



arts and culture

Department:
Arts and Culture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES REPOSITORY

GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

2012

1. GENERAL RESEARCH SOURCES

The following genealogical books and articles are available from the National Archives Repository (NAR) library. Please ask the Reading Room assistant for assistance in locating them.

- 1.1 Heese, J.A. and T.R.J. Lombard: South African Genealogies (Pretoria, HSRC)

- Part I : A-C (1986)
- Part II : D-G (1986)
- Part III : H-I (1992)
- Part IV : J-K (1992)

- 1.2 De Villiers, C.C. and C. Pama: Genealogies of Old South African Families (Cape Town, 1981)

- Part I : A-M
- Part II : N-Z

- 1.3 Cilliers, B.: Genealogies of the Afrikaner families in Natal (1985)

- 1.4 Zöllner, L. and J.A. Heese: The Berlin Missionaries in South Africa (Pretoria, 1984)

- 1.5 Zöllner, L.: The Descendants of Rhenish Missionaries in South Africa (Pretoria, 1991)

- 1.6 Familia-articles

See the card catalogue in the Reading Room for references to surnames that appear in articles. See also the card catalogue for Non Public Records on genealogical sources.

- 1.7 Lombard, R.T.J.: Handbook for genealogical research in South Africa (Pretoria, 1990)

- 1.8 The NAR library has a variety of books on specific surnames and family trees.

2. INFORMATION ON BIRTHS

- The registration of births has been compulsory in the Transvaal only since 1901.
- All birth certificates since 1901 are in the custody of the Department of Home Affairs.

- Address: The Registrar, Births, Marriages and Deaths, Department of Home Affairs, Private Bag X114, Pretoria 0001. (Sentrakor Building, 173 Pretorius Street) (Tel.: 012-3148109)

(NB: In order to obtain information from this Department, you must provide the full Christian names and surnames as well as the correct date of birth and death).

3. BAPTISMAL DOCUMENTS

- Most of the baptismal documents of the Afrikaans community are in the custody of the Church Archives of the three Afrikaans churches. The Dutch Reformed Church Archives repositories are in different locations in South Africa. The “Nederduits Hervormde Kerk” has an Archives repository in Pretoria and the “Gereformeerde Kerk” archives is in Potchefstroom.

Contact Details

The Director
DR Church Archives & Management Information Services - Stellenbosch
Dr Johan Froneman
Tel: +27 (0)21 882 9923 x2006
Email: johanf@abid.co.za

The Archivist
Dutch Reformed Church of Natal Synodal Archives
Sinodale Sentrum, 345 Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg
P.O. Box 649
PIETERMARITZBURG
Tel.: +27 (0)33 345 2279
Fax.: +27 (0)33 345 2279
e-mail: argief@ngnatal.org.za

The Archivist
Dutch Reformed Church Archives (Western, Northern and Eastern Cape)
NG Kerk Centre, Grey's Pass (upper Queen Victoria Street), Cape
Town
P.O. Box 3171
CAPE TOWN
8000
Tel.: +27 (0)21 423 2853
Fax.: +27 (0)21 423 2745
e-mail: ngcpt@iafrica.com

The Archivist
Ned. Hervormde Kerk (Dutch Reformed Church Of Africa Archives
Repository)
Dirk van der Hoff Building, 224 Jacob Maré Street, Pretoria

P.O. Box 2368
PRETORIA
0001
Tel.: +27 (0)12 322 8885
Fax.: +27 (0)12 322 7909
e-mail: hervormd@pixie.co.za
Web: <http://www.nhk.co.za>

The Archivist
Gereformeerde Kerk (Archive of the Reformed Churches In South Africa)
Theological School of the Reformed Church,
Corner of Molen and Borchers Streets, Potchefstroom, 2531
P.O. Box 20004
Noordbrug
POTCHEFSTROOM
2520
Tel.: +27 (0)18 299 2816
Fax.: +27 (0)18 294 8952
e-mail: dtljb@puk.ac.za

- Photocopies of some church registers of the Dutch Reformed Church of the Cape Colony, for the period 1665-1845, are kept in the National Archives Repository. See Inventory T203 in the Reading Room.
- Most records for the Catholic Church are still kept at the individual churches themselves, but the Catholic History Bureau might be able to give some guidance. They are located at 3 Third Avenue, Victoria Park, Johannesburg (P.O. Box 44029, Linden, 2104). Tel: +27 (0)11 782 4935, Fax: +27 (0)11 888 3939, e-mail: omiprovjhb@netactive.co.za
- For records from the Anglican Church the Curator of Manuscripts, Anglican Church Archives, Wits University Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Private Bag X1, P.O. Wits, 2050 should be contacted.
- The Secretary of the United Lutheran Church can be contacted at P.O. Box 873, Edenvale, 1610.
- The Archivist, Wesleyan Methodist Church, c/o Dept. of Divinity, Rhodes University, Grahamstown would be able to assist regarding the Wesleyan Methodist Church records
- The Director of the Genealogical Institute of South Africa can be contacted for more information. Their details are: P.O. Box 3033 Matieland 7602. Tel.: +27 21 887 5070, Fax: 27 21 887 5031 or e-mail: info@gisa.org.za. The physical address is: 115 Banghoek Rd, Stellenbosch, 7600

4. MARRIAGE DOCUMENTS

- Marriage certificates are in the custody of the Department of Home Affairs. For address, see (2) Births.
- Marriage documents can be consulted at the various Church Archives. For addresses see (3) Baptismal documents.
- Inventory T203 (photocopies of the registers of the Dutch Reformed Church, Cape Colony) can be consulted for marriage documents.
- Some marriage documents can be found in the Magistrates Archives of the South African Republic. There are marriage documents for: Boksburg; Bloemhof; Heidelberg; Barberton; Klerksdorp; Lichtenburg; Lydenburg; Marico; Middelburg; Potchefstroom; Pretoria; Standerton; Waterberg; Wakkerstroom and Johannesburg. See Inventory T44 in the NAR reading room.
- For some marriage documents in the NAR, see the Guides to Microfilms and Photocopies in the reading room of the NAR. (Key words: "huwelike", "huweliksregisters", "huweliksdokumente").

5. DEATHS

- Death certificates are in the custody of the Dept. of Home Affairs. For address see (2) Births.
- The estate files of people who died in the Transvaal, 1873-1976, can be consulted at the NAR. Each Archives Repository houses the estate files of deceased persons in that province. Indexes on the estate files of each province are available in the reading room of the NAR. The estate files of people who died in the Transvaal after 1976, are still in the custody of the Master of the Supreme Court, Pretoria.

Address: The Master of the Supreme Court, Private Bag X60, Pretoria, 0001 (SALU Building, 225 Andries Street). Tel.: 012-3232404.

- Inventory T203 (photocopies of Registers of the Dutch Reformed Church, Cape Colony) can also be consulted for deaths.
- Some estate documents are to be found in The Magistrates Archives of the South African Republic: Bloemhof; Heidelberg; Barberton; Klerksdorp; Lydenburg; Lichtenburg; Marico; Middelburg; Potchefstroom; Waterberg; Wakkerstroom; Johannesburg and Zoutpansberg. See Inventory T44 in the reading room of the NAR.

- For some estate documents on microfilms in the NAR, see the Guides to Microfilms and Photocopies in the Reading Room of the NAR. (Key words: “Sterfkennisse”, “sterfteregisters” and “sterftes”).
- Copies of Cape estate files, available on microfilms until 1919, are housed at the Genealogical Institute. For address, see (3) Baptismal documents.
- Orange Free State estate files (1902-1930) is available at the Genealogical Institute. For the period prior to 1880 the Genealogical Institute has in its possession handwritten copies.
- An Alphabetical Guide to Gravestones in Smaller Cemeteries in South Africa, Vols. 1-43 (Pretoria, 1989-2001) is available in the Reading Room

6. THE ANGLO-BOER WAR: CASUALTIES

The following archival groups in the NAR contain information on casualties during the Anglo-Boer War:

- Archives of the Red Cross, 1899-1902 (Inventory T62)
- Archives of the Republican Casualties, 1899-1902 (Inventory T1)
- Archives of the War Casualties and Injuries Commission, 1908-1911 (Inventory T209)
- Archives of the Director of Burgher Camps, 1900-1905 (Inventory T262).

7. CEMETERIES

Only a few cemeteries have been listed by the Genealogical Society of South Africa. See index to cemeteries in the reading room of the NAR. (See 1.8). The computer data base for cemeteries: GENE/GENA.

8. OTHER GENEALOGICAL INSTITUTES

8.1 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

8.1.1 Family History Library, 1 Hunter Street, P.O. Box 33642, Highlands, Johannesburg. Tel.: 011-6181890.

8.1.2 Genealogical Service Centre, 7 Jubilee Street, Parktown, Johannesburg. Tel.: 011-6424952.

8.1.3 The Secretary, Genealogical Society of South Africa, PO Box 36052,
Menlopark, 0102, Tel: (012) 3611435, Email: gssa@mweb.co.za

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