

Story of a Family Bible researched and compiled by C J (Stoffel) Vermeulen

Introduction

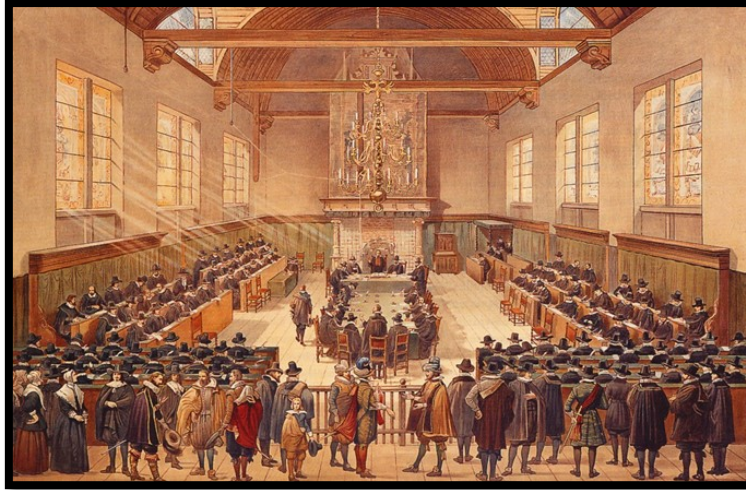
During 2013, the VERMEULEN BOND received a donation in the form of a Family Bible – Statenbijbel, which was in all probability in the possession of the Vermeulen family since 1798. During the following 214 years, several notes were made in the Bible, by Guilliam Vermeulen (1752-1818) and his descendants.



Vermeulen Statenbijbel (1741)

History of the Statenbijbel

The story of this VERMEULEN Family Bible will be incomplete if we also do not give a brief overview regarding the origin of the Dutch Statenbijbel. The first complete Bible in Dutch was already printed in Antwerp during 1526 by Jacob van Liesvelt. As in the case of several other bibles of the period, it is based on a translation of a translation. These translations are based on Martin Luther's translation. It has a very strong Lutheran influence. During the Synod of Dordrecht (1618-1619) it was decided that a new translation should be done. The translation was done from the original written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. This request was addressed to the State General of the time.



Dordrecht Synod (1618-1619)

In 1626 the request was accepted and the translation could begin, which was completed in 1635. The State General approved the translation during 1637. From this period up to and including 1657, nearly half a million copies are printed. In 1657, a Second Edition is printed which were used in the Protestant Church until the 20th century.

Guilliam Vermeulen (1st owner) (1752-1818)

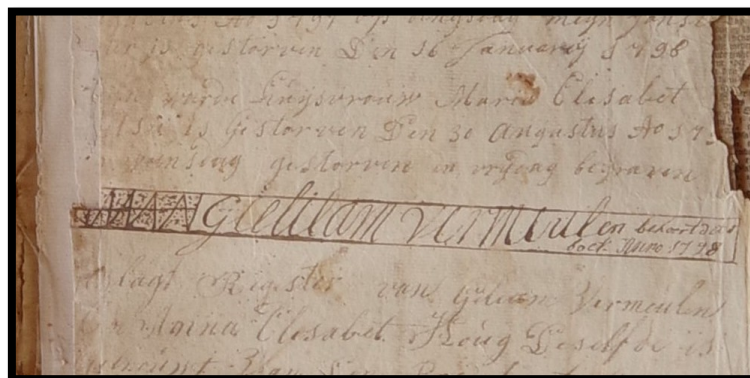
Guilliam was the grandson of Dirk Cornelisz Vermeulen. Dirk is one of the recognized progenitors of the VERMEULEN family in South Africa, who landed on the Cape of Good Hope on August 9, 1705. Guilliam was born from the marriage of Cornelis Vermeulen and Adriana du Plooy on 27 August 1752 in Paarl. He is one of eight children and the fourth oldest. Guilliam married Maria Elizabeth Coetzee on 17 December 1780. The marriage takes place from the NG Church, Tulbagh. He is also referred to as a citizen of Stellenbosch. From the marriage with Maria, eight children are born. After Maria's death, around 1797, Guilliam married Anna Elizabeth Hough in Stellenbosch on 23 February 1800. A further eight children also arise from this marriage. It is not known when the Statenbijbel was received by Guilliam. This copy of the KEUR Statenbijbel was printed by Jacob and Hendrick KEUR in Dordrecht. The printing work begins around 1741 on the Old Testament. The New Testament and Apocryphal Books are printed during 1744. The following explanation in this regard was received from Wim van't Zelfde. (Director Bijbelmuseum Leerdam, Netherlands.)

“de Bijbels die de familie Keur drukte werden niet direct ingebonden maar in losse bladen in bundels van 4 pagina s dubbel gevouwen bewaard, dus in totaal 8 de oplagen waren ca 800 a 1000 exemplaren per Bijbeldrukgang. dat drukken duurde meestal 1 tot 3 jaar, van de 1e tot de laatste pagina. om deze systematisch te kunnen bewaren was zeer veel ruimte nodig en de familie Keur mocht daarvoor de grote zolder van het stadhuis in Dordrecht gebruiken. pas daarna begon men met het inbinden waarbij de klanten konden aangeven of men er kaarten in wilde hebben en eventueel ook gravures als het inbinden klaar was werden er houten kaften op voor en achterzijde aangebracht met daar omheen de rundleren band als dit gedaan was werd er onder de bindpers de stempels in het leder aangebracht daarna werd het koper beslag aangebracht en werd de Bijbel aan de boekhandel geleverd die deze voor zijn klant had besteld. bij jullie Bijbel is men begonnen te drukken in 1741 met het Oude Testament en in 1744 werd het Nieuwe Testament met de apocriefe boeken afgemaakt.

pas daarna begon de afwerking zoals hier boven weergegeven en werden dus in de jaren daarna de kaarten en platen aangebracht in het jaar 1755/56 werd de laatste Bijbel door Keur gedrukt."

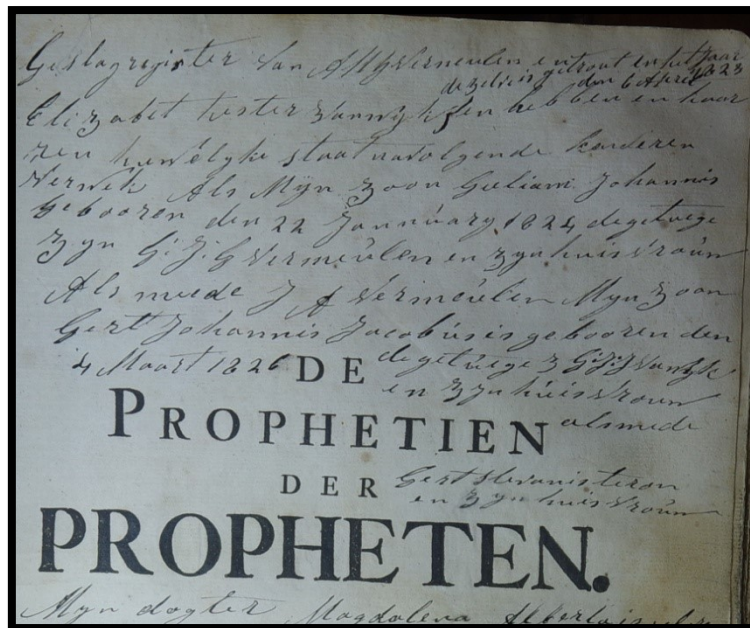


An image by J.C Phillips "Schepping des Menfchen", is dated 1774. It is then clear that by 1774 the bible had not yet been shipped from Dordrecht to the Cape of Good Hope. Almost 33 years have passed since the printing of the Bible began.

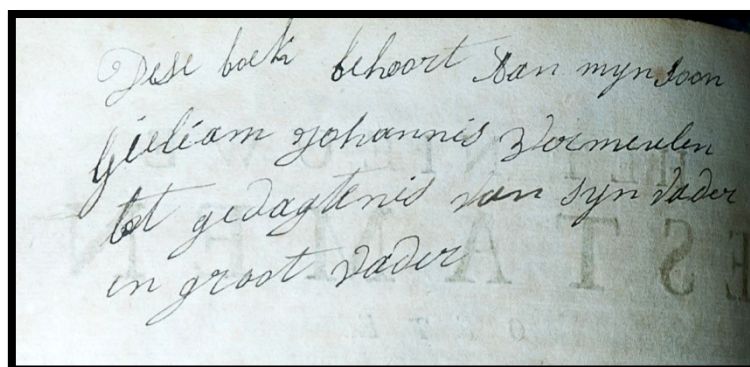


The above handwritten entry is also found in the bible "**Gielliam Vermeulen behoort ____ Book anno 1798**"
Could this possibly represent the year in which Guillian received the bible?

With the death of Guillian Vermeulen on 27 November 1818, the bible in all probability went to Andreas Michail Gert Vermeulen. (**2nd owner**) Andreas was born from Guillian's second marriage in 1800 to Anna Elizabeth Hough. We find that a handwritten entry was made of the genealogical register of Andreas and Elizabeth Hester van Wyk. They were married on 6 April 1823 from the NG Church Tulbagh. Among other things, this also indicates the birth of Guillian Johannes Vermeulen on 22 January 1824.



Extract from genealogy of Andreas M.G. Vermeulen and Elizabeth Hester van Wyk.



Handwritten entry which in all probability refers to Guiliam Johannes Vermeulen, eldest son of Andreas.

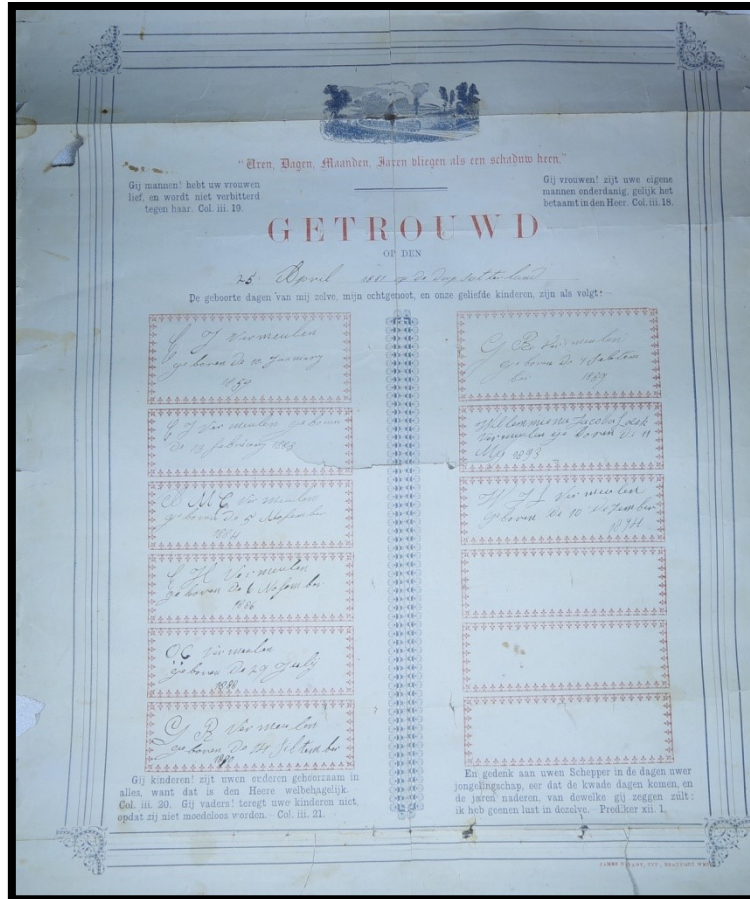
It is assumed that Guiliam Johannes Vermeulen was the **3rd owner** of the bible. Guiliam Johannes married Getruida Rachel Vermeulen in about 1846. Her father was Ockert Cornelis Vermeulen, son of Guiliam Vermeulen from his first marriage with Maria Elizabeth Coetzee.

With the death of Guiliam Johannes in 1868, there is the possibility that this bible came into the possession of his younger sister, Anna Elizabeth Vermeulen. (**4th owner**) Anna Elizabeth was born in 1832. She was married in about 1850 to Ernestus Jacobus Vermeulen. Ernestus Jacobus was born in 1823 and was the son of Ockert Cornelis Vermeulen and Maria Margaretha Visser. Ockert Cornelis was the half-brother of Andreas Michail Gert Vermeulen. (**2nd owner of the bible**).

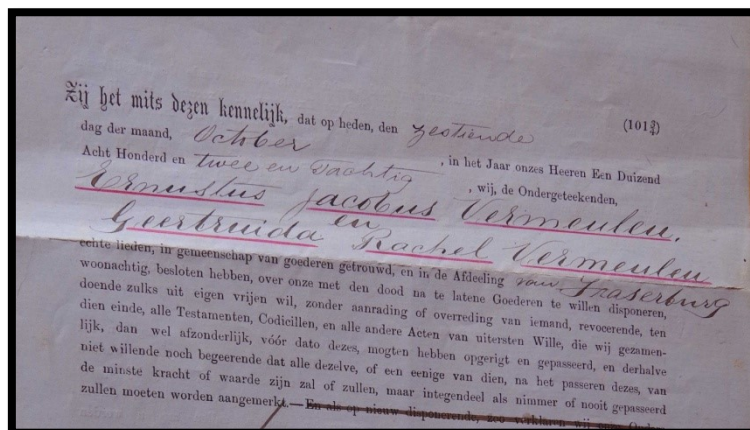
It must be emphasized that the ownership (**3rd**) rests only on the Entry in relation to Guiliam Johannes Vermeulen. Be that as it may, this bible is "united" in the offspring of Guiliam Vermeulen's first and second marriage.

A separate handwritten genealogy was also found inside the bible. This sheds light on who may have been the **5th owner(s)** of the bible.

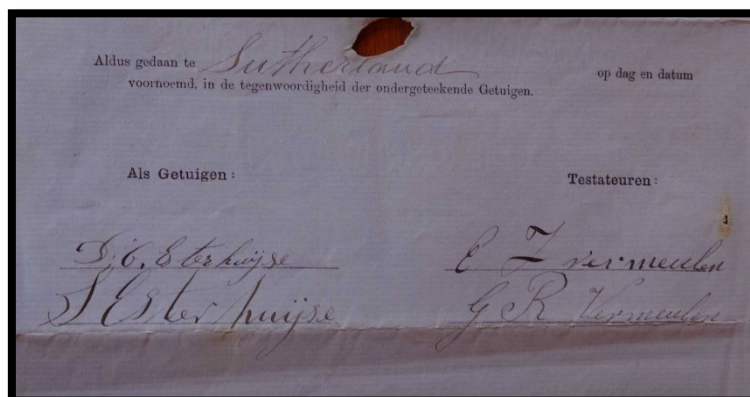
From the marriage between Ernestus Jacobus Vermeulen and Anna Elizabeth Vermeulen, a daughter Rachel Gertruida Vermeulen was born in 1859. She married Ernestus Jacobus Vermeulen on 25 April 1881. This Ernestus Jacobus was born from the marriage of Ockert Cornelis Vermeulen and Anna Maria La Cock. Because the genealogy was found inside the bible, it is most likely that the bible was also in the possession of Ernestus and Rachel. Their joint original will dated 16 October 1882 was also found inside the bible.



Pedigree of Ernestus and Rachel (5th owners)



Joint Will for Ernestus and Rachel (5th owners)



Joint Will for Ernestus and Rachel (Signatures)

In order to complete the ownership of the bible up to and including the donor, it was necessary to trace the genealogy of Tania Vermeulen donor and **8th owner** back up to and including the grandparents. Tania was born Kruger and legally adopted by Adriaan van Wyk Vermeulen and (**7th owner**) Maria Hendrina Dorita Kruger. Adriaan and Maria were married in April 1949. Adriaan van Wyk Vermeulen was born on 10 November 1926 in the Sutherland district. He is the 2nd oldest of 4 children born from the marriage of Willem Jacobus La Cock Vermeulen (**6th owner**) and Francina Susanna van Wyk. This marriage takes place on 29 November 1920 in Sutherland.

Finally, the possible and probable ownership line of the bible can be completed from approximately 1798 to 2013. Willem Jacobus La Cock Vermeulen was the 2nd youngest son born from the marriage of Ernestus and Rachel Vermeulen (**5th owners**).

Summary

8. Tania Vermeulen <16988>
7. Adriaan van Wyk Vermeulen/ Maria Hendrina Doritia Kruger <8620>& <8628>
6. Willem Jacobus La Cock Vermeulen/ Francina Susanna van Wyk. <2119>&<2125>
5. Ernestus Jacobus Vermeulen/Gertruida Rachel Vermeulen <742>&<753>
4. Ernestus Jacobus Vermeulen/Anna Elizabeth Vermeulen <239>& <253>
3. Guillian Johannes Vermeulen/Gertruida Rachel Vermeulen <282>& <240>
2. Andreas Michail Gert Vermeulen/ Elizabeth Hester van Wyk. <83>& <95>
1. Guillian Vermeulen/ Anna Elizabeth Hough <10>& <26>