

# The People of Diamant

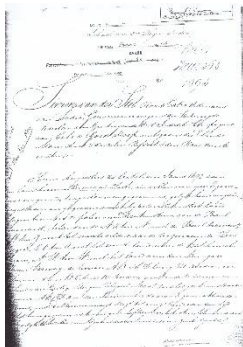
The buildings and structures on a farm are not only of architectural and archaeological interest, but they tell a human story. They were once the stage for the great dramas in life, which in modern times are removed from private space. The homestead, especially, bore witness to the births and deaths of a succession of families. The farm, Diamant, changed ownership over 24 times to the present day.

The story begins with the first owner, **Coenraad Cloete**. He was born to Jacob Cloete and Sophia 'Fytje' Ryerootjes of Keulen (Köln/ Cologne, Germany) in 1663. He received the original land grant from the VOC at the Cape of Good Hope, and started farming in 1692, when he was 30 years old. In the same year, he married Martha Verschuur, who was 16 years old. The couple had two children: Jacobus and Hendrik. Life was hard for the early farmers at the Cape. Labour, implements and other means were scarce. The farmers themselves were newly transplanted to a rough and unfamiliar new land. The Cape colony was just over 40 years in existence. The land had never been farmed before, and everything had to be developed from scratch. Nevertheless, records show that Cloete was a fairly successful farmer, who combined grain-, stock- and wine farming. He had amassed a few 'material' possessions, including a wagon and two slave men. Slavery was a worldwide reality at the time; today we acknowledge both the injustice to the humans who were traded as 'material possessions' as well as their contribution to the development of the land – the great effort and labour that it took to 'tame' and settle that which was basically a wilderness at the time. Cloete would have laboured very hard himself, being one of only three pairs of hands on the farm.

Coenraad died in 1703, at the age of 40. (Du Toit 2007:26)

Cloete was the first owner, and received the land by grant. The V.O.C grants came with obligations to farm and deliver produce to the government at the Cape. Henceforth the farm was transferred through property sales. Each time the farm was sold, the title deed and the sales price give valuable

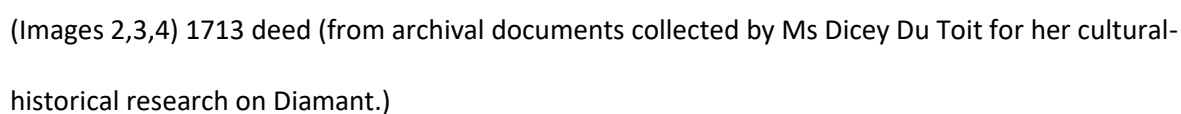
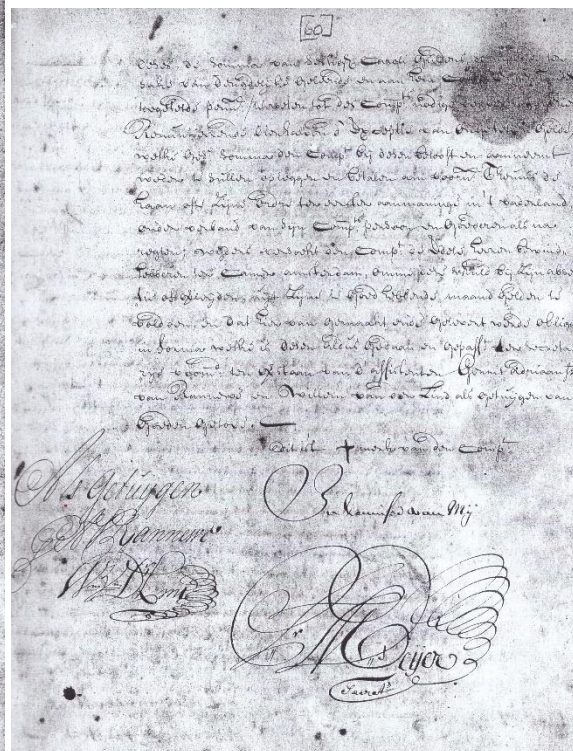
information as to the condition of the farmland, the development of the werf and its buildings, as well as the economy at the time.



(Image 1) 1693 V.O.C. land grant to Coenraad Cloete

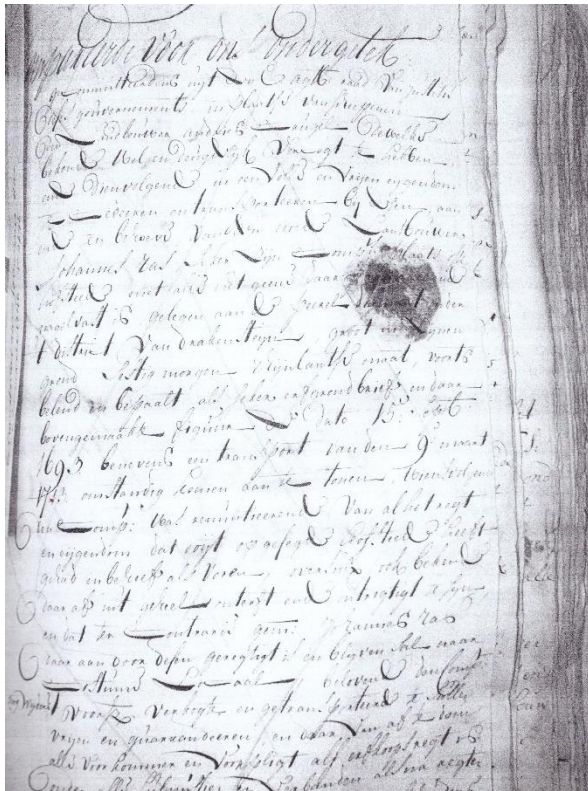
The second owner, **Johann Schöpping** ('Jan Scheppingh')\* came from Schöppingen in Wesfalen, Germany. Schöpping bought the farm at the auction after Cloete's death. He had been the owner of the nearby farm, Hoogstede since 1693. He later also acquired Brandenburg farm. All three his farms were in the Agter-Paarl area. He was married to Jacoba van der Merwe, and died in 1712 without having had any children. Jacoba remarried another German man, Jost Heinrich Frisch, from Münden, Hanover. Frisch acquired all three of Schöpping's farms through the marriage, but shortly thereafter he sold Diamant in 1713, and the other two farms in 1715, and moved to Cape Town to work as a butcher. (Le Roux 1999:18)

**Andreas Krügel** ('Andries Kruger') was born in 1675 near Nürnberg, and came to the Cape from Tennenlohe, Germany. He was first married to Zacharayda Jansz Visser, widow of Dietrich Putter. Krügel had two sons with Zacharayda: Hendrik and Johannes. He also owned the neighbouring farm, Blomkool, where he lived with his family. Tax records suggest that he was a successful grain and stock farmer, with six slaves working between the two farms by 1717. He later sold both Diamant and Blomkool, married Maria Ras in 1724, and bought another Agter-Paarl farm, Weltevrede. (Le Roux 1999:17; J184)



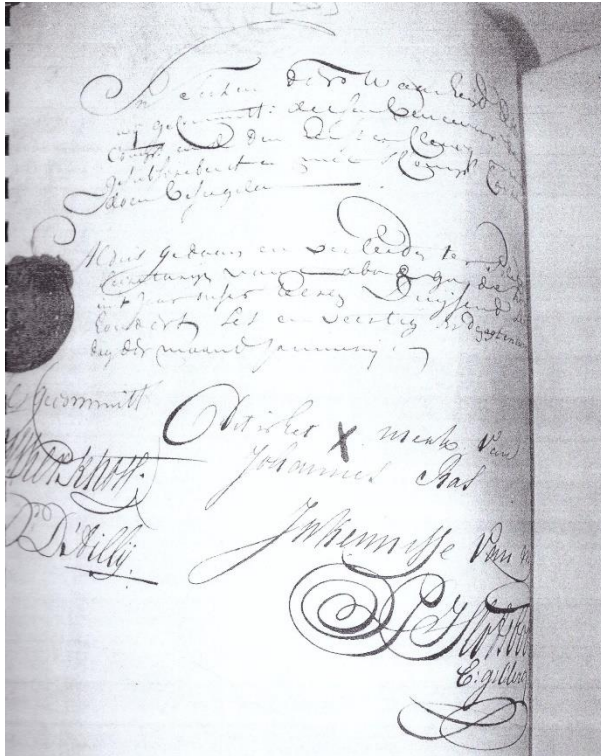
**Johannes Ras** ('Jan Rasp/Rasch') was the first of Diamant's owners to be locally born. He was baptized in the Drakenstein church in 1698. He married Anna Magdalena Senekal ('Anne Madeleine') in 1721, when he was about 23 years old. He bought Diamant from his brother-in-law, Andreas Krügel, three years after his wedding. Anne Madeleine was the daughter of David Senekal and Maria Madeleine du Pius (a French Huguenot descendant.) They had eight children: Maria, Nicolaas, Elsie, Susanna, Catherina, Magdalena, Aletta and Leendert. The family lived on the farm until 1745/46. Ras paid 200 gulden less for the farm, than did Krügel, who had used the land for grain farming and grazing, but probably never improved on the werf, since he lived on Blomkool. Ras was the first owner to live on Diamant in over 30 years. His tax records and auction acquisitions indicate him to have been a successful farmer, who must have been responsible for a good deal of improvement and development on the property, not least of which because he had to house his very large family. Like all the farmers of his time and place, he sold his grain and stock produce primarily to the Dutch East India Company. Ras sold Diamant in 1746. He then moved to Picketberg, married Elizabeth Smit and had another son. (Oberholtser 1987:73; Heese & Lombard 1992:Vol.9/107)





(Image 5) Johannes Ras' deed (from archival documents collected by Ms Dicey Du Toit for her cultural-historical research on Diamant.)

**Jan van de Kust** ('van de Kus/ van de Cust') bought the farm in 1746 from Ras. The value of the property had more than doubled, most probably due to the improvements Ras had made to the werf. He sold the farm after only three years. Not a lot is known about him, other than that he was married to Maria Selwijn. He is not mentioned in tax returns, genealogical records or other archive documents. (Du Toit 2007:?) Archaeologist, Hennie Vos, speculates that Jan van de Kust may be the same person as the slave Adriaan van de Kust, on Diamant. Adri-*jan* was an accomplished tradesman and carpenter who came from the *Coromandel Kust*, the eastern coast, of India. A few slaves managed to buy their freedom through spare-time income, and were classified as Free-Blacks, who thus obtained the same rights as freeburghers. Van de Kust sold the farm as a going concern. (Vos 2010:14)



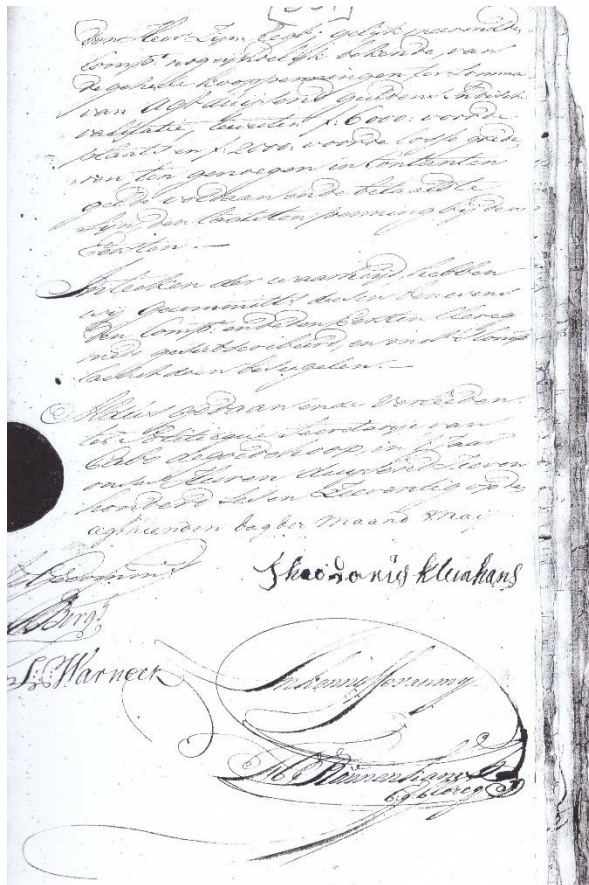
(Image 6) Jan Van de Kust's deed (from archival documents collected by Ms Dicey Du Toit for her cultural-historical research on Diamant.)

The next owner, **Eduard Christiaan Haumann**, was born in Europe in 1724. When he was 21 years old, he came to the Cape as a soldier on board the *Vreeland*, from Riga, Latvia. He bought Diamant four years after arriving at the Cape, and within a month of buying the farm, he married Susanna Taillefer. Susanna was the daughter of Jean Taillefer of La Bri (later known as Labori.) they had a son, Pieter Eduard. After Susanna Taillefer passed away, Eduard remarried Susanna Marais in 1752. Sadly, he lost quite a number of wives, and went on to marry Maria Rossouw, and later Helena Catharina Krügel (the sister of Andreas Krügel) in 1767. Eduard sold the farm, and bought Simonsvlei in 1764. No children are mentioned in the records. (Le Roux 1999:18; Heese & Lombard 1992:Vol 3/165; Du Toit 2007:38)

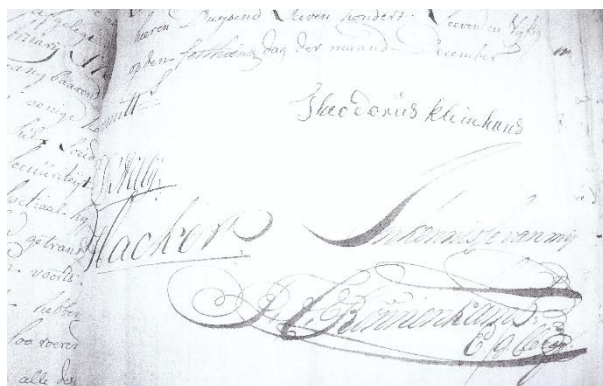




kettle. A building named 'wine cellar' was listed on the deed for the first time (T4812/1776). When he sold the farm, he had doubled the property value. He later moved to Grootvadersbosch where he became a wagon maker, and lived in Swellendam until his death in 1803. (Du Toit 2007:40)



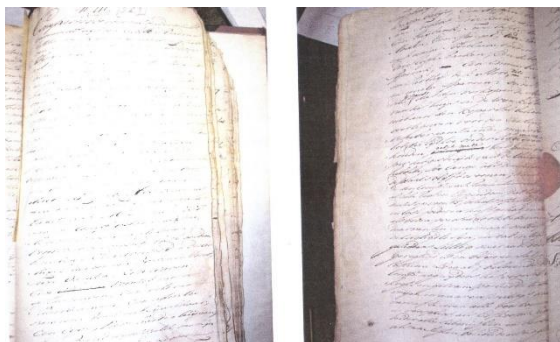
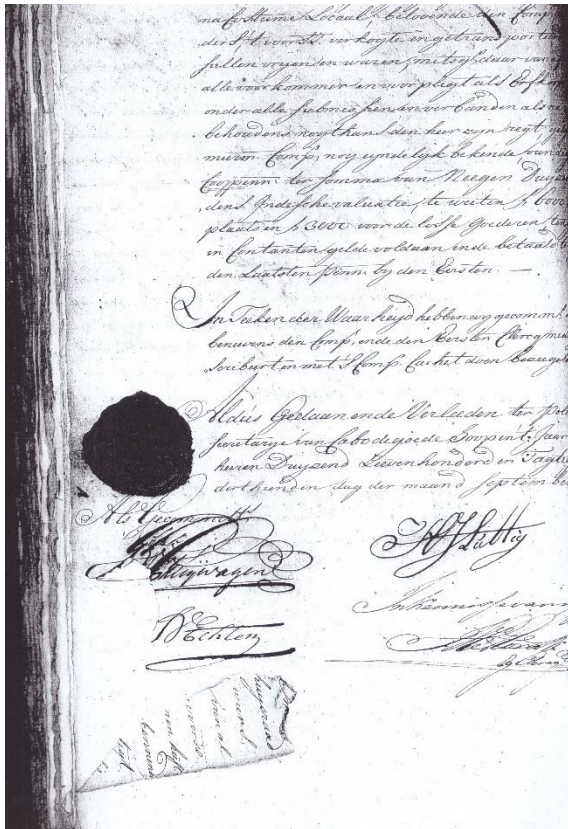
Theodorus Kleinans





(Images 10,11,12) Theodorus Kleinhans' signature and deeds (from archival documents collected by Ms Dicey Du Toit for her cultural-historical research on Diamant.)

Kleijnhans sold the farm to **Hartwig Johannes Lüttig** in 1776. Lüttig was born in 1747 in the Cape. His father, Helmut Lüttig, was an aristocrat from Grabouw, in Germany, who had come to the Cape on board the Goudriaan in 1736. Lüttig's father, Helmut, was a miller in Stellenbosch, and later in Paarl. Hartwig married Magdalena du Plessis in Paarl in 1773. They had six children: Helmut Hartwig, Johanna Petronella, Daniel Frederick, Hermina Dorothea, Anna Catharina and Jacobus Johannes. Hartwig was a church man, sexton of the Drakenstein church. Payment for his service was rendered in part with housing from the church, in Paarl town area. He is recorded to have sold communion wine to the church from around 1779, during his time of ownership of Diamant. His tax returns show that he had up to 30 000 vines on his farm as well as a number of wine-making items. The church records also show that he was issued with a certain measure of wheat per year with which to prepare the communion bread. This, together with his father's expertise in milling, has led to the speculation on the possible existence of a mill on Diamant. His communion bread responsibilities came only after he sold Diamant, but since he sold the farm to his father-in-law in 1780, the theory remains relevant. Archaeological investigation could, however, not prove this correct. Hartwig's own father, Helmut, died in 1790. In 1800, Hartwig was involved with the building works of the new Strooidak church in Paarl, both in administrative capacity as well as practically, through provision of housing for construction workers, and by helping with the installation of the organ. (Heese & Lombard 1992:353) (Oberholtser 1940:69;79) (Du Toit 2007:42)



(Images 13,14) Lüttig' signature and deeds (from archival documents collected by Ms Dicey Du Toit for her cultural-historical research on Diamant.)

**Daniël du Plessis**, Lüttig's father-in-law, was born in Paarl in 1732. He married Maria van Heerden and they had nine children: Jean Louis, Petrus Willem, Magdalena (who married Lüttig), Daniël Jacobus, Charl, Maria, Magteld Judith, Hendrik and Anna Petronella. He bought the farm from his daughter's husband in 1780. He died in 1787. (Heese & Lombard 1992: Vol.8/131) (Du Toit 2007:47)

**Adriaan Van Rheenen**, next bought the farm from du Plessis' widow in 1788. He was born in 1760, and married Engela Van Niekerk in 1779. They had three children: Maria Jacoba Christina, Elizabeth Alberta Petronella and Jacob. According to tax returns, Adriaan doubled the amount of vines on the farm to 60 000 and made 20 leagues of wine in 1790. (J218) (Du Toit 2007:49)

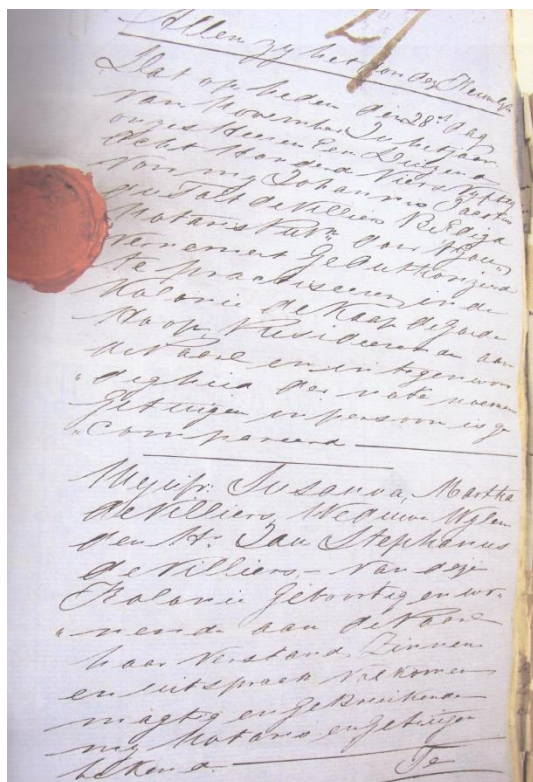
Van Rheenen sold the farm to **Johannes Albertus de Villiers** in 1793. Johannes likely grew up in the Agter-Paarl area, since his father owned Landskroon farm. He married Susanna Johanna Doiema of Ruitersvlei farm in Agter-Paarl, in 1791. The couple had two children: Susanna Johanna and Pieter Jan Albertus. The little girl died young, and de Villiers sold the farm in 1800, whereafter he worked as a carpenter in Swellendam. He died in 1853. (Du Toit 2007:50)

**Pieter Barend Botha** was born in 1770. He married Cornelia Goosen in 1787, when he was just 17 years old. They had three children: Sara Cornelia, Anna Susanna and Pieter Barend. He bought Diamant from de Villiers in 1800. Even though tax records suggest successful farming on his part, the estate was insolvent when it was sold to Jan S de Villiers in 1809. (Du Toit 2007:51)

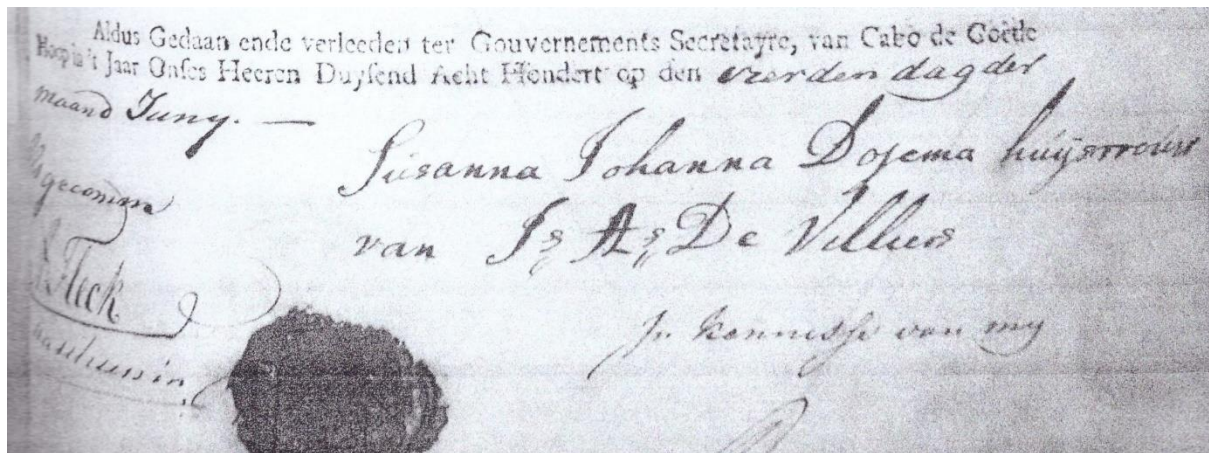
**Jan S de Villiers** was born in 1778 to Jacob de Villiers and Debora du Toit of the farm Limietrivier, in Wellington. He married Susanna Martha de Villiers (daughter of Pieter and Johanna De Villiers of Landskroon) in 1800. They had 11 children: Jacob Jan, Johanna Elizabeth, Pieter, Johannes Jacobus Cornelius, Jacob Nicolaas, Debora Louisa Jacoba, Abraham Matthys Johannes, Susanna Maria Dunkerina, Dirk Izak, Izak Jeremias and Helena Anna Ester. Jan S de Villiers bought Diamant in 1809, and he can be credited for the Georgian stylistic changes to the H-plan manor house on the farm, wherein eight of his children would have been born. Tax records indicate that the family had already farmed somewhere prior to purchasing Diamant. This was most probably on Landskroon.

The de Villiers family are Huguenot descendants. From France, the Huguenots brought a layer of cultural heritage that can be seen in arts such as architecture and music, lifestyle, and expert skills, such as wine-making. De Villiers' lifestyle seems to have been quite different from the previous owners of Diamant. It appears that he led a more gentlemanly lifestyle and had more means.

Records indicate that he employed a tailor for the making of their clothes, rather than relying on the women in his household for this. He bought books, which meant his family was literate, cultured and had money to spare for such luxuries. He bought meat, rather than relying solely on animals raised on the farm. And, although slavery was still in practice in the Cape until the abolition in 1833/1834, Jan S de Villiers had no slaves on Diamant; he employed European servants ('knegte') instead. When he died in 1824, his widow Susanna Martha de Villiers continued with active farming with great determination and the support of her older children and father (on Landskroon). In 1827, the farm was enlarged with a piece of quitrent land of 199 morg and 42.5 square roods. Susanna sold the farm in 1853, and died in 1855. Jan S and Susanna de Villiers made a profound cultural and architectural contribution on Diamant. The name of the farm became established in official use in de Villiers' time. (Du Toit 2007:54)







(Images 15,16) Documents of Susanna Johanna De Villiers, Housewife of J De Villiers (from archival documents collected by Ms Dicey Du Toit for her cultural-historical research on Diamant.)

**Hercules George F Enslin** was born in 1835 and bought Diamant from Susanna de Villiers in 1853. He was married to Margaretha J Smuts, and had ten children. His tax records show that he was a wine farmer and – merchant. He died in the Free State in 1876. (Du Toit 2007:60)

Enslin's daughter, Margaretha Jacoba, married **Pieter Christiaan Le Roux** (who was born in 1841). Through the marriage Pieter acquired Diamant. The pair did not have any children. Pieter died in 1875, after which his older brother, Josua Le Roux (born in 1835) bought the farm. Josua, like his brother, did not have any children. He was first married to Susanna Wilhelmina de Villiers, and after her death, also to Helena Susanna Retief. Ten years after purchasing the farm, he sold it as an insolvent estate. (Du Toit 2007:60)

**Jacobus Francois Malan** was married to Anna Magdalena Le Roux. They had nine children: Hester Francina, Anna Magdalena, David Johannes, Maria Christina, Daniël Bartholomeus, Jacobus Francois, Petronella Louisa, Stephanus Petrus and Margaretha Magdalena. When his two sons were old enough to farm in 1910, Malan subdivided the farm. The subdivision line cut across the middle of the werf. Thereafter the two farms were named "Klein Diamant" and "Diamant". Klein Diamant was 12 morg larger than Diamant, but Diamant had the beautiful Cape Dutch H-plan homestead as well as a

wine cellar. Klein Diamant had water-use rights for the spring on Diamant, for the purposes of household and gardening (R7091&2/1910). The brothers each paid an equal £3000 for their portions. Jacobus Francois (his father's namesake) received Diamant, while Daniël Bartholomeus received Klein Diamant. Jacobus Jr farmed on his portion for eight years before he sold it to the brothers, Daniël and Francois Le Roux Hugo, in 1918. (Du Toit 2007:62)

**Francois le Roux Hugo** was born in 1891. He married Johanna Gertruida Malan in 1925. They had five children: Johanna Gertruida, Anna Magdalena, Daniël Francois, Jaqueline and Francois Le Roux. (Hugo 1977:69-70) His brother, **Daniël Hugo**, was born in 1893. He married Maria Ludick, and had one child, Hester, born in 1927. Daniël died in 1929, and his brother Francois Le Roux bought his share from Maria in 1930. The two families lived together in the homestead on Diamant until Daniël's passing, whereafter his family moved to Paarl (Malan: 9/5/2007 Du Toit 2007:64) Francois Le Roux Sr passed away in 1965. (Du Toit 2007:64)

**Daniël Francois Hugo** was born in 1930. He bought Diamant from his father in 1957. He married Johanna Maria van der Merwe in 1958 and they had four children: Anna Maria, Johanna Gertruida, Benitha Cora and Francois Daniël. (Hugo 1977:69-70)

**Daniël Bartholomeus Malan** (born in 1860) who became the owner of Klein Diamant in 1910, married Anna Francina Hugo in 1890. They had four children: Jacobus Francois, Daniël Hugo, David Johannes and Catharina Margaretha. (Heese & Lombard 1992: Vol.5/403) In 1921, he bought a small portion of the werf on the Diamant side from the Hugo brothers, in order to enlarge his home. (R4160) A land survey was done on his farm shortly after he acquired it, which indicates three buildings: a house, a storage room and a wine cellar. (Du Toit 2007:65)

**Daniël Hugo Malan** (born in 1896) bought Klein Diamant from his father in 1940. He married Hester Magdalena Maria Hauptfleish in 1935. They had two children: Daniël Bartholomeus and Jan Gottlieb. (Malherbe 2007 Du Toit 2007:67)

**Daniël Bartholomeus Malan** (the 2<sup>nd</sup>) inherited Klein Diamant from his father in 1968. Klein Diamant stayed in the Malan family until 2007 when it was sold. (Du Toit 2007:67)

In 2007, Diamant Wynlandgoedery (Pty) Ltd bought Groot Diamant. The company was initially formed by two business partners, but today it remains in ownership of only one of the two, **Jacob du Toit**, who is a founding member of the PSG Group. In the following year, Fairview Trust bought Klein Diamant. **Charles Back** of Fairview is a neighbouring farmer, and is responsible for a great deal of agricultural development in the Agter Paarl area. The two portions of land have been brought together again, and is now farmed, and the werf is operated, as a single unit. Together they have invested greatly in the restoration of the farm buildings and the development of the agriculture on the land.

\*Variation in Names: German and French names often morphed into a more Dutch variation, since the VOC deliberately tried to integrate the people from different cultural backgrounds into the predominantly Dutch environment. Some farms were granted in a pattern which positioned French/Dutch settlers interspersed between Dutch, so that they would not form minority groups, but rather integrate into the Dutch settlement. People also integrated naturally through marriage and church community.

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