THE CHILDREN OF JOHAN COENRAAD GIE THE FIRST SETTLER IN THE CAPE AND THE FIRST GIES TO BE BORN IN SOUTH AFRICA

Johan Coenraad Gie who was born in Zurich and who arrived at the Cape of Good Hope on the 28th February 1751 and who married Engela Johanna Ley, had six children :-

JOHANNES GIE
ANNA CATHERINA GIE
JASPER GIE
ANDRIES CASPARUS GIE
MICHIEL COENRAAD GIE
COENRAAD JOHANNES GIE

Three of the children died in infancy, namely, Anna Catherina who was born on 23rd February 1762 and died on 18th August 1763. Jasper who was born on 1st March 1764 and died on 9th February 1765 and Andries Casparus who was born on 6th January 1765 and died on 16th February 1767.

JOHANNES GIE

Johannes Gie was the eldest son of the first settler. He was born on the 19th May 1759, the first GIE to be born in South Africa.

The following references to Johannes Gie appear in the Minutes of the Politicke Raad in the Cape Town State Archives.

C.71 : 175 - 6.4.1779

" Johannes Gie is promoted to the post of 'Adjudant' to succeed Pieter de Waal. "
(It would seem that the post of 'adjudant' was the same as that of 'vaandig' - ensign bearer.)

C.73 : 223 - 2.4.1781

" Johannes Gie promoted from 'vaandig' to second lieutenant of the Fourth Infantry Division under Petrus Jesse Moller. "

C.74 : 279 - 21.1.1782

" Johannes Gie promoted to first lieutenant of same Infantry Division. "

C.82 : 739 - 4.10.1787

" Johannes Gie appointed captain of the 'Vrye Corps' (This corps consisted of coloured and malay burghers of mixed descent.)

C.83 : 355 - 14.3.1793

" Johannes Gie now appointed as captain of the Third Infantry Division as successor to de Waal. "

C.94 : 457 - 9.12.1791 and C.96 : 970

" The minutes of the Politieke Raad of these dates deal with a complaint for disobedience against two sergeants in Johannes Gie's regiment. They were Joachim Daniel Hiebner and Petrus Rens. They had been ordered by Johannes Gie to attend a military parade in full uniform armed with their fire guns. They arrived without their guns but with their 'helle baarden' i.e. their battle axes. Because of this open defiance of the authority of their captain they were ordered to appear before the members of the Politieke Raad. They were severely reprimanded and demoted from their posts as sergeants.

C.98 : 319 - 28.8.1792

" Owing to his illness Johannes Gie asked to be relieved

from his duties as captain of the Third Division. This was granted by a resolution of the Politieke Raad on 28th February 1792.

On the 8th October 1780 Johannes Gie married Anna Catherina Kirsten, the daughter of J.F. Kirsten and Johanna Franke.

They had three children :-

JOHAN COENRAAD	-	born on 3rd July 1782
ENGELA CATHERINA FREDERICA	-	born on 30th December 1783 and died on 23rd January 1785, aged 1 year
JAN FREDERIK	-	born on 25th June 1789 and died on 18th January 1792, aged 5 years.

Engela and Jan died in infancy. The eldest son Johan Coenraad was, like his father, in the employ of the Dutch East India Company. He married Helena Gertruda Hurter. One of their sons George Clement Gie was a member of Parliament. He married Johanna Christina Wicht and their only child who was born on the 3rd March 1854 was also named Johanna Christina. In 1883 she married the Rev. Abraham Isaac Steyleter, the grandfather of A.H. Gie on his mother's side.

Although the only records of this man relate to military matters it cannot be definately stated that he was a soldier as all residents at the Cape at that time served in the Militia.

Johannes Gie died before the first British occupation on the 21st July 1793 at the early age of 34 years. His widow Anna Catherina re-married Ernst Frederik Schroder on the 29th December 1793 five months after the death of her first husband.

THE SECOND GENERATION

(ii) MICHIEL COENRAAD GIE

MICHIEL COENRAAD GIE

(Great, Great Grandfather of A.H. Gie). By 1794 the first settler Johan Coenraad Gie was a very sick man. He realised his life was drawing to a close. Five of his six children had predeceased him. His only surviving child was Michiel Coenraad Gie and it was to him the old family bible was handed. This was recorded by Michiel Coenraad in the first entry made by him in the bible which read as follows (Translated) -

> " 1794. On the 1st May this bible was given to me, Michiel Coenraad Gie, by my father Johan Coenraad Gie, I having promised to continue the entries started by him ".

Michiel Coenraad Gie was born on the 7th May 1767. The following record of his birth appears in the old family bible.

> " 1767. On the 7th May Thursday morning at 7 o'clock my fourth son was born and baptised by the Rev. Mr. Petrus Serrurier, and named Michiel Coenraad after my deceased brother-in-law Michiel Daniel Ley, the witnesses being my brother-in-Law Johannes Ley and my cousin Christina Westpalm born Ley. "

The name "Michiel" originated from the Ley ancester who had emigrated to the Cape from Basel in Switzerland. Michiel Coenraad Gie had a very successful career first in the service of the Dutch East India Company then in the service of the British Administration when the Cape was occupied by the British in 1795, next during the occupation of the Batavian Government from 1803 to 1806 and lastly again with the British Administration from 1806 until his death. He grew up in a good home.

His father was a prominent citizen and a member of the Burgerraad. It is evident that he had a good education as is proved by his ability to fill very responsible positions during his life and by his clear and neat handwriting. It is probable that he attended the school of the well known Frenchman, Jean Spenlin.

In 1782 when 15 years old he entered the service of the Dutch East India Company and was appointed as assistant in the Company's Warehouse Office in Tulbagh. Five years later in 1787 he applied for his discharge as he was suffering from a chest complaint (Requesten No. 58 Vol 2:507). Apparently the request was granted and he returned to Cape Town. He remained in the service of the Company and was shortly afterwards transferred to Stellenbosch where he remained for eight years. The following record appears in the minutes of Politieke Raad dated 10th December 1793 (C104.561).

> " Michiel Gie and Adriaan Smuts appointed as deacons of the Dutch Reformed Church of Stellenbosch in the place of Daniel Petrus Haupt and Hendrik Vos. "

On the 8th January 1791, he together with Elsabe Anthoinette Jacoba le Febre appeared before the Matrimonial Court in Cape Town for leave to marry. The Court being satisfied that there were no reasons for prohibiting the marriage and that they were eligible to marry gave its consent to the marriage. The marriage was solemnised on the following Sunday, the 23rd January before the Rev. Johannes Petrus Serrurier. Elsabe Antoinetta Jacoba le Febre was the daughter of Jacobus Alexander le Febre and Christina Jacoba de Wet, the date of her birth is not known but she was baptised on the 12th February 1766 and died on the 28th July 1817.

The first le Febre to emigrate to the Cape was Gysbert le Febre who came from Overschie in Holland but it is evident that like the Gie's,

the le Febre family was originally French.

At the time of her marriage Elsabe Antoinetta was a widow and was known as the "Weduwee Henry", her late husband having been known as "Kaptein Henry". His full name was Andre Urbain Henri de Lenifie and he had emigrated from Nyon in Switzerland.

Michiel Coenraad and Elsabe Antoinetta had seven children :-

1. JOHAN COENRAAD (Great grandfather of A.H. Gie) Born 12th December 1791 in Cape Town.

   Baptised : 18th December 1791 in Cape Town

   Married : 12th August 1816 to Johanna Philippina van Reenen.

   Died : 8th September 1862.

   He was a bookkeeper in a bank and his name appears in a long list of pensioners mentioned in "The Cape of Good Hope" by J. Centlivres Chase. According to the list he received a pension of £62.10.0 in 1840. The descendants of this branch later lived at Blouwbergstrand in the Cape and they now have the old family bible.

2. CHRISTINA JACOBA ERATHDINA Born 3rd July 1793

   Baptised : in Cape Town

   Married : 9th March 1812 to Daniel J. Kuys

   Died : 21st September 1838.

3. JACOBUS OLOFF GODLIEB

   Born : 12th August 1795

   Baptised : in Stellenbosch

   Died : 11th November 1795.

4. ENGELA JOHANNA ALEXANDRINA

   Born : 7th November 1797

Married : 1819 to Jacobus George Fischer

Died : 15th August 1857

5. MARIA JOHANNA GYSBERTHA

Born : 31st March 1800

Married : 1st October 1823 to Christiaan Frederik Heugh

Died : November 1865

6. ANNA CATHARINA JOHANNA

Born : 27th January 1802

Married : 4th July 1823 to Hercules Alexander Sandenberg.

Died : 15th September 1843.

7. COENRAAD JOHANNES CAROLUS

Born : 16th November 1805

Married : 10th October 1831 to Catherina Johanna Stegmann

Died : 13th March 1878.

By 1795 the Dutch East India Company had become extremely unpopular with the local inhabitants. The primary interest of the Company was to make profits for the shareholders. The affairs of the Company were in an unsettled state. In Holland too there were upheavals. A French Army had invaded Holland and set up a new form of Government, and the country was now called The Batavian Republic. The Prince of Orange had fled to Britain and had asked Britain to protect the possessions of Holland. Britain fearing that France would occupy the Cape thereby seriously affecting the trade route to the East Indies sent an expedition under General Craig to occupy the Cape. After a somewhat token resistance at what was known as the Battle of Muizenberg on the 7th August 1795 the Cape was captured. There were many who were relieved to see the end of the old Dutch East India Company.

This sentiment was expressed by Judge Watermeyer who said :-

" to the material benefit of every man in the Colony."

In most cases the old civil servants were retained by the new administration. Michiel Coenraad Gie who at that time was in Stellenbosch remained in the Civil Service. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to Cape Town where he is mentioned as "Commissioner of Lands". In 1803 the Cape was handed to the Batavian Government and Commissaris General De Mist was sent from Holland to receive the colony for Holland and at the same time General Janssens was appointed Governor of the Colony. On arrival at the Cape Commissaris General De Mist immediately dismissed the old "Rekenkamer" because of its inefficiency and appointed a new committee to deal with the financial affairs of the government. As chairman he appointed Clement Matthiessen and as members Abraham Fleck and Michiel Gie. The new Committee was called the "Coloniale Rekenkamer", and each member was to receive a salary of 1200 "ryksdaalders". per annum. (see reference in State Archives in Cape Town. B.R. 6.1324-11.4.1804). (B.R. refers to Batavian Republic. One Rijksdaalder or Rixdaallar was equivalent to fourty pence.).

In 1804 there was a severe shortage of wheat at the Cape. The Government was afraid that speculators would buy up the wheat and resell it at a big profit. Michiel C. Gie was one of the members of a special committee appointed to investigate the position and find a solution to this problem. After due consideration the committee advised the Government to introduce special restrictions on the use of wheat and bread. This was done and the crisis overcome. (B.R. 9.3375-24.10.1804).

Shortly afterwards Governor Janssens appointed Michiel C. Gie on another special committee to investigate the heavy and excessive expense of the army at the Cape (B.R. 9.3685-21.11.1804).

At that time the finances of the colony were in a bad state. The income from the "Leeningsplaatzen" (Loan Farms) was far below the official estimates. This was to a great extent due to the faulty method of collecting interest used by the old Dutch East India Company. Many of the old loan farms were occupied by farmers who for years had not paid any interest or taxes.

Thus when the chief of the lands Department Mr. S. van Reenen handed in his resignation Governor Janssens, who was doing everything possible to rectify the finances of the Cape, advised De Mist that he must appoint a man of exceptional intelligence and energy for the post. He had been very impressed by the zeal and efficiency of Michiel C. Gie. Moreover Michiel Gie had for eight years been the Secretary of the Landdrost at Stellenbosch and had thus gained much experience in dealing with land matters and accordingly Governor Janssens suggested that Michiel Gie be appointed. (B.R.9. 4266-29.12.1804).

So at the age of 37 years Michiel C. Gie was appointed on 29th December 1804 to this very important post and his salary raised from 1200 riksdalers to 2000 riksdalters per annum (2000 Riksdalers = R800.) Later the following item appears in the Archives :-

> " Report by M.C. Gie on the financial state of the lands Department is acknowledged by the Politieke Raad (B.R.13. 2467-7.8.1805). "

When the British took over the Cape in 1806 he was retained in this responsible position. Unfortunately this prosperous career was cut short by his untimely death on the 23rd January 1815 after an illness of ten days.

He was survived by his widow and six children. His will which was drawn up in January 1791 was lodged in the Orphan Chamber on the 16th February 1815.

It is interesting to note the signature "A Stockenstroom" on this cover. At that time he was in the Civil Service of the Government but later became a Governor at the Cape and was Knighted - Sir Andries Stockenstroom.

3. DEN WELED. HEER M.C. GIE

A third cover of a letter from the "Landdrost van Uitenhage" to Michiel Coenraad Gie.

As the cover is stamped with the first British Oval Stamp the letter although written in Dutch, was written after 1806 and after the British had finally taken over the Cape.

At that time Michiel Coenraad Gie was Chief Colonial Receiver of Revenue.

THE SECOND GENERATION

(iii) COENRAAD JOHANNES GIE

COENRAAD JOHANNES GIE

Coenraad Johannes Gie was the youngest son of the first settler J.C. Gie.

He was born on the 22nd April 1769. The following entry appears in the old bible :-

" 1765 At 11 o'clock on Saturday morning on the 22nd April my fifth son was born and on the 25th April was christened by Dn. Eerd. Heer Petrus Johannes Serrurier and named Coenraad Johannes. "

There is little information available about this man save somewhat vague references to him in the Cape Archives which read as follows :-

(a) Resolution C.103
Page 67 S. Lieutenant 3rd Gy
Coenraad Johannes Gie tot Lieutenant onder de Vry Corps.
Page 313 De Lieutenant Vry Corps Coenraad Johannes Gie tot S. Lieutenant onder die Eerste Compangnie Coenraad Nelson.

(b) 14.8.1805 Coenraad Johannes Land Matters.

He married Anna Magdalena Blanckenberg on the 14th September 1788 in Cape Town. Anna Magdalena was the daughter of Johannes Blanckenberg and Anna Elizabeth de Waal. They had two children Engela Johanna who died in infancy and Johannes Coenraad.

This Johannes Coenraad married Maria Josina de Wit and they in turn had three children, one son and two daughters. Although the son was married he had no children and the name of Gie died out in this branch of the family.

Annexed is the cover of a letter written to "G. Adams Esq"
" at Mrs. Coenraad Gie's Cape Town. "

There is no date but the cover is stamped with the First British Handstamp so it must have been written between 1806 and 1823 when a new stamp was introduced.

It was not known who this G. Adams was but he was very probably a lodger.

At that time there were no inns or hotels at the Cape and many of the residents took in travellers as lodgers.



LETTER ADDRESSED TO MIKKEL GIE

(MICHIEL COENRAAD GIE)

WHO WAS BORN ON 7.5.1767

NO DATE



LETTER ADDRESSED TO MICHIEL COENRAAD GIE

WHO WAS BORN ON 7.5.1767

NO DATE



LETTER ADDRESSED TO MICHIEL COENRAAD GIE

WHO WAS BORN ON 7.5.1767

NO DATE



LETTER ADDRESSED TO G. ADAMS AT MRS. CONRAD GIE'S

(WIFE OF COENRAAD JOHANNES GIE)

C.J. GIE WAS BORN ON 22ND APRIL 1769

NO DATE