

Using the Cape Transcripts CD for genealogical research

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In the last 10 years the THT has published 7 CDs with transcriptions of the:

- Resolutions of the Council of Policy of the Cape of Good Hope (1651 – 1795) [CD 1]
- Inventories of deceased estates (MOOC8: 75 volumes transcribed), Auction Rolls (MOOC10: 5 volumes transcribed, 40 volumes indexed), Estate Accounts (MOOC14: 85 volumes indexed), Bandietenrollen (15 volumes transcribed), VOC Muster Rolls (18 volumes transcribed)[CD 2]
- “Vrijboek”, lists: 15 volumes containing particulars of VOC servants with each one’s date of departure, ship name, date of arrival and date of discharge from VOC service. Also included is the “Lijst van het Corps Pennisten” of 1794, the last group of scribes in VOC service at the Cape. [CD 3]
- VOC Dagregisters, Part 1: 1687 and 1692, dealing with two important years during Simon van der Stel’s governance. The Introduction in English refers to genealogy in particular. [CD 4]
- VOC Dagregisters, Part 2: 1695, 1699, 1700, dealing with the work of Governor Simon van der Stel who retired in 1699 and his son Willem Adriaen who then took office. When the Vergelegen estate became Willem Adriaen’s property the young man’s problems started. The Introduction in English captures the main events. [CD 5]
- This CD is co-sponsored by GSSA, and was officially released on 15 October 2016. It contains VOC Dagregisters, Part 3: 1704, 1706, 1709, dealing with Willem Adriaen van der Stel still in power and Louis van Assenburgh as newly appointed Governor of the Cape (1709). Read about civil unrest during Willem Adriaen’s governance and why the Vergelegen estate was such an issue. [CD 6]
- VOC Dagregisters, Part 4: 1713, 1714 and 1789, dealing with the devastating effect of smallpox in 1713 and 1714, the Treaty of Utrecht, the appointment of Governor Maurits Pasques de Chavonnes, the murder that shocked the community (Maria Mouton and accomplices who murdered Maria’s husband, Frans Jooste) and the fate of the Bennebroek and its crew. In 1789 we read about all the seafaring nations anchoring at the Cape harbour, foreign legions and regiments in the Colony, and the effects of the French Revolution on local soil. [CD 7]

CDs 4, 5, 6 and 7 complement each other and in their turn are enriched by the massive amount of information captured in the Resolutions and Transcription of Estate Papers of the Cape (TEPC) about life during the early years of the Cape of Good Hope.

So there is a wealth of information available about life at the Cape and about its inhabitants. Genealogists can find a lot of information about their family. For instance, by looking at only one of these CDs (CD2), I could reconstruct three generations of the Olivier family.

Not only did I find names and dates, but I could also find out a bit about their living conditions. Hendrik Olivier and Beatrix Verweij had at least 7 children of which several had offspring. The overview below is constructed from the information found on the above mentioned CD.

- I.1 **Hendrik OLIVIER**, married **Beatrix VERWEIJ**.
From this marriage:
1. **Jan OLIVIER**, marr. **Helena BURGHERT**.
 2. **Aart OLIVIER** (see also II.3).
 3. **Gerrit OLIVIER** (see also II.4).
 4. **Gijsbert OLIVIER**.
 5. **Neeltje OLIVIER**, married **Christiaan SPIGT**.
 6. **Beatrix OLIVIER** (see also II.10).
 7. **Johanna (Anna) OLIVIER** (see also II.12).

- II.3 **Aart OLIVIER**.
Child:
1. **Helena OLIVIER**.

- II.4 **Gerrit OLIVIER**, married **Maria Magdalena van de WESTHUIJSEN**.
From this marriage:
1. **Beatrix OLIVIER**, born 1733.
 2. **Elisabeth OLIVIER**, born 1735.
 3. **Hendrik OLIVIER**, born 1737.
 4. **Aletta OLIVIER**, born 1738.
 5. **Claas OLIVIER**, born 1740.
 6. **Anna Hendrina OLIVIER**, born 1742.
 7. **Maria Adriana OLIVIER**, born 1744.
 8. **Catharina OLIVIER**, marr. **Jacobus MEIJBURG**.

- II.10 **Beatrix OLIVIER**, married **Pieter van de WESTHUIJSEN**.
From this marriage:
1. **Hendrik van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1723.
 2. **Lena van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1725.
 3. **Anna van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1726.
 4. **Pieter van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1727.
 5. **Jan van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1728.
 6. **Beatrix van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1731.
 7. **Gijsbert van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1733.
 8. **Barend van de WESTHUIJSEN**, born 1738.

- II.12 **Johanna (Anna) OLIVIER**, married **NN CLOETEN**.
From this marriage:
1. **Jan Hendrik CLOETEN**.

On 30-01-1741 an inventory was made of the estate of Beatrix Verweij (MOOC8/6.63), the widow of farmer Hendrik Olivier. She owned a house and erf situated in the Table Valley as per transport of 28-09-1731 (MOOC8/6.63). The Auction list of 02-03-1743 (MOOC10/5.36) showed what was auctioned off. Amongst a lot of other things, 19 paintings, 35 women shirts, 4 feather beds, and 1 slave named April van Mallabaar. Total estate of Beatrix Verweij was worth 1318:2 Rijksdaalders (about 4,5 million ZAR or 34.000 US\$ in today's money).

It is amazing how much information you can find on this CD for your genealogical research.