

FAMILY FRAGMENTS

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

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

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

FAMILY NAME: PHYFER_BURGER

Marco Burger : 2013/04/06, 8:58 am

I have read your notes and research on the Pyper clan with much interest and was hoping you could enlighten me on "Phyfer"

My great great grandmother was Johanna Sarah Phyfer as stated in her will and headstone born circa 1863 died February 17th 1927 in Mostert st Mowbray buried in Plumstead cemetery. Her father was Johannes Pieter or Petrus Phyfer and her mother Gertina Christina or Catharina surname unknown. She married my great grandfather Alewyn Johannes Burger born in Porterville March 16th 1860 and they ended up settling in Cape Town. My grand father was Schalk Willem Burger born August the 23rd 1886 died November 6th 1951 and he married Elizabeth Harriette Grace Bingle born 26th October 1886 in Caledon and died in Cape town January 25th 1951. They had Burgers Bakery Station Rd Observatory where the Heidelberg Tavern attack took place. Johanna Sarah Phyfer had a sister Gertruida Wilhelmina Jacoba Phyfer circa 1870 died October 24th 1936 in Greys Hospital Pietermaritzburg, she was married to Andries Petrus Johannes Burger born 1867. I was wondering if you could help me or point me in the right direction of tracing my Phyfer family line as I just keep hitting a brick wall with the different spellings in the name ie: Fyfer ,Vyfer, Pheiffer .Pfeiffer etc. As a matter of interest . My grandfather Schalk Willem Burger's sister Anna Jacoba Wilhelmina married a Dissel.

Your advice and guidance would be kindly appreciated.

Robin Pelteret : 2013/04/10, 11:55 am

Dear Mr Burger

1. Firstly, I don't know how much you know (or not) so please don't read anything I write as being patronising.
2. Next: it was interesting to come across a "new" name. I suspect that Phyfer transformed itself from Phijfer, though I see that Phyfer is reported in Germany and a great deal in the USA.
3. As I am not in a position to research the matter myself on your behalf I thought that the least I could do is send you all the references to the name that I could find. This will follow in a numbered series of e-mails with pdfs attached.
4. The sources are as follows:
 - 4.1.1 National Archives, the documents housed at the following sites:
KAB MOOC = Cape Town
TAB = Pretoria

NAB = Pietermaritzburg

4.1.2 I have simplified the lists by teasing out all the tawdry and boring such as divorces, court cases, bonds registered, and focussed only on documents that could help a genealogical endeavour./ so 13/54 docs = there were 54 all told, that is No. 13, but the intervening ones may well have been excluded by myself.

4.1.3 You would either have to visit the archives yourself or have someone do it on your behalf. Explore <http://www.national.archives.gov.za/> for details of both

4.1.4 I cannot emphasise enough the importance of seeing original documents as even though you may know the "bare bones" of the information, often the devil is in the detail and that can be written by various hands on the estate documents (Death Notices & Liquidation and Distribution Accounts are a legal documents for the Master of the High Court who supervises the management of estates: Death Certificate is for the Ministry of Health who caretaker public health).

4.1.5 Here I have to pay tribute to the SA Archives system which until recently was one of the finest regarding its store of family history in the world in my opinion. It has some unique features which archives such as that in the UK would have done well to have used. However, the incredible fertility / procreativity of the families in the hinterland, the persistent duplication of "Christian" names, the failure to register births and lodge death notices (all the marks of poverty, they often left no estate only pathos marking their passing) and the likes eventually can make the research of a particular family a nightmare. There are many such examples. It took over 50 years to define my family origins; and a chance finding following the finding of an entry in ONE book 15 years ago, and the finding of ONE document in an obscure UK archive last year to trace my family from Pinelands, Cape Town to Newlands, Cape Town to London, United Kingdom to GRANCEY LE CHATEAU, Cote d'Or, France so being boringly systematic and having patience are virtues.

4.2 Ancestry 24. This is list of all the documents that they have in their registry. The site is CLOSED PERMANENTLY and you would have to seek the documents at source eg. in Archive Repositories, National Libraries

4.3 Ancestry UK. should any of these references look likely to be of interest I can approach the custodians/authors on your behalf as I have a subscription to the site.

4.4 Mormom_Church of Latter Day Saints in Utah. This is the only reference, complete.

Hereafter will follow **2_more to the matter of Phyfer/Burger** onwards with attachments. If you have specific questions that you want to ask, please feel free to do so.

5. 2013/04/12, 12:03 pm ADDED 15 documents
No response