeks before his twenty fourth birthday he wrote to his mother on the 6th June 1918 that after his hospitalization he is fit again for the army:

France. 6 June 1918.

Dearest Mother

Your most welcome letter safely, to hand. Thanks ever so much for same. I am so glad to see that, you were informed of my being gassed. I was wondering whether you'd be informed or not. Anyway I am quite fit again. I had a letter from Lily just the day before yours. They seem to be quite cheery too. Would like to see little Ena now, she is quite a big girl by now, I daresay eh? I am quite wondering when Henry is going to drop me a letter again. He seems to be lazy eh? I am just thinking that it is nearing my birthday again. I can hardly believe that I am '24 yrs already. Well ma, I trust you are all in the best of health still, as this leaves me today. With best wishes for your welfare and safety.

From Your Loving Son, Ben

On 21st June he sent an "I am quite well" card to his mother and on his twenty fourth birthday Friday 28th June 1918 he wrote to Susie that the war would soon be over:

France. 28th June 1918

Dear Susy

Received your most welcome letter a few days ago. Thanks ever so much for same. I am in sound health still, and trust you are all the same. I suppose you know that this is my birthday today eh? I was rather surprised to hear that Minnie has got a ----- . It is a pity that he is going to sign on for Mesopotamia. I dont seem to fancy those places. Well cheer up he? The war will soon be over.

Your Brother, Ben

On 15th July 1918, four days before he was wounded he wrote his last letter to his mother:

France. 15th July 1918.

Dear Mother

I received your most welcome letter safely a few days ago, for which I am hastening to reply. I am quite well still and hope to hear the same from you. I also had a letter from Minnie. I am sorry to hear about J. Fourie being sick, as I believe it is rather a dangerous disease.

With love to you all from your Loving son, Ben

On Wednesday the 17th July 1918, Ben was not feeling well. It was two days before he was seriously wounded. For the last time he wrote to his friend, mentor and former employer, the tailor Mr J. Browning of 23 Adderley Street, Worcester, South Africa and his beloved sister and bossom friend Susie, a teacher at the farm Melkbosch near Bredasdorp:

Pte. B. West, No 10262, 4th S.A.I., B.E.F., France.

France. 17th July 1918.

Dear Mr. Browning

Your most welcome letter received yesterday for which I was ever so grateful. It was really a long time since I heard from you last. I suppose you never received all my letters. Am sending you my address, as I see you have'nt got it quite correct. Will be delighted to hear from you soon eh? Am thinking about you and the old Tailor shop very often, and wish I was back again.

With much love to Mrs. Winnie and self.

Your friend, Ben

France. 17 July

Dear Susy

Your most longing letter to hand, which I am hastening to answer. I am glad to hear that you are in good health still, and as happy as you seem to be in your letter. I only hope that you are not all going to get married before I get home again eh? At least you should'nt. I am not feeling too well today, but I expect I'll be alright again soon, so don't excite yourself about that eh? Am closing with a longing for you all.

Your Fond Brother, Ben.

The two letters were posted on the 20th July 1918, the day after he was seriously wounded.

Third time wounded – Friday 19th July 1918. Ben was dangerously wounded on the morning of the 19th July 1918 during the battle at Meteren. It is said that a hand grenade exploded near him and the shrapnel caused the wounds in his back. He was immediately taken to hospital. Meteren is about 5 km from the Belgium border and 40 km east of St. Omer where Ben was later buried. Meteren was in Allied hands, but on the 9th April 1918 the Germans took it back. On the 19th July 1918, the day Ben was seriously wounded, the 9th Scottish Division, 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers and South African Composite Battalion, after a fortnight's bombardment, retook Meteren from the Germans and took 300 of their soldiers captive. Meteren was completely destroyed.

Ben's mother, Mrs Lenie West received the following telegrams from the Magistrate of Caledon via the Police in Greyton:

From the Magistrate, Caledon. To Police, Greyton:

Inform Magdalena Johanna West of Greyton her son 10262 Benjamin West, 4th S.A.I. dangerously wounded in back.

From the Magistrate, Caledon. To Police, Greyton. 12.08.18.

*Inform Mrs M West her son Benjamin died of wounds 7th Aug.
Please convey my regret".*

On Wednesday 24th July 1918, Ben's sister Susie received the following telegram from the West family in Greyton:

24 Jul 18. Handed in at Greyton, Cape at 2.45. Received here [Bredasdorp – JC] at 3.30pm

From: West

To: Miss West, Melkbosch, Bredasdorp

Benjamin dangerously wounded in back.

Ben died early Wednesday morning at 1:50 am on the 7th August 1918 in Northern France, only thirteen weeks before the end of WWI. On the same day sister M Jennings who was in charge of the hospital ward where Ben died, wrote to his mother in Greyton:

18 P.P.S., B.E.f. 7:8.18

Dear Mrs. West,

I am very sorry to tell you that your Son, Pte B.West 10262, died in this hospital today at 1:50 am. He was admitted here on July 19th wounded in the back, & although everything that was possible was done for him he gradually got weaker & passed away this morning. Before he died he asked that one of his curls might be sent to you so I have enclosed one in this letter. He also sent his love to you all. He will be buried in the Cemetery near here with full Military Honours. I have written to his friend Miss File in London several times for him. Will you please accept my sincere sympathy with you in your loss.

Yours truly

M. Jennings - Sister

A copy of the letter of sister M Jennings and a picture of the curl of hair which she sent to Ben's mother on the 7th August 1918 are in the author's possession. After more than 100 years the letters, cards and the curl of hair are still in our possession.

Benjamin West was buried on the 8th August 1918 in the well kept Longuenesse Souvenir Cemetery, St. Omer, North West France, grave reference V.D. 36. The service was conducted by the chaplain James W Rose. With him, in the same grave was buried the 23 year old private N McInnes of the Royal Scots Fusileers

WWI ended on Monday the 11th November 1918 at 11 o'clock.

On Monday the 12th August 1918 at 3.30 pm his mother, the widow Lenie West received the following telegram from the magistrate in Caledon:

Message no. 40, 12.8.1918. Handed in at Caledon, received 3.30

From Magistrate to Police Greyton Cape 463.

Inform Mrs. M. West her son Benjamin died of wounds 7th Aug.

Among the letters and cards of condolence Ben's mother received the following letter from the Speaker of the National Assembly, hand written by himself and the envelope addressed to "Mevrou de Weduwe West, Greyton" (translated from Afrikaans):

Parliament, Cape Town.
Caledon, 14.8.1918

Dear Mrs. West

I am very sorry to hear that your son died of wounds in France. He died for his country convinced and died a magnanimous death – his example will always live in the history of South Africa. God Himself will heal your wounds. If I can do anything for you by the government, let me know.

Greetings.

Your sincerely

C. Joel Krige

On the 14th August 1918, the Army Chaplain, James Rose wrote from France to Ben's mother:

Aug. 14th 1918

My dear Mrs. West

You will have received the sad news before this reaches you of the death of your Son Private B West of the 4th S. African Battalion. He was admitted to this hospital on July 19th suffering from wounds in the back received in the fighting that morning. He lived until the early morning (1.50 am) of August 7th when he peacefully passed away. The first few days he suffered severely but after that the pain greatly diminished & I personally was hopeful he would pull through.

I visited his ward all the time he was here & had many short conversations with him. He was always pleased when I prayed with him & several times when suffering the most he specially sent for me to pray with him. He was strong in faith & told me he was quite ready to go fully trusting in Jesus Christ for salvation.

For a few days when he was feeling easier he hoped he might be spared to see you again but on August 6th he turned much worse & passed away early the next morning.

He was carefully & stailfully (stylefully - JC) nursed by the sisters, he had the constant care of one of our cleverest Doctors.

When I asked him what message I should send to you his request was that I should send you his love, & say that he desired you (his mother) to have any money that he possessed.

He is buried at a military Cemetery, Longueness, France. I conducted the service on August 8th.

With deepest Sympathy to you & all your family in the loss of your brave & splendid Son – may God Comfort you.

Yours in sympathy

James W. Rose, Chaplain, 18th CCS, France.

On the 15th August, Annie Swanepoel, the sister of Ben's mother Lenie, wrote a long letter of sympathy from Bot River where she and her husband Johannes Swanepoel lived. Sophy G(roenewald?) from Greyton wrote a similar letter.

A very informative letter which Lenie received was from the teacher Anna Blom, the daughter of Lenie's stepdaughter Mary who was married to Piet Smal. It is noteworthy that she addressed her step grandmother Lenie as "Ouma" (grandmother) five times in her letter.

On 17th August Mr Browning, Ben's friend, mentor and former employer wrote:

23 Adderley St, Worcester. 17 August 1918

Dear Mrs. West.

You dont know how sorry we felt about poor Ben. I can understand how you feel & believe me I couldnt feel it more if it were my own brother. Poor boy, it must be hard to die away from all friends. My mother was asking after him in her last letter. Well, Mrs West he has gone & Gods will be done, perhaps its for the best.

Ill never forget when he said goodbye. Believe me. I tried my best to keep him from going but man proposes & God disposes.

Well Mrs West I thank you for your kind thoughts of me & I hope I shall be worth of them. We Boys always seem to cause our mothers pain & we dont seem to realize it until we are old & then its too late. I often think of my poor old mother practically all alone in her old age.

Well Ben died a man & I'm sure God will take him to Himself & I do hope you will bear your lost with fortitude. Dont think of him as dead but that he is near you & watching over you until that day when you meet him above. I am sure he would not like you to grieve over him.

Dolly is also very unhappy to think we shall never see him again. Dolly is rather superstitious & we both hear his two knocks the other week but there was nobody at the door as Dolly passed the remarks that poor Ben's gone.

Well Mrs West please do not grieve & God in His good time will heal your wounds, give our sympathy to sisters & brothers & believe me

Your very sincerely

J Browning

On the 19th August, Sara J Von Solms sent a letter of sympathy on behalf of the youth of the Dutch Reformed Church. Lenie's brother Basie Van As and his wife Lenie sent a letter from Perzuis River.

On Friday 30th August 1918, three weeks after Ben's death, his sister Susie, a teacher at the farm Melkbosch, near Bredasdorp, wrote the poem "To My Brother" See next chapter.

In his letter of 15th September 1918, Mr Browning referred to Ben's last letter which he wrote on the 17th July. Mr Browning and Ben had a very close relationship and he described it as follows: "For not only was he my friend & pupil. He was my substitute."

23 Adderley Street, Worcester. 15 Sept 1918

Dear Mrs. West,

Your kind letter safely to hand, very many thanks, and by a strange coincidence I also received one from poor old Ben, saying he had received a letter from me. It appears I had been addressing his letters wrongly he said he was very often thinking of the old tailor shop – wishes he was back with me again. Poor boy he wrote it on the 17th of July. It must have just a few days before he was wounded.

I am so sorry he never had a chance to see my Mother she often enquires about him, but am glad he was able to spend the weekend with my sister. Well, Mrs West, I do hope you are getting reconciled to your loss. You know Mrs. West, I am not superstitious but Mrs Browning says it was on the 7th that we distinctly heard the two knocks in the dining room door. It seems strange.

I am enclosing Ben's letter as perhaps you may like to read it. I only trust that God will bless you and keep you. I hope at some future time I may be able to take advantage of your kind invitation and Mrs West if you should at any time have Bens' photo copies I should be glad if you would let me have one. For not only was he my friend & pupil. He was my substitute.

I thank you for all your kind thoughts of me. I only trust I shall be worthy of them. Please remember me kindly to all kind friends not forgetting your dear self. Mrs Browning also joins me in wishing you peace & comfort.

J. Browning

The casualties during WWI were enormous. The total number of mobilized forces on both sides were 65 038 810 of whom 8 528 831 were killed, 21 189 154 wounded and 7 750 919 became prisoners of war or went missing. In France, where Ben fought and died, there were 8 410 000 mobilized forces from Germany and the Allied forces of whom 1 357 800 were killed, 426 600 wounded and 537 000 became prisoners of war or went missing.

While in England, Ben befriended Miss Flo M File who worked at Price, Forbes & Co. Ltd, 3-4 Lothbury, E.C.2, London. In her letter of 7th August 1918 Sister Jennings referred to her as a contact person in England when she wrote: "*I have written to his friend Miss File in London several times for him*". Miss File was well informed of what was happening in the West's house in Greyton. She, for instance knew that Susie was there for Christmas. Whether she was Ben's latest girlfriend is not sure. Fact is that they were very good friends. It was she who organized on behalf of the West family to put a wreath on Ben's grave. Correspondence between Minnie, Susie and Flo continued after Ben's death.

The following letter from National Treasury, dated 4th September 1919, shows how the Speaker of the South African Parliament, Mr Joel Krige, personally got involved to help Ben's mother receiving an allowance.

F 22/13239, Treasury, Pretoria. 4th September 1919

Sir

Pension – Mrs M.J. West

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, and in reply thereto to inform you that, on inquiry being made at the Military Pensions commissioner's Office, I was informed that the case of Mrs. West will be considered by the Pension Board at its next meeting, probably on Monday or Tuesday next.

The reduced dependents' and Governor-general's Fund allowances for July and August have, however, been sent to Mrs. West in the meantime.

The enclosures to your letter are herewith returned.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant

J F Hausman

Secretary for Finance

The Hon. C. Joel Krige M.L.A., Mr. Speaker's Chambers, House of Assembly, Cape Town

We have two letters from Mr A H Lloyd of The Church Army and the letter of Miss File to Ben's mother. **On the 30th January 1920 Mr Lloyd wrote to Miss File:**

The Church Army Naval And Military Department, Rt Hon H. Pike Pease, M.P., (President and Chairman of Military Committee). Headquarters – 55 Bryanston Street, Marble Arch, London, W.1.

Mr A.H. Lloyd, Secretary of Department.

30th January, 1920.

Dear Madam

In answer to your letter of the 29th inst., we be glad if you will let us have full particulars of the grave in question. We will do our best to assist you, and after making enquiries shall be able to advise you definitely on the subject.

Yours faithfully

A.H. Lloyd

Miss F.M. File c/o Messrs. Price Forbes & Co., 3 – 4 Lothbury, E.C.2.

In his second letter Mr Loyd wrote to Miss File on 3rd February 1920:

3rd February, 1920.

Dear Madam,

In answer to your letter of 31st ult., we beg to inform you that the secretary of the graves Section is going to France in the course of a few days, and will make inquiries as to the possibility of our being able to undertake the placing of a wreath on the grave in question. We are sorry for the delay, but feel it will be more satisfactory to wait until we can obtain first hand information in this way.

Yours faithfully,
A.H. Lloyd

On the 5th February 1920, Flo File wrote to Ben's mother in Greyton:

I am dear trying to have the Grave photos graphed for you, of course it will take time.

c/o. Price, Forbes & Co. Ld., 3 & 4 Lothbury. E.C. 2 February 5, 1920

My dear Mrs. West,

Pleased no end to get your sweet letter dear for which many thanks. Am sure that you are anxiously awaiting a reply concerning your request as to the transit of the wreath for dear Ben's grave. Directly (?) I had your letter a young lady friend with whom I work came with me to "Winchester House(?)", St. James Square and enquired of the Secretary if it were possible for them to fulfill your request. They told me that they did now attend to a request of that description but gave me an address of the church army when I could apply. I am enclosing you the late two letters which I received in answer the last one arriving here yesterday dear hence the delay in my writing to you.

As soon as I receive the desired information dear I will then let you know, failing this dear I can only advise you to write to the Barough (?) Council of St. Omer who would be able to direct the cemetery keeper as to the wreath being placed on the grave. How much I should have liked to have gone over and fulfilled your request but that dear is impossible just as fares end far as you know we are some distant away.

So glad to hear that you are feeling better and trust by now that you are yourself once more. I suppose Susy has left you again you must have felt happy at having her home for the Xmas. As for myself I am not very fond of the Xmas holiday it makes me feel so sad. A forth night before Xmas we had an addition to our family, another dear little nephew whom we are calling Peter.

I have been wondering dear if you could spare me a photo of yourself, please forgive me for asking but I should so love to have one.

We are having glorious weather it is much too warm to be reasonable though, but it just suits me as I dislike the bitter cold winds.

Now dear I promise to let you know directly, I hear again from the Church Army I rather think they will be able to help you, hope so.

Please give my fond love to Susy and tell her I shall be pleased to hear also Minnie.

Fond love and kind thoughts to you my dear

Yours very sincerely

Flo. M. File

Since his childhood, Ben had a very good relationship with his mother, brothers and sisters. He wrote to them in English while his mother, wrote to him in Old Afrikaans, a mixture between Dutch and the Afrikaans we speak today. He loved the people of Greyton and usually sent greetings in his letters asking about them.

After his death the following appeared in the Cape Times:

WEST: Died of wounds in France of 7th inst, Benjamin West, aged 24, youngest and beloved son of Mrs West and the late George John Beatty West.

*Often we paused and think of you
And think of how you died;
To think you could not say good-bye
Before you closed your eyes.
No loved one stood besides you
To hear your last farewell,
Not a word of comfort could you have
From those who loved you well.*

*His sorrowing mother, sisters and brothers.
Greyton, August 12, 1918.*

I had the privilege to visit Ben's grave in St Omer on the 31st October 2006. It was an emotional experience. I was overwhelmed by rows and rows of people selling the most beautiful chrysanthemums on the street next to the Graveyard.

When I stood next to Grave no 36, Row D, Plot 5 where Ben West's body now rests in North West France, I planted a miniature rose tree on behalf of his family and told him what happened to his brothers and sisters. There in the Longueness Souvenir Cemetery my Uncle Ben, my mother's "childhoods playmate and her girlhoods friend as well" came very near to me.

The song, "The Green Fields Of France" about "The 19year old Willy McBride" who died during WW1 gives an insight into the experiences of the loved ones left behind. The different singers emphasize different experiences in this song. Youtube

I had 112 cards, letters and other documents from and about my late uncle Benjamin West in my possession at the time of writing.. JC.

Benjamin West

Born Genadendal	28.06.1894
Childhood - Genadendal	28.6.1894 – abt 1895
Greyton at school	about 1900 – 1913
Received Junior Certificate from the examiner Arthur Lee - 2 nd March 1905	
Received a certificate from THE TONIC SOL-FA COLLEGE - 25 th May 1909	
Worcester: At school and tailor for Mr Browning – 1914	
Simonstown	04 November 1914
Castle Cape Town	18 February 1915
Camps Bay	14 March 1915
Potchefstroom	12 September 1915
On board the Walmer Castle	Monday 6 th November 1916
Walmer Castle	10 November 1916
St Helena	Saturday 11 th November 1916
Reunion (Ascention?)	Monday 13 th November 1916
London	30 November 1916
Bordon	10 December 1916
Rouen France	17 th or 23 January 1917

do See cards from France

Febr & later

1st wounded

Wounded in foot in North West France
Hospital in Richmond England
Wounded in foot and Gassed

After the 2nd and before the 25th May 1917
25th May – June 28th 1917
18-20 March 1918

2nd wounded

9 General Lake Side Hospital Rouen France
Dangerously wounded in Battle of Meteren

19th July 1918

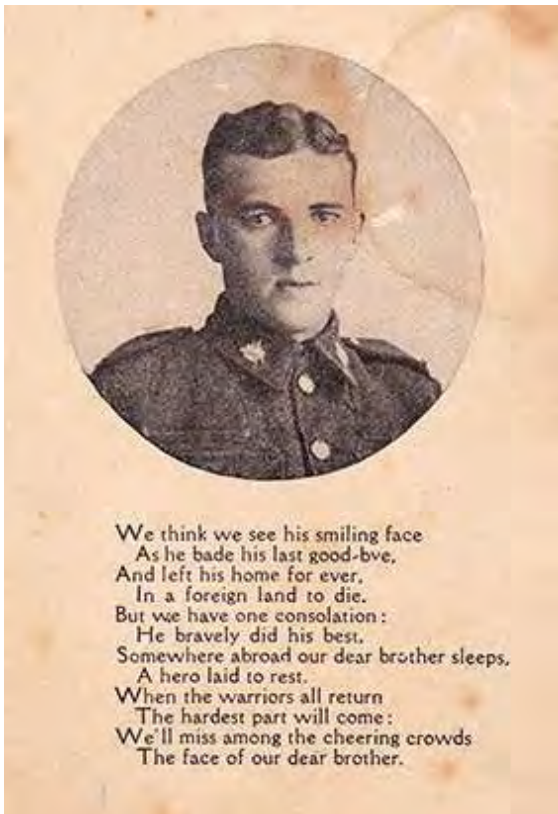
3rd Dangerously wounded

Died 19 days later in Hospital France
Buried Longueness Souvenir Cemetery
St Omer, North West France
Grave no 36, Row D, Plot 5

7th August 1918
Thursday 8th August 1918

WWI ends

Monday 11 November 1918 (11 a.m.)
Only 13 weeks and 5 days after Ben died.



*In Memory of
Private BENJAMIN WEST
10262, 4th Regt., South African Infantry
who died age 24 on 07 August 1918.
Son of Magdalena Johanna West, of Greyton,
Caledon, Cape Province,
and the late George John Beattie West.
Remembered with honour*

CHAPTER 34

Susanna Anna West – Farmer's wife of Clune House (1896-1970)



**Susie West with her husband
Stefaans Coetzee**

George John Beatty West was sixty nine years old when his nineteenth and youngest child, my mother Susanna Anna aka Susie West was born in Greyton on the 12th July 1896. She was named after her Van As grandmother Anna Stoffelina Susanna van As born Avenant. Susie wrote her name Susie, her brothers and sisters mostly Susy, Suzy, Sussy, Suizy, Suzie and Susie and in the memoriam it was witten Suzie. The College Principal wrote her names Susan Ann West.

On the day of her birth her eldest sister (half sister) Ellen was already a forty eight year old widow and grandmother of two grandchildren. When her father died on the 10th May 1901, Susie was only four years old.

SUSANNA ANNA aka SUSIE WEST

Born Greyton	12 July 1896	
Death of her father	10 May 1901	4 years old
Pupil teacher Greyton	1913 & 1914	17-18
Huguenot Seminary Wellington	1915	18-19
Teacher at Kiesieskraal	July 1916	19 - 20
Teacher Melkbosch, Bredasdorp	Nov 1918	22
Marriage with Gideon Petrus Coetzee	29 March 1921	24

She grew up in Greyton where she attended school. During the last two years of her school career, 1913 and 1914, she was a pupil teacher. A pupil teacher was a scholar who helped the teacher in class and so practiced to become a teacher herself.

On the 4th September 1914 her friend, the twenty one year old Stefanus Coetzee, doing his Military Training, (WWI) sent a card from Cape Town to the eighteen year old pupil teacher, "*Miss S West, Greyton, Caledon, C.P.: Dear Susie, Only a few words to tell you that we are now in Town in Good hope hall. We are going back to Maitland again – I don't know when. Thank you very much for the wire (telegram). I remain Yours Truly, S Coetzee*".

We do not know when Susie met her future husband. We only know that Stefaans was introduced to her by her friend, his sister Hessie.

On the 9th of January 1915 the school principal at Greyton, W J D van Schalkwyk gave her this testimonial:

Public School, Greyton, Dist. Caledon, 9th Jan. 1915

I hereby certify that Miss. Susan A. West was a scholar of this school. For the last two years she was a pupil teacher (Jan. 1913 – Dec. 1914).

I have always found her to be a diligent and obedient scholar. As a pupil teacher she has a good way of conducting a class & keeping good order. I have much pleasure in recommending her as one whom I consider very fit for the teaching profession.

She was in receipt of a government grant. She entered as candidate for the senior Pl. 2nd year Examination in December last.

W..J.D. van Schalkwyk, Principal

Susie loved attending Sunday School as well as the Kinder Sendingkrans where the children learned to be more missionary orientated. Her mother Lenie who lived for many years at the Moravian Church Mission station Genadendal and later was a leader in the Vroue Sendingbond in Greyton, certainly had a great influence on her. On the 17th January 1915, the Rev P B Botha who was also a missionary and therefore addressed as Eerwaarde, not Dominee, gave her the following testimonial:

Hiermee wensch ek de ondergetekende als zendeling leraar der neder. Geref. Kerk Greyton afdeling Caledon het volgende omtrent Susan West te Certificeren.

Ik kin haar sedert baie kinderdagen voor meer dan 8 Jaren. Zij is van een goed zedelijke karakter.

Zij heeft haar ook altijd goed gedragen. Zij heeft getrouw de Zondagschool begrekt, in was een werkend lid van de Kinder Zending Krans. Mij kannen haar dus eenige Hogen School of College met vrijmoedigheid aanbevelen.

Eerw. P.B. Botha, Greyton, 17.1.1915

(I the undersigned missionary of the Dutch Reformed Church Greyton, division Caledon, hereby certify about Susan West: I know her since her childhood for more than 8 years. She is of good moral character. She was always well behaved. She regularly attended Sunday School and was an active member of the Childrens Missionary Society. I take the liberty to recommend her to any High School or College. Rev P B Botha Greyton 17.1.15)

In 1915 Susie went to the Huguenot Seminary at Wellington where she studied as a teacher and stayed in the Bliss Hall hostel. While in Bliss Hall, her brothers Henry and Ben often wrote to her and sent pocket money. Susie befriended Barbara Solms, her brother Ben's girlfriend. Ben trusted her with his secrets. Susie was very sincere in her relationship with the Lord. On 11th September 1915 she dedicated herself to the Lord and adhered to it for the rest of her life.

After successfully completing her studies, the college principal gave her this testimonial:

James Harvey M.A., Principal, Training College, Wellington. 20th Sept. 1915

Miss Susan Ann West has been a student at the Training College, Wellington, during the present year, 1915 pursuing the third year Senior Course, T3.

The method mistress reports that she is a patient and painstaking teacher. She has a sympathetic and encouraging manner and really wins the goodwill of her scholars. Her lessons are carefully prepared and intelligently taught. She has a special attitude for teaching infants and juniors.

Her class work has been well done and she occupies a good position. She has taken her part in the organized school games. Miss West may be relied upon for steady, intelligent teaching.

Susie started her teaching career at the farm Kiesieskraal situated between Bot River and

Vyeboom. It is near the old Van der Stel Pass. From there she wrote the letter to her brother Ben on 23rd July 1916 in which she reminded him to pay Miss De Villiers the money he borrowed from her.

We do not know much about her time at Kiesieskraal. On the 30th November 1916, Susie was no longer there since the letter that Ben wrote to her from the battlefield in France, was readdressed from Bot River to Greyton.

Susie took up her next post at the farm Melkbosch near Bredasdorp where she stayed with the Van Papendorp family. It was there that she learnt about the death of her beloved brother Ben in France on the 7th August 1918. On Friday 30th August 1918, three weeks after his death, she wrote the following poem in memory of him:

TO MY BROTHER

<p>1 <i>Brother, mine, how I miss thee, When around our haunts I roam, Sad to think that now for ever From my sight thou hast gone.</i></p> <p>2 <i>When I think of all our games That we played in days gone by Then the bitter thought comes to me "They are gone for ever by".</i></p> <p>3 <i>When I think of how you left me With your bold heroic smile When you told me to be patient Duty wanted you awhile.</i></p> <p>4 <i>Then we pictured your return After duty should be done And we smiled amid our sadness For we hoped in safe return.</i></p> <p>5 <i>Then we kissed a last good-bye As the train began to start And then left my childhoods playmate And my girlhoods friend as well.</i></p> <p>6 <i>But now God has willed it different, And within your grave you lie, Far away from those who love you And who utter many a sigh.</i></p> <p>7 <i>Far away in distant Europe, Where your kith & kin can ne'er Ever come to look upon you, Or a wreath for you prepare.</i></p> <p>8 <i>For although we do not grudge you From our King & country both</i></p>	<p>9 <i>Still we feel the loss severely, For we loved you oh! so dearly That we very, very nearly, Can't believe it is the truth.</i></p> <p>10 <i>Can it be that you wilt never Never more to us return? Then dear brother, let us hope In the Kingdom, there above</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>We shall meet upon the shore Where sad partings are no more.</i></p>
--	--

S. West

30/8/1918". Melkbosch, Bredasdorp

While at Melkbosch, her lover Gideon Petrus aka Stefaans Coetzee often covered the forty kilometers on horseback to visit her. He came from the farm Soetmelksvlei which was situated between Rivierzonderend and Greyton. He was a very neat and well dressed young man and always brought his "best clothes" with him in his saddle pack.

On 31st December 1919 he sent this telegram wishing her a happy New Year:

*TELEGRAM No Message 106
STAMP: Greyton 31 DEC 1919
Handed in at Caledon at 1.30 Received here at 10.55
From: Stefanus To: Miss S. West, Greyton
Best wishes for a Happy New Year.*

On Tuesday the 29th March 1921 the twenty four year old Susie married the twenty seven year old Stefaans. The reception was held in the Park Hotel, Caledon. The couple spent their honeymoon in Cape Town. After their marriage they settled on a section of the farm Soetmelksvlei and lived for about thirteen years in the old house next to the bridge. During 1934 his brother in law Pieter West built the house on the adjacent farm Clune House for £600 (R1200-00). My sister Suzette and I was born in the new house. About 20 years later the extension of the house cost the same amount! The six foot two inches (1.85m) Stefaans was a strongly built, hardworking, intelligent farmer. He single handedly cleared land, preparing it for farming.

The couple had a wonderful relationship based on respect for each other. He enjoyed to tease her but he would always spoil her with some of the first peaches, prunes or a nice ripe pear from the orchard. They had strong faith in God and high ethical standards. Stefaans was a trusted leader in the DRC and often represented it at the Synods. As her mother Lenie, Susie was a dedicated member of and played an active role in the "Vroue Sendingbond" (Womens Mission Society) of Greyton. She usually counted the eggs which the hens laid on Sundays and saved that money as a donation to Captain Cherry of the Salvation Army.

Clune House became the place where Susie's brothers and sisters and their families gathered. Susie's sisters Min and Lily with their husbands Pieter and Kas and some of their children often stayed for days on the farm. Sometimes her sister Daisy and her brothers Henry and Pieter would also be present. During the winter evenings when the Sonderend Mountain was covered with snow, they would gather at the fireside. Then stories and jokes were told while country and political issues were "solved". Meanwhile the women sat along the dining table with their knitting. Deep emotional discussions were held about their children participating in WWII. Those were happy and enjoyable times. There the nephews and nieces learned to know each other and arguments were plentiful.

Susie and Stefaans had eight children:

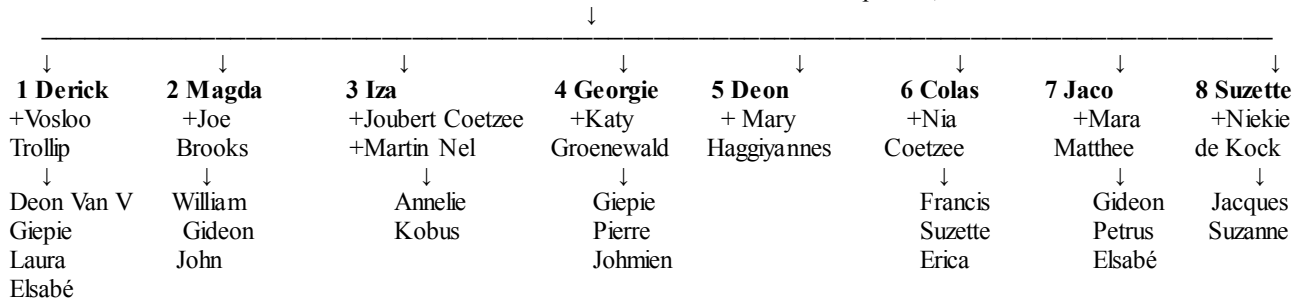
Dirk Josua aka Derick Coetzee, Magdalena Johanna aka Magda Coetzee, Hester Elizabeth aka Iza Coetzee, George John Beattie aka Georgie Coetzee, Gideon Petrus aka Deon Coetzee, Nicolas West aka Colas Coetzee, Jacobus aka Jaco Coetzee and Susanna Anna aka Suzette Coetzee.



Back: Derick, Georgie, Deon, Colas and Jaco. Front: Magda, Iza and Suzette

Children and grandchildren of Stefaans Coetzee and Susie (West):

Susanna Anna aka Susie West b. 12 Jul 1896,
+Gideon Petrus aka Stefaans Coetzee b. 30 Sep 1892,



1 Dirk Josua aka Derick Coetzee was born on Soetmelksvlei on 16th May 1922. He was named after his grandfather Dirk Josua Coetzee. He and later his sister Magda first attended the nearest school at Happy Valley. Since it was too far for them to walk daily, Susie and Stefaans put them in the school at Greyton where they stayed with their grandmother "Ouma Lenie" West.

Derick told many stories about the years with ouma Lenie. His much older nephew, George John Beattie aka Beattie Groenewald, Daisy's son, also stayed there with him. Arriving home after school one day, the two nephews were very hungry. Beattie's mother gave them black coffee and unbuttered bread. Derick enjoyed his black coffee and ate the bread. Beatty however, refused to drink the black coffee. He and his mother had the following argument:

BEATTIE: *I am hungry. I am not going to drink that black coffee.*
 DAISY: *Sorry Beat, but we do not have milk in the house today.*
 BEATTIE: *Then we must buy milk. I am not going to drink that black coffee.*
 DAISY: *But Beat my son, there is no money in the house to buy milk.*
 BEATTIE: *I want milk. I am very hungry. I am not going to drink that black coffee.*
 DAISY: *(Becoming frustrated). Beat, I told you several times and explained it to you, we do NOT have milk or money in the house. If you have to have milk in your coffee, the sow have piglets. Go and milk her.*

Beattie jumped up from his chair, left the bread on the table, grabbed a jug and went outside. A while later he came back, poured the pig's milk into his coffee and drank it. Nobody said a word. Only Derick kept his hand in front of his mouth to hide his laughter.

After Greyton, Derick attended school at Rivierzonderend and Villiersdorp. During WWII, he joined the Air Force in Pretoria where he met Gertuida Theodora Vosloo aka Vosloo Trollip. Vosloo was pregnant when they married on 30th December 1943. They gave their first born son for adoption. The family and friends were left under the impression that it was a miscarriage. That son, Deon van Vuuren, searched for twenty five years trying to find his mother. At the age of forty five he found her in Nelspruit, married to his biological father, Derick. What a reunion that was! Deon married Christina Alberta aka Alta Olivier. They have two children, Brand van Vuuren and Berdie van Vuuren. Deon van Vuuren's story, with all the joy and pain, is a subject for a book on its own. Deon died on the 16th June 2021 in Arends Nest, Mossel Bay.

Derick and Vosloo had another son Gideon Petrus aka Pietertjie Coetzee. Pietertjie was a very intelligent child with much business skills and a spirit of enterprise. He died at the age of nine when his father by accident drove into a train in Middelburg, Mphumalanga. Derick was found guilty of manslaughter.

Since Derick and his wife differed so much it was not an easy marriage to succeed. Vosloo had only grade eight and after her marriage did her grade ten. Derick studied at the Witwatersrand University, served on the Student Council and played rugby for their second team. After he received his degree in agriculture, he worked as a planner and adviser for the government in Mpumalanga. Although he was not so young any more, they gave him a bursary to study for his MSc degree. He worked for the Bonuscor group and did a lot of research in motivation for labourers. They named their training college at Barberton after him, the Derick Coetzee Training College.

Derick and his friend Brian Simmons researched the Jock of the Bushveld trail and drew the maps of those trails. He had an excellent general knowledge on a wide field of subjects. He was especially interested in other earlier civilizations such as the Indians who previously lived in Mphumalanga. He was involved with church work and represented the DRC at their General Synod. They had a daughter Laura born 7th August 1952, who was married to Gerald Edward aka Butch Downing. She died at the age of 53 in Port Elizabeth. Laura and Butch had two children, Thomas Derick aka Tommy Downing and Karen Downing. Both Butch and his son Tommy were land surveyors. Tommy lives in Canada and Karen in Port Elizabeth. Derick and Vosloo adopted a daughter Anna Elizabeth aka Elsabé Coetzee. Elsabé married Johannes Hermanus aka Haantjie Potgieter. They had one daughter Corlette Potgieter.

Derick died at the age of seventy one on the 11th December 1993 and was buried in Nelspruit with the sign of Jock of the Busveld next to his grave. Vosloo died on the 16th December 2010 and was buried next to Derick.

2 Magdalena Johanna aka Magda Coetzee was born on the 16th November 1923 and named after her grandmother Magdalena Johanna West born van As. She attended school at Happy Valley, Greyton and matriculated at Rivierzonderend. In Greyton she stayed with her grandmother Lenie and in Rivierzonderend with the school principal Mr & Mrs du Toit and later with Jaap and Bella Taljaart. After finishing school, she worked in Pretoria and later in Cape Town. On the 17th December 1949 Magda married the Namaqualander Joseph William aka Joe

Brooks. He was an ex WWII soldier who fought in North Africa and Italy.

The couple went through difficult times after WWII but with their perseverance and discipline they became the proud owners of houses in Bergvliet and Plumstead. With her husband's salary of £50 a month, two small children and a bond on their house she still saved £5 monthly at the Perm Building Society when they stayed in Wellington during the late 1950's. She was my role model of how to respect money, budget and discipline oneself with the handling of personal finances.

Magda and Joe are the parents of three sons: Their eldest son William Joseph aka William Brooks, Project Manager at Telkom, married Marina born de Jager. They have a son William Brooks.

Magda and Joe's second son Gideon Coetzee aka Gideon Brooks was first married to Elizabeth Magdalena aka Bettie Maré. They have three children, Werner Gideon aka Werner Brooks, Wayne Richard aka Wayne Brooks and Christina Magdalena aka Christine Brooks. After their divorce he married Lalita van Altena and after they divorced he married Ina.

Magda and Joe's third son, Hector John aka John Brooks married Cathy Moll. They lived in Canada where John studied and obtained his MBA degree. They have a daughter Sarah Ann aka Sarah Brooks and a son Ian Alexander aka Ian Brooks. John and Cathy was divorced and he came back to South Africa. The children still lives in Canada. John, an industrial engineer and his wife Catherine Eve, a school teacher, lives in Cape Town.

Joe died on the 8th September 2007 and Magda died only nine weeks later on the 13th November 2007. Their ashes were buried at the Coetzee family graveyard on Soetmelksvlei.

3 Hester Elizabeth aka Iza Coetzee, Susie and Stefaans's second daughter, was born on the 31st August 1927 at Soetmelksvlei where she attended the primary school. Iza was named after her grandmother Hester Elizabeth Coetzee born Joubert. She spent her high school years at De Villiers Graaff High School at Villiersdorp. After finishing school she worked in Cape Town where she met the engineering student from Potchefstroom, Barend Bartholomeas Joubert aka Joubert Coetzee. They married on the 18th December 1951 and had two children, Annelie Coetzee and Jakobus Hendrik aka Kobus Coetzee. Joubert graduated at UCT and later became the chief engineer of the Groote Schuur Hospital. After their divorce, Iza married Marthinus Jacobus aka Martin Nel, a close friend of Joubert. Martin and his late wife Suna were close friends of Iza. After Martins death, Iza stayed on at De Rust Retirement Village in Durbanville where she died on the 26th August 2018. Iza was a very caring person with a sharp memory and interested in her friends and family.

Her daughter Annelie was a very talented and intelligent person. With her sense of humor she was much loved by family and friends. In spite of severe health problems and using an oxygen machine, she finished her degree at the University of Cape Town with French, English and Afrikaans as major subjects and worked as a translator at Old Mutual Head Office. Annelie was also an excellent photographer. She died on the 27th December 1998 at the age of forty two. Iza and Joubert's second child, Jakobus Hendrik aka Kobus Coetzee was married to Rosemary aka Rosy Fletcher. After their divorce he married Carol Scoomby. He is a land surveyor in Cape Town.

4 George John Beattie aka Georgie Coetzee, the fourth child of Susie and Stefaans, was born on the 3rd August 1929 at Soetmelksvlei where he attended primary school. Georgie was

named after his grandfather George John Beatty West. After he finished grade ten at the High School de Villiers Graaff, the sixteen year old Georgie left school to farm with his father at Clune House. He concentrated on farming with onions, cabbage and other vegetables. Since his father Stefaans Coetzee also had Jersey cows, Georgie continued breeding with them. When his interest, knowledge, love and success with breeding became known, the chairman of the Jersey cattle breeders in South Africa, visited the farm and helped him to let his cows be registered to utilise this gene pool. The Clune House Jersey Stud of Georgie and his son Pierre won many championships. Members of the International Jersey Breeders Association visited the Jersey stud farmers in South Africa during the winter of 1997. They came with three buses and also spent a day at Clune House to view the stud.

Georgie was a humble and straight forward person who did much to help other people. With his strong ethical standards, sense of humor and as a devoted Christian, he was loved and respected in the community. He was involved in the work of the Church and represented the DRC Greyton at the synod.

Georgie married Catherina Wilhelmina aka Katy Groenewald on 2nd June 1956. They have two sons and a daughter: Their eldest son is Gideon Petrus aka Giepie Coetzee married to Catherine Elizabeth aka Arina Snyders. He is a manager of a large fruit farm between Ceres and Citrusdal in the Koue Bokkeveld. They have two talented daughters: Elsa Jacoba aka Elsa and Catherina aka Cathrine. Elsa, married to Riaan Oosthuizen, is a music teacher at different schools. Cathrine is a teacher at Heidelberg in the Westernen Cape.

Georgie and Katy's second son, Hendrik Petrus aka Pierre Coetzee married Karen Christien aka Karen Retief. Pierre, now a retired Jersey Dairy farmer, is the owner of Chikos in Ceres. He is well known among the dairy breeders and respected for his knowledge of dairy cows, especially his first love, the Jersey breed. For many years he is a judge at different National Agricultural shows. Pierre is often asked to judge the dairy herds of the different provinces in South Africa. He was also invited to judge on the Jersey Islands. The government of Pakistan once appointed him to buy dairy cows in Australia for their farmers. He is trusted for his honesty when buying dairy cows for customers. His youngest son André Frederick Coetzee is the fourth generation who continues the interest for the Jersey breed. He is married to Chimene Jacobs and lives near Mossel Bay. Pierre's eldest son George John Coetzee is an attorney in Hermanus.

Georgie and Katy's only daughter Johanna Margaretha aka Johmien Coetzee works at Old Mutual and is married to Johannes Hendrik Matthys aka Hennie Meyer. They live in Protea Heights near Bellville.

Georgie died on the 3rd May 2000 and is buried in the Coetzee family graveyard next to the farm Clune House, Soetmelksvlei. Katy stays in a retirement village in Brackenfell..

5 Gideon Petrus aka Deon Coetzee, the third son of Susie and Stefaans, was born 22nd August 1931 at Soetmelksvlei. Deon was named after his father Gideon Petrus Coetzee. After he finished his primary school at Soetmelksvlei, he went to the High School de Villiers Graaff. When in January 1947 Stefaans dropped his fourteen year old son Deon at Malherbe House in Villiersdorp he remarked: *"Hy sal maklik deur die lewe gaan. Hy sal vir homself sorg"*. (He will easily pass through life. He will take care of himself). Those were such true words. The dedicated and hardworking Deon obtained an A symbol for Physics and Chemics in the grade twelve final examination.

In every venture of his work, be it on the copper mines in Namaqualand, at Corn Flakes in Gauteng to being a property salesman, Deon gave 100% of himself. At a young age the Rotarians sent him as an exchange student to New Zealand. He hitchhiked through Australia, Japan, Cambodia, Vietnam, India, Afghanistan, Israel and then covered 20 000 miles through Europe in a cheap Volkswagen Beetle. On those hiking travels, he worked as a salesman in a vegetable market in Australia and was also a labourer at the Mercedes Benz factory in Germany. Then he hitchhiked back home through Africa. Deon married Mary Denise aka Mary Haggiyannes on 30th January 1966. He retired in his mid forties from work as an estate agent.

For many years he researched the West family, travelling thousands of kilometers to gather information. As a keen bird watcher he was involved in building a school and a clinic in Ethiopia. Through this they endeavoured to save the endangered White Winged Flufftail of Ethiopia.

Deon and Mary emigrated to Greece. He died on the 1st April 2020 and was buried in a beautiful graveyard on the mountain near Athens. His stepson Costa Tomazos with his two children Johnny Tomazos and Mary Ann Tomazos are a very successful business family with interests in more than thirty restaurants in England, Dubai, Beijing and other countries. Johnny and Mary Ann were for Deon as his own grandchildren.

6 Nicolas West aka Colas Coetzee, the fourth son of Susie and Stefaans, was born at Soetmelksvlei on the 4th December 1932 and named after his uncle Klasie West. After finishing his primary school at Soetmelksvlei, he also went to the High School de Villiers Graaff in Villiersdorp. Since childhood Colas always showed great perseverance when he embarked on a task. Although small built as a child, he concentrated on wrestling and became the South African University's heavyweight champion. He also wrestled for the Western Province.

Colas married Theunia aka Nia Coetzee from Prins Albert on 8th October 1960. They have three daughters: Frances, Suzette and Erica. Frances Coetzee has a BSc degree and is married to the highly successful farmer Jacobus Adrian Louw aka Japie Nel and live with their their two children Jacobus Adrian aka Alec Nel and Enya Nel on their farm near Nieuwoudtville. Japie is a well known Rooibos tea and potato grower. Suzette Coetzee is unmarried, has a BCom Rec degree and lives near Potchefstroom. Erica Coetzee married Mathys Johan aka Matie Taljaard who farm with fynbos near the Gysmanskloof Pass on the 4x4 road between Barrydale and Riversdale. They have four daughters: Minke Taljaard, Marica Taljaard, Nia Taljaard and Isabelle Irene aka Isabelle Taljaard who all studied at the Nort West University in Potchefstroom.

Colas was a dedicated mountaineer who climbed in the Alps, Himalayas and the Andes mountains. He was part of a group who were the first climbers to reach the top of the Tiquimani Mountain in Bolivia. After a hip replacement and six months after a severe heart attack, he was the leader of a mountaineering expedition. The next year he climbed Kilimanjaro and the following year he climbed for six weeks in the Himalayas. At the age of sixty five he was invited with other climbers to attempt the ascend of the 5880 meter high Volcan San Jose in Chile. He was one of only three of the forty climbers who then succeeded to reach the summit, the highest in his lifetime. When you ask him about the most beautiful and spectacular mountain he ever saw he will immediately reply: K2 in the moonlight.

Colas was a hardworking dedicated attorney with high ethical standards. During June 2015 the then 82 year old Colas sent his report weighing two and a half kilograms of paperwork and documents to his advocate Mr Bothma who had to represent him in the Supreme Court. The honourable Judge Steyn then requested Advocate Pieter-Schalk Bothma to convey her

congratulations to Colas and inform him of her admiration for the thorough way in which he handled the specific case.

*Pieter-Schalk Bothma Advokaat van die Hooggeregshof, 29 Junie 2015
Mnr N W Coetzee, Posbus 3, Ladismith 6885*

Geagte Heer,

- 1 Die bovermelde aansoek en my verskyning daarin namens die applikant op 18 Junie 2015 verwys.*
- 2 By die voormelde verskyning is ek versoek deur die voorsittende regter, Haar Edele Regter Steyn, om haar gelukwense en bewondering aan u oor te dra vir die wyse waarop u die aansoekstukke in die bovermelde aansoek opgestel het.*
- 3 Regter Steyn het aan my genoem dat die aansoekstukke na haar mening uitstekend opgestel is en dat dit getuig van 'n skerp intellek en sorgvuldigheid aan u kant. Dit is vir my 'n voereg om u mee te deel dat ek spesifiek versoek is om hierdie sentiment namens Haar Edel aan u oor te dra en aan u te noem dat u bydrae tot die regspleging aanhou om ander te inspireer.*
- 4 Weereens geluk!
Vriendelike groete,
Pieter-Schalk Bothma.*

(Pieter-Schalk Bothma, Advocate of the Supreme Court, 29 June 2015.
Mr N W Coetzee, P O Box 3, Ladismith 6885

Dear Sir

- 1 The above request and my appearance on behalf of the applicant on 18 June 2015 referred
- 2 With my appearance I was asked by the presiding judge, Her Honourable Judge Steyn, to convey her congratulations and admiration to you for the way in which you compiled the above mentioned application.
- 3 Judge Steyn mentioned that the application according to her opinion was extremely well compiled and that it shows a sharp intellect and thoroughness from your side. It is my privilege to inform you that I was specifically asked to convey this sentiment on behalf of Her Honourable to you and to mention that your contribution to the legal profession will continue to inspire others.
- 4 Congratulations!
Friendly greetings
Pieter-Schalk Bothma)

It was Colas who preserved our old West family documents in such a good condition

For many years Nia was the librarian of Ladismith and correspondent for *Die Burger*. Her articles were published in the book: *"KNIPSELS Nia se Ladismith Stories" (CLIPPINGS Nia's Ladismith Stories)*. Days before her death she was informed by Naledi Press that her book was in the process of being published. Nia died on the 11th December 2015 in the Medi Clinic in George.

7 Jacobus aka Jaco Coetzee, the youngest son of Susie and Stefaans, was their first child to be born in the new house on the farm Clune House. Pieter West, the brother in law of Stefaans, built it for £600. Jaco was named after his father's eldest brother Jacobus J J Coetzee. Jaco attended primary school at Soetmelksvlei and Nethercourt and then the High School Sir de Villiers Graaff, Villiersdorp. He studied at the Mission Institute in Wellington to become a minister.

Ouma Lenie's influence was seen in her children and descendants. At the end of 1960, twenty five years after her death, Jaco finished his theological studies. Without realizing it he used the same text for his sermon in the practical exams, John 15:5, which the Rev Botha used at his ouma

Lenie's funeral.

In Wellington he met the eighteen year old Maria Magdalena aka Mara Matthee from Cape Town. They were married on the 8th July 1961 in the Grootte Kerk, Cape Town where her father was the churchwarden.

Jaco was a minister in the Uniting Reformed Church of South Africa. Mara was a school teacher before their marriage. She was the National vice chair lady of the Women Association of the Uniting Reformed Church in SA and also the chair lady of the Managing council of the Elizabeth Conradie School for the Disabled in Kimberley. As a minister Jaco concentrated on youth work, catechism, hospital work as well as marriage and family life counseling. He was a down to earth person who succeeded to bring the christian religion to grass roots level. A revised version of his 1984 Afrikaans handbook for the instruction of the youth "*Hy is Myne. Ek is syne*" now appeared during 2019 under the title: "*He is Mine. I am His. Handbook for young leaders: an online formative journey*" by Prof Gordon Dames and Jaco Coetzee.

During 2019 prof G E Dames of The university of South Africa (UNISA) did research about Jaco's youth work and catechism. Prof Dames's article was published in the *Acta Theologica* of June 2020 of the University of the Freestate under the title: "*Didactic Scaffolding Leadership Pedagogy: A case study of learning through participation*".

During the tension in the URC in the Apartheid years, he did not join the different groups in the church which led to questions of why he proposed at the synod of the URC the draft of a Confession that became the Confession of Belhar. The late dr Chris J A Loff wrote in his doctoral thesis, "*Bevryding tot Eenwording*" p 262 about Jaco and Mara: "*Jaco Coetzee en sy vrou Mara het hul afkeur van apartheid uitgeleef lank vóór dit nog mode was om die sondigheid daarvan in te sien*". (Jaco and his wife Mara showed in their practical life their disapproval of apartheid long before it became fashion to see the sinfulness of it).

He retired at the age of fifty nine and they settled in Oudtshoorn where Mara ran her business, "*Recycle It*", for eleven years. Jaco and Mara have three children: Gideon Petrus aka Gideon, Petrus Hermanus aka Petrus and Elsabé Coetzee.

Gideon obtained his BSc degree in electrical engineering and also his MEng. He is a Programme Manager in the head office of Transnet. Gideon is divorced and has two children, Marco Jacques aka Marco Coetzee and Ilze Coetzee. Both children studied at North West University in Potchefstroom, Marco for his degree in Mechanical Engineering and Ilze for her degree in Teaching. Petrus married Erika Jantjé aka Erika van Pletzen. He studied BSc Building Management and work in Dubai. In 2022 he was the project manager for the construction of a fifty five storey hotel. Petrus and Erika have three children: Gerrit Pierre aka Gerrit Coetzee, Eugene Coetzee and Xander Coetzee. The couple is much involved in church work and marriage counselling. Jaco and Mara's daughter Elsabé Coetzee was a social worker. She worked for the Desmond Tutu Tuberculosis Foundation and made submissions at quite a number of international congresses in Europe. Her son Jaco Botha lives in Oudtshoorn. She is now married to Clive Vlotman and they live in Jerusalem and Oudtshoorn.

8 Susanna Anna aka Suzette Coetzee, the youngest of Susie and Stefaans's eight children, was born on 1st January 1940 at Clune House and named after her mother. Suzette attended school at Soetmelksvlei, Zwaanswyk in Retreat and matriculated at Villiersdorp before she studied as a teacher in Wellington. She was an outstanding athlete. Her first teaching post

was at Phillipi on the Cape Flats. She was a dedicated person who with her insight in the feelings of her pupils, really cared for them. After her marriage on 23rd June 1962 to the former bank clerk and then farmer Jacobus Nicolas aka Nickie de Kock they lived on his farm Eikenhof near Lindeshof where she was the school principal. Later she was the school principal at Soetmelksvlei. She and Nickie undertook many study tours with the school children of the area.

They have two children: Jacobus Nicolas aka Jacques de Kock and Suzanne de Kock. Jacques is married to Janet du Toit. He is a talented man who besides his work as Executive Systems Manager loves his hobby Music and often participate at different venues e.g. the Klein Karoo Arts Festival. Janet is a successful business woman. Their daughter Janitha de Kock is since her pre-primary school days an excellent business lady. As an intelligent and dedicated post graduate student she was given the opportunity to explain mathematics on the radio.

Suzette and Nickie's daughter Suzanne de Kock with her husband Hendrik Petrus aka HP Jacobs are both teachers in Namibia where Suzanne is the Head of the Department. They have two sons Pieter Ernest aka Ernest Jacobs and Nicolas Jacobus aka Nico Jacobs. Both are outstanding talented young men who excel in sport, especially hockey. While still at school they both represented Namibia in the men's international hockey tournaments. Ernest obtained a BRec degree and is busy with his post graduate studies in Sport Psychology and Science. Nico is studying for his BRec degree.

Suzette and Nickie were a hardworking, conscientious and disciplined couple in their successful catering business. They retired at Darling where Nickie died on the 16th of February 2019.

Stefaans died in the Caledon Hospital on 10th August 1959 at the age of sixty six. Susie stayed on at Clune House. Her youngest daughter Suzette with her husband Nickie de Kock as well as her farmer son Georgie and his wife Katy cared for her. She spent her last days with her daughter Iza in Kenridge, Durbanville where she died on 19th August 1970 at the age of seventy four. Stefaans and Susie are buried in the family graveyard at Soetmelksvlei between Greyton and Riviersonderend.

The descendants of Stefaans Coetzee and Suzie West:

- 1-Susanna Anna aka Susie West b. 12 Jul 1896, c. Greyton, d. 10 Aug 1970, Caledon, bur. Soetmelksvlei, Caledon**
- +Gideon Petrus aka Stefaans Coetzee b. 30 Sep 1892, d. 19 Aug 1959, Caledon, bur. Soetmelksvlei, Caledon
 - 2-Dirk Josua aka Derick Coetzee b. 16 May 1922, d. 11 Dec 1993, bur. Nelspruit
 - +Getruida Theodora Vosloo aka Vosloo Trollip b. 7 Aug 1921, d. Nelspruit, bur. Nelspruit
 - 3-Deon aka Deon Van Vuuren b. 30 Jun 1944
 - +Christina Alberta aka Alta Olivier b. 29 Nov 1946
 - 4-Brand aka Brand Van Vuuren b. 7 Apr 1971
 - +Danette aka Danette Human b. 14 Aug 1975
 - 5-Lizé aka Lizé Van Vuuren b. 11 Jul 1996
 - 5-Ruben aka Ruben Van Vuuren b. 18 Apr 1999
 - 4-Berdi aka Berdi Van Vuuren b. 7 Jan 1974
 - 5-Deon aka Deon Van Vuuren b. 5 Jan 2000
 - 3-Gideon Petrus aka GP Coetzee b. 24 Feb 1946, d. 23 Dec 1955, Car & Train accident, Middelburg, Tvl
 - 3-Laura aka Laura Coetzee b. 7 Aug 1952, d. 31 Oct 2005, Port Elizabeth
 - +Gerald Edward aka Butch Downing b. 18 Mar 1952
 - 4-Thomas Derick aka Thomas Downing b. 6 Oct 1973
 - 4-Karen aka Karen Downing b. 3 Dec 1975
 - 3-Anna Elizabeth aka Elsabé Coetzee b. 6 Oct 1955
 - +Johannes Hermanus aka Haantjie b. 6 Oct 1953, d. 6 Jul 2005
 - 4-Corlette aka Corlette Potgieter b. 20 Jan 1974
 - 2-Magdalena Johanna aka Magda Coetzee b. 16 Nov 1923, d. 13 Nov 2007, bur. Soetmelksvlei, Caledon
 - +Joseph William aka Joe b. 25 Jun 1924, d. 8 Sep 2007, bur. Soetmelksvlei, Caledon
 - 3-William Joseph aka William Brooks b. 3 Oct 1952

+Marina aka Marina de Jager b. 19 Apr 1961
 4-Wiliam Joseph aka William Brooks b. 27 Nov 1982
 3-Gideon Coetzee aka Gideon Brooks b. 31 Jul 1957
 +Elizabeth Magdalena aka Bettie Maré b. 8 Feb 1961
 4-Werner Gideon aka Werner Brooks b. 8 Oct 1987
 4-Wayne Richard aka Wayne Brooks b. 26 Jun 1989
 4-Christina Magdalena Brooks b. 10 Feb 1991
 +Lalita aka Lalita Van Altena b. 10 Apr 1959
 3-Hector John aka John Brooks b. 18 May 1961
 +Cathy aka Cathy b. 18 May 1961
 4-Sarah Ann Brooks b. 22 Jul 1993
 4-Ian Alexander aka Ian Brooks b. 3 Mar 1995
 +Catherine Eve aka Catherine b. 24 Apr 1964
 2-Hester Elizabeth aka Iza Coetzee b. 31 Aug 1927 d. 26th Aug 2018
 +Barend Bartholomeas aka Joubert Coetzee b. 20 Mar 1928
 3-Annelie Coetzee b. 16 Nov 1956, d. 27 Nov 1998, Belville
 3-Jakobus Hendrik aka Kobus Coetzee b. 23 Feb 1959
 +Rosemary aka Rosy Fletcher
 +Carol aka Carol Scoomby b. 20 Dec 1961
 +Marthinus Jacobus aka Martin b. 25 Feb 1922
 2-George John Beattie aka Georgie Coetzee b. 3 Aug 1929, d. 3 May 2000, bur. Soetmelksvlei, Caledon
 +Catherina Wilhelmina aka Katy Groenewald b. 12 Mar 1934
 3-Gideon Petrus aka Giepie Coetzee b. 9 Jun 1958
 +Catherine Elizabeth aka Arina Snyders b. 23 May 1961
 4-Elsie Jacoba aka Elsa Coetzee b. 17 Mar 1990
 +Adriaan Desmond aka Adriaan Oosthuizen
 4-Catherina aka Cathrine Coetzee b. 11 Jan 1994
 3-Hendrik Petrus aka Pierre Coetzee b. 11 Jun 1960
 +Karen Christien aka Karen Retief b. 14 Apr 1963
 4-George John aka George Coetzee b. 20 Feb 1985
 4-André Frederick aka André Coetzee b. 1 Sep 1987
 +Chimene Jacobs
 3-Johanna Margaretha aka Johmien Coetzee b. 23 Apr 1963
 +Johannes Hendrik Matthys aka Hennie Meyer
 2-Gideon Petrus aka Deon Coetzee b. 22 Aug 1931
 +Mary Denise aka Mary Haggiyannes b. 20 Sep 1927
 2-Nicolaas West Coetzee aka Colas Coetzee b. 4 Dec 1932
 +Theunia aka Nia Coetzee b. 19 Feb 1936, d. 11 Decembeer 2015, George Medi Clinic
 3-Frances aka Frances Coetzee b. 26 Jan 1962
 +Jacobus Adriaan Louw aka Japie Nel b. 24 Jul 1961
 4-Jacobus Adriaan aka Alec Nel b. 17 Nov 1994
 4-Enya aka Enya Nel b. 7 Oct 1998
 3-Suzette aka Suzette Coetzee b. 26 Mar 1964
 3-Erica aka Erica Coetzee b. 18 Feb 1968
 +Mathys Johan aka Matie Taljaard b. 8 Jun 1964
 4-Minke aka Minke Taljaard b. 7 Feb 1995
 4-Marica aka Marica Taljaard b. 9 Aug 1996
 4-Nia aka Nia Taljaard b. 1 Sep 1998
 4-Isabelle Irene aka Isabelle Taljaard b. 6 Feb 2001
 2-Jacobus aka Jaco Coetzee b. 29 Sep 1935
 +Maria Magdalena aka Mara Matthee b. 16 Apr 1940, Caledon
 3-Gideon Petrus aka Gideon Coetzee b. 3 Aug 1963
 +Cornelia Dina aka Corné Potgieter b. 4 Jan 1969
 -Marco Jacques aka Marco Coetzee b. 16 Mar 1995
 4-Ilze aka Ilze Coetzee b. 2 Jul 1998
 3-Petrus Hermanus aka Petrus Coetzee b. 14 Nov 1964
 +Erika Jantjé aka Erika van Pletzen b. 25 Feb 1965
 4-Gerrit Pierre aka Gerrit Coetzee b. 30 Nov 1992
 + Jodi Ann Middlekop
 4-Eugene aka Eugene Coetzee b. 9 Jul 1996
 + Salma Al Naoudi
 5-Kaylah Marie Coetzee
 4-Xander aka Xander Coetzee b. 5 Jun 2001
 3-Elsabé aka Elsabé Coetzee b. 6 Sep 1968
 +Marius Francois aka Marius Botha b. 28 Jan 1970 d. Jan 2014
 4-Jaco aka Jaco Botha b. 15 Dec 1991

+Clive Vlotman b10 Aug 1950
2-Susanna Anna aka Suzette Coetzee b. 1 Jan 1940
+Nicolas Jacobus aka Nickie de Kock b. 8 Aug 1937
3-Jacobus Nicolas aka Jacques de Kock b. 16 Jul 1964
+Janet aka Janet b. 11 Sep 1961
4-Janitha aka Janitha de Kock b. 2 Jun 1993
3-Suzanne aka Suzanne de Kock b. 4 Aug 1968
+Hendrik Petrus aka HP Jacobs b. 25 Apr 1966
4-Pieter Ernest aka Ernest Jacobs b. 5 May 1996
4-Nicolas Jacobus aka Nico Jacobs b. 8 Jan 1999

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Esterhuizen, Jane. *The West family.*

Fitzpatrick, David. 1982. *Class, family and rural unrest in 19th century Ireland* (In: Drudy, P.J., *Ireland Land, Politics and People.* Trinity College, Dublin.

Garrett, Yvonne C. 2015. "From the Trail of Tears to the Famine Road: The Choctaw Nation's gift to Irish Famine Relief"

Gavin, Philip. *The Irish potato Famine.*

Gregory, William. "Follow the Irish Convict Ship Trail"

Griffiths Valuation of Ireland (1850-1858)

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Ó Gráda, Cormac. *Black 47 and Beyond.*

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Van Bart, Marthinus. 2012. *Kaap van Slawe.* Tokai: Historical Media.

2 ARCHIVAL RECORDS

National Archives, Dublin

Correspondence Files: From Clements, the 3rd Earl of Leitrim to George Beatty West, 30th April 1840 to the 21st January 1861

The Tithe Applotment Books: 1830. (re. William West in Cloone, Co Leitrim)

Griffith's Primary Valuation of Lands and Tenants. 1830. (re. William West).

Registry of Burial. Certificate for Ellen West (73) of Graham Terrace, 26 December 1871.

3 NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Dublin Evening Mail, Obituary of John Beatty West, *Esq, Queen council, M.P.*

Dublin University Magazine, vol 26, p. 511.

Leitrim Advertiser, June 1852 (Article: *History of Cloone Conmaice*)

3 October 1872	22 February 1877	7 October 1886
3 March 1887	24 March 1887	21 April 1887
18 August 1887	29 March 1888	5 April 1888
17 January 1889	17 January 1889	12 February 1889
21 February 1889	21 February 1889	21 February 1889
7 March 1889	25 April 1889	9 May 1889
16 May 1889	16 May 1889	13 June 1889
4 July 1889	9 July 1896	29 October 1896
18 January 1900		

London Times, Saturday April 17 1847.

Longford Journal, 2nd May 1840; 16th May 1840.

Roscommon & Leitrim Gazette, 25th March 1826 "Asizes Leitrim" (re. Claudius West from Cloone); 14th July 1827 "House of Land of Claudius West taken by Mr Steward, burned"; 15 December 1827; 2 Nov 1839; 25th July 1842.

The Cork Examiner, (founded 1841): 10 May 1847 (Article: "Arson was Arson"; 26th May 1847; 1 January 1849 -Death notice,"*John Beatty West Esq*, 23 December 1863;

The Irish Examiner, (previously The Cork Examiner): 31 March 2011.

The Irish Genealogist, Vol 2, no 6.

The Nation, (Irish newspaper since 1842). 18 November 1843; April 1847.

The New Zealand Free Lance, (date?), (article "All sorts of people").

The Spectator, 1837, Vol 10, p. 919.

4 INTERNET WEBSITES

Cloone Parish History (website: www.ughavascloone.ie)

County Longford Heritage site, (see baptismal record for William West, 16th February 1826)

Geneanet

Measuring Worth. www.measuringworth.com (for converting old monies in today's value.)

Peerage.com. West family updates by Michael Jones.

Gavin's website chapters *Before the Famine, The Blight Begins, The Great Hunger, Coffin Ships, Financial Ruin, Gone to America, After the Famine,*

The Force of Hope: The legacy of Father McGauran; Fever Ships. (A documentary film) ca. 1998.

Wikipedia

Wiki Will of Carncross Nesbett of Aughamore, 19th November 1754.

Youtube, song "Grace".

Youtube, *"Leitrim (a brief history)"* by Mick Blake

5. LEGAL DOCUMENTS AND CONTRACTS

Dowry Contracts:

- William Claudius West and Eleanore Wilhelmina Nesbitt, 21 June 1820 or 7 June 1820?, Deed 773 384 524119.
- Major George West and Frances West, 8 March 1802, Deed 564359 (In: Family History & Genealogy Message Board – Ancestry.co.uk, Book 551, p. 542.)
- Mary West and the Rev George Crawford, 23 April 1798, Deed 551-542-364360.

6 COLLECTION(S) OF HISTORIC LETTERS

(Letters of the Ellen West collection were kept and preserved by Lenie, George's second wife, Susy Coetzee and Colas Coetzee.)

Letter from:	Letter dated:	Addressed to:
BRISCOE, Samia	05.09.1867	to George
CRAWFORD , George (14 yrs)	10.08.1854	to his parents.
CRAWFORD , Rev Francis John	11.09. 1855	to his brother Samuel Francis Crawford
ESTERHUIZEN , Mary Jane ("The West family")	07.1955	to "Children, Family and Friends"
ESTERHUISEN Mary Jane,	1958	
GROENEWALD-WEST, Elizabeth aka Daisy	04.09.1904	to her cousin Jemima West
MCFARLANE, Mary Jane	09.07.1955	to her mother, Mary Jane Esterhuizen
WEST, Benjamin	18.02.1915	his sister Susie West
WEST, Benjamin	March 1915	his sister Susie West
WEST, Benjamin	26.04.1915	his sister Susie West
WEST, Benjamin	21.05.1915	his sister Susie West
WEST, Benjamin	12.09.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	24.09.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	07.10.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	13.10.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	25.10.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	10.11.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	12.11.1916	his sister Susie West
WEST, Benjamin	30.11.1916	his sister Susie West
WEST, Benjamin	10.12.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	15.12.1916	his sister Susie West
WEST, Benjamin	18.12.1916	his mother
WEST, Benjamin	13.01.1917	his mother
WEST, Benjamin		(List not complete)
WEST , Ellen	13.06.1849	
WEST , Ellen	25.02.1851	
WEST , Ellen	27.05.1853	
WEST , Ellen	08.11.1853	
WEST , Ellen	02.08.1859	
WEST , Ellen	03.04.1860	
WEST , Ellen	02.08.1864	
WEST , Ellen	During 1867	
WEST , Ellen	05.04.1869	
WEST , Ellen	21.01.1870	
WEST , Ellen	26.12.1871	
WEST , Ellen	between 26.09.1872-20.12.1872	

WEST, Ellen	20.12.1872	
WEST, Ellen	01.10.1873	
WEST, Ellen	03.11.1873	
WEST, Ellen	12.07.1876	
WEST, Ellen	08.02.1877	
WEST, Ellen	18.02.1877	
WEST, Ellen	13.03.1877	
WEST, Ellen	28.05.1877	
WEST, Ellen	04.11.1878	
WEST, Ellen	05.04.1879	
WEST, Ellen	08.1849	to her son George John Beatty West
WEST, Ellen	03.03.1851	to her son George
WEST, Ellen	Date? *	to her brother, George Beatty West
	(* letter mentioned in a report by the Hibernian Research company to Deon Coetzee)	

7 PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE (incomplete list)

BUNN, Cheryl, (date?). (RE George Purdon West and descendants in the USA)

GIERSEN, Jeanine, (date?). (RE George Purdon West and descendants in the USA)

SMITH, Rachel, (date?). (RE George Purdon West and descendants in the USA)

WEST, Carol Sue, (date?). (RE George Purdon West and descendants in the USA)