

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2022 No 4

December 2022

OUR BANK ACCOUNT

Aware that our chairman is being driven up the wall by attempts to access the society's money in our bank account, I asked Stephen Peel, who has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer, if he wanted to add anything in the Newsletter about the changes in our banking procedures. While waiting his response I searched Google for amusing quotes about banks and banking.

Good old Mark Twain was his useful self: "A banker is a fellow who lends his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain." and then Bill Gates puts it well with: "Banking is necessary, banks are not," which I'm sure chairman David Slingsby agrees with, and this quote from Steve Wright sums it up for David: "I saw a bank that said, '24-Hour Banking,' but I don't have that much time."

Our Treasurer Stephen Peel writes:

Our grandchildren are going to wonder what cheques were. Well, times change: our Constitution had fallen behind banking technology as it required that when we made any payments that two authorised signatories should sign the cheque. Also, in the twenty-odd years since the Society was founded, laws and regulations have been introduced that require that signatories were 'known to the bank' — in case the Society were money-launderers. Serious stuff indeed, which required Chairman David and Secretary Ann, who had long been signatories, to report to our bank to prove their *bona fides* every couple of years. And it was never an easy experience, usually requiring a follow-up visit. No one minds time spent productively but this was always an exasperating hassle, as David has mentioned many times at our Society meetings. Recently, in a saga lasting well over six months with many frustrating emails, telephone calls and in-person visits, use of the account was suspended. That was the final straw and the committee decided on an alternative solution of continuing with banking: simply to open an account in a committee member's name, but dedicated to CTFHS.

We acknowledge that there is a risk, which we plan on mitigating: the balance hovers between R5,000 and R10,000. At our November meeting, David proposed to the members present that the banking restriction in the Constitution was lifted and that the committee close the existing Society bank account and open another in a committee member's name and with another institution. David's proposal was accepted by the show of hands of all forty-five members present with no one voting against the proposal. The Constitution has now been altered to reflect this change and is included below this memo. In addition to giving the Committee the flexibility they need to conduct the Society's finances with minimum bother, the Society will save roughly a thousand rand a year on not paying banking fees.

The Constitution as of November 2022 now reads:

CONSTITUTION OF THE CAPE TOWN FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be "The Cape Town Family History Society", hereafter referred to as "the Society".

2. Aims of the Society

The aims of the Society are fourfold.

- a. To create an awareness of the study of family history among the people in the Cape Town area and those whose ancestors lived in this area.
- b. To encourage the collection and preservation of family history resources.
- c. To be a forum for the sharing of family histories through the use of invited speakers, outings to useful family history sites and through the sharing members themselves.
- d. To assist in the transcribing of historical documents of genealogical interest to enable easier access to these documents for members, as well as the general public.

3. Members

- a. Membership shall be open to all who are interested in furthering the aims of the Society.
- b. Members may be "local members" (members who live close enough to Cape Town to attend meetings) or "overseas members" (members too far to attend regular meetings but who are interested in furthering the aims of the Society and would like to be kept informed of the Society's activities by post or email).

4. Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall do the day-to-day running of the Society.
- b. The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.
- c. Additional members may be co-opted by the Executive Committee to ensure the smooth running of the Society.
- d. The Executive Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting held at the beginning of each year to serve until the next AGM.
- e. A vacancy occurring on the Executive Committee may be filled either by the co-option of a member of the Society by the remainder of the committee, or through an election at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

5. The Annual General Meeting

- a. The Annual General Meeting of the Society must be held before the end of March in each calendar year.
- b. A quorum of at least one third of the members is required to be present at the AGM as well as at any Extraordinary or Special General Meeting.
- c. A Special General Meeting may be called at the request of one third of the members of the Society.
- d. At the Annual General Meeting the following is to occur:
 - i. The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary or Special General Meetings since the previous Annual General Meeting are to be read/circulated and accepted.
 - ii. The accounts for the previous year are to be presented and accepted by the meeting. The election of a new Executive Committee may not take place until the Annual General Meeting has accepted the accounts.
 - iii. A report on the activities of the Society during the previous year is to be presented by the chairperson.
 - iv. The annual subscriptions for following year are to be accepted. The annual subscriptions are to be determined by the outgoing executive.
 - v. A Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are to be elected (see below)
 - vi. Any other business, of which notice of a least one month has been given, is to be discussed.
- e. The election of Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - i. Nominations for these three positions are to be received at least one month before the Annual General Meeting.
 - ii. The names of those nominated must be circulated to all members three weeks before the meeting.

- iii. Postal votes (via mail or email) from members who are unable to attend the meeting and whose subscriptions are up-to-date will be accepted up to twenty-four hours before the meeting.
- iv. A simple majority of postal votes and the votes of those present at the meeting will determine the successful candidates for the three executive positions.

6. Finances

- a. The annual subscription will be levied on the members of the Society for the running of expenses of the Society.
- b. The amount of this subscription will be determined by the outgoing Executive Committee and presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval.
- c. A differential subscription may be levied on local and overseas members.
- d. The subscriptions to the Society may be used for:
 - i. Administration costs and postage.
 - ii. With the approval of the Executive Committee, for the purchase of research material that shall be made available to all paid-up members.
- e. Any profits of the Society may not be distributed to members but must be used for the furthering of the aims of the Society.
- f. The collection and safe storage of subscriptions is the responsibility of the Executive Committee.
 - i. They are to open a bank account in the name of the Society for this purpose.
 - ii. This bank account shall operate as the Executive Committee deem fit.
 - iii. Accounts are to be presented to the Annual General Meeting for approval. (See above.)

7. Normal Meetings of the Society

- a. The frequency of regular meetings of the Society shall take place at the discretion of the Executive Committee and members.
- b. The meeting may consist of:
 - i. A presentation by an invited speaker or a member.
 - ii. An opportunity to share success, questions, or problems in preparing family histories.
 - iii. Outings to places where resources for family histories can be obtained.
 - iv. Any other presentation considered acceptable to the members.

8. Discipline of Members

- a. The Executive Committee may suspend membership of individuals who bring the Society into disrepute. Such suspension must be presented at, and approved by, the Annual General Meeting.
- b. Members who do not pay their subscription within the year of membership and who have received at least three reminders to pay the subscription are considered to have become lapsed members. Names of these individuals are to be included in the report of the chairman at the Annual General Meeting.

9. Society Records and Accounting

- a. The Executive Committee shall keep proper records and books of account of the affairs of the society, including a register of members.
- b. The Executive Committee shall scrutinize the books of account annually. An annual statement signed by the chairman and treasurer shall be presented for acceptance at the AGM.
- c. The Executive Committee shall operate a society banking account with such bank or banks as the committee may decide.

10. Dissolution

- a. The Society may be dissolved, or merged with another society with similar purposes and objectives, in each case only:
 - i. on a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of members present at a duly constituted general meeting of members;
 - ii. on an application to a South African court of law with jurisdiction, by any member on the grounds that the Society has become dormant or is unable to fulfil its purposes and objectives.
- b. On merger, the assets of the Society shall accrue to the Society with which the merger is effected.
- c. On dissolution, the assets of the Society shall be realised by a liquidator appointed by the general meeting or the court, as the case may be, and the proceeds shall be donated to such society having similar objects to this Society as the meeting or court may decide.

11. Indemnity

- a. Subject to the provisions of any relevant statute, members of the Executive Committee and other office bearers shall be indemnified by the Society for all acts done by them in good faith on its behalf. It shall be the duty of the Society to pay all costs and expenses which any person incurs or becomes liable for as a result of any contract entered into, with the Executive's approval, or any act done by him or her, in his or her said capacity, in the discharge, in good faith, of his or her duties on behalf of the Society.
- b. Subject to the provisions of any relevant statute, no member of the Executive Committee and or other office bearer of the Society shall be liable for the acts, neglects or defaults of any other member or office bearer, or for any loss, damage or expense suffered by the Society, which occurs in the execution of the duties of his or her office, unless it arises as a result of his or her dishonesty, or failure to exercise the degree of care, diligence and skill required by law.
- c. The Society shall seek to become a member of the Federation of Family History Societies (Registered Charity No. 1038721) and shall have the power to guarantee its debts in the event of its insolvency up to the sum of £1. The Society may also affiliate with other charitable organisations whose objects are deemed compatible and mutually supportive.

MEETING IN THE LAST QUARTER

SEPTEMBER MEETING: HERITAGE DAY OUTING TO PNIEL

As this was a combined outing of the CTFHS and the GSSA (WC) this report has been taken from the GSSA Western Cape September Newsletter and is used with their permission.

A tradition which began a few years ago when members of the GSSA Western Cape and Cape Town Family History Society shared their Heritage Day celebrations with each other was put on hold for a couple of years due to the two year Covid lockdown imposed by the WHO and Governments worldwide.

Thankfully this year we were able to continue the tradition when it was decided to pay a visit to Pniel, one of the small historic villages in the winelands and listen to the stories of their heritage. The village of Pniel nestles almost at the bottom of the Helshoogte Pass (built in 1854) between Stellenbosch and Franschhoek and is adjacent to Rhodes' farm Boschendal.



The interior of the Congregational Church at Pniel



The Congregational Church at Pniel

Shortly before noon on Heritage Day, 36 members of the GSSA, CTFHS and guests arrived at 'Die Werf' outside the Pniel Museum where our hosts from the museum welcomed us and escorted us to the United Congregational Church of Pniel which was inaugurated in 1843. Once we were seated inside one of our hosts, Sandra November, gave us a most entertaining, insightful and proud history of the village, the people of Pniel and the Church, whose first minister was the Reverend Johannes Fred Stegmann.

The Reverend Stegmann preached strict parameters by which the community should live which are still maintained by the 3,000 congregants today. He believed in an honest day's work, a good education, no alcohol, and no crime. The winery was converted into a school and 99.9% of the people are well educated. A lot of the students made teaching their profession.

The people of Pniel are very proud to be the descendants of the 45 freed slave ancestors to whom farmer Abraham De Villiers gave 99 erven on Papier Molen (renamed Pniel) where they could live and grow produce.

After the church visit our hosts took us to the Old Church Manse where the Pniel Museum is housed. This interesting museum has recently been professionally refurbished thanks to donations received from businessmen Jan Marais and Johan Rupert.

In the tea gardens at the back of the museum we were then able to join in the local Heritage Day celebration with good company, good home-cooked food and live entertainment from the villagers.



Pam Beck and Ann Smythe thanking Eleanor Damon

Eleanor Damon, teacher, lecturer, author and a descendant of one of a Pniel's freed slaves rounded up the day when she gave an informal and very interesting talk entitled "Om Trek". We learnt how family Christian names are handed down from fathers to sons and mothers/grandmothers to daughters. She told us about sons and daughters who moved further afield from Pniel when they married. Some of her research found family links to these families: Cyster, Tobias, Kannemeyer, Pienaar, Smith, Farmer, Cloete and Basson.

Despite some family lines which couldn't be found in genealogical books, she managed to successfully trace some of her descendants in Rondebosch, Swellendam, Gordonia and Loxton.

Eleanor concluded her talk by donating 2 of her booklets entitled "OMTREK" for the libraries of the CTFHS and the GSSA.

We were all so privileged to have been made to feel part of the village of Pniel's family celebrations on this Heritage Day 24th September 2022.

Our special thanks to our guides and story tellers Sandra, Samantha and Faith, the wonderful entertainers and a special bouquet to the chef, Merina and her sisters who, despite the disastrous load-shedding by Eskom, managed to ensure everyone enjoyed their delicious home-cooked lunch.

OCTOBER MEETING: Don MacAlister: Part 2 on the story of his adoption



We had heard Part 1 of Don's talk a few years ago (doesn't time pass quickly!) but in October Don told us about how the person they thought was his father did not turn out to be his father. This they discovered through the DNA tests they did. Don then told us how they discovered, by trial and error, his real father's family. In all this Don was assisted by Heather on the computer who brought up the slides at the appropriate moments. This talk by Don was like a mystery thriller by Agatha Christie where the most unlikely person pops up as the one 'whodunnit'! If you missed this exciting talk a video was made, so contact Heather for the link to view it.

The talk must have stirred up the emotions in many who even if not adopted, asked how they would react to searching for and finding birth parents. The popularity of the TV series *Long Lost Families* and others similar shows are proof of just how fascinating we find these adoption stories.

One such person was Joyce Settle who kindly sent her thoughts on this matter.

After the October meeting of the CTFHS where Don MacAlister told us Part 2 of his adoption story I received an email from Joyce Settle.

Please can you put in a nice Thank You for the talk on Saturday.

It really was the best ever. The emotion and drama through the story had most of us sitting on the edge of our seats and I am sure some of the people related to it all.

I have an adopted cousin called Vivien who is 10 years younger than me. I love her dearly. I have seen her once since I moved to South Africa in 1982. She lives in France. I organised a cousin's get together and missed her out as I thought she lived too far away to join us. Her mother told me how hurt she and Vivien had been not to get an invitation. I made sure she was contacted first the next time we all got together. She was born after my aunt lost her two children. The first one was the same age as me. We were born in 1949. When she was 7 years old, she was killed by a bus in Edinburgh while crossing the road to school. She was being guided by the Lollipop Man on a zebra crossing in Dundee Street outside her home. The weather was icy that January morning.

Almost a year later, on Christmas Day, a baby daughter was born. She was called Carol. She was a tiny, blonde, frail child. I went to visit on Boxing Day and was allowed to hold my new cousin. Soon after she became ill and for years I felt guilty as I had got a cold and thought I had given her my germs. She was in and out of hospital for a year and a half before she died. I really was very sad. My aunt had a hysterectomy and could have no more children.

One day we visited my granny to find the house in an uproar of joy and everyone in an excited state. My aunt and uncle were to have a new baby. This was to happen in the next day or two so we, the cousins, learned a new word 'adoption'! There were seven of us, soon to be 9. My other aunt was also having a baby but in the traditional way. She had polio so that was a miracle baby as well.

Of the nine cousins, the two oldest were married and lived in Canada but the rest of us lived in Edinburgh. We all looked forward to seeing this strange baby who came from who knows where. She had been badly overfed and looked like the Michelin Man in the adverts so was put on a diet. We were allowed to take turns to push her pram when we went out as a family. We were so lucky to have an adopted cousin.

Many years later when I was about 70 years old I found out that Carol had been born with cystic fibrosis and my cold had nothing to do with her being sick. Sadly I found out that two other children in the family also have the same problem. They are from a part of the family that we had lost contact with at the end of WW1 in 1918 but who happened to come back to the fold when my sister met the daughter of the sister-in-law of my granny unexpectedly a few years ago. Families are funny things. Thank you for the meeting.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Sherry Garlick Stanton – The Accidental Entrepreneur



A huge crowd flocked to the November meeting to hear more about **John GARLICK**, his family and his shop as well as his generosity. Sherry Garlick Stanton's talk was a brief overview of a very interesting man, as well as the Garlick dynasty – many of her cousins, distant and close, were in the audience.

The Hermanus Historical Society had an online meeting where Sherry gave her talk about John Garlick and the link for this is below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00hANhLxRwQ>

John Marwood, who has written the history of Stuttafords Stores says the following about Sherry's book:

John Garlick was one of the principal people in Cape Town from 1872 until 1931, and this biography by one of his descendants lovingly tells his story. An enormous amount of research over twenty years has gone into the work, and it never flags. The content has been carefully pared and crafted to create a sparkling book. It is packed with interesting facts, anecdotes and tales from cover to cover. The focus is the fascinating life of this department store owner, city councillor, politician, benefactor, philanthropist and family man.

The author also tells succinctly what John Garlick's successors did with the business and his legacy; and those who wonder what happened to the famous department store group will find the answer in Sherry's book. This is a book that will be enjoyed by anyone interested in the history of the city of Cape Town and South Africa, the civilised department stores of old, and top-notch biographies.

The book which is 460 pages long and filled with pictures, is available online from Foot Print Press:

<https://footprintpress.co.za/product/the-accidental-entrepreneur/>

If you worked for or had any connection to Garlicks do buy the book or watch the YouTube video linked below – even if you only had toasted cheese in the Birdcage Restaurant!

The number of members and guests was so large extra seating had to be obtained. Fortunately, there were enough strong 'young' men to lower some pews! Who said genealogy was a hobby for old retired people only!



Steve Peel saves the day!



The packed hall

FAMILY HEIRLOOM



Generation 1



Generation 3



Generation 4



Generation 4



Generation 5



Generation 5



Generation 4



Generation 3



Generation 3



Generation 3

This Family heirloom - a Baptism Gown first worn in 1899 by this family - last worn 2022
 The gown itself could well be older, maybe worn by the eldest born in Generation 1 born 1889.
 Generation 2 - missing that Generation were born and baptised in England - so the gown
 remained in South Africa - One would love to know when or if its worn by Generation 6.
 Guess I would need to wait +/- 25 years. don't think I will make it!

David Slingsby 2022

"WHICH ART IN HEAVEN ... WE HOPE"

Derek Pratt

These were the words my mother told me that the rest of the KENNETT family said when the children of Harry and Agnes REYNOLDS said anything about their father.

One of the Reynolds children: Our father ...

Rest of the Kennett family: (*sotto voce*) ... which art in heaven ... we hope.

Henry Jacob KENNETT arrived from Maidstone, Kent in 1862 on board the immigrant ship *Adelaide*. I have already written at length about him in previous newsletters and in the compilation Lois Harley made in 2009, *Our Ancestors: compiled from the Newsletters of the Cape Town Family History Society* (Fat Bob Publications: Newlands. 2009)¹ so I will not go into details again. Suffice to say that Henry married Frances Catherine WILKINSON in Graaff Reinet and then moved to Colesburg where daughter Agnes Maria KENNETT was born on 4 Aug 1868.

Around the late 1870s the KENNETT family moved to Kimberley and it was here on 2 Aug 1890 that Agnes Maria KENNETT married Harry William REYNOLDS at St Augustine's Church. She was 22y and he was 23y. His occupation was given as 'Clerk'. Harry William REYNOLDS signed his name as Harry, not Henry. This added to the complexity of finding more about him and is a reminder to us all that we must look up our ancestors with all the various spellings in both surnames and first names – such as Henry and Harry.

5-AUG.90
RECEIVED
MARITIME R.G.T.

DUPLICATE ORIGINAL REGISTER.

1890 Marriage Solemnized at ⁽¹⁾ Kimberley (S. Augustine's), in the Parish of Kimberley District of Kimberley 1890.

No.	When Married.	Names and Surnames.	Ages.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	After Banns or Licence.	Consent by whom given, or Judge's Order.
112	August 2 1890	Harry William Reynolds Agnes Maria Kennett	23 22	Bachelor Spinster	Clerk	Newton Jones Street	Licence	

Married in ⁽²⁾ S. Augustine's Church at ⁽¹⁾ Kimberley aforesaid, after ⁽³⁾ licence, by me

Albert V Lytton ⁽⁴⁾ Minister. Vicar

This Marriage was solemnized between us,...

Harry William Reynolds Bridegroom
Agnes Maria Kennett Bride

In the presence of us the following witnesses—

1. Henry Jacob Kennett.
2. John Schornack.

Examined with the Original Register, by me, and found to be correct.

Albert V Lytton ⁽⁴⁾ Minister. Vicar of S. Augustine's Kimberley

✓ 3499

(1) Name of Town.
(2) Name or other description of Church or Chapel.
(3) Insert "banns" or "licence" as case may be.
(4) Insert proper designation of officiating Minister.

Agnes KENNETT must have been heavily pregnant when she married Harry REYNOLDS because on the 19 Sep 1890 their first child was born. Three more children were born in Mar 1892, Aug 1893 and May 1897. Then on 9 May 1898, Agnes Maria REYNOLDS born KENNETT, died of ulcerating endocarditis. She was only 30 years old and had four children aged 8y, 6y, 5y and 1y.

Agnes's mother, Francis Catherine KENNETT, started looking after the young children and Harry William REYNOLDS started looking towards Johannesburg for work. He does not appear in the Kimberley Town Guard during the Anglo-Boer war, so I am guessing that he had moved from Kimberley by then. I did find a 'Pvt. Henry Reynolds' on the nominal

¹ 'The case of the blank memorial plaque' p. 60.

roll of the Rand Rifles so it looks like he was on the Rand from 1899 – 1900 onwards. From the story passed on by my mother it appears that he never returned to Kimberley or his children.

My task now was to find more about Harry REYNOLDS. I presumed that he would marry again being only 31y when widowed. So, I started by looking at any marriages for a Harry REYNOLDS. Because he never returned to his children, I thought he maybe died before he had the opportunity. So, I also looked for any Harry REYNOLDS deaths. I had little or no success in these searches. I even asked the Rootsweb² REYNOLDS surname group if they could help me, but no luck.

Time passed and more data was placed on the www.familysearch.org site including Transvaal Death Registration forms. Among these was one for a 'Henry William Reynolds' aged eighty-three years who died 31 Oct 1950 at 7 Chatou Road, Richmond, Johannesburg. The pros and cons of this being the person I was looking for are as follows: **Pros:** he was in Johannesburg, where the family said he went. If aged 83 means he was born 1867, this matches him being 23y when he married Agnes in 1890. His occupation is given as 'Retired Clerk' – 'Clerk' is also his occupation on his marriage certificate; **Cons:** Henry William REYNOLDS not Harry William REYNOLDS but this could merely be that he used Harry but his legal name was Henry.³ The biggest 'con' was that his marital status is given as 'single' and not 'widowed' but once again this could have been the mistake of the person filling in the form. This person could not have been close family else they would have known of Henry/Harry's marriage and subsequent death of his wife. I suspect the undertaker (R. Callen) and the doctor (J. D. Kemp) must have asked if he was married and when told, 'no', they took it as being single.

I now had his death in Oct 1950 but where now? I started searching for 'Henry William REYNOLDS' and found a Henry William REYNOLDS in a list of children on the Death Notice of Henry James REYNOLDS. But Henry and William and Reynolds are all fairly common names so was this the right one? Then I noticed that the second name on the list of children was Jessie Georgiana SCHOONRAAD. That name looked familiar, so I went through the baptisms of Harry/Henry William and Agnes REYNOLDS's children and found that Claude Ralph REYNOLDS was baptised at St Cyprian's, Kimberley and had a Henry James SCHOONRAAD and a Jessie Georgina SCHOONRAAD as godparents. I think there is an error here by the person filling in the Register, as Henry James was Hendrik Jacobus which is Henry James in Afrikaans. Harry's sister, Jessie Georgina had married Hendrik Jacobus SCHOONRAAD in Kimberley⁴. Finding this reminded me to check out sponsors or godparents at baptisms because they might be siblings or spouses of siblings or others in the family tree.

I now had Harry or Henry William REYNOLDS's parents and siblings. According to his Death Notice, Henry James REYNOLDS was married to a Janet Henrietta VAN DER MERWE. They had married in Claremont and I duly found their marriage at St Saviour's, Claremont on 30 May 1866. Henry James REYNOLDS's occupation is given as a wheelwright, and when he died, he was listed as a 'retired carriage builder.' Unfortunately, no names of parents are given on the Death Notice. In order to get these, a baptism had to be found.

Henry James REYNOLDS was baptised at St John's Wynberg on 9 Oct 1842 being born 14 Sep 1842. His parent's names are given as Thomas and Mary-Ann REYNOLDS. I then searched for a marriage between Thomas REYNOLDS and a Mary Ann – her maiden name at that time unknown. A marriage was found between Thomas REYNOLDS and Mary Ann JOBSON at St John's Wynberg on 6 Jan 1840. The only Death Record I could find was a burial register entry from St Paul's Rondebosch⁵ for a Thomas REYNOLDS who was buried on 5 Dec 1846. Next to his name is 'No. 4 F-G' which I take to mean grave number 4 in the Free Grave portion of the Churchyard at St Paul's i.e., not among the Purchased Graves that I am still researching.

Thus, I had found Harry/Henry William REYNOLDS's parents and grandparents.

² Do you remember them? Such a pity they no longer exist in the old format.

³ Later I found that his father was Henry Thomas REYNOLDS so maybe as a child he was known as Harry to differentiate him from his father and he used Harry while his father was still around.

⁴ According to her and his Death Notice

⁵ Ironical that I had searched for the REYNOLDS family while I was rector of St Paul's, Rondebosch but never thought of looking at the REYNOLDS found in the parish register!

Harry's grandmother was a daughter of John JOBSON and his wife Sarah born BUTLER, who arrived with the Parker Party of the 1820 Settlers. The party was initially placed in Clanwilliam as most of them were Irish and the colonial administration thought they might be troublesome. However, I think it was more that William Parker was troublesome rather than the Irish!⁶ Many of the Party were not from Ireland at all but had been recruited in England among them was John JOBSON and his wife, Sarah born BUTLER. They were from Lancashire. After the issues with William Parker and his demands, the contract between the party and the government was cancelled and the English indentured servants were given permission to leave Clanwilliam and either go to Albany or go and seek work in Cape Town. It was in Cape Town that Mary Ann JOBSON was born and baptised. After Thomas REYNOLDS death in 1846 she married Andrew SMITHSDORFF.⁷

Harry's grandfather was Thomas REYNOLDS. He is listed as being 28 years old when he died and was buried in the St Paul's Graveyard in 1846, which means he was born about 1818. The 1820 Settler website gives his birth as about 1816.⁸ When he married Mary Ann JOBSON in 1840, he is listed as being of 'full age'. He must have been just 21 if he was born in 1818. The question is where was he born and when did he or his parents arrive at the Cape? This will be a difficult task to discover and still needs to be done. At Thomas's marriage his occupation is given as 'Carpenter' and being only 28 years, I suspect he had no estate or will and thus no Death Notice and Estate was compiled for him and therefore no parent's names and place of birth found.

What this research has reminded me to do when doing genealogical research was:

1. New indexed information is added to the 'pool of knowledge' if not daily, then at least monthly. This particularly true of the www.familysearch.org site. If you didn't find that ancestor last year have another look this year. When I did that, I found Henry William REYNOLDS Death Registration form.
2. Variety of spelling. We are always told to look for different spelling of the surname. The fact that Harry/Henry William REYNOLDS used Harry for his marriage and the baptism of all his children does not mean that he will start calling himself Henry at some point. Similarly, some indexing and search programs are not as good as others so looking for 'Charles' might not produce a result but using 'Chas' might.
3. Witnesses and godparents. When finding a baptism or a marriage, take note of the marriages witnesses or the baptism godparents/witnesses because inevitably they will be parents or siblings of the person you found and they might confirm that you have right person/family especially if the family name is fairly common – like REYNOLDS and they all have common first names like Henry, William and Thomas.

As adults, two of Harry/Henry William REYNOLDS children moved to Johannesburg where they married. The youngest one died unmarried in Kimberley aged 25 in the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918 and the only daughter married an Australian dairyman and moved to Rhodesia⁹. Having found that their father, Harry/Henry REYNOLDS was in Johannesburg, I wonder if he ever tried to trace his children. Strange that they were in the same city (Johannesburg) and perhaps never made contact.

Please turn over for a diagram of the family tree connecting REYNOLDS and KENNETT Families.

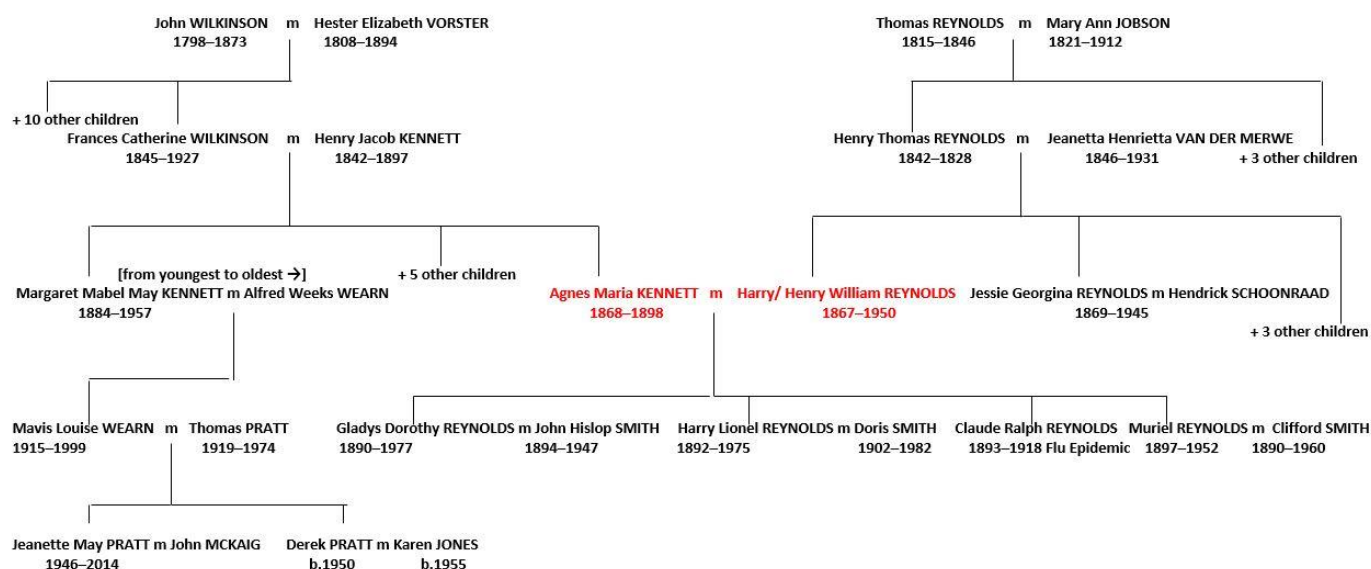
⁶ See GB Dickason, *Irish Settlers to the Cape* (Cape Town, AA Balkema, 1973) in the CTFHS library for more information on these troubles.

⁷ Huge variety of spelling of this name SMITHDORFF, SMITHSDORFF, SMITSDORFF etc as well Andreas, Andrew etc.

⁸ <https://www.1820settlers.com/> This site has many other English Settlers in their database besides those who came in 1820.

⁹ Only while drawing the family tree did I realise that all three of the children who married, married a spouse with the surname of SMITH. Dorothy and Clifford SMITH were brother and sister.

The Connection between the REYNOLDS and KENNETT Families



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE COMMITTEE

This Christmas card was 'stolen' from the blog page of Mike Kostiuk of Yorkshire. He is the owner of Family Tree Folk, a genealogy company supplying gifts, cards, magnifiers and archival storage products to family historians. Research commissions undertaken. Contact him via <https://familytreefolk.co.uk/>

