

CHRONOLOGY OF OWNERS

Part 1: THE FIRST CENTURY

1688 - 1702

JACQUES DE SAVOYE AND MARIE-MADELEINE LE CLERCQ

1702

CHRISTIAAN EHLERS AND BARBÈRE DE SAVOYE

1702 – 1728

WILLEM VAN ZYL AND CHRISTINA VAN LOVEREN

1728 – 1783

DAVID DE VILLIERS AND ELIZABETH HUGO

1783 – 1789

JAN AND MARIA DE VILLIERS

Part 2: THE SECOND CENTURY

1789 - 1821

MARIA AND JACOB MARAIS

1821 - 1846

PIETER AND ANNA MARAIS

1846 – 1848

DANIEL THEUNISSEN

1848 – 1854

JACOB LOUW

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1871 – 1897

WILLEM HAUPT AND ELIZABETH STUCKERIS

1897 - 1899

CHARLES KOHLER

Part 3: THE THIRD CENTURY

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HENRY MEYERS AND CHARLOTTE BRIGGS

40 morgen (parent farm)

23 morgen (Wolve Kloof)

1930 – 1944

1919 - 1952

HORACE PICKSTONE

HARRY & LOUISA PICKSTONE

1944 – 1964

1952 - 1977

NORMAN BEROLD

PICKSTONE & SON (PTY) LTD

1964 - 1988

1977 - 1990

YVONNE & ARNOLD GALOMBIK

ROGER KEBBLE

EVE & JOSEPH ZURNAMER

1988 – 1996

1990 - 1997

DAVID & MATTY LADDS (Stockfin Trust)

ROB & CATHERINE ANN MORLEY

Part 4: THE FOURTH CENTURY

1996 (parent farm)

1997 (Wolve Kloof)

DANA & CARA BUYS (Vrede & Lust Farms)

DANA & CARA BUYS

1688 - 1702

JACQUES DE SAVOYE AND MARIE-MADELEINE LE CLERCQ

The story of Vrede & Lust starts in 1686. In Flanders, 50-year-old Jacques de Savoye is being persecuted by religious fanatics, he has just lost the wife who endured labour nine times to provide him with heirs, and his textile trading business in Ghent is ruined.

De Savoye relocates to nearby Middelburg in Zeeland and when the widower meets and marries 26-year-old Marie-Madeleine le Clercq, life is looking up. The newlyweds decide to make a clean break when the opportunity arises to join the exodus to the Cape. Ever since the Jesuit assassination attempt in retaliation against De Savoye's hosting of Reformed services in his home, he has felt as threatened as the French Huguenots.

The travelling party includes De Savoye's mother-in-law, Anthonette Carnoij, two children from his first marriage, Margo (17) and Barbère (15), the new baby, Jacques (9 months), plus three servants, the Nortier brothers, Jean, Jacob and Daniel. The latter, a carpenter, will be accompanied by his wife, Maria Vijtou. To smooth his way in the new country, De Savoye sets about obtaining letters of commendation, which refer to De Savoye as well as his servants as eminent people: "his [DeSavoye's] life seemed **a worthy example of purity and holiness**, in an environment where idolatry reigned supreme and such a lifestyle was almost impossible".

The 160-foot *Oosterland*, captained by Carel van Marseveen, departs from Middelburg on January 29, 1688. Amongst the European passengers are the families of Jean Prieur du Plessis and Isaac Taillefert and the soldier Jacques Therond. After 70 days, the immigrants arrive in Table Bay on April 26, a fine day. Instead of having to divert to Saldanha, the *Oosterland* anchors and the passengers are ferried ashore by rowing boat.

Their first impressions of the awesome mountain are counterbalanced by the diminutive size of the settlement. They have arrived on a new continent, to start a new life. Some will adapt and survive, others not. Madeleine du Plessis will last five years before returning to Europe. The Tailleferts will lose two children within the year. In De Savoye family records, there is mention of a second child, Jacquette, but because one does not read about her in later documents, she may have been born at sea and died during the southbound journey. Undeterred, the resolute Savoyes, as can be predicted from their colourful past, now embark on a most wondrous adventure.

A farm in Africa

The scene shifts to Drakenstein, the furthest outpost of the Cape colony, still sparsely populated with only 23 Dutch freeburghers having settled there the year before. The valley is majestically beautiful, though quite rugged, with dense forests, game, notably lion and tiger, and nomadic Khoi (Hottentot). The pioneers live in simple clay and reed homes.

Nothing in De Savoye's earlier career suggests that agricultural pursuits such as ploughing, planting, building and raising livestock would attract the merchant, but he now becomes the owner of a magnificent piece of property against the foothills of the Napoleonsberg (today known as Simonsberg). He calls his farm Vrede en Lust (Peace and Delight), nurturing visions of a rural paradise where he can spend his last days. Although the land becomes his full and free property with immediate effect, he only receives the title deed to the 120 morgen¹ six years later, on 15 April 1694. It is then signed and issued by Simon van der Stel, Council Extraordinary of India and Governor of the United Netherlands Chartered East India Company at the Cape of Good Hope², on condition that De Savoye regularly replace trees felled on his farm with young oak trees or other afforestation, and supply the Honourable Company with one tenth of his annual wheat crop.³

As a novice farmer, De Savoye prospers, unlike most of the Huguenots, who complain so much about stony and marshy soil that they qualify for handouts from Batavia. Even though he runs up far more debt for initial supplies than any of the other newcomers, he makes a concerted effort to pay back his dues. In 1688 he owes 783 florins, the following year only 144 florins.

¹ The Rhineland measure was usually adopted in surveying land. It was approximately three times the size of the equivalent Dutch measure.

² The seal of the VOC used on documents at the Cape was a representation of the ship Dromedaris in which Van Riebeeck voyaged to the Cape.

³ Translation of the original title deed of Vreede en Lust, a farm in the District of Drakenstein, April 1694. Granted in 1688 to the Huguenot Jacobus de Savojien.

"We Simon van der Stel, Councillor Extraordinary of India, Governor under the United Netherlands Chartered East Indies Company at the Cape of Good Hope, the Island Mauritius and the territory thereabouts, and We, the Councillors, herewith make known

"That in the year 1688 was granted, ceded and given to the Free Agriculturist and Heemraad Jacobus de Savoye in full and free ownership and is granted, ceded and given to him by these, certain piece of land named Vrede en Lust, situated in Drakestein, extending W.S.W. upwards to the Simonsberg and E.N.E. downwards to the properties of Roelof van Wijk and Hendrik Eekhof, S.S.E. to that of Charl Mare and N.N.W. to that of Daniel Noodje, measuring in length AB and CD six hundred, in breadth AD and BC one hundred and twenty roods, altogether in extent measuring 120 morgen Rhineland measure as indicated by the above figure ABCD by the Surveyor; with full power and authority to plow, sow, cultivate, afforest, to possess in full ownership, to administer and thereafter should he so desire to sell the said land, to hire it out or to alienate it in any manner whatsoever, in accordance with such laws as may be in force in this Government; and he shall continue to be responsible for and to construct beside his cornfields, a common wagon road for the use and convenience of himself as well as for the other settlers; and also a ford across the river the same width as the road; and further he shall be responsible to replace from time to time the trees chopped down on his farm with young oaks or other timber; and over and above all this, he shall be liable to bring in yearly to the Governor of the Honourable Company a tithe of his grain crop, under penalty that should he fail to carry out promptly these conditions, or should he not plant and cultivate the land in accordance with the laws proclaimed, the authorities shall be free to take the said land from him for the benefit of and to remain under the control of the Government; and he shall be liable to such taxes and perform such public duties as are laid down by the Government here, or as may be imposed in the future for the benefit of the Honourable Company and for the welfare of the Colony.

"Thus granted and given in the Castle of Good Hope

"15 April Anno 1694

S. v.d. Stel

"SEAL

"By Order of the Hon. Governor and Councillors J.G. De Grevenbroek. Secretary."

De Savoye contributes greatly to the development of the Drakenstein valley. On 4 January 1689 he is elected Heemraad (Magistrate) because of his efficiency and knowledge of the Dutch and French languages, as well as his comprehension of the Portuguese spoken in the Indies. Van der Stel writes to the Delft Chamber, saying that De Savoye and family are an example for all the refugees and exiles.

On 28 November 1689 De Savoye, together with the Reverend Pierre Simond and three other Huguenots, requests that the French farms be spaced closer together so that a church council can be nominated. Two thirds of the community are unable to follow a Dutch sermon, and living one, two or even three hours on horseback from each other, the new farmers struggle to learn the Dutch language. Despite Van der Stel's indignation, the request is forwarded to the Netherlands and the Here XVII of the Dutch East India Company comply. Two years later De Savoye finally becomes a member of the first French church council comprising four elders and five deacons.

By 1692 De Savoye is running a successful mixed farming enterprise. Bar one, he produces the most wheat and barley of all the burghers. He owns four horses, 30 cattle, 10 000 vines and slaves such as Jan from Madagascar and Maria of Bengal. Carpenter Barent Jansz is engaged to build a proper house and when the two men later become involved in a dispute regarding remuneration, the Magistrate determines that De Savoye actually paid too much!

Meanwhile, the Nortier brothers are doing extremely well for themselves, considering that most young men who came to the Cape were soldiers and sailors and, if they were lucky, farmhands. Daniel, the carpenter, is making money in his spare time doing woodwork. Soon he is ready to claim independence for him and his young family. He and Marie lost their first-born, Jacques, born shortly after their arrival, but a mere two years after arriving in the Drakenstein valley, Nortier becomes the brand new owner of the neighbouring farm La Motte. His brother, Jean, acquires the deed of grant to the adjacent farm Fredericksburg.

The De Savoyes find it easy to adjust to the predominantly Dutch society at the Cape. Jacques is soon known to all as Jacobus, and the lady of the house, Marie-Madeleine, becomes Maria Magdalena. For Maria one feels a fair amount of admiration. She seems to be adapting well to her new circumstances, so far removed from European culture in every conceivable way, but she is astute and no stranger to hard work. Maria is in fact so capable that she holds power of attorney for Jacobus when in the Cape. For all intents and purposes, she is an active business partner, a no-nonsense type of woman, blessed with a lot of common sense, like her mother, who was destitute but emancipated. In The Hague, Anthonette Carnoij was often at the mercy of charity from the Walloon Church, but in the Cape she confidently engages in dealings with her church in Holland.

The well-known De Savoyes are held in high esteem. When little Aletta is born a year after their arrival in the colony, Simon van der Stel acts as witness to the christening in Cape Town on 17 July 1689. Not long afterwards Jacobus' eldest daughter, Margo (in her will, she writes her name as Margarita Theresia de Savoy) who married Christoffel Snyman, also spelt Cristoffle Cnayman, Senayment, Sceniemen, Seniman or Snijman, not long after the family's arrival in the Cape, gives birth to the infant Catharina.

Christoffel is the son of a free black called Antony from Bengal and Catharina of Palicatte. Far from the scandal one would imagine, interracial marriages between whites and freed slaves were not uncommon at the Cape and in the Stellenbosch and Drakenstein districts. For a man like Christoffel it was not unusual to integrate with the local community, both socially and economically. Nothing prevented him from owning a farm, as did Jonkershoek landholders Anthonie from Angola, Louis from Bengal and Jan from Ceylon.

Church controversy

De Savoye is a man of contrasts. He has a fiery temper and is quick to take offence, but is willing to share prosperity, as proven by his support of the Nortier brothers' attempt at gaining their independence. Unfortunately, a number of incidents cloud De Savoye's reputation in a small community that thrives on malicious gossip. Rumours that such a well-known and respected citizen as himself has been declared bankrupt in the Netherlands hurt him deeply, and although they are not unfounded, De Savoye feels that he has to clear his name.

The Reverend Pierre Simond, for whom the hamlet Simondium was named, takes his position as shepherd very seriously and places De Savoye under censure. A bitter argument ensues and De

Savoye is refused communion. Each of the two men has his supporters, thereby creating a rift in the tightly-knit community of Drakenstein. De Savoye approaches the Stellenbosch parish for membership and is accepted. In the interim, he writes to the Netherlands, accusing Simond of various wrongs, such as the intention of importing an oven which everyone else will be forced to use for baking bread, and the fact that Simond's wife is selling all sorts of things! Moreover, he is upset that Simond demands one tenth of the parish income and opposes a church council so that he can rule like a pope or a bishop.

Simond denies everything and in support of their minister, forty-eight of the French testify that they have nothing but praise for him and that the accusations are mere libel. The plot thickens when Christoffel Snyman, presents his baby for the christening with his father-in-law, De Savoye, as witness. Simond declares, in front of the entire congregation, that he will christen the child but cannot accept De Savoye.

De Savoye, his wife and daughter then launch a vociferous attack in front of the pulpit. Not only do they insult Simond, they threaten to expel him into everlasting perdition. He is called a "tartufle" (hypocrite), a priest, a Jesuit, a Judas, a "caffre" (infidel), a false shepherd, and they promise that their influential friends will teach "ce beau petit Monsieur" (this pretty little chap) a lesson! Simond retaliates in the form of 37 written pages, in which he shows himself to be a master of rhetoric! The council nevertheless investigates Simond's affairs and in retrospect, this was a spurious attack on officialdom. The combined church councils of the Cape, Stellenbosch and Drakenstein conclude that Simond should have accommodated De Savoye in his church and that the brothers should reconcile, expressing their dismay at the unforgiving nature of the French Calvinists who cannot control their disputes.

In essence De Savoye remains a querulous character. He has a habit of becoming embroiled in court cases, often over mere trifles. On 26 February 1693 he takes Pieter Beuk to court over a handsaw. Shortly afterwards, it is Pieter Meyer's turn to take his employer to court for not paying his wages in full. In 1694, Coert Helm and Daniel Bouvat sue him for the same reason. Several other court cases are noted, such as the maintenance of a drift, De Savoye being responsible for the upkeep of the road between his farm and Klapmuts. Governor Van der Stel even receives a letter from the Rotterdam Chamber concerning De Savoye's crotchety temper. It reads: "[...] *his nature can only be effectively altered and improved by time, kind intercourse, and treatment. This we readily entrust to your discretion.*"

Ironically, the first Huguenot church, little more than a barn, was probably located on land belonging to De Savoye, since the address of the church is "The French Huguenot Parish, Vrede-en-Lust, Simonsberg". One of the most impassioned advocates for the erection of a church, De Savoye acquires an annex of 60 morgen to the south of his farm and north of the Grootrivier, on 22 December 1694. Of this, 48 morgen are allocated to the Drakenstein parish. This eastern part of the annex is now known as Rust-en-Vrede and forms part of Plaisir de Merle.

In 1695, De Savoye is elected one of the first officers when Stellenbosch establishes its own burgher military force and, his status reaffirmed, he proudly leads the company of foot soldiers. As a captain in the Drakenstein Infantry, serving until 1700, De Savoye attends annual military manoeuvres which include drilling and shooting at targets with flint-lock muskets loaded with loose powder. These manoeuvres are a popular social event with the burghers.

That same year, a signal canon is erected on Simonsberg to tie in with the signalling system at Cabo, defence having become an important matter to the far-off community. When rumours suggest that the French may attack the Cape, the burgher unit, consisting of 100 inhabitants of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein, perform active duty every 14 days, reinforcing the Cape garrison on a relay base. In future they would be called up on a regular basis for duty at the Cape and in the interior, for example in 1715, when commando's were mounted against the San who stole cattle.

Family matters

The family's living conditions probably consist of a tiny, flat-roofed structure. In all likelihood, the church building is probably De Savoye's first attempt at building a house, since it is described as the "hut of one of our Frenchmen who has moved" (loge d'un de nos français qui a changé de place"). The traveller Valentyn describes it as a small, low building with walls not higher than

three or four feet, made of clay with a flat thatch roof.⁴ The first houses were all rudimentary, built with the most basic implements and dependent on the natural materials that are available – a mixture of clay and reeds, the bricks moulded roughly, dried in the sun and cemented with burnt limestone. Free burghers who did not find clay often built 'hardbieshuise', believed to be named after the hard reeds or 'biesies' used to build them. These huts were similar to the grass huts of the blacks further north, although larger and more commodious. Building homes took second place to establishing crops and livestock herds that would enable the burghers to repay the company for their land.⁵

As early as 1658, fuel for the firing kilns had become so scarce at the Cape that the search for wood had extended to the settlements of the free burghers. The Company then prohibited the brick and lime makers from collecting the small bushes growing on the Cape flats, as the settlers used to for plaiting the walls of their huts.

Meanwhile, Jacques and Maria are blessed with another child. Little Aletta is five when her brother is born. Philippe Rodolphe (spelt Rodolf in Dutch) is the first baby to be christened in the new Drakenstein church, according to the entry in the register, which dates from August 1694. With Jacques attending to judicial, religious and military matters, it is Maria who holds the fort, not only inside her little clay house, but also on the surrounding land, with the help of servants, mostly soldiers granted as contract workers. Two sons-in-law, Pieter Meyer and Christian Ehlers, are also occasional employees of the family.

For the sake of his two sons, De Savoye acquires two more farms: in 1698, one at Simonsvlei, and soon thereafter the farm Kromme Rivier in Wagenmaker's Valley, to the north of the current Wellington. In 1705, he purchases another farm in this vicinity. He applies for permission to hunt, like many farmers who thus provide for their families, and permission is granted to shoot eland and hartebees in the vicinity of Roodesand. The land is leased to other farmers, the first being Lanquedoc's Jacques Therond, the soldier who was also on board the *Oosterland* when they first journeyed to the Cape, on condition that he build a house and kraal and plant 5 000 vines. De Savoye retains a third interest in the farm and never gains much profit from its operations. Although he appears to flourish, the opposite is true. His finances at the Cape have become just as precarious as they were in Europe.

The turn of the century is not a very joyous occasion on Vrede en Lust. The inhabitants are no longer optimistic, merely stoic. The southernmost tip of Africa brought opportunity for De Savoye and his family, but life is difficult – in fact, it is one long struggle for survival. So much remains to be done, so much wilderness to be tamed. At heart De Savoye is a European gentleman, an entrepreneur, a businessman, not a farmer. It will take another century, and many more hard-working men, born to the land, before the farm is sufficiently developed to claim its rightful place amongst the thriving Cape wine estates.

Barely a year into the new century, De Savoye gives up full scale farming. By 1701, the Company, to whom De Savoye is heavily indebted, insists on repayment of the loan. He raises some cash by selling Vrede en Lust to his son-in-law, Christiaan Ehlers, and accepts a mortgage bond for the balance of the sale price. This bond is immediately transferred to his old enemy Pierre Simond, possibly to cancel the debt for the house in Table Valley, on the corner of the present-day Burg and Castle Streets, which De Savoye buys when the 50-year-old Simond returns to Europe.

At Cabo, De Savoye engages in a commercial venture dealing in agricultural produce, but fails to meet with great success. He buys skins and makes pants for sailors to earn extra pocket. Aged 70, having lost none of his fighting spirit, De Savoye also attempts to expose the corrupt government of Governor Willem Adriaen van der Stel and becomes a leading champion of the burgher cause. He is arrested in 1706, together with two of his sons-in-law, namely Pierre Meyer of Dauphine (Aletta's husband) and Elias Kina (Barbe-Thérèse's second husband). The dissidents are imprisoned in the infamous 'Dark Hole' in the Castle, which Adam Tas, the well-known diarist, describes as the most putrid prison in the world, where usually only prisoners condemned to death spent their last days. When Pieter Meyer becomes ill, he relents in a

⁴ Kolbe, *Naaukeurige en Uitvoerige Beschryving van De Kaap de Goede Hoop*

⁵ Hartdegen, Paddy (1988). *Our Building Heritage – An Illustrated History*. Halfway House: Ryll's Publishing Company. p 12.

diplomatically worded statement, saying that he regrets all his wrongdoings, but De Savoye shows no fear and says he signed the petition because the Cape was going to the dogs. His only goal, he insists, is to prevent officials from owning property and allow the burghers free trade in cattle, grain and wine.

On 12 February 1712 De Savoye applies for free passage back to the United Provinces for him, his wife and mother-in-law. This is not granted, but in view of their age and indigence, they pay half-fare as deck passengers on Cornelis de Geus's ship the *Samson*. Why does De Savoye not ask for assistance from his three sons-in-law? Is he too proud, or are relations strained? The house in Table Valley is only sold in April 1713, the year of the small-pox epidemic, which means that those proceeds could not be used either.

When De Savoye and his wife are admitted to membership of the Walloon Church in Amsterdam in 1714, with a Cape attestation, there is no mention of Anthonette Carnoij. She may have passed away in the course of the journey. Yet another major and unforeseen upheaval awaits the family. The next year, the couple's son, Philippe Rodolphe, who had been sent to Europe as a young man for his education, returns to the Cape, taking passage on the *Westerdijxhom* as a soldier and subsequently joining the shore establishment, where he rises to the rank of junior merchant. With three daughters and numerous grandchildren also in the colony, the parents are induced to leave Holland once again and make the long journey back to the Cape, where they are admitted as members of the congregation on 16 March 1716. On 15 September of that year, Jacobus de Savoyen presents his son, then aged 22, for church membership.

Philippe Rodolphe leads a respectable life as book-keeper and military paymaster, a member of the Orphan Board and the Marriage Board, a Cape deacon and cellar master of the East India Company in Cape Town. He is appointed to the latter position in 1721 and still occupies it at the time of his death in 1741, when the surname De Savoye dies out in South Africa.

Jacques, the baby who accompanied his parents on their long south-bound voyage, never farms near Simonsvlei. The farm on the Kromme River was promised to his mother by Simon van der Stel in 1689 and held in trust for the minor, together with another property in the region, but his early death occurs some time before 1708.

Margo becomes the founding mother of the Snymans in South Africa. The couple have nine children before Christoffel passed away and in 1707, the 36-year-old widow marries Henning Viljoen. The following year, her eldest, Catharina, marries Johannes Viljoen, the brother of her stepfather. The descendants of both Henning Viljoen and Johannes Viljoen are therefore also descendants of Jacobus de Savoye.

Aletta, the first of the De Savoye children to be born on African soil, marries Pierre (Pieter) Meyer, a Huguenot from Dauphine, one of the original immigrants in 1688. One of Aletta's sons, Philippe Rudolph Meyer, becomes deputy-merchant and cellar master of the Cape government. The Meyers have seven children and countless Meyers are also direct descendants of Jacques de Savoye.

Two years after his return to Africa, in October 1717, Jacques de Savoye passes away – aged 81 and a pauper. His wife, Maria Magdalena, dies in May 1721. Vrede en Lust's first owner was a man of great vision, a megalomaniac, whose great strength lay in his powerful religious life and voluntary efforts as a missionary for the Protestant cause.

1702

CHRISTIAAN EHLERS AND BARBÈRE DE SAVOYE

The second owner of Vrede en Lust fell in love with Jacques de Savoye's second daughter while working as a labourer on the farm. Christiaan Ehlers (or Eijlersz, Eelers or Eybers), brother of Hendrik, the Lion's Head signaller before leaving the Cape, marries Barbère and with her active participation in his business affairs, makes a lot of money as a baker.

In 1701, when Jacobus de Savoye is so heavily indebted to the Company that he cannot repay his loan, Christiaan buys Vrede en Lust from his father-in-law, thus presenting him with enough cash to satisfy his creditors. There is one minor complication though: Christiaan Ehlers has no interest whatsoever in farming. His business is flourishing and his wife enjoys the comfort of the settlement

in Table Valley. Neither of them is keen to exchange their relatively relaxed and complacent existence for one of hardship in the countryside.

Ehlers immediately sells the property to the farmer Willem van Zyl, merely acting as an intermediary in a curiously rapid transaction. The transaction is concluded in two stages starting in January 1702.

To the Cape authorities, the mobility of the early Drakenstein population is a problem. On 2 December 1697 the Political Council issues an ordinance that inhabitants of Stellenbosch and Drakenstein will only be able to move to the Cape providing they pay 50 rix-dollars to the Stellenbosch magistrate. This measure is intended to prevent colonists who received free land from selling the property shortly afterwards and settling in Table Valley.

Ehlers does not have to pay the fine, for those who have the likelihood of earning a good living in town, are excluded from the stipulation. However, he pays ratherly dearly for the farm, perhaps only for the benefit of his in-laws, for he was an astute businessman. For his 5 010 guilders Indian valuation Ehlers acquires 120 morgen of cultivated land and “*seekere hofstede, en opstaande behuisinge en verdere betimmeringe*” (some buildings and timber structures). This refers to the rough attempt at housing made by his father-in-law.

When Christiaan dies in 1703, Barbère is left with four children under the age of six. Supporting herself and her young family as a baker and confectioner, she remarries a former sailor and clerk in the Company's pay department in 1706. Elias Kina (also spelt Quina or Nina), originally from Amsterdam, learns the baker's trade from his wife. After four more pregnancies, Barbère is widowed once again in 1714.

A well-off and cultured businesswoman, Barbère owns a house in Table Valley, a farm and assorted household effects. She raises her children to be not only resourceful, but also to enjoy a taste for the finer things in life. They attend church services in the Groote Kerk, consecrated in 1704. Her youngest daughter, Christina, marries Nikolaus von Dessin, who bequeathes his entire library with books, manuscripts, paintings, objets d'art, mathematical and astrological instruments to the Dutch Reformed Church in Cape Town for the founding of the first public library in the country.

1702 – 1728

WILLEM VAN ZYL AND CHRISTINA VAN LOVEREN

For Vrede en Lust, it is third time lucky! The property is finally sold to a man who is in essence a farmer. His story starts in Delft in 1668, in the home of a Catholic tinsmith, Willem van Zyl Sr (also written Van Seijl) and his wife, Aeltgen (or Nelletgen) Pieters van Adegeest. The Van Zyls, unlike many Hollanders of the time, are sufficiently well-off to own a proper family home in Wijnstraat. True to tradition, the eldest son, Hubertus (or Albertus), learns their father's trade to take over the family business. While the second, Frans, joins the VOC as a soldier, Willem Jr heads for Amsterdam, the most affluent merchant city in Europe, where he becomes a gardener.

Willem finds lodgings in Verwer Street, nowadays situated in the oldest part of the city, and soon meets a 21-year-old Protestant girl who is living with her aunt along the nearby Waal. Christina van Loveren was born in Amsterdam and christened on 7 June 1673, in the same church where she was to be married, which also happens to be the oldest church in the city. Her parents, Jan Juriaensz and Annetje Jans were also married in the Oude Kerk, ten years before christening their little daughter. The fact that there is no church record of Jan and Annetje christening any other babies might indicate that they were childless and adopted the little girl, for at the time it was highly unusual for a couple to have one child only. Jan was buried from the Oude Kerk in 1676 and Annetje in 1680, leaving little Christina orphaned at a very tender age. When the young couple's banns are first read on 12 November 1694, both Christina and Willem have lost their parents. Their marriage ceremony in the Oude Kerk takes place two weeks later, on 28 November.

The Van Zyls soon move to Haarlem and on 21 October 1695, the eldest of their eight children, Willemina, is christened there. Two years later, Albertus is christened in the town Velsen, just outside Haarlem. Willem and Christina are ambitious and intent on securing a better life for their offspring. Opportunity knocks when Willem's brother Frans writes to them from the Cape. According to a new scheme, free passage is offered to the Cape, provided they remain there for 15 years. Without much hesitation, they decide that the arguments in favour of leaving weigh heavier than those against. Their links with Holland are neither sentimental nor binding. The fact that both sets of parents have passed away certainly makes the move to the Cape easier. On 22 September 1698,

32-year-old Willem, his 25-year-old wife and their two toddlers board *De Drie Croonen*, skippered by Jan Speelman, and sail from Texel. They travel in the same fleet of seven ships as the new Governor Wilhem Adriaen van der Stel, who is on board the *Stad Keulen*.

During the fearful journey twenty seven people die, mostly from dysentery and fever. The living conditions are desperate. Men and boys sleep on the open deck, whereas the women and daughters share a cabin. Willem and Christina keep all their worldly possessions in a huge old Batavian kist made of Philippine mahogany and finished with splendid Genoese copper clamps. To prevent it from capsizing in turbulent waters, it rests on two front feet only. The very same kist, imbued with countless memories, is now owned by a direct descendant, Mrs Jean Retief, née Van Zyl, of the wine estate Van Loveren in Robertson.

On 23 January 1699 the perilous voyage is finally over. The Van Zyls are welcomed at the Cape with open arms, Willem's experience as a nurseryman standing him in good stead and he immediately starts work as deputy chief gardener at Rustenburg, the Company's nursery in Rondebosch. Willem van Zyl never looked back in his new homeland. Barely three years later, the gardener becomes a free burgher, with enough resources to buy one of the Drakenstein's most splendid farms, as well as two slaves and four horses. Within three days, Vrede en Lust had as many owners.

Two days after Christiaan Ehlers takes transfer, Van Zyl acquires one half of the farm. The other half is transferred in his name a year later, on 11 January 1703. These transactions are recorded in the collection of documents entitled *Transporten en Schepenkenis* (Transport and Shipping Information) in the Deeds Office.

Meanwhile, Christina has her hands full raising the expanding family. On 4 July 1700 Johannes is born. On 30 October 1701, Hendrina is christened in Cape Town (she probably died young). On 9 December 1703 Gideon, conceived not long after the family moves to Vrede en Lust, is christened in Drakenstein. On 12 December 1706 it is Pieter's turn, followed by Hester and Christina on 20 April 1709 and 14 September 1709 in Stellenbosch and lastly, on 11 December 1718, Johanna in Drakenstein. The family flourishes and becomes the founders of a numerous Van Zyl dynasty. All four brothers, Albertus, Johannes, Gideon and Pieter, become farmers in the Drakenstein valley, with the middle boys marrying two sisters, Catharina and Maria Elisabeth van Eeden.

Lady luck is smiling upon Willem van Zyl. He joins the burgher defence force as a cavalryman in 1702. The next year he is promoted to the rank of ensign and in 1705 he serves as second lieutenant under Captain Hercules des Pres. Even though he is fast becoming an influential burgher, Van Zyl has to wait for his ambition to be realised. He desires official distinction and on several occasions, dating from 1704, he is nominated for the position of Heemraad. However, he is pipped to the post time and again by other contenders, such as the Frenchman Abraham de Villiers. Fortunately recognition is forthcoming from various sources and Van Zyl certainly proves himself to be a valued member of local society, capable of handling authority. In the 1706 Minutes of the Magistrate and Heemraden, Willem van Zyl is appointed overseer of a group of tien influential burghers, including the brothers Claude and Charles Marais, his friend Pieter van der Bijl, and the three Nortier brothers, Daniel, Jacob and Jean, who are responsible for the maintenance of roads and drifts (fords) stretching from Van Zyl's farm to Joostenberg.

On 5 January 1706 Van Zyl signs the petition against Wilhem Adriaen van der Stel's corruption together with seventy two complainants, including his good friend Adam Tas. Most of the Stellenbosch and Drakenstein farmers are involved in this attempt to impose limitations on the Governor's tyrannical rule. For Willem van Zyl, this act is as good as a death warrant.

The Governor retorts by soliciting 243 signatures from residents testifying to his innocence. Threats convince several farmers, including Van Zyl, to sign unwillingly. When Adam Tas hears of the retraction, he rides out personally to Vrede en Lust to discuss the matter with Willem and Christina. Both are in a quandary: they do not want trouble, yet they are strongly opposed to the Governor. Eventually Van Zyl concedes and withdraws his signature.

By the middle of the year, there is still no positive response to the petition. While the Here XVII are dragging their heels, Van Zyl and eight co-conspirators, all respectable citizens, are ordered to present themselves at the Castle for court appearance. The men decide to ignore the issue, after which they are summoned publicly by means of a poster, but still they stay away. They protest that the nature of their crime has never been mentioned and undertake to ignore any order by the Governor until they receive a reply from Holland.

The court case then takes an interesting turn. The fiscal, Christoffel Hasenswinkel, is sent to arrest Van Zyl, who is tipped off about the imminent visit and goes into hiding with his friends. When Hasenswinkel arrives at Vrede en Lust and reigns in his horse, he only finds Mrs Van Zyl and the numerous offspring. Christina is ready for the fiscal. She complains non-stop about the hardships of her existence, about having to cope with a bunch of unruly kids, about a husband who disappears and leaves her in charge of everything. What a miserable life!

The Council of Justice finds the men guilty *in absentia* on 9 August 1706. They are banned to Mauritius for five years' manual labour without wages. Their possessions are to be confiscated, they are fined and will never again be considered for any political or military position.

For months the men go under cover in the veld near Vier-en-Twintig-Rivieren, hiding in the bush, mountains and caves. Three are captured and sent away, but Van Zyl remains fugitive until August 1707, when the tyranny of Governor Wilhem Adriaen van der Stel finally comes to an end upon his being recalled by the Here XVII.

Van Zyl is a prosperous farmer who tries his hand at everything, from viticulture to the cultivation of grains and raising livestock. This is clearly indicated by the annual *Opgaafrollen*, compulsory inventories stating each person's possessions for poll tax purposes. In 1702, Van Zyl bought a farm with 8 000 vines and a crop of 10 leaguers of wine; by 1706, the figures for Vrede en Lust have increased to 14 000 vines and 14 leaguers of wine. One leaguer equals 577 litres, and roughly 1 000 vines are needed to produce 1 leaguer of wine. Seven years later, Van Zyl owns 30 000 vines. The upswing in his fortune is in keeping with general trends and in the course of the 18th century, Drakenstein instead of Stellenbosch becomes the most important centre of viticulture at the Cape. Total Drakenstein figures for 1718 indicate that Van Zyl fares extremely well. He possesses 20 000 vines out of a total of 832 700, and 12 leaguers of wine compared to a total of 448½. As a wine farmer, his success is surpassed only by about five other colonists.

By the end of the 17th century, Drakenstein also excels at the cultivation of cereals, winnowing more wheat than either Stellenbosch or the Cape district. In 1702, the year Van Zyl acquires Vrede en Lust, he sows 6 muids of wheat and winnows 20; 4 muids of rye and winnows 40; 2 muids of barley and winnows 10. The decline in the first annual yields indicates that Van Zyl is experimenting with crops, learning the hard way, through experience. As early as 1705 he learns that barley gives disappointing results. In future he will concentrate on wheat, which means that he has to start applying for sowing permits, the first of which is issued on 20 April 1714, on condition that he supplies the Company with one tenth of his crop.

Livestock farming presents its own dilemmas. In Drakenstein, as in Stellenbosch, grazing deteriorates to the point where farmers hardly have sufficient food for their animals. However, compared to wheat and wine, meat fetches excellent prices. Furthermore, sheep and cattle farming do not require huge capital outlays and transportation and labour costs are minimal. To solve the grazing problem, the government issues permits in the well-known hunting territories of the Swartland, the Berg River and Vier-en-Twintig-Rivieren – areas that are nothing more than communal grazing land for the established Cape farmers.

The loan farm system, which gradually developed out of the grazing licence system, became very popular. This size of a loan farm was about 3 000 morgen, measured by walking thirty minutes in each of the four wind directions. The procedure was simple and eliminated the need for a surveyor to measure the land. Although in theory the government could confiscate the farm, this happened very seldom in practice. Initially the livestock were left at these outposts to be supervised by grown sons, white servants and reliable slaves. In time the pioneers settled on these farms and built houses.

Van Zyl needs extra grazing for his considerable herds. Having started out with 100 sheep and 20 cattle, he owns 400 sheep and 32 cattle by 1705. The next year, he has 500 sheep and 40 cattle. In 1708, not long after the Van der Stel debacle, he starts renting a second property, De Honing Fonteijn, situated next to the Berg River in the Vier-en-Twintig-Rivieren area where he had been in hiding. He improves the land at his own expense, erects homes and pens for the animals and becomes its rightful owner fourteen years later, after an appealing to the authorities. In 1714, the year he is allowed to return to Holland in terms of his original contract, he purchases Leeuwenhoek in the Lower Berg Valley. The next year, his livestock numbers 700 sheep, 140 cattle and 16 pigs.

According to the depiction in E.V. Stade's famous drawing of 1710, the simple, rural nature of the little Drakenstein community stands in marked contrast to the majestic backdrop of the mountains.

Certain beacons are clearly recognisable today, including the Babylon's Toring. Life is rolling along gently for Willem and Christina van Zyl. They own 3 servants and 5 slaves and employ home teachers for their children. Their lifestyle does not differ much from that of other farmers. Like many of them, Willem occasionally applies for a permit to go hunting game such as eland and hippo. His weapons include a musket flintlock, a pistol and a fencing sword. Several instances of his hunting in the vicinity of the Berg River are noted from 1709 onwards.

Although the Van Zyl's are prosperous and even see fit to leave a bequest in their will to the Drakenstein poor, Christina's rectangular house is extremely basic, nothing at all like the fancier letter of the alphabet homes built two generations later. The windows of the hut or hovel are tiny, the interiors dark, rendered even more sombre by clay floors and reed ceilings. The primitive building material weathers badly and the timber for fuel and bricks is cut within wagon-haul.

Industriousness and commercial instincts turn Vrede en Lust into a model farm. On Sundays, after the religious sermons, the Drakenstein burghers do their weekly shopping for supplies at the farm shop on Vrede en Lust, a stone's throw from the church, and far more convenient than travelling all the way to town.

On 19 December 1719 there is great jubilation in the Van Zyl household. Willem finally fulfils his ambition to become Heemraad of Drakenstein, despite the ruling that none of the conspirators against Wilhem Adriaen van der Stel would ever be eligible for public office. At last, this deserving man receives the recognition he so desires. On 29 January 1720, he attended his first meeting as Heemraad; thereafter he served two more terms.

In 1721, Governor Maurits Pasques de Chavonnes receive a petition from Van Zyl and a number of friends and neighbours complaining that Khoi women visit their slaves, who were of Malay and other extraction. Of these visits, children are born. The farmers request that these offspring be indentured to those who rear them, otherwise they have no compensation for all their trouble and expense. They also petition for legislation to be imposed and a certain number of years to be determined during which time their slaves cannot be seduced or frightened by the Khoikhoi who recognise no authority.

When Willem van Zyl passes away in the age of 61 years in 1727, Vrede en Lust is a highly desirable property with sixteen slaves. The outbuildings consist of a wine cellar next to the house, bake house, smoke house for curing meat and preserving hides, and a shed with heavy ox-drawn farming equipment such as harrows and ploughs behind the pressing house. The homestead has six rooms downstairs and three attic rooms under the roof. The sitting room is full of glassware and porcelain displayed on shelves for visitors to admire. Intimate friends and family are received in a more comfortable sitting room, concealed from public gaze. Here the family Bible sits on its own stand beside a huge looking glass. Various tables, framed prints and ornamental chests are arranged all over the room. Six chintz curtains with valances are draped across the three windows.

Less lavish is the room to the left, with two curtained beds, clothes shelves and a huge linen cupboard. There is also a jumble of storage items, from hats and medicines to garden seed and iron wire. Most of the chairs seem to have found their way to this room – seventeen altogether. The small, rear room has four beds, two of which are curtained in chintz, and the farmer's guns.

When the appraisers go up into the roof, they use the external staircase at the back of the house. Here they find three storage rooms with miscellaneous items, useful and useless all jumbled together: pots and pans, ropes, glass window panes, grain and beans, canes and curtain rings.

Coming downstairs, the appraisers move into the prep room which houses the copper and brass utensils, pots and pans, objects made of tin, wood and iron, and many valuable pewter vessels, spoons, dishes and plates. The kitchen itself, with its floor-level hearth and kettle, pots and pans hanging from the chimney chain, is reserved exclusively for cooking. Contemporary cooking occurred in earthenware vessels, in the Cape as in Europe. Coarse red earthenware containers were made locally, and proved to be the only ceramic table-ware made in the Cape until the 20th century. One seldom sees them in museums nowadays, although they are commonly found in archeological collections of excavated wares. They are easily broken, mundane items like dishes, pans, pots, coal holders and colanders, often with little feet on the base to raise the vessel above very hot coals.

Exactly how prosperous "Vreed en Lust" was, can be deduced from the content of the wine cellar. This building contains 18 leaguers of white wine and 3 of brandy, 1 aum of brandy, 16 empty leaguers, 2 ½ leaguers, a wine press, barrels, a bag of sulphur, salt for curing and preserving meat

and hides, spars, thatching, windows and doors to adorn new buildings, bits and pieces for making and repairing vehicles and farm equipment, and moulds for making bricks. In addition, there is a specialised pressing house for the grape harvest.

The ten slaves are an important asset in the estate: they came from Timor, Madagascar, Malabar, Bengal and Rio de Lago. Two men were Cape-born, and the single woman slave, Susanna, was originally shipped to the Cape from Bengal in India. In Willem's will, the widow's portion is 9 439 guilders, and special provision of 2 000 guilders is made for the 9-year-old Johanna, the only child who has not yet left the parental home. Furthermore, Johanna and her seven siblings receive equal portions of 393 guilders.

On 19 October 1728, Christina sells Vrede en Lust as a going concern to David de Villiers for 10 200 guilders, Cape valuation.⁶ With Johanna and a female slave, Eva of Rio de la Goa, she moves to house in Table Valley, on which 800 guilders are still owing at the time of Christina's death in 1730. Her 12-year-old daughter is bequeathed gold and silverware, household effects and other moveable property, as well as the slave, Eva. Christina furthermore stipulates that a feather bed with all its paraphernalia, including silk and linen sheets, should go to her daughter Hester van Zyl, married to the burgher Hendrik Muscher. The remainder of the estate is to be divided amongst the eight children.

The inventory compiled after her death shows that she scaled down enormously when she left Vrede en Lust. It is clear that Christina van Zyl left Vrede en Lust with just those possessions required for life in the relatively civilised Table Valley settlement. The wagons, carts, ploughs and cellar equipment which remains behind will henceforth be used by a new generation of farmers.

1728 – 1783

DAVID DE VILLIERS AND ELIZABETH HUGO

With its fourth owner, Vrede en Lust becomes the property of a man who has viticulture coursing in his veins. On 19 October 1728, forty years after the initial grant, the farm is purchased by David de Villiers, the sixth child of Jacob (Jacques) de Villiers' twenty offspring.

In the first half of the 18th century, the population at the Cape increased considerably, even though the arrival of the Huguenots, perhaps 200 altogether, marked the end of planned European immigration. Men married young and births were two and a half times more numerous than deaths. Company employees frequently took free papers after serving their time and reinforced the burgher numbers. By 1750, there were more than 5 000 colonists and 6 000 slaves, as well as 1 500 Europeans in the service of the Company.

The Huguenot Jacques de Villiers, with his elder brothers, Abraham and Pierre, arrived at the Cape on the *Zion* on 6 May 1689. Their new farm in Olifantshoek (the current Franschhoek) was named La Rochelle, like their home town in France. The De Villiers brothers, like many of the settlers, struggled, but they were amongst the few Huguenots who actually had practical experience of viticulture. Jointly the Villiers brothers owned one horse, which they took turns to ride when they went to church in Stellenbosch – a three hour ride! Their wealth lay in their children and their descendants ensured that De Villiers is in all likelihood the most numerous, if not famous, Huguenot family to survive at the Cape. The register of the old Drakenstein church shows that the Villiers brothers were christening children with great regularity. Together with the Gardiol and Taillefert families, they formed one large clan, acting as godparents to one another's babies. Pierre, who fathered 25 children and lived to see his 100th grandchild, was the one to retain La Rochelle.

⁶ The term "Guldens Indische Valuatie" refers to the peculiar double monetary system used by the Dutch East India Company. A special light florin or "gulden" was used in the East Indies, of which the Cape was an appendage. This coin had a lower value than a gulden in Holland. For this reason most of the VOC's servants drew their pay in Holland. The intention was to eliminate as far as possible the necessity for transporting bullion overseas, a dangerous process owing to storms and pirates.

Jacob de Villiers and Marguerite Gardiol live on the farm La Brie in Franschoek when their sixth child, David, is born, but from 1717 onwards, the family moves to Boschendal, which Jacob takes over from his brother Abraham. David, a fine fellow, serves in the church as a deacon, but like countless young men at the time, he has nothing to rely on but diligence and good sense. He knows that he will not be allowed to stay on at Boschendal, for the privilege of farming it belongs to his youngest brother, who, according to the custom of the day, will look after his elderly parents.

When his older sister, Maria Elisabeth (christened Marie-Isabeau), marries Steven Marais in 1718, the enterprising and independent youngster becomes a regular visitor to Le Plessis Marly, especially since he is working on La Motte – the two farms are separated only by Vrede en Lust. David marries his cousin Madeleine, daughter of his uncle Pierre de Villiers, in 1726 and two years later, he jumps at the opportunity to buy Vrede en Lust for 10 200 guilders, Indian valuation, when the widow Van Zyl moves to Table Valley following the death of her husband, Willem. David knows the farm well and even though the house is not grand, it provides ample accommodation. He is excited about the fact that it has a separate bake house. With his brother-in-law next door, the young men set about building up their adjoining farms with much enthusiasm. In an isolated community where human life is taken away as easily as it is conceived, friends and neighbours are important, especially when personal tragedy inflicts pain. In 1731, just when things are looking up, the untimely death of the youthful Maria strikes hard. David loses a dear sister and Steven a wife who has borne him five small children.

When David's property is assessed for tax purposes in 1731, it records himself, his wife and four boys. These are not all his own sons, for only their eldest, Pieter, has been born. There are four slaves, three male and one female, three horses and 40 cattle. The vines still number 20 000, as in Willem van Zyl's tenure in 1723, but the wine stock consists of 15 leaguers. The grain crop measures 25 muids, but this will soon increase.

David, who enjoys social standing as an elder and Heemraad, is one of the memorialists, together with neighbour Charles Marais, who draw up a petition in 1744 to express their dissatisfaction with the lowering of wheat prices. The failure of the crops in 1738, 1739 and 1740 cripples the farmers who are unable to recover despite three succeeding plentiful years. Interest arrears are to be paid, as well as debts incurred for blacksmiths, wagon makers and other household purposes. The mortality among the slaves, nearly a thousand of whom die in a matter of two to three years, the running away of others, the condemnation of many by the Court of Justice, the shooting down or killing of a considerable number by the Hottentots, hamper the agriculturist. They are concerned about mortality among the draft oxen, the result of hard work, bad food, and sickness. Moreover, the petition complains about pests such as locusts, caterpillars and weavils; plagues such as rust in the vineyards or honey dew in the corn; gales that demolish the grain before it is ripe; floods; and droughts that parch up the corn in the fields and the unripe grapes on the vines ...

It is unlikely that David's living conditions are quite as bad as those mentioned, although many farmers are obliged to eat barley meal mixed and baked with pumpkins. There are those who have no slaves, or only one, and who, with their children, must do all the heavy work, and herd the cattle. Some must make do with hardly any clothing, and go about almost naked, and everything the farmer buys becomes dearer every year.

Madeleine gives birth to six children, but does not live to celebrate her fiftieth birthday in 1749 or 1750. Few widowers remain single in the countryside where there is a myriad tasks for a farmer's wife to perform apart from raising children. David immediately remarries, the 28-year-old Elisabeth Hugo becomes his second wife. Her father, the Huguenot Daniel Hugo, soon entrusts his farm, Sion, to his capable and educated new son-in-law who has an unusual thirst for knowledge. His personal library comprises 52 French and 48 other books, according to an inventory, which is quite remarkable for someone whose cultural life is of necessity dulled by the hardships of making a living. When writing, he employs an early version of Afrikaans, showing that the language is already being formed from a mixture of Dutch with French and Malay words. A letter, written to the magistrate's secretary in 1748, shows his command of language. It is therefore not strange that he employs a cousin, Abraham J de Villiers, to teach his children.

In 1752, David's tax return looks considerably different than it did in 1731. He now owns a third property, La Motte, which is farmed by his eldest son, Pieter. From La Motte, he transfers 4 morgen 500 square roods to Vrede en Lust. When Pieter officially purchases La Motte and

Frederiksborg for 5 000 guilders from his father in 1753, a condition is laid down which entitles the owner of these two farms to the use of the ordinary water course of the river which crosses the farm in its descent, and also to construct a dam in the river on the farm Frederiksborg during the summer from 1 October to 1 April. However, for the benefit of Vrede en Lust, water is to be diverted by means of a sluice or ditch, thus enabling David to use his watermill for corn – the horse-mill being in disuse by then.

David and Elisabeth are now living on Vrede en Lust with four daughters and a servant, who educates the children while overseeing certain functions on the farm. David and Elisabeth spend twenty years together, during which time she gives birth to ten children. They are well-off; David owns seventeen slaves, ten males, four females and three children. There are twelve horses, 150 cattle and now also 375 sheep, from none in 1731. The vines have increased fourfold to 80 000. In the cellar stands 40 leaguers of wine, and the grain crops measure 60 muids, from 11 sown.

As a wine farm, Vrede en Lust flourishes. In 1758, the French in Mauritius prepare for war with England and French ships are regularly re-provisioning at the Cape. The Cape farmers are entitled to sell any surplus at the highest price they can obtain, once the Company's requirements of farm produce has been satisfied. With as many as seventeen French ships at one time in Table Bay, prices double and even treble. The French are followed by the English and until the peace of 1763, both sides use the Cape.

The Drakenstein landscape, however, is still savage and inhospitable. The Peninsula is separated from the interior by the waste of shifting sand, now known as the Cape Flats, which stretches across the isthmus. The area from Rondebosch to Faure is still untilled by 1800. David de Villiers lives with his gun close at hand, for beasts of prey are common. Even though the high price of ivory has ensured the extermination of the elephant, leopard, jackal and brown hyena ("*strandwolf*") are still very much in evidence in the gorges and against the mountain slopes, which is waste land belonging to the government. To the farmers' chagrin, they often attack the grazing livestock. In 1819, a stretch of mountainous land called Wolve Kloof ("Wolf Gorge") becomes a quitrent farm, but for the time being, its untamed aspects causes David de Villiers more than one headache. His high stone-walled kraals do not keep the predators out, and his herdboys in the adjacent enclosure are too lax to catch the culprits. To curb his losses and ensnare the predators, De Villiers builds a number of traps according to the prevailing custom. One of these stone constructions in Wolve Kloof is extant, with one rubble wall containing an opening through which the trapped animal can be shot.

When David dies in 1770, Elisabeth still has two sons under her roof who show every intention of becoming farmers themselves, even though they are not yet capable of running a farm. They are David's 12th and 15th children respectively: Jan, 12 years old (9 June 1758 – 1787) and his little brother, Izaak Tobias (1 April 1764 – 1792), only six. Ten years later, when Jan is 22, he brings home a wife: his cousin, 26-year-old Maria Elisabeth de Villiers. Maria, the daughter of Abraham de Villiers and Johanna Lombard, provides an heir, David Pieter, in 1781 and the following year the couple is blessed with a little girl, Johanna Susanna.

When Jan's wife comes to live under her mother-in-law's roof, there are seven male slaves, many of them born at the Cape, assisted by four female slaves. To work the farm, there are thirteen horses and 60 oxen, excluding eight breeding cattle. The wine cellar is well-stocked with leaguers of wine, wooden funnels, eight cellar buckets, a press and a brandy still, as well as beer pipes. The wagon house contains a horse-wagon with accompanying tent, three ox-wagons, two old wagons, one cart, twelve harnesses and six bridles. There are two ploughs and a harrow with iron teeth.

One can imagine the activities in the homestead during the mid-eighteenth century. Furniture includes a table, two desks, five mirrors, twelve paintings, three four poster beds, seven beds with blankets and twelve pillows, thirteen cushions and 45 chairs! So much for living and entertaining on a grand scale ... Crockery consists of 4½ dozen porcelaine vessels and 10 dozen porcelain plates! The cabinet holds 24 drinking glasses, three tea sets and 3 glass salt cellars. In addition to the iron pots and an iron tripod, the tin cutlery comprises 4 dozen tin spoons, 5½ dozen forks and 2½ dozen knives. The water-mill is fully operational with all its accessories, including an iron shaft. There is a large flour kist and two weighing scales with a 120 lb. weight. There are earthenware jars and glass bottles, bags and baskets, including one for chicken. For butter making, there is a churn and three barrels. With bread being baked on a daily basis for the large family, small wonder that Jan applies for permission to open a bakery.

When Elisabeth Hugo de Villiers draws up her final will in 1782, she is 60 years old. She passes away three months later, with Jan and Izaak inheriting 60 and 64 morgen of Vrede en Lust respectively. The young couple dictated their will before Antonie Faure at Vrede en Lust that very same year, while Elisabeth was still alive – perhaps a matter of convenience, having the notary at hand? Or a premonition of death soon to come?

1783 – 1789

JAN AND MARIA DE VILLIERS

Between 1776 and 1786, wine production at the Cape doubled. Local demand could not cope with the increased supply and export attempts were thwarted by the war that was being waged by France against Britain and the Netherlands. Fortunately the French garrison, which was stationed at the Cape from 1781 to 1783, brought such prosperity that prices were skyrocketing and Cape Town even had its first taste of price control. A French purchasing agent was in permanent residence; so was his Danish rival. Money was flowing into the colony, together with French fashions, frivolity and extravagance. People even spoke of “Little Paris”. The colonists beautified their houses and imported furniture on credit. Well-to-do farmers, their slave quarters full, employed Africans as labourers and Asiatics as masons, carpenters, coopers, cooks, tailors and coachmen. When the sun was shining, life was carefree; but when night-time fell, it was wise to sleep with a gun beside the bed and lock the bedroom door, for one never knew when the slaves were planning a revolt.

Jan de Villiers is almost 25 years old and the father of two infants when he becomes the official owner of Vrede en Lust on 21 March 1783. His section consists of sixty morgen plus the four morgen 500 square roods annexed by his father from La Motte. Vrede en Lust is valued at 14 000 guilders, Indian valuation. Jan pays the estate 4 668 guilders with a promissory note or bond for the remaining sum, to be redeemed in instalments.

The sixty morgen inherited by his brother, Izaak, is called Rust-en-Vrede. Izaak, the second youngest of the De Villiers children, is a youngster of 19 when he inherits his 60 morgen, as well as half of Sion. Due to Izaak's ailing health, Rust-en-Vrede is sold in 1790 and Elisabeth Francina van Niekerk is widowed two years later. Henceforth the story of Vrede en Lust unfolds separately from that of Rust-en-Vrede, which follows its own turbulent course of subdivision and is eventually consolidated with Le Plessis Marly, now known as Plaisir de Merle, in the 20th century, by a direct De Villiers descendant, Johan Hendrik (Lord John Henry).

The same fate befalls Izaak and his older brother, namely that their offspring do not continue farming on their birthright. Jan's third child, Jan Tobias, is barely two years old when his father is taken from them in 1787, four years after inheriting Vrede en Lust. His will does not amount to more than 2 000 guilders when it is presented at the Orphan Chamber on 20 April 1787. The first-born, David Pieter, is much too small to take over from his late father, but he later makes a huge success of farming at Sewe Riviere in Banhoek and at Zorgvliet. Together with his wife, Dorothea Susanna Retief, David Pieter de Villiers will build up an estate worth 100 000 guilders.

The De Villiers genealogy is a quagmire of intermarriage between cousins, all of whom chose traditional family names for their numerous children. David de Villiers had several namesakes, all of whom managed their affairs well and became prominent burghers.

1789 - 1821

MARIA AND JACOB MARAIS

For the first time in Vrede en Lust's history, the farm now belongs to a woman. How does the 35-year-old widow and mother of three handle her predicament? She chooses the only sensible option available to women in her day and age – two years after her husband's death, Maria Elisabeth de Villiers remarries. In terms of the will, Maria is the owner, but for all practical intents and purposes, it now belongs to her new husband.

Eleven years her junior, Jacobus Stephanus Marais, the eighth of Petrus Marais and Anna Margaretha Krige's twelve children, has all the makings of a fine farmer. He is the great-grandson

of the Huguenot Charles Marais, who came to the Cape as a youngster of 19 with his parents in 1688 and settled on Le Plessis Marly. While his brother, Claude, farmed next to Jacques de Savoye, Charles became the owner of De Fortuin in the Wagenmaker's Vallei, where he prospered as a farmer. He and his wife, Anne des Ruelles, did their fair share to establish the Marais name in this country, appearing twelve times at the christening font between 1693 and 1711. The groom descends from their fourth child, Daniel (husband of Aletta Rossouw), who moved to Swellendam.

The wedding is celebrated in Paarl on 31 May 1789 and the couple have four children in quick succession. Pieter, the eldest, is born the next year, followed by two girls at two year intervals, Anna Margaretha and Maria Elisabeth, and finally Abraham Johannes in 1797, when his mother is 43 years old.

Both wine and cattle farming are in an expansionary phase. When the war ends, the French garrison is replaced by a Dutch one who stays until 1790, at which time the Dutch East India Company can no longer afford it. Although the Cape is in an economic upswing, the rule of the Here XVII is almost over and the Chartered Company is almost bankrupt. Its annual income at the Cape is hardly a quarter of its annual expenditure, and selling off public buildings does not fill the coffers. When the Cape is returned by the British in 1803, it is handed over to the Dutch government instead and rechristened the Batavian Republic.

In the course of little more than a decade, the Cape assumes a cosmopolitan character. Since 1780, Holland is declining as a maritime power and Dutch ships at the Cape are outnumbered three to one. Foreign ships arrive from France, England, Denmark, America, Portugal, Austria, Spain, Sweden and Prussia, constituting more than half of all the ships calling at the Cape. For the Boland wine farmers these are halcyon days, especially when Britain occupies the Cape for the second time in 1806. They now have a huge new market to which they can export. Capital expenditure is the order of the day, with many farmers enlarging their existing cellars or building new ones. Soon the pinnacle of Cape Dutch architecture will be reached in the stately manor houses that have come to epitomise this unique building style. At the time when many of these elegant homesteads are erected, the Knysna forests with their majestic trees have only recently been discovered by Governor Van Plettenberg in 1788. The timber, initially required for wagons and gun-carriages, is transported by ship from Plettenberg Bay to Table Bay. Soon farmers are using the same yellowwood (*Podocarpus latifolius*) for beams and door-panels, ceiling and floor boards, and stinkwood (*Ocotea bullata*) and ironwood for cabinets.

The homestead at Vrede en Lust was probably built during the 1780 – '90 spell of prosperity, otherwise in the period between 1796 and 1820. The latter seems likelier, due to the elaborate decoration of the central gable. The later gables are usually more embellished than the earlier, truer versions. This does not rule out the possibility that an earlier house may have stood on the same spot, but could have burnt down. If the house was built during the first period, the same builder and masons may have been used as on Plaisir de Merle, where the manor house dates from 1764, with unaffected *holbol* (concavo-convex) gables, the simplicity being indicative of the early style and similar to those on the two outbuildings flanking the Vrede en Lust manor house. The similarities between the central gable of the Merle homestead, the central and side gables of the Vrede en Lust cellar, and the side gable of the Vrede en Lust *jonkershuis* (young master's house), support this conjecture.

Although the Cape farmyards usually formed a courtyard, the three main buildings on Vrede en Lust stand in a straight line. The cellar is to the right of the house, the *jonkershuis* to the left and the slave bell in front. The walls of Maria and Jacob's house are built of sun-burnt bricks, held together with clay mortar, and faced with ant-heap earth. To prevent them from disintegrating in the rain, they are lime-washed annually in November after the winter rains. The uneven surface of the walls prevents the bright sunlight from forming concentrated light reflections and the dazzling whiteness accommodates shadow play, even in a strong glare.

The stoep, paved with Batavian tiles or bricks, runs the full length of the main façade. Its purpose is to keep mud from soiling the white-wash of the outside walls and to level out the ground in front of the house. From time to time a marbling effect is painted on the base of the front wall to conceal mud splashes. On both sides of the stoep are benches formed in plaster, with oak trees for shade. Despite Van der Stel's well-meant insistence on oak afforestation in most of the original land grants, oak grows much too fast in the Cape to be used as timber and soon became

the preferred shade tree, hence the lovely country lanes and town streets which are graced to this day by centuries-old oaks.

The inside walls are tinted or stencilled. The floor of the entrance hall and reception rooms are covered with Batavian tiles, dark red in colour, laid directly on the bare clay earth underneath. In some rooms the clay is preserved with cow-dung or weekly applications of ox-blood, in others timber is used in line with late 18th century custom. The windows are symmetrical, with two half-width windows set close to the front door. Frames are flush with the outside wall. Casement windows open to the inside and teak wooden shutters to the outside. Sash windows, the top half being fixed and the bottom half made to slide, are coming into fashion. Glass is imported from Europe in sheets and cut into small pieces of about 8 X 6 inches, set in wooden glazing bars. The *voorhuis* (entrance hall) is divided from the main reception room by a many-leaved teak or yellowwood screen of Eastern origin. Facing the screen is a *muurkas* (wall cupboard) for porcelain or glass.

The central gable of the cellar features the date 1799 below the cap. One may well wonder whether it was inaugurated with a turn-of-the-century bash on 31 December. Jacob has now been in charge for a decade, and there is no need to be conservative, since the price of wine more than doubles between 1795 and 1797. The Marais couple are in the prime of their lives. Maria is 46, Jacob 35, and both have made enormous sacrifices to build up the farm. Jacob's stepsons, young David and Jan, are strapping lads of 19 and 15 respectively, while their sister, Johanna, is a nubile 18 years old. The house is filled with boisterous laughter and banter as the four Marais offspring are growing up. They are a positive, happy and God-fearing family, and if the turn of the century was celebrated with a party, one pictures Pieter (10), Anna (8), Maria (6) and Abraham (3) taking turns to peep at the grown-ups dancing and making merry, and eating their fill from tables laden with roast meat, venison pie, freshly-baked farm bread, garden vegetables and an array of sweets, including milk tart and koeksisters.

But what does Jacob's wine cellar look like? It is a long, rectangular thatched structure above the ground, featuring a large double door with fine wrought iron hinges at one end and a second, smaller door below the central dormer gable. The front gable is in the popular *holbol* style with Baroque features, not unlike the 1815 gable of one of the outbuildings on neighbouring Rust-en-Vrede. The end gables are equally decorative, the cap being split into two scrolls with a shell motif inserted between them. Both the shell and the sheaf of wheat on the *jonkershuis* end gable seem to be randomly chosen for they do not appear as heraldic emblems in the shields of Van Zyl (swan), De Villiers (bent arm holding curved sword), or Marais (rose).

A small door is cut into one of the larger doors to allow easy access to the cellar, while maintaining a low temperature on the inside. To reduce the heavy concentration of carbon dioxide which builds up during fermentation, a draught is essential and at Vrede en Lust, this is created by two small rectangular window openings on either side of the central doorway. The opposite wall has none. The end doorway comprises a second smaller doorway, reached by a flight of three steps, to supply wine to local customers without having to open the large doors.

In 1806, Vrede en Lust becomes involved in the first of various court cases about water rights. The issue, concerning the use of a water channel, goes to the Appeal Court two years later. The parties are Pieter Marais, Jacob's son (even though he only becomes the official owner in 1821), versus Elizabeth du Toit, widow of the late Frans de Wet who bought neighbouring Rust-en-Vrede from Isaac de Villiers in 1790. The cost of building a reservoir is to be shared by both parties and the flow of the water regulated. The widow has the right to open the sluice through which she receives her water whenever she desires.

In the first decades of the 19th century, the cost of living increases sharply due to the drastic decrease in the value of the rix-dollar. Prices of agricultural implements, slaves and household items double and treble during this period. While the wine farmers are being paid good prices for their wine, however, they hardly have reason to complain. After the blockade of European harbours by Napoleon in 1813, Governor Cradock announces that Britain is granting preferential tariffs for ordinary Cape wine and export prices shoot up sky-high!

Like most wine farmers, Jacob has large herds of livestock and is keen to acquire more land for grazing in terms of the new system of tenure, namely perpetual quitrent. Marais becomes joint owner of waste land higher up against the mountain, namely Wolve Kloof, 1 070 morgen of which is granted as a quitrent farm in 1819. For almost a century, one fifth or one tenth shares of Wolve Kloof are sold off by the various owners, until the land is finally surveyed in 1902, when various

sections are consolidated with neighbouring farms. Jacob is also granted 73 morgen bordering Watervliet and Welgevonden, uncultivated Government land, Vrede en Lust and Rust-en-Vrede, and skirting the *Doordrift*. Sadly the expansions are only finalised in December, a few months after Maria's death on 21 March 1819.

1821 - 1846

PIETER AND ANNA MARAIS

Vrede en Lust now appears to pass out of the hands of the De Villiers family, but in fact the new owner, Pieter Marais, is Maria's eldest son by her second husband, Jacob. Many Cape properties passed down through the female line, from mothers to sons-in-law and step-in-laws. Women and men inherited equally under Cape-Dutch law, even though a husband, upon marriage, gained control of the couple's joint estate in community of property. In this way Jan de Villiers' farm passed into his wife Maria's hands, then to her second husband, Jacobus Stephanus Marais, and thence to their son, Pieter.

When 31-year-old Pieter Marais and his 30-year-old wife, Anna, become the new owners on 13 April 1821, they cannot foresee that within two years the farm will be mortgaged to the hilt. Pieter is married to his first cousin, Anna Aletta, the daughter of Jacob's younger sister Anna Elisabeth, and David Muller. The executor of Jacob's estate is Pieter's brother-in-law, Johan Carel Voigt, a well-known wine farmer from the Klein Drakenstein farm Parys, who is married to Pieter's sister, Anna Margaretha. To pay the purchase price of 230 000 guilders Indian Valuation, Pieter takes out a mortgage for 120 000 guilders on the day of the transfer. The next year all the wine farms suffer terribly as a result of heavy rains and gale force winds lasting four days. Two further mortgages on Vrede en Lust are registered on 7 February 1823 and 13 June 1823.

It is a tough baptism for Pieter, but his prospects remain good, with wine being the single biggest source of income for the Cape colony and also the most important export product, as it will be for the next three decades. Drakenstein is the largest production area with approximately 20 million vines. In February 1826 Pieter becomes advisor to Governor Lord Charles Somerset, who is keen to generate exports so that the Cape colony will not be such a constant drain on British Colonial Office coffers. As Groot Drakenstein representative on the Cape Wine Trade Committee, Pieter has to investigate the improvement of the quality and flavour of the colonial wines, since the British visitors are forever complaining about Cape wines (except Constantia vintages), although they do not hesitate to drink them. The committee draws up guidelines for making good wine and brandy, conducts experiments to analyse various wine and brandy making processes and opens an office in Cape Town to taste wine and brandy samples. Unfortunately, due to a lack of interest on the part of the wine farmers and insufficient funds, the Cape Wine Trade Committee is unable to improve the quality of Cape *vin ordinaire*.

The Cape of Good Hope Agricultural Society is founded in 1833 and tries in vain to inspire the wine farmers through competitions which award trophies and cash prizes for high quality. The domestic demand is big, however, especially from the lower social classes, including the military. Millions of rix-dollars are invested in new vineyards, more than half of which are planted in Drakenstein. Overspending and not paying enough attention to the quality of their wines causes the downfall of many farmers, who get rid of their surplus stocks by distilling more brandy. From the 1830s onwards, they collaborate to produce large quantities of good quality brandy, with some of the first big distilleries to be found in Drakenstein. However, Cape brandy has a disgraceful reputation on the British market and despite appeals to the authorities, Britain refuses to reduce the high import duties. Cape brandy remains a local product until the end of the century, its success due mainly to increased consumption in the budding mining towns.

When preferential tariffs are abolished in 1825, the Cape farmers are far too dependent on wine to cope financially. Many of them have incurred huge debts to finance the capital expenditure on their farms; what is more, they are heavily taxed by the government, and transport costs during the depression era amount to one third of the price paid for a leaguer of wine. An ox-wagon, the only means of transport, can only transport two leaguers of wine at a time. From Drakenstein, a single trip over bad roads may take up to four days. The wine farmers are becoming poorer by the day and many are compelled to sell their stock, since they have neither casks nor store room nor capital to wait for a better market. By the 1830s and 1840s wine farmers in general are referred to as a poor socio-economic group.

With the abolition of slavery in 1834, the owners suffer further serious losses, compounded by labour shortages. Pieter's brother-in-law, the farmer J C Voigt, writes to *De Zuid-Afrikaan* on 27 January 1840 that most of the wine farmers will not be able to harvest the forthcoming crop due to a lack of hands, which has already caused a part of the deciduous fruit to be lost.

When Pieter Marais dies on 27 November 1845, the farm is bequeathed to 33-year-old Jacobus Stephanus, the eldest of Pieter's three sons. Jacobus is also executor of his father's will, together with Willem Frederick Hertzog, a relative of Pieter's second wife and surviving spouse, Maria Christina Hertzog. One can only speculate as to why Jacobus, who has three sons of his own, does not make every possible effort to retain the family farm. And what about his brothers – David Pieter is 29 and has already fathered the first of his two sons. At 19, even the youngest, Pieter Junior, is old enough to take over. Having been in the hands of one family for almost 120 years, Vrede en Lust is now sold to outsiders.

1846 - 1848

DANIEL J THEUNISSEN

On 21 February 1846, Daniel Johannes Theunissen (45) attends the public auction of Vrede en Lust and 1/5th of the adjoining Wolve Kloof. His bid of £2,675 is successful, and in fulfilment of the requirements, he names two sureties, namely Andries Brink and George Louis Steytler. The conditions of sale allow him to build a dam in the river on the farm Fredricksburg and a ditch across the latter and La Motte. The Wolve Kloof section includes an access road used by neighbours to get to the church in Simondium, passing through a gate between a smithy and a mill.

The new owner, who officially takes transfer on 16 April, is a grandson of the founding father of the Theunissen family in South Africa. Marthinus Aegidus Theunissen, who was born in the Netherlands in 1744, was only twenty years old when he immigrated from Maastricht. At the Cape, he married Anna Maria Lourens and fathered 12 children. He succeeded his father-in-law, J M Lourens, as head of the VOC's *buitepost* (outlying regions) in Sonderend and the Breede River. Marthinus and Anna's eldest son, Marthinus Wilhelmus, was born at the main station, Soetmelksvlei, and christened on 9 April 1773.

For the Theunissens twenty seems to have been a fortuitous age, because Marthinus Junior marries Sara Catharina Malan shortly after his twentieth birthday. (His younger brother, Wilhelmus, married her sister, Emerentia, and became a commandant in the early Border wars.) Marthinus and Sara are a busy young couple. Not only do they acquire various properties, including Vergelegen in Somerset West, but Sara gives birth to fifteen children. By the time Daniel Johannes, the sixth son in a row, is christened in 1801, Sara must have been pregnant almost all her married life. Unfortunately the genealogical records of the Theunissen family end with Daniel's generation, so we have no information about his wife or children.

During the 1840s and 1850s the economic position of the wine farmers is showing signs of improvement, mainly due to a slight increase in the wine price. While they are certainly not wealthy, they make a living. The labour issue is to a certain extent resolved when freed slaves start returning to their former employers. Drakenstein wine farmers also acquire the services of destitute English children sent to the Cape by the Children's Friend Society in London in 1837. Aged 14 on average, a few hundred of these juvenile emigrants are indentured to farmers in the Western Cape for six years. Some Drakenstein farmers take up to six children.

Sadly Daniel does not benefit from the short-lived period of prosperity in the late 1950s. He loses nearly £700 on the purchase price of the farm when he is declared insolvent two years after buying Vrede en Lust.

1848 – 1854

JACOB LOUW

The next owner of Vrede en Lust is Jacob Eliza de Villiers Louw, a native of Stellenbosch with strong family roots in Drakenstein. In 1848, when he pays £1,962 for Vrede en Lust, Jacob, the 30-year-old son of Hendrik Louw and Cornelia Sophia Smuts, has luck on his side. Although the farm is mortgaged straight away for the sum of £1,250, he buys at exactly the right time when the

export market is picking up, heralding a short period of prosperity for the wine farmers. The outbreak of oidium in European vineyards curbs production on the Continent so drastically that exports to Britain increase tenfold between 1853 and 1859, with Cape wine fetching excellent prices.

The sandy, heavy-going road across the Cape Flats is being replaced by a good, hard-surfaced road. By the end of 1845 the new road stretches as far as Klapmuts, cutting the Drakenstein farmers' transport costs by half. However, for years to come the road along which the Franschhoek wine farmers transport their wine to the junction with the Paarl-Cape Town road, remains terrible. Their heavily laden wagons have to cross the Groot Berg River, which is often in flood in winter, causing big losses.

By purchasing vrede en Lust, Jacob Louw returns to his roots. The Louw family's history in the Drakenstein valley dates to the burgher Hendrik Louw, who married Hester (or Ester) Loret in 1767. In 1790, after the death of Hendrik, Hester married Johannes Jacobus Haupt, a widower, of the farm Lanquedoc. The very next year the Louws celebrated another family wedding, when the third of Hendrik and Hester's thirteen children, the 21-year-old Johannes Guiliam, married his cousin, Elisabeth Maria Louw. A year later their eldest child was born and true to custom, they named the boy Hendrik Johannes after his grandfather and father. Hendrik's younger brother, Jacobus, married the widow Johanna Engelbrecht and so became the owner of Lanquedoc, the farm where his grandmother went to live after his grandfather's death. In his turn, Hendrik's son, also Jacob, becomes the tenth owner of Vrede en Lust.

On 15 May 1851, all the inhabitants of Groot Drakenstein are invited to a public meeting at Jacob's house, to discuss the building of a school in conjunction with the Paarl Reformed Church. The Simondium school will play an important role in the community, but Jacob's offspring will not become pupils. By the time the Louw couple and their three daughters, Elizabeth Maria Jacoba, Cornelia Sophia and Hendrina Aletta, leave Vrede en Lust, the only son and namesake, Jacob, is not yet born.

Vrede en Lust turns out a good business venture for Jacob. When he sells the farm to William Rowan after six years, he makes a quick profit of more than £500. Having tried his hand at farming, Jacob goes into business and becomes a trader. He passes away in the sleepy town of Kenhardt on 6 February 1876, aged 58 years, two decades after leaving Vrede en Lust.

1854 – 1871

WILLIAM ROWAN AND MARIA SMIT

In 1854 a new era dawns in the history of Vrede en Lust. For the first time in its history of one and a half centuries, the farm is owned by an Englishman – more precisely, an immigrant who was born in Northern Ireland in 1780 and comes to the Cape to work as clerk in the Naval Office in 1809. William Archibald Brown Rowan is destined to leave deep footprints in the history of Stellenbosch, where a street in the modern-day suburb Mostertsdrift is named in his honour. Despite his British provenance, one of his descendants later marries the father of the Afrikaans language and a great-grandson becomes a famous Afrikaans poet.

For his wedding to an Afrikaans girl, Agnita Olivier, Rowan travels to Portpatrick in Scotland in 1811. The Rowans then return to run a retail shop in Cape Town, situated at 1 Shortmarket Street. Maria Christina Elizabeth is born on 10 December 1812 and Anna Sophia on 22 April 1814. Both girls are baptised in the Reformed Church. In 1815, William relocates his shop to 3 Lely Street, and then to 72 Loop Street. In 1815, a third girl, Mary, is born, and by then the Rowans are ready to move to the interior.

William is appointed land surveyor in Stellenbosch and soon becomes comfortably entrenched in the local network of officials and landed gentry. Experienced land surveyors are fairly important people, for the perpetual quitrent system which had been instituted in 1813 created a veritable flood of applications for land grants. Prospective farmers are so impatient to begin farming that dozens of them settle on land they do not yet own officially. By today's standards, this makes them squatters on these so-called request farms and to land surveyor Rowan, such acts threaten his occupation. In 1826 Rowan is responsible for drawing up the plans for the Drostdy House, the magistrate's court and residence. That same year Rowan draws up the official ground plan of the well-known Moederkerk (Dutch Reformed Church) and calculates that it will accommodate 711 parishioners.

When Agnita dies shortly after making a will in 1820, she leaves William with nine children to take care of. The next year he marries Maria Johanna Smit. While raising William's brood of nine, he and Maria produce six children of their own. A daughter, Elizabeth Rachel van Niekerk Rowan, marries Jacob Joubert and their daughter, Elizabeth Jacoba Joubert, marries the Rev. S J du Toit, the driving force behind the first Afrikaans language movement. The minister's son, Jacob Daniel du Toit, better known as the Afrikaans poet Totius, is a major literary figure in the history of Afrikaans poetry.

The acquisition of Vrede en Lust for £2500 in 1854 finally makes the 74-year-old William a gentleman with his own country estate. There is hardly a question of actually farming the land himself. However, his namesake is a budding young farmer for whom the farm will make an auspicious inheritance, especially with the Cape wine market experiencing a boom period. Young Bill Rowan is 28 years old when William Senior dies during the harvest of 1859, having enjoyed his farm for a scant five years. Bill takes over the reins at a particularly trying time, for that is the fateful year in which the devastating disease oidium first breaks out in the Cape. In October and November, unusually wet and humid conditions cause the fungus to spread rapidly in the Drakenstein. Several farmers are faced with the loss of their entire crop.

The upswing in the Cape wine market is short-lived. In January 1860, Britain signs a free trade agreement with France, which drastically reduces import duties on French wines, then passes an act to abolish preferential tariffs on wine from all foreign territories. This means that Cape wines now have to compete with the far superior French wines on the British market. What is more, higher excise has to be paid on Cape wine after 1861 as a result of differential tariffs based on proof spirit content. Within a matter of years, exports from the Cape become almost non-existent. For the rest of the century, wine farmers are almost entirely dependent on domestic purchases of grape products for an income. Moreover, the wine price hardly covers production costs, even though the railway line now goes as far as Wellington.

For the young Rowan heir and namesake, farming is one long struggle. At a time of such thwarted ambition, it is not surprising that no official deed of transfer is registered when his father dies, but one suspects that Maria continues to live on Vrede en Lust with the younger generation, until William Junior decides to sell the farm to Willem Haupt in 1871. By then, its value has declined a lot and it fetches £400 less than William's father paid for it seventeen years before. Four years later William Jr (43) dies at his residence in Stellenbosch in the prime of his life. He leaves nine minors, including five sons. His occupation, noted on his death certificate, still says "farmer", but Vrede en Lust took its toll on the Rowans.

1871 – 1897

WILLEM ADOLPH HAUPT AND ELIZABETH FRANCIS STUCKERIS

When Jacob Louw takes transfer of Vrede en Lust in January 1848, there is great rejoicing in the midst of another old Drakenstein family. Johannes Haupt and his wife, Susanna van Niekerk, celebrate the birth of their eighth child, Willem Adolph. The little boy is christened on 14 April and the church is filled with family members of the large Haupt clan. When Willem Haupt becomes the proprietor of Vrede en Lust 23 years later, farming runs thick in his veins. His great-great-grandfather was the founding father of the Haupt family in South Africa.

Carel Albrecht Haupt, who hailed from Berlin in Germany, arrived in the Cape in 1748 and lived more than half a century in his adopted homeland, working as assistant and secretary of the Political Council, and then as bookkeeper of the V.O.C. (United East India Company). On 26 July 1756, he married Engela Christina Pfeil, daughter of the immigrant Daniël Pfeil of Karlskrona in Sweden, and the couple had seven children. Willem descends from their second son, Johannes Jacobus, who married Elizabeth de Vos and bought the Huguenot farms Picardie and Laborie, where he erected a beautiful homestead. Later generations Haupts acquired the farms Lanquedoc and Rhone. The family's genealogy is rather tricky, with the same christian names being used over and over again, and cousins marrying each other. The Willem Adolph of Vrede en Lust was named after his father's younger brother, who has no children of his own. Uncle Willem is a distinguished politician and Paarl representative in the Legislative Assembly.

Willem Haupt and his wife, Anna Carolina Stuckeris, take a keen interest in their young nephews and nieces. They are keen for young Willem to farm in Drakenstein, and although the youngster has no money, he does have a well-to-do father-in-law. Willem is married to Elizabeth Francis

Stuckeris, his aunt Anna's niece. Elizabeth is the daughter of Anna's brother, Johannes, and his wife, Anna Catharina Deneys. Johannes advances the purchase price and some money to get his daughter and son-in-law started in life, but the contract stipulates that Willem owes Elizabeth the amount of £2650. He pays £2100 for the farm, which includes the 1/5th section of Wolwekloof, which is considerably less than Rowan paid in 1854.

The elderly Stuckeris couple move to Vrede en Lust so that Elizabeth can take care of her parents in their old age. When her sister, Catharina Elisa, dies, Elizabeth also takes in the four minor children, Dirk Gysbert, Hester Jessina, Adriaan Christiaan and Anna Christina, whose father is the sisters' cousin, Adriaan Deneys (son of their mother's brother). By now there is a whole clan of Hapts, Stuckeris and Deneys living on Vrede en Lust, some of whom live in the *jonkershuis*.

Since 1860, the wine trade has gone through cycles of boom and bust. A large portion of the surplus wine that was usually exported, is now sold on the diamond and gold fields. In response to the new demand, the wine price increases fourfold in little more than a decade. It is during this phase of upswing that Vrede en Lust is officially transferred on 2 November 1871, but by the end of the decade, a new excise tax is introduced on locally produced brandy to help fill the empty state coffers. In the past, protest meetings held off this threat, and now the wine farmers organise one of the biggest campaigns ever against the proposed legislation. They are already struggling to dispose of the surplus and can definitely not afford yet another setback. When the government makes concessions, the wine farmers are inspired to form a united front to protect their own interests. In June 1877 the Zuid-Afrikaansche Wijnbouwersvereniging is founded in Cape Town, the idea having been initiated by a group of Paarl farmers the previous year. The association's general aim is to serve the wine farmers, for example by improving the quality of wine and negotiating a better price. Unfortunately the association is disbanded in 1882 as a result of internal strife.

While trying to cope with the exacerbating economic conditions, Willem and Elizabeth have to deal with a double personal loss as well. Elizabeth loses her father, who has been living with them, and Willem his uncle within a year of each other. A few months later, in May 1879, one of Willem's elder brothers, Johannes Jacobus, purchases a small section of Vrede en Lust. Johannes sees a business opportunity to erect a distillery on this section, which features on a later map, dated 1905. The plan is thwarted when this section is sold three years later to George Hutchinson, who owns it until the Colonial Government disappropriated the land on 27 October 1903, probably for the construction of the new railway line.

During the 1881 disarmament war in Basutoland, Willem serves as field-captain under his brother Johannes, the field commandant for Groot Drakenstein, with 63 burghers and 275 levies (brown burghers) under his command.

As from 1878 the wine farmers' interests are promoted by the Zuid-Afrikaansche Boerenbeschermingsvereniging (ZABBV), an association founded by Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr. The organisation lobbies for the abolition of the excise act, the reduction of the British import tax on Cape wine and a better marketing system for wine and brandy. One of its most important causes is stronger control over the importation of products and provisions which could be possible carriers of *Phylloxera Vastatrix*, which first broke out in Mowbray in 1886 and was carried by lice from Europe.

By 1888, Willem's coffers are drained and he is forced to declare himself insolvent. The inventory of the estate establishes the value of Vrede en Lust at £1 200, but there is a mortgage bond of £2 650, an overdraft of £75 and diverse debts of £227, including £175 owing to Johannes Haupt. The immovable property consists of 12 stukvats, 10 fermenting tubs; 3 brandy stills and 15 leaguers of unsold wine. Willem's primitive wine making process depends on a treading tub for pressing and a grape sieve for filtering. There is a wooden funnel, a tin funnel and a wine pump with leaders. The presence of a fruit drier indicates that Willem also produced raisins.

In the stable is but one saddle and pieces of an old harness. There is mention of twenty head of cattle and two horses, which he sold four years earlier to his cousin Daniël Egbertus Pfeil Haupt. Daniël's brother, Pieter Canzius Haupt, inherited Plaisir de Merle, the neighbouring farm to Vrede en Lust, but could not be found to claim his inheritance. In the outside room is nothing but a carpenter's bench, a coffee mill, a table, a fruit basket and a tin funnel.

The U-shaped house has five bedrooms, a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, pantry and loft. This very traditional and common layout probably stands on the site of an older homestead, the walls of which have been incorporated. The loft above the downstairs rooms indicates that the structure retained its 18th century style of dormer gable and high roof line.

The Haupt couple and their four children, William Samuel, Emma Mary, Jessie Anna and George Frederick, enjoy a genteel lifestyle conforming to Victorian standards. The decoration is far more stylish than a century before. Even though the De Villiers' were quite well-off, most of their belongings were useful, necessary possessions rather than the luxury items, such as sundry ornaments and flower boxes, owned by the Haupts. The presence of a piano with music stand in the lounge hints at musical soirées with guests. The chairs and sofa in the sitting room are *sprung*, the wood is *mahogany*, the sofa cushions are *chintz*, the chairs *Madeira*, and there are *fancy worked antimacassars*. Antimacassars were ornamental cloths placed over chair backs to protect the upholstery from hair oil, produced in Macassar, and were typically displayed in refined homes. These ones may have been the handiwork of the Haupt women, for there is a sewing machine in the dining room. By the 1870s sewing machines are widely used in the Cape, but obviously still chic enough to be displayed in a reception room. The dining room also contains a clock, a writing desk, a mahogany wooden wardrobe with drawers, a large dining table and 10 chairs with cane seats. The main bedroom has a marble washstand, a teak four poster bedstead, two large mahogany wardrobes and two infant's cots.

In the Haupt household, each person has his or her own quarters, unlike the large spaces that were shared by family and domestic slaves in the 18th century. The bedrooms contain a single bed, wash stand and so on, indicating that members of the family sleep, wash and keep their clothes individually and privately. Notions of privacy were important to 19th century gentlemen and women and in many fashionable Cape houses an intervening narrow passage was installed between the front entrance and the living rooms, or to divide large rooms into smaller units.

The Trustee's report says that the insolvent, like many other wine farmers, has had to contend with adverse times, and by reason of low prices obtained for wines has been obliged to surrender his farm. A special Supreme Court decision allows him to hang on to his farm for nine more years after paying the sum of £1650, namely the difference between the amount due and the value of the farm.

Two years after Willem's sequestration, Drakenstein falls subject to the destruction of the dreaded *Phylloxera* disease. When it eventually penetrates the valley in the summer of 1890/1, it causes more damage than anywhere else. Of the total infested vines in the Cape, almost 80 per cent are in Drakenstein (170 138 out of 214 652). Vineyards have to be uprooted at enormous cost and farmers are deprived of their main source of income for a number of years. Vineyard inspections are held on a regular basis and infested vines incinerated, altogether more than 22 million (a quarter of all vines at the Cape) in the 1890s alone.

After Elizabeth's death, Willem marries Mary Jane Buttenshaw, but he becomes a widower for the second time in December 1897, six months to the day after selling Vrede en Lust. For Vrede en Lust, 3 June 1897 marks the end of a chapter spanning twenty six difficult years. Willem Haupt passes away a decade later at Nursery Road, Rondebosch, where he has been working as a gardener.

1897 - 1899

CHARLES KOHLER

The twelfth owner of Vrede en Lust is the man who, in 1916, founds the Ko-operatiewe Wijnbouwers Vereniging van Zuid-Afrika Beperkt or KWV (Co-operative Viticultural Union of South Africa). Charles Kohler, the son of a British architect and engineer, spends part of his youth in Franschhoek and Simondium and settles in Paarl as a dentist at the youthful age of 21. When gold is discovered on the Witwatersrand, he moves north in 1886 and amasses approximately £35 000 – a small fortune – within a few years. For health reasons he leaves the Rand in 1889 and takes his family on a voyage around the world. Upon his return, he settles in Drakenstein and dedicates the rest of his life to the wine industry.

As honorary secretary and later chairman of the Paarl Agricultural Association, he encourages wine farmers to expand their knowledge of viticulture and oenology and organises seminars and practical demonstrations. During the 1890s he joins the Afrikanerbond and serves as chairman of the Drakenstein chapter, but after the Second Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) he is ousted from the Bond when he joins Dr L S Jameson's Progressive Party. In 1904 he is elected to the Legislative Council of the Cape parliament and becomes a fervent champion of the wine farmers' cause. In 1907 he founds the Colonial Wine-Farmers and Wine-Merchant's Association to protect and promote the industry.

When Charles Kohler sells Vrede en Lust after two years, he makes a neat profit of £1500 and purchases an old Huguenot farm along the banks of the Berg River. On Riverside, for which he pays a modest £1310, Kohler soon makes quality wines that fetch excellent prices.

1899 - 1930

HENRY MEYERS AND CHARLOTTE BRIGGS

More than two centuries after the original Vrede en Lust grant, the surname Meyer(s) crops up again in the history of the farm. Aletta, the first of the De Savoye children to be born on African soil, married Pierre (Pieter) Meyer, a Huguenot from Dauphine and one of the original immigrants in 1688, and one of their sons, Philippe Rudolph Meyer, became deputy-merchant and cellar master of the Cape government. Countless Meyers in South Africa are direct descendants of Jacques de Savoye.

The man who pays £3,500 for Vrede en Lust at the turn of the previous century is an English immigrant, born in Brentford and married in Twickenham. For 42-year-old Henry Meyers and his wife, Charlotte Lucy Briggs, the New Year is very special, having just moved into the lovely old farmstead. Over the last hundred years, Vrede en Lust has not changed much with regard to the water courses and roads, but against the slopes of the Simonsberg there have been major changes with vineyards being uprooted and replaced by orchards. These modifications drastically alter the appearance and the activities of the farm. Henry describes himself as a fruit grower rather than a wine farmer.

For now, everyone's major concern is the Second Anglo-Boer War which broke out in 1899. Due to the influx of hundreds of thousands of British soldiers, consumption of wine increases temporarily, but in the Groot Drakenstein valley, wine farmers are beginning to look for alternative sources of income. Fruit farming is the most logical and attractive option. In 1891 the Paarl district produced more than 100 000 tons of deciduous fruit, approximately one quarter of the total figure for the Cape colony, and the majority of farmers were saved by pears and oranges. The Rhodes government (1890-96) provided prospective fruit growers with encouragement and advice. Tens of thousands of trees were planted. The farmers were receptive to the suggestions of a man like Harry Pickstone, an English immigrant who was to become one of the most famous figures in the South African fruit industry – and one of the future owners of Vrede and Lust. With first-hand knowledge gained in California, Pickstone could immediately pinpoint the mistakes being made by the inexperienced fruit farmers and warned, for example, that they were irrigating far too much.

When deciduous fruit from the Cape started to be exported to London, new nurseries became a matter of urgency. The first such nursery with imported commercial trees was established on the farm Nooitgedacht in Stellenbosch, thanks to a loan of £100 made to Pickstone by Cecil John Rhodes. Other nurseries followed in Wellington, Hex River and Constantia. In 1896, Pickstone and his brother, Horace, bought three farms in Drakenstein for the establishment of nurseries and founded the company Pickstone & Brother (Pty) Ltd. Soon the Cape fruit trees, mostly pears, peaches and plums, compared with the best in the world.

Drakenstein occupied centre stage in all these developments. Pickstone's faith in the future of the fruit industry convinced Rhodes to purchase farms in the area after his resignation as prime minister of the Cape colony in 1896. In partnership with De Beers Diamond Mines, the financial giant made more than a quarter of a million pounds available to acquire a number of hand-picked properties in Drakenstein and Franschhoek, including La Motte, Good Hope, Rhône, Boschendal, Weltevreden, Watergat, Werda, Eenzaam, Zondernaam and Nieuwehoop, which became known collectively as Rhodes Fruit Farms (RFF), with Pickstone as the first general manager and technical adviser. Within two years 200 000 trees were planted on RFF farms, thus serving as an

example to the wine farmers, who learnt that they could diversify their operations and plant fruit on the Phylloxera-infested soil without any harmful side-effects.

The early growers soon come to appreciate the value of co-operative efforts. In July 1899, the month after Henry Meyers takes transfer of Vrede en Lust, the Western Province Fruit Exporters' Association is founded and moves made towards standardisation and improved control. A decision is taken to use uniform box sizes, to employ a single agent, to supply crop estimates to shipping companies, to urge that cold storage be made available at the docks in Cape Town harbour, and to ensure that official inspection of the fruit take place at the dockside. Even though the war has just broken out, 155 tons are exported that year, compared to between 50 and 75 tons in 1892. By the end of the Anglo-Boer War in 1902, volumes have increased to 214 tons. That same year the first cold store at the Table Bay docks is completed and South Africa can be proud of the world's first precooling chamber designed especially for fruit. In America and Australia, these developments happen much later.

When the war ends in 1902, a boom period in the Transvaal follows, parallel to the expansion of the railway system, but wine farmers soon experience yet another surplus situation. To save the industry from total ruin, the government passes Act 43 of 1905, making available £150 000 in loans to finance the establishment of co-operative wine cellars.

It is against this background that the Meyers era at Vrede en Lust unfolds. While reasonable prices for wine are still being paid in 1905, namely £5 per leaguer, wine and brandy prices crash completely in 1907. Moreover, wine merchants still have three years' supplies on their hands, which makes the future of the industry even more sombre. At the insistence of Charles Kohler, the biggest ever protest meeting of wine farmers takes place in the Cape Town Hall on 14 April 1909, but the government cannot be moved. In Simondium, where the Drakenstein Co-operative Winery is founded with ten members and a nominal capital of £15,000, farmers suffer as much as elsewhere. Although wine of a more uniform quality is being produced, production costs at the co-operatives cannot be kept low and due to overcapitalisation, exceed even those of the individual farmer.

Meanwhile, fruit farmers are faring exceptionally well. Between 1903 and 1914, exports increase from 314 tons to 6 452 tons, but are arrested when the First World War breaks out. Exporters cannot procure sufficient cargo space on ships and producers cannot find buyers for their surplus on the local market. Tens of thousands of cases are stuck in the Cape harbour and have to be destroyed.

At Vrede en Lust, modern transport and farming developments result in fragments of the farm being chopped off. One such loss is the distillery, built on the deduction made in 1879 to Johannes Haupt. This is demolished in 1907, when a strip alongside the public road and thoroughfare is transferred to the Colonial Government for the new railway line, which runs closely past the farmyard.

In 1908, Henry Meyers and two of his neighbours, Coenraad Johannes Beyers of La Motte and Fredericksburg, and Willem Frederick Urtel of Welgevonden and Watervliet, form the Donkerhoek Fruit Syndicate Limited and enter into an agreement with the Drakenstein Co-operative Winery. The latter will be supplied with a maximum of 3000 imperial gallons of water per 24 hours from the high-lying farms at no cost, provided it is used for winery purposes exclusively. The water will be taken from Donkerhoek and conducted to the existing reservoir of the Winery by means of piping, to be paid for by the latter party.

Charlotte tends Henry Meyers until his death at Vrede en Lust on 26 April 1915. In terms of the 58-year-old Henry's will, the widow and the Meyers' only child, Mrs Dora Kathleen Lottie Rennie, retain the farm and benefits for their lifetimes. Shortly afterwards, with considerable weekly wages to be paid, Mrs Meyers makes an application to the Master of the Orphan Chamber, who accepts a security bond for the sum of £2,500. Further security is waived for the landed property is already mortgaged to its full value of £8,000. Vrede en Lust now measures 63 morgen, and the Meyers also have rights to the adjacent 199 morgen of the perpetual quitrent land called Wolve Kloof.

While the inventory drawn up on 4 May 1915 values Henry Meyers' movable property at £500, he also leaves £326-7-5 in cash. The complete list of working stock comprises two Scotch carts, a waggon, a trolley cart, two sets double harnesses, two pairs single harnesses, six sail cloths, a pair of front harnesses, two saddles, a waggon cloth, two sail tents for gassing, six halters, five

pairs swingsles, three Oliver ploughs, one twin furrow plough, a Howard plough, a harrow, a double furrow plough, two Martin cultivators, one ringroller, two new rings for the roller, three vineyard cultivators, 12 spades, 11 forks, one schop graaf, 10 shovels, two rakes, 10 manure baskets, seven fruit gathering baskets, five pickaxes, three picks, a garden line, a long wire planting line, a chain measure (100 ft. long), nine scissors for pruning trees, five pruning saws, four long pruners, a cross cut saw, two handsaws, a small graded saw for cutting out rings, three small choppers and two large ones, two bamboo ladders (36 and 16 steps respectively), four 6 ft. steps, four 10 ft. steps, two drills for dynamiting, two hammers, one extractor, a pincher, a grindstone, a wheelbarrow, a set of chains for the six, a Capeland plough and outfit, a C. & G. spray pump on the waggon, a small pump on the cart, a water cart, a pump, two large tubs and eight small ones, three sheep shears, two hedging shears, one chaff sieve and another small sieve, two screw spanners, a pincher, a pipe key, seven spraying rods, four of which had pipes (40 yards long), a spraying pipe (40 yards long) without rod, another odd lot of spraying pipes, a farmer's level, a hand level, two funnels, a tin top table, two large dining tables, two trowels, a Horse pilling pistol, a chaff cutting machine, a large scale in the store, three platform scales, a small scale for weighing poison, a small letter scale, three scythes, eight sickles, two whitewash brushes, an anvil, a sewing press (for repairing harnesses), a tape line (60 ft.), two large boiling pots, three long tables and trestles, two small trestles, six apple peelers, a letter press, a sugar tester, three oil stoves, a kitchen stove, five nailing down benches, two nail pullers, 150 old drying trays and 200 new ones (made), five small hammers, a handspout, a chair, four open drums, three water drums, a devil's grip, three large chaff boxes, a glass case, three stable racks, 17 womens' stools, a large wool box, one lot telephone wire, a type case, 14 grape scissors, an ink stand, eight peeling knives, a pincher for marking sheep, three inking stamp pads, a packet zinc screws, a footboard, two oil lanterns, two candles, 102 rubber stamps, a lot rubber figures (for stamping boxes), a lot tin marking letters, 1½ roll wire, a roll netting wire, 18 iron standers, 40 droppers, a new gate (10 ft.), four back pumps, a grafting stove, a ground digger, two boiling pots, a small handscrew, a large screw, 75 lbs. box nails, a lot taps, a set smith's tools, a lot Oliver plough parts, another lot plough parts, a lot empty bags, a box tools, 11 planks (15 ft. long), a lot cultivator parts, a Scharenometer, a grafting knife, a lot stationery, eight iron covers for trays, a lot paraffin tins, 11 six ft. corrugated sheets, 10 000 second bricks, a telephone outfit (2 500 yards), five trolleys for gas houses and 75 yards railing.

Packing materials include made and unmade boxes. Of the former kind, 500 of # 5, 300 of # 4, 400 of # 3; of the latter kind, 5 750 of # 3 ¼, 275 of # 2 ½ and 2 850 of # 5. There were 15 ½ bales of woodwool (3 000 lbs.), ½ box cleats, 242 printed papers for pears, 450 lbs. extra paper for grapes, a lot end labels, another lot labels and 220 long boxes. The livestock consisted of five mules, a horse, a goat, an ox, four cows and four heifer calves. In the stables were 54 bales of chaff and a bag of bran. Henry held fire wood in stock to the value of £7-01-0; plus various sprays and poison (15 lbs. blue stone and 75 lbs. sulphur). The bees account included 10 stocks of bees, a honey extractor and a lot of implements.

By 1916, the financial crisis of the wine farmer reaches an all-time low. The merchants are few and in a situation to make any offer to the farmers, who accept anything as being better than nothing. Drakenstein, with its economy to a very large extent still based on viticulture, is severely threatened. Fortunately a considerable section of Vrede en Lust is now planted to apples and pears, which are carefully packed not only in labelled boxes but also in printed papers, most likely for export. Some fruit is dried on the 150 drying trays.

However, in 1919 the widow Meyers is forced to sell off 23 morgen at the Wolve Kloof end of the farm, situated against the mountain. It is purchased by a family friend and executor of Meyers' estate – Harry Ernest Victor Pickstone, one of the most famous men in the Cape deciduous fruit industry. Henceforth this part of the farm is known as Wolve Kloof, not to be confused with the huge expanse of wilderness land against the mountain also called Wolve Kloof.

Charlotte Meyers lives on the parent farm for another decade until her death, aged 70, in 1928. When her daughter, Dora Rennie, passes away in 1930, it is the end of the Meyers family tenure which lasted more than three decades. Henceforth the history of Vrede en Lust is traced along dual paths.

[box]

In 1920, the well-known author Dorothea Fairbridge visited the area and described Vrede en Lust as follows:

“The homestead of Vrede en Lust is set amongst trees and cut off from the surrounding country by a low white wall. The house is simple in comparison with the very graceful outbuildings. This peculiarity, which may be noticed in other instances, suggests that the original homestead may have been destroyed by a fire which spared the surrounding buildings and have been rebuilt on economical lines. The gables of the outbuildings, like those of Bien Donn , show distinct French influence.” (*Historic Houses of South Africa*, p 138)

SIX DECADES OF PICKSTONES

1919 – 1977: HARRY AND LOUISA PICKSTONE, PICKSTONE & SON (23 morgen called Wolve Kloof)

1930 – 1944: HORACE PICKSTONE (40 morgen called Vrede en Lust)

The Pickstone era at Vrede en Lust starts in 1919, when Harry Pickstone buys 23 morgen of the farm from the estate of the late Henry Meyers. Three years later, the property is transferred to his wife of 15 years, Louisa, possibly to avoid estate duty. Henceforth this section will be known as “the top farm” or Wolve Kloof, for Pickstone simultaneously buys 199 morgen of the huge perpetual quitrent farm lying against the slopes of Simonsberg mountain. He consolidates the two properties, but a part is sold off to the Government for forestry purposes in 1942. The bottom section of Vrede en Lust, the actual parent farm measuring 40 morgen, is bought by Pickstone’s younger brother, Horace, from the estate of Dora Rennie, daughter of Henry Meyers, in 1930.

Harry and Louisa Pickstone

Harry Ernest Victor Pickstone first distinguished himself as a champion of fruit farming in the Cape and then went into the nursery business with his brother, Horace Vivian Pickstone, ensuring that Drakenstein played a leading role in the budding fruit farming industry in the Cape colony. Harry, the second of seven children, is born to William Pickstone and Mary Elizabeth Tabor, in Prestwich, Lancashire, England, on 4 July 1865, into a fairly well-off mill-owning family. In 1884-5, he serves in the expedition of Sir Charles Warren in Bechuanaland. In 1888, Harry goes gold prospecting in the United States and works as a hotel waiter and labourer in the Californian fruit orchards, as well as undertaking horticultural contract work. Realising that conditions in the Cape colony are similar to those in California, the 27-year-old immigrates to South Africa, arriving on board the *Grantully Castle* in March 1892 with nothing but his luggage and 30 shillings.

Pickstone’s timing is impeccable. He is the right man at the right place at the right time. Within two years, he is so busy developing the fruit industry at the Cape, enjoying the support of the Rhodes government, that Harry sends for his brother, Horace Vivian, to come and help establish nurseries to supply Cape fruit farmers with urgently needed trees. Harry and Horace are eventually joined by a third brother, the youngest of their family, Septimus Percy, who sets up and manages a branch of the family business in Waverley, Johannesburg.

While Harry Pickstone is managing Rhodes Fruit Farms (RFF), he also buys a number of farms in the Groot Drakenstein valley for his own concern. On 29 January 1907 he marries the 21-year-old Louisa Hoeff May in London, and they settle on Lekkerwijn (literally ‘nice wine’, a corruption of the original French name ‘L’ crivain’, meaning ‘writer’). Two more nurseries are established on Meerlust and Delta and in 1913 Harry and Horace found the firm H E V Pickstone and Brother (Pty) Ltd. In 1916 their nursery activities are transferred to Welgevonden and Watervliet in Simondium. Harry also acquires the farms Platklip (Clocolan, O.F.S.), Verdun (Klawer, Cape) and Nieuwehoop in Simondium.

Farmers are indeed faring well, and not only thanks to fruit. In 1918 the KWV is founded with the purpose of looking after the wine farmers’ interests; by January 1921, there are 2 658 members. The demand for wine and brandy balances, and the entire production, namely 564 356 hl in 1918 and 635 577 hl in 1919, is sold out. Between 1918 and 1921 the number of vines in the Cape increase from 86,9 million to 101,2 million. However, by the end of 1920, the first signs of an economic recession are evident. Demand for wine and spirits far exceeds supply and the subsequent shortages allow wine merchants to offer the farmers excessive prices for their distilling wine. This in turn causes a steep increase in the price of brandy, which in turn curbs the demand, especially with consumers beginning to have less disposable income. A record crop in

1921 forces the KWV to declare two thirds thereof a surplus. For the next few years a concerted effort has to be made to get rid of wine and brandy stocks, with about one quarter of the total production in 1921, 1922 and 1923 being destroyed.

While wine farming hardly seems worth the effort, fruit farmers cannot complain. On Vrede en Lust, too, fruit has become the pivot of the action, with hundreds of fruit trees that have come into bearing since the death of Henry Meyers. In April 1923, the millionth case of deciduous fruit is exported from Table Bay. The shipper of this particular case of pears is ... Harry Pickstone! A celebratory dinner is held for the growers to rejoice in this milestone. Huge strides have been made in technical progress. By 1924, farmers can be ensured of temperature control at the quayside, and in 1925, £134,000 is approved for spending on cold storage chambers in the docks. The improvements quadruple the dock capacity and in 1927, upon completion of the full programme, the precooling installation is the most up-to-date of its kind in the world. In 1932, 28 000 tons are shipped to overseas markets.

For all its apparent success, the fruit industry also suffers immense setbacks until technical and quality problems are ironed out. The 1935/6 season is one of disaster, with producers discovering that most of their fruit arrived in England woolly and inedible. The over-eager fruit farmers make the same mistakes than the nineteenth century wine farmers by producing ever-increasing volumes of lower grade fruit, by putting quantity before quality. When the Second World War breaks out, the Cape deciduous fruit industry is in disarray.

For the Pickstones, 1939 is a grievous year. On 22 January, their only child, Michael Xavier, dies tragically at Lekkerwyn in the presence of his father. At the time Michael, also a farmer, was living on Meerlust in Groot Drakenstein with his wife, Joan Marie McGeoghegan, and the couple's two daughters, Margaret Tabor and Wendy May. Harry passes away on 6 May 1939, leaving all his debentures in H E V Pickstone & Brother Ltd to his wife. His loyal secretary, Cecil Laurence Bick, receives 3 000 shares in H E V Pickstone & Brother Ltd, to devolve upon his son, Percy Bick.

Except for a number of stipulated legacies, Louisa inherits all H E V Pickstone's other assets, including £3000 life insurance and the two estates, Lekkerwyn and Meerlust, both with homesteads. The inventory of his estate also lists Trimoa, 47 morgen in VanRynsdorp; Delta, 4 morgen in Groot Drakenstein, leased to the Groot Drakenstein Games Club; Nieuwehoop, a part of the farm Sion, measuring 125 morgen; and property at Mossel River, Caledon district, as well as a Wolseley "Hornet" motor car and an Armstrong Siddeley.

After three decades as the official owner of Vrede en Lust, Louisa consolidates her land holdings and transfers Wolve Kloof to a holding company called Pickstone & Son. She remains actively involved in the daily running of the farm, however, until her death in 1966, when her assets pass to her granddaughter, Wendy Pickstone, also living at Lekkerwyn.

For a quarter century, from 1952 to 1977, the owners on paper are Pickstone & Son (Pty) Ltd, the company which incorporates the farms Meerlust, Delta, Watervliet and Wolve Kloof. The headquarters are situated at Lekkerwyn to this day. Wendy Pickstone remembers Wolve Kloof as a highly productive export grape farm, managed by Mike Stiglingh. For many years a block of high-trellis table grapes, planted in the wet bottom section, are known throughout the industry as "Pickstone's folly".

Even though the Pickstones live at Lekkerwyn, they regularly go up to high-lying Wolve Kloof to enjoy the view and hold picnics. A timber cottage is built from the first wood to be produced in their own forest and sawmill; this becomes a summer house for afternoon teas. The outbuilding to the right of the house – the historic cellar – becomes a packshed. During the war years, labourers' cottages are built between the packshed and the road.

By 1948, the Roslin Castle and the Rothesay Castle, huge steamers fitted with refrigerating chambers designed to transport large quantities of fruit, are back in commercial service. The 1950s see producers emerging from the lean war years into a boom period. While high prices prompt extensive plantings, growers are more conscious of strategic planning and efficient business practices. In 1958, a devastating fire rages through the docks, but soon even better facilities are erected. To deal with the temporary disruption in delivery, a quota system and a seven-day loading week are introduced. In the 1960s the "Cape" label is adopted for all South African deciduous fruit marketed overseas. The familiar logo, a hallmark of quality, meets with phenomenal success and becomes the envy of producers around the globe.

Having been a functional property for the Pickstone empire for 58 years, Wolve Kloof is eventually sold in 1977.

Horace Pickstone

Horace Pickstone, barely 21 and eight years younger than Harry, follows his elder brother to the Cape in 1894. In 1913, they found the company H E V Pickstone & Brother (Pty) Ltd. From 1916 onwards two Simondium farms, namely Watervliet en Welgevonden, form the basis of their nursery operations.

In December 1919, Horace starts buying land in Paarl for his own personal use. In 1921, he buys "The New House", 4 morgen of freehold land in Simondium, part of the farm Rust en Vrede, today consolidated with Plaisir de Merle. In 1926, Horace is widowed when his wife, Esther Elizabeth, dies while visiting her in-laws in London. Four years later, on 11 July 1930, Horace buys the beautiful farm Vrede en Lust for £7800 when Dora Rennie passes away. Many fruit growers are declared insolvent due to low prices caused by the Great Depression.

With the Second World War looming, preparations are hurried along for the foundation of a new statutory body which would involve all producers and exporters. The Deciduous Fruit Board officially starts operating in October 1939. Even though the government subsidises canning and drying of fruit, export opportunities are scarce and by the end of the War, many farmers are destitute. Not so Horace Pickstone, who is then living in "The New House", or the Rust en Vrede homestead. When he decides to sell Vrede en Lust after 14 years of ownership, the decision is prompted by old age rather than financial worries. He even makes a neat profit of £2500 on the farm. Horace passes away in the age of 76 years on 30 March 1949, an extremely wealthy man. The value of the estate amounts to £108,786 and includes two motor cars, a Nash and a Lincoln Zephyr. The Pickstones never having had any children, most of the fortune is inherited by Horace's second wife, Margaretha Johanna Pickstone née Cloete.

1944 - 1988

NORMAN BEROLD & DAUGHTERS

When Norman Berold pays £10,275 for the 40 morgen parent section of Vrede en Lust on 21 September 1944, three days before his 45th birthday, it is to remain in his family for almost half a century. Upon Berold's death in 1964, the farm is deeded to his daughters, Yvonne Beulah Galombik (née 12/04/1930), married out of community of property to Arnold Galombik, and Leonie Eve Zurnamer (née 20/01/1927), married out of community of property to Joseph Zurnamer. The transfer deed shows that in the two decades after Berold bought Vrede en Lust, the value of the property increased considerably to R146 650.

To Berold it becomes a labour of love not only to increase the farm's value, but also to restore the old homestead. The project takes five years and to commemorate the date of the restoration, the gable features the dates 1688-1955. There is still much evidence today of the detail that went into the renovations. His initials, NB, are engraved on the door knobs leading to the back of the house and his name features on the copper gutters. As the owner of Brunzell BruPLY, he has access to large supplies of wood, but furthermore, he is an expert on salvaging. This explains how he acquires the firescreen from the Paarl Wine & Brandy Company when they move premises, and the limestone fireplace, removed brick by brick from the Syfrets boardroom. During the restoration period, the Berold family lived on the very bottom section of the farm, in a cedarwood house built on stilts due to contend with the flood waters regularly inundating the area.

At the time of the restorations, a wine cellar is discovered under the house. While being underpinned to create stability, the cellar reveals another cavity, which probably housed slaves in days gone by. Another interesting clue to the lifestyle of yesteryear lies in the yellowwood floorboards. According to expert evaluation, these are broader than the planks sourced locally, indicating that they were probably imported. This confirms that the original builder of the house, Jacob Marais, was certainly a wealthy man.

Following his father-in-law's death, the task of farming falls mostly to Joseph Zurnamer, who also owns farms at Windmeul in Agter Paarl, namely Langverwacht and Olyvenbosch, and Rouxvale in Robertson. His brother-in-law, Arnold Galombik, runs a busy legal practice and is not involved in the farm. The Zurnamers, who live in Sea Point and use the farm as a weekend retreat, appoint

Thys Klein as farm manager. Joe pays the farm daily visits and replaces the pear orchards with plums. Grapes include hanepoot (5 hectares) and Riesling (2,8 hectares).

When the Zurnamer children emigrate to Australia, the parents sell Vrede en Lust to someone who thus fulfils a lifelong dream.

1977 – 1990

ROGER KEBBLE

When Roger Ainsley Ralph Kebble buys Wolve Kloof from Pickstone and Son (Pty) Ltd on 2 August 1977, the new owner is a youthful 38 years old. Originally from the Free state, Kebble has interests in the gold mining industry and a house in Bishop's Court, where he continues to live. He also owns a farm in the Rawsonville area. The management of Wolve Kloof, the measurement of which is now indicated no longer in morgen, but as 19,7873 hectares, is left in the hands of Sakkie Coetzer.

As in the Pickford era, Wolve Kloof is considered a business transaction, a financial investment in a portfolio of assets, rather than a home or an exquisite place from which to take pleasure. Throughout this period in the history of Vrede en Lust, both the top and bottom farms are subject to absentee ownership.

1988 - 1996

DAVID LADDS & MATHILDA VAN ZYL

A merchant banker whose lifelong dream it was to own a Cape wine farm becomes the 17th owner of Vrede en Lust. When the opportunity presents itself to buy the farm in 1988, David Ladds, his wife, Mathilda (Matty), and their three daughters, Saskia, Bianca and Kim, move from Gauteng to start a new life in the Cape. The family would cherish Vrede en Lust, and it would be an appropriate homage by a Van Zyl descendant. The land and improvements are sold by Joe Zurnamer on behalf of the Berold daughters to a holding company, the Stockfin Trust, for R1,35 million, and the movable assets for R150 000. The transaction is handled by Arnold Galombik.

The Ladds find the house in a good condition, requiring only minor renovations. The ceilings are sanded to reveal the rich glow of antique yellowwood behind layers of brown paint. The house is furnished with valuable period pieces, including a valuable 17th century armoire, which would henceforth remain in the house as a fixture.

The development of the farm proves daunting and requires a lot of subterranean work to solve the water problems. A new borehole is built and modern submersible equipment sunk. Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon are planted and delivered to KWV, with one of the new vineyard blocks coming third in the annual producers' competition. Five hectares are planted with new varieties of plums, including Letitia, Gaviota and Sungold. Matty, taking a keen interest in the eight families of farm workers, implements Rural Foundation upliftment programmes and literacy classes, establishes a crèche and collaborates with health workers to raise the standard of living of the labourers. Furthermore, she converts the old cottage by the entrance to the farm into a homeware shop named after Pierre Simond, the first Huguenot minister.

1990 – 1997

ROB & CATHERINE ANN MORLEY

In 1990 the Wolve Kloof section of Vrede en Lust is transferred to Cathbert Farm CC. Cathbert is a composite name for Robert and Catherine Ann Morley, the new owners, who move from Tamboerskloof in Cape Town to Simondium with the intention of eventually running a guest house.

For R850 000, the Morleys purchase two sections, the first consisting of 20 hectares of farming land, while the second, much smaller section, measures approximately 5 hectares. This part, kept aside as a separate entity by Harry Pickstone, would be retained once the Morleys had built up and resold the neglected Wolve Kloof. Referred to as "the wisdom of Pickstone", the magnificent spot may have been earmarked for a retirement house for the Pickstones, but it was also a useful site for a dam.

To the Morleys it becomes a huge challenge to farm the bigger section while developing the smaller one as a country inn. Although the vineyards are not nearly in optimal production, the potential is obvious. Furthermore, the timing is better than ever for Drakenstein producers specialising in export table grapes. Some cultivars are replanted – they found Waltham Cross, Dauphine, Barlinka, New Cross and Dan Ben Hana – and they also plant plums. By 1994/5, Wolve Kloof is named the seventeenth best table grape grower in South Africa, an award made by Unifruco, the umbrella body for the marketing and distribution of Cape deciduous fruit abroad. Thus history repeats itself.

While the grapes are packed on the farm, the plums are delivered in bins to the Stellenbosch Co-operative Fruit Packers. The local packsheds are situated a stone's throw from both Vrede en Lust and Wolve Kloof. The co-op, as a Unifruco depot, could also take in pre-packed grapes in 4,5 kg cartons, thus simplifying distribution. Packing of export grapes is a highly labour-intensive operation and international standards require careful wrapping of selected bunches in tissue paper. The exporter's biggest concern is to prevent dust from settling on the berries, which proved inevitable whenever the Department of Forestry was harvesting in the pine forests above Wolve Kloof. With logging carrying on day and night, not only was the fruit adversely affected by the dust, but also by the potholes in the road caused by the large trucks with their heavy loads. On historic grounds, in terms of the title deeds, Forestry is responsible for the upkeep of the servitude road and in 1993/4, the road was tarred.

In the history of most farms, there are court cases involving servitude roads and water rights. Throughout the years, both Wolve Kloof and Vrede en Lust had their fair share of both. In 1994 the application for a water quota from the Berg River is granted by the Department of Water Affairs giving Wolve Kloof an allowance of 24 hectares. This means that the dam, built in 1992, can be pumped to capacity whenever there is insufficient rain water. Seven kilometres of pipeline were laid over a four months period.

Rob and Catherine Morley turned Wolve Kloof around from being a struggling farm to a going concern. Even though it was never their intention to become farmers, they nurtured and loved the land, reaping ample rewards from the satisfaction of guiding and coaxing nature and retraining the farm workers. Through a concerted effort of upliftment, the six families who helped them rebuild the farm now enjoy a much higher standard of living. In the 1990s, Wolve Kloof again became a happy, laughing farm.

1996

DANA & CARA BUYS

On 3 October 1996, when the Registrar of Deeds affixed his Seal of Office to the transfer of Vrede en Lust, a brand new era was already beckoning in the history of this extraordinary farm. With the purchase came a vision of resurrection. Three centuries after its original grant, two centuries after the stately old Huguenot farm had celebrated the pinnacle of its prosperity with the erection of a manor house, cellar and jonkmanshuis, one century after its character had been changed to a fruit farm, Vrede en Lust would once again rise to its former glory. To turn the property into one of the Cape's foremost wine estates, with a complete metamorphosis of the vineyards, no cost or effort would be spared.

The story of wine in South Africa is a tale of magic, a romantic epic, spanning almost three and a half centuries. It recounts a solid tradition of grape growing and wine making and is such an integral part of South African history, that the story of wine truly reflects our economic and political fortunes. The development of the industry went through many ups and downs, with the odds often against wine farmers. The first vineyards survived despite torching by the indigenous Khoisan folk, despite bird plagues, and thanks to the commitment of the early pioneers. The 19th century saw two major setbacks. In 1834, following the abolition of slavery, many Dutch farmers abandoned their properties and left on the Great Trek to the hinterland. In 1861, the Gladstone government abolished preferential tariffs and, with French wines reasserting themselves, the Cape wine market collapsed. Then the devastating phylloxera disease arrived in the Cape, decimating vineyards and ruining fortunes.

Early this century, after the introduction of resistant root-stock, growing conditions were optimal once more. This in itself created problems such as over-production, with millions of litres being dumped into rivers and gutters. In 1918, stability was restored by the formation of the Co-

operative Wine Growers Association of South Africa (KWV). However, bureaucratic restrictions prohibited the importation of foreign plant material and protectionism became the name of the game. With KWV legally empowered to control production through quotas and fixing minimum prices, there was little leeway for original and adventurous wine making. At this stage in the industry's fortunes, the quality of the wines left much to be desired and attempts to re-enter the European market were unsuccessful. Recently, after a period of dormancy, such tremendous changes came about that one dares to speak of a complete transformation. Modern South African wines are confidently asserting themselves on the world stage, holding their own in any company and even aspiring to starring roles.

The decade of the 1990's has seen extensive and intensive changes in the wine industry. Neither the intrinsic renewal of the vines and vineyards, nor the experimentation with varieties, regions, soils and climates, is an overnight happening. But what had been a systematic renewal, suddenly went into overdrive. All of a sudden there were countless new wine styles, blends, methods and labels.

Wine writer John Platter, in the author's note to the 15th edition of his wine guide in 1995, enthuses about "the wildly improbable re-making of South Africa in 1994. The miracle was one of those spectacular bits of serendipity and absolution which lifts everything and everyone. South African wines seemed to gain new stature, swathed in the superlatives too perhaps, but somehow elevated in the outbreak of freedom, hoisted with the new flags and emblems [...]"

"Nothing succeeds like pride and confidence, however, and those, at last, are what South African winemakers have - and in some abundance, reinforced by the powerful psychological impetus of the second chance, the fresh beginning - an extraordinary marketing break.

"The wines of the Cape have improved remarkably and suddenly - both in anticipation and as a result. Most are unrecognisable from the wines which jogged along in neutral for decades, showing little more than clean technological proficiency, coasting on their 300-year-history."

These ramifications, both with regard to quantity and quality, have been due, mainly, to structural upheavals. The extent to which the industry has blossomed ever since KWV relinquished its controlling role and became a free market operator, is staggering. As a direct result of the 1992 suspension of KWV's quota system, which had been introduced in 1957, the number of producers increased dramatically, especially in Stellenbosch and Paarl. While throngs of smaller wineries emerged, huge investments were also made. Examples are SFW at Plaisir de Merle in Simondium, Anglo-American at Vergelegen in Somerset West and in the new cellar at Boschendal, the Rupert/Rothschild partnership at Fredericksburg in Simondium, Distillers Corporation in the Durbanville Hills cellar currently under construction.

It is against this background that the renewed commitment to the fate of Vrede en Lust makes sense. By an interesting twist of fate, the endeavour to position the Drakenstein farm with the best fell to yet another entrepreneur, rather than a tiller of the soil. When Dana Buys, dynamic chairman of Ixchange, an international computer software company, saw the opportunity to benefit from the deregulating changes in the South African wine industry, he purchased Vrede en Lust (measuring 34,8438 hectares) plus the two portions traditionally attached to it, namely portions 4 and 5 of La Motte (measuring 196 and 272 square metres respectively), from the Stockfin Trust for the sum of R7 250 000. The mortgage on the farm was R2 500 000. The property was deeded to Vrede en Lust Farms (Pty) Ltd and soon thereafter Dana Buys got the opportunity to prove his bona fides. When neighbouring Wolve Kloof came onto the market for R2,4 million, Buys honourably reunited the two historic sections of Vrede en Lust. Robert Morley, previous owner of Wolve Kloof, was then engaged by Buys to manage the farm for a bridging period.

Vrede en Lust now looked like it did in 1783, when 25-year-old Jan de Villiers, the father of two infants, inherited half of the original freehold (sixty morgen plus the four morgen 500 square roods annexed by his father from La Motte). Shortly before selling, Morley had the land surveyed and the boundary line moved, because it ran right through the house in which he had been living, and which had been the farm manager's house for many decades. For all intents and purposes Wolve Kloof thus gained about 3 000 square metres, and a new numbering system came into effect. On the deed of transfer (T60480/97), the farm was officially renumbered as Erf 1537, no longer a part of farm 950. The top section is reached by a road running parallel to the border with Fredericksburg (in the previous century, this same road was used by neighbours to get to the church at Simondium). The road passes through a gate where there used to be a smithy on one

side and a mill on the other. Since 14 August 1838, it has been used only as a private or church road.

Buys, the eldest of three brothers, appointed his younger sibling, Etienne, to manage the farm and oversee the viticultural improvements to ensure that it becomes a top red wine producing estate. The modern farm measures 56 hectares, of which about 40 hectares will be under grapes when the planting programme is completed. For the moment, production of premium grapes is the main priority and old vines are in the process of being uprooted and replaced with noble cultivars. At the time of writing, 33 000 young vines are in growth tubes. Plantings so far comprise 15 hectares of Cabernet Sauvignon with 7½ hectares to follow; 5½ hectares of Shiraz with 3½ hectares to follow; and 8 hectares of Merlot. Also in the pipeline are 1½ hectares each of Malbec and Petit Verdot.

In January 1998, a block of Cabernet Sauvignon was planted in front of the historic cellar and 0,4 hectares of Chardonnay in front of the Jonkershuis. In December of that year, the former cattle pastures were planted with 5,7 hectares of Shiraz. The pastures above the homestead were turned into a delightful dam with wading birds and paddocks for the Buys family's horses. In the year 2000 the Cape Riesling vines are to be replaced with Petit Verdot and Cabernet Sauvignon, together with the establishment of another block of Shiraz on the bottom, wet section of the farm. On the Wolve Kloof section, the Waltham Cross table grapes are being replaced with Cabernet. Merlot will replace 5 hectares of plums. The grapes were delivered to Groot Drakenstein Co-op until 1997; the next two crops were sold to Berg & Brook, also known as Savannah and most recently as Trylogy.

Two hectares of plums have been retained as a workers' project, with all expenses and profits being for their own account. The farm workers, twenty one altogether, have attended training courses presented by VinPro in Worcester and are now qualified to do the work previously entrusted to contractors. They are housed in nine family houses with modern amenities.

There have also been changes to the farmyard, though not nearly as drastic as those concerning production. All three roofs were rethatched – the homestead, the historic cellar and the jonkershuis – and the walls are whitewashed once again, following an unfortunate experiment many years before with PVA paint, causing damp to build up in the walls. In the manor house three bedrooms and bathrooms were built in the ample space below the roof to create modern living quarters for the young family, which includes Jessica (née 1991) and Sarah (née 1994). A lightcrete layer provided a base so that building would not occur directly onto the wooden ceiling. Skylights were installed to provide light.

The historic cellar has been restored to its original appearance and once again features a low ring-wall along the front. The glass windows were removed and replaced with slim open-air vents. Plaster was scraped off the inside walls to reveal the primitive mixture of clay, sand and straw used by the builders of yesteryear. The constant cool temperature inside being conducive to bottle maturation, the historic cellar will retain its hallowed atmosphere and is not intended to become part of the commercial hustle and bustle.

The acquisition of the top section of the farm was a sensible decision, not only from a historical point of view, but also in view of practical considerations. The only irrigation dam is situated on the Wolve Kloof section and may be filled with a 24 hectare allocation of water from the Berg River. Other water rights pertaining to Vrede en Lust were allocated on 13 July 1753, and confirmed in a resolution of the magistrate and *Heemraden* on 20 December 1771, to make available irrigation water from the dam situated in the higher stretch of river that later passed through La Motte and Fredricks Burg [six] and then back again through the farmyard ("*werf*") of Vrede en Lust. Overlooking the dam is a farmhouse which was renovated in 1999 and is now occupied by Etienne and Tracey Buys and their two children, Monique (6) and Daniel(4).

Still on the drawing board is the new pressing and maturation cellar, which will be built just inside the entrance gate, in front of the little "Pierre Simond" cottage by the roadside. There has been much speculation about the origins of the cute little cottage, even that it was originally built for the Reverend Pierre Simond by the Huguenots. Although a modest house may once have been situated on the same spot, there is no conclusive historical evidence to prove this. However, it is a suitable location for the new cellar, especially in view of public and trade visits. For aesthetic reasons, to minimise differences of scale, the maturation cellar is expected to be partially sunken below the ground (3 metres). Consultant Günter Brözel has been engaged to assist with planning and design of the interior. Even though the cellar will only be completed in 2002, wine has already

been made in experimental quantities. In the 1998 and 1999 seasons, 4 000 kg (4 tons) of Cabernet grapes were pressed. Following a second label strategy, cultivar driven red wines will be released until such time as the long term goal may be met, namely to produce a single flagship red blend, a prestigious estate wine that proudly bears the name Vrede en Lust.

Building up a Hereford stud becomes the Ladds' hobby. To ensure a reliable source of water for their pastures, David diverts the water flow to the bottom section. In 1996 this arrangement is formalised with the Irrigation Board and henceforth six adjacent farms would receive water from the top farms Donkerhoek, owned by Robert Koch, and Flenterskloof, owned by Dawid de Villiers.

The tarring of the road in 1993/4 is a joint venture between David Ladds, his neighbour Rob Morley at Wolve Kloof and the Department of Forestry. The dirt road was badly damaged by the heavy trucks driving between the main road at the bottom and the forest at the top. For Morley in particular, who transported his table grapes to the packhouse over a very uneven surface, a tarred road was essential.

In 1996 the Ladds couple move closer to Paarl and sell the 43 hectare farm to Vrede en Lust Farms Pty Ltd for R7 250 000.

1990 – 1997

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