

South African Genealogy Primer

An e-guide for the neophyte

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Important Notes:

- Any [underlined blue header or text](#) is a hyperlink and if you place your cursor over it and control_right click, it will automatically launch your browser and point it at the website.
- This primer is intended to help you pursue your own research and is not an offer by either Janet Melville or Delia Robertson to undertake research tasks on your behalf.

Introduction: This primer applies to the political area which is currently the Republic of South Africa. It does not address research information for any other African country, including neighbouring states such as Namibia (formerly South West Africa), Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia), and Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia); nor any further afield such as Malawi (formerly Nyassaland) and Kenya.

1. **Getting Started.** You always start with the known and so you will begin by completing a [Family Group Sheet](#) (a sample appears below) for yourself, and if applicable, one each for your spouse and children. Then prepare one for *each* individual in all of the family groups in your immediate family: parents, grandparents, your siblings, your children, etc.
 - a. **First.** Be sure to fill in as much detail as possible. For example, if the birth occurred in a hospital, its name, address, etc. For baptisms, marriages, include the church and its address. This will be of great help when you later research these details.
 - b. **Second.** Where possible, consult the individuals concerned to ensure that the details you are recording are as accurate as possible.
 - c. **Third.** If documents such as birth, marriage, death and baptism certificates are available, ask if you may photocopy them for your files.
 - d. **Fourth.** The same applies to informal sources such as diaries, photographs, birthday books, newspaper clips, etc.
2. **The Next Level.** Once you have done this you can broaden your search. In South Africa the following are most commonly used as sources for genealogical research:
 - a. The **Death Notice** (see attached briefing paper which includes an example) is the source most widely used to identify further areas of research in South Africa and beyond its borders.
 - b. **Church records and registers.** The researcher needs to bear in mind that early settlers often stepped outside the traditional family religion, either temporarily or permanently. For one thing, churches were often few and far between, and so regardless of denomination they made use of the nearest church for their religious rites. You might therefore find the baptism or marriage of your elusive ancestor in a church of a different denomination either to that of the family in the ancestral country or to that preferred by subsequent generations. This practice also transcended language preferences, so that your English speaking ancestor may have

been baptised or married in a traditionally Dutch or Afrikaans church and vice versa. For example, in the Dutch Reformed Church in Middelburg, Cape you will find most of the early English names such as Biggs, Gilfillan, Green, Bennie, Cawood, etc. And, in Grahamstown you find plenty of Boer baptisms in the Anglican Church of St. Michael and St. George.

- i. **Contents of church records/registers.**
 - a. **Baptism certificates** will usually contain the names of the parents as well as witnesses. Sometimes they include a date of birth.
 - b. **Marriage certificates** will generally include the full names of both bride and groom, in the case of the bride her maiden name and also witnesses. Often the place of residence of each appears and in the case of minors, the name of the consenting parent.
 - c. **Membership records.** These are generally only available in the case of the Reformed religions and provide the name of the individual and a membership date.
- ii. The following is a list of **major religious denominations** which established churches in what is now South Africa, but it is not comprehensive.
 - a. **Catholic Church.** Most parishes keep their own registers. If a church is closed, the registers will have been transferred to the nearest cathedral.
 - b. **Anglican Church (Church of the Province of South Africa).** The "official" archive is held at the Cullen Library, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. But there are also some provincial archives. Some early Cape records (military chaplain 1806-1930) have been filmed by the LDS. The LDS is filming all Anglican records.
 - c. **Church of England.** According to the church website Registers and records are maintained as follows: At each church the minister has to keep the following registers and records. For security they should be in a safe provided by the church council:
 - Record of Service Register. The Record of Services Register has to be completed and signed by the officiating minister and preacher after each service under the supervision of the churchwardens and kept in the vestry for perusal by the Bishop, or other authorised official.
 - Register of Baptisms.
 - Register of Confirmations.
 - Membership registers.
 - Marriage registers. In terms of the Marriage Act, the Marriage Officer has to keep a register of those whom he has married and if he is moved to another church, the register goes with him. In order that churches may have a record of who has been married in them, they may keep their own register as well.
 - d. **Presbyterian Church.** The Presbyterian registers are kept at the Cory Library for Historical Research at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.
 - e. **Methodist Church.** The Methodist registers are kept at the Cory Library for Historical Research at Rhodes University in Grahamstown.
 - f. **Dutch Reformed Church.** Baptism, marriage and membership registers. Most been filmed by the LDS and as of the year 2002, filming continues.
 - g. **The Lutheran Evangelical Church.** The oldest church in Cape Town. Records up to 1889/1890 are kept at the Cape Archives. Records of marriages from 1890 and of baptisms from 1898 are kept at the church.
 - h. **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa/Cape Church.** Contact the relevant congregation. See address list.
- c. **Official Civil Records.** The dates in the table below reflect the start of official civil registration in the various jurisdictions in South Africa. There are some Cape birth

registrations for the period 1880 to 1895 but these are not comprehensive. Researchers should note that the area which in the year 2002 is South Africa has not always been one "country". This has meant many changes in both place names and jurisdictions. A [South African Timeline](#) can be found at Dick Whitlock's [Whit's End](#) website but researchers are encouraged to acquire at least one comprehensive and current volume of South African history for their personal library.

Area of Jurisdiction	Births	Marriages	Deaths
Cape Colony	1895	1700	1895
Orange Free State	1903	1848	1903
Natal	1868	1845	1888
Transvaal	1901	1870	1901

- d. **Military Records.** Records of service going back to WWI can be obtained from the S.A. National Defence Force. You do need to provide full names and date of birth and, if possible, a service number. See address list.
 - e. **Civil Service Records.** The following are some civil service records which are available for research. The list is not comprehensive.
 - i. **Cape Government Railways.** An inventory of the Archives of the General Manager and Executive Officials, 1873 – 1916 which contain staff registers, date, location and wages for each position is archived at the National Archives in Pretoria.
 - f. **Police Records.** It is possible to obtain the service records of police officers. See address list.
 - g. **Immigration Records.** From 1652 to 1900 there were several different waves of immigration from Europe and the British Isles including several assisted or aided immigration programs which brought immigrants to these shores. These included:
 - i. French Huguenots who fled religious persecution in France. There is an active society of their descendants and a [Name List](#) at the Society [website](#).
 - ii. Several British programs including the so-called 1820 Settlers, a list of whom can be found at Len Stratford's [1820 Settlers](#) website.
 - iii. [German Immigrants](#) Online indexed list of [Germans in Kaffraria](#).
 - h. **Ship Passenger Lists.** Very few ships passenger lists either to or from South Africa have been transcribed. However, you will find some lists at the following websites.
 - i. [Pat Smith's Passenger Lists](#).
 - ii. [Heather McAlister's Passenger Lists](#).
 - iii. [Union Castle Line](#)
 - i. **Maps.** A basic and essential tool for genealogists is a detailed map of the area which you are researching. If political and jurisdictional changes have occurred during the period you are researching, you will need a variety of maps. These days it is possible to find all kinds of maps and gazetteers on the internet. The following is a brief list of online maps.
 - i. [S.A. Demarcation Board](#) – all kinds of useful mapping tools
 - ii. [Multimap](#)
 - iii. [MapQuest](#)
 - iv. [Ananzi Maps](#)
 - v. [Braby's](#)
 - j. **Monumental Inscriptions.** Many cemeteries in South Africa have been recorded and a number of organizations have transcription records. However, the largest collection of monumental inscriptions is available from the [GSSA](#).
3. Places to pursue your research:
- a. **[National Archives of South Africa \(NASA\)](#).** The custodian of most archived official records and therefore a rich resource for the genealogist. There are five major depots: Pretoria, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Pietermaritzburg, and Grahamstown. Estate files containing Death Notices are one of the most common types of file used by genealogists. You can familiarize yourself with the type of records available and where they are held at the [NASA](#) website. You can also search the index online.
 - b. **[South African Department of Home Affairs](#):** For civil documents such as birth, marriage and death certificates. You will need precise information, such as full names and complete dates, to order a certificate. Genealogists are advised to order a vault copy of any document you order. If in South Africa apply at your nearest

- Home Affairs office, if abroad at the nearest South African Embassy or Consulate. See address list.
- c. **The Master of the High Court (prev. Master of the Supreme Court)**. More recent estate files (with Death Notices) can be found at the Master's office in the jurisdiction where the death occurred.
 - d. **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church)**. The LDS has filmed a wide variety of South African records including Death Notices up to 1950, Dutch Reformed Church baptism, marriage and membership registers, Methodist registers, and so on. Check out the church's [website](#) and search the online catalogue for further information. Films may be ordered through and viewed at the LDS Family History Centre near you. For the centres in South Africa, see the "useful addresses" section below. For those in other countries, check the [LDS](#) online.
 - d. **Published genealogies**. Before inventing the wheel again find out what has already been published. There are a number of generic genealogies as well a books related to specific families or branches of families. In addition the [Genealogical Society of South Africa's](#) quarterly journal, *Familia*, as well as branch journals such as *Capenses*, has published full or partial genealogies. There is also a wide range of published material that will broaden your knowledge of South Africa and even assist you directly in your research. See list of publications.
 - e. **Are other genealogists researching your family?** There may be other people working on the same family(ies) you are. One way of checking is to consult the South African Genealogical Reference Guide available from the [Genealogical Society of South Africa](#). There are also *who-is-researching-whom* lists available on the internet. Check these out:
 - i. [Conrod Mercer's Surnames Interest Page](#)
 - ii. [Anne Lehmkuhl's List of researchers from the GenForum group](#)
 - iii. [Heather McAlister's Home Pages and Special Interests List](#)
 - f. **Libraries**: Many South African libraries have collections that include biography, genealogy, local history and other holdings that can be a goldmine for the genealogical researcher. For example the Port Elizabeth library has old field cornecy maps dating from way back in 1850 which contain the names of farms and their owners. See address list.
 - g. **Genealogical and Family History Societies**: Apart from the [Genealogical Society of South Africa](#) there are several other societies as well as a number of family history societies and other special interest groups. Some researchers derive benefit from membership in societies, others find that contact with other researchers on the internet and by correspondence is more useful. See the address list.
 - h. **Online genealogy discussion**. There are several email discussion lists which deal with South African genealogy and history. To find out more visit the South Africa page at [Cyndis List](#) and do a search at [Rootsweb](#) for any lists related to South Africa.

USEFUL BOOKS

This list is a small sampling of what is available.

Boucher, M.: **French speakers at the Cape in the first hundred years of Dutch East India Company rule.**

Bull, E.: **Aided immigration from Britain to South Africa, 1857-1867.**

Cilliers, B.: **Genealogieë van die Afrikaner Families in Natal.** Some copies may still be available from the author.

De Villiers, C.C. and Pama, C.: **Geslagregisters van ou Kaapse Families, Vols. I-III.** Out of print.

Dickason, GB: **Irish Settlers to the Cape.**

Dickason, G.B.: **A history of the Clanwilliam 1820 Settlers from Cork Harbour.**

Genealogical Institute of South Africa – GISA: **South African Genealogies, Vols V-VII**

Heese, J.A.: **Die Herkoms van die Afrikaner, 1657-1867.**

Hockly, F.W.: **The Story of the British Settlers of 1820 in South Africa.**

Hoge, J.: **Bydraes tot die Genealogie van ou Afrikaanse Families.**

Hoge, J.: **Personalia of the Germans at the Cape, 1652-1806.**

Kannemeyer, A.F.: **Hugenote Fainilieboek.**

Lombard, R.T.J. and Heese, J.A.: **South African Genealogies, Vols I-IV.** Available from GISA.
Lombard, R.T.J.: **Handbook for Genealogical Research in South Africa**
Malberbe, D.F.: **Stamregister van die Suid-Afrikaanse Volk.**
Morse-Jones, E.: **The Role of the British Settlers in South Africa.**
Nash, M.D.: **The Settler Handbook** – An excellent volume on the 1820 Settlers.
Pama, C.: **Die Groot Afrikaanse Familienaamboek.**
Philip, P.: **British Residents at the Cape, 1795-1819.**
Redelinghuys, J.H.: **Die Afrikaner-Familienaamboek.**
Schnell, E.L.G.: **For Men Must Work**, German Military Settlers.
SpenceR, Shelagh O'Byrne: **British Settlers in Natal, Vols. I- VII**
Standard Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa (SESA).
Dictionary of South African Biography, Vols. I – V. Some volumes can still be purchased from GISA

As indicated several of these publications are available from the [Genealogical Institute of South Africa \(GISA\)](#). Check the Institute's online catalogue for a complete list of items they have for sale.

Journals:

Familia: Quarterly Journal of the [Genealogical Society of South Africa](#).

Capensis: Quarterly Journal of the Western Cape branch of the GSSA.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Churches

N.G. Kerk Archives (Free State)
P O Box 398
9301 Bloemfontein, South Africa
Tel: +27-51-448-9546
Email: [Mrs C. Botes](mailto:Mrs.C.Botes), Archivist

[N.G. Kerk Archives](#)

P O Box 3171
8000 Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-424-9131
Fax: +27-21-423-2745

[The Church of the Province of South Africa](#) (Anglican)

[The Methodist Church of South Africa](#)

[Contact list](#) of Methodist ministers and circuits

The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa](#)

BISHOP N.J. ROHWER
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (Cape Church)
240 Long street
8001 Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-424-4932
Fax: +27-21-424-9618

PASTOR A.C. BECKER
Evangelical Lutheran Gemeente Philippi
P.O. Box 32026
7808 Ottery, South Africa

PASTOR J. MEYLAHN

Deutsch Evangelical Lutheran Gemeinde Port Elizabeth
33 Luke Avenue
P.O. Box 5039
6065 Walmer, South Africa

PASTOR G.GROBE
Deutsch Evangelical Lutheran St. Martini Kirchengemeinde
240 Long Street
8001 Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-423-5947
Fax: +27-21-423-2529

PASTOR M. HAESSIG
Evangelical Lutheran St. Paulus Gemeinde
P.O. Box 28100
9301 Danhof, South Africa

PASTOR W. LUDEWIG
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
13 Rattray Road
5201 Dawn/East London, South Africa
Tel: +27-43-745-2202
Fax: +27-43-745-2202

PASTOR R. LUTZ
St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
50 Park Avenue
5201 East London, South Africa
Tel: +27-43-722-2700
Fax: +27-43-722-2700

PASTOR T. MARIENHAGEN
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation
20 Shone Street
4930 Stutterheim, South Africa
Tel: +27-43-683-1432
Fax: +27-43-683-1432

PASTOR F. MEYLAHN
Deutsche Evangelical Lutheran Kreuz-Kirchengemeinde
33 Middle Street
7530 Belville, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-948-5928
Fax: +27-21-948-5928

PASTOR P. MOLCHIN
Evangelical Lutheran St. Petri-Gemeinde Paarl
6 Mill Street
7646 Paarl, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-872-4885
Fax: +27-21-872-4885

PASTORIN S. MOOLMAN
Deutsche Evangelical Lutheran Gemeinde Stellenbosch u. Somerset West
26 Hofmeyer Street
7600 Stellenbosch, South Africa
Tel: +27-021-887-5030
Fax: +27-021-887-5030

PASTOR W. SCHWAR

Evangelical Lutheran St. Johannis Gemeinde Wynberg
52 Waterloo Road
7800 Wynberg, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-761-1904
Fax: +27-21-761-1904

REV. C. TESSENDORF
Evangelical Lutheran Church Strand Street
19 Buitengracht
8001 Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-421-5854
Fax: +27-21-421-5855

Societies and Institutes

[Genealogical Society of South Africa](#)

Suite 143
Postnet X2600
2041 HOUGHTON
South Africa
Email: [Secretary](#)

[The Jewish Genealogical Society of South Africa](#)

P. O. Box 1388
2121 Parklands, South Africa

Natal Society
PO Box 415
3100 Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

[Genealogical Institute of South Africa](#)

115 Banghoek Road
7600 Stellenbosch, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-887-5070
Fax: +27-21-887-5031

Postal Address:
PO Box 3033
7602 Matieland, South Africa

Director: [Leon Endemann](#)
Research: [Maureen de Villiers](#)
Orders: [Carol Greener](#)
Webmaster and GEDCOM Archivist: [Philip Blignaut](#)

South African Government

[S.A. National Defence Force](#)

Documentation Centre
Private Bag X289
0001, Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27-12-322-6350
Fax: +27-12-323-5613

SA Defence Force Archives
Private BAG X615
0001, Pretoria, South Africa

Books, honor rolls, imperial and other war documents, service graves, regimental histories.

[South African Police Service](#)

Police Museum
Old Compol Building
cnr Pretorius/Volkstem Strs
Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27-12-353-6771
open Wednesdays 8am-12pm

[Department of Home Affairs](#)

Private Bag X114
Pretoria. 0001

[National Archives of South Africa](#)

National Archive Depot
Private Bag X236
0001 Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27-12-323-5300
Fax: +27-12-323-5287
Email: [Archivist](#)

Cape Archives Depot
Private Bag X9025
8000 Cape Town, South Africa
Email: [Archivist](#)

Natal Archives Depot
Private Bag X9012
3200 Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
Email: [Archivist](#)

Free State Archives Depot
Private Bag X20504
9300 Bloemfontein, South Africa
Email: [Archivist](#)

[The Chief Surveyor General of South Africa](#)

[Chief Directorate: Surveys & Mapping](#)

For topographic and topo-cadastral maps of South Africa (includes some historical maps)

Master of the High Court

Master of the High Court
Private Bag X60
0001 Pretoria, South Africa

Libraries

[National Library of South Africa.](#)

In terms of the Legal Deposit Act of South Africa, the National Library receives a copy of each book, pamphlet, periodical, newspaper or other publication that is published in South Africa. A wide range of South African legislation, government publications, maps and atlases forms part of the collection. The National Library is at 4 locations:

Head Office - Pretoria

Postal Address

Physical Address

P.O. Box 990
0001 Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27-12-321-8931 x 181
Fax: +27-12-321-1128
Email:

Old Mutual Centre
167 Andries Street
Pretoria, South Africa

Cape Town

Postal Address

P.O. Box 496
8000, Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-424-6320
Fax: +27-21-423-3359

Physical Address

5 Queen Victoria Street
Cape Town, South Africa

Centre for the Book – Cape Town

Postal Address

P.O. Box 15254
8018 Vlaeberg, Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27-21-423-2669
Fax: +27-21-424-1484
Email: cfb@nlsa.ac.za

Physical Address

62 Queen Victoria Street
Cape Town, South Africa

Pretoria

Postal Address

P.O. Box 397
0001 Pretoria, South Africa
Tel: +27-12-321-8931
Fax: +27-12-321-8931

Physical Address

239 Vermeulen Street
Pretoria, South Africa

[The Cory Library](#)

P O Box 184
6140 Grahamstown, South Africa
Email: [Sandra Rowolt](mailto:Sandra.Rowolt)

Africana Library
Du Toitspan Road
P O Box 627
8300 Kimberley, South Africa
Email: Librarian

Port Elizabeth Library
Main Street
6001 Port Elizabeth, South Africa

They have an Africana section and now house all the books of the East Cape Genealogical Society. They also have old field cornetcy maps dating from way back in 1850 which contain the names of farms and their owners.

Universities

[Website](#): with links to colleges and universities in South Africa.

Museums

Kaffrarian Musuem
3 Lower Albert Road,
King Williamstown. 5600

Albany Museum Genealogy Dept
Somerset Street
6139 Grahamstown, South Africa
Email: [William Jervois](mailto:William.Jervois)

South African National Museum of Military History
P.O. Box 52090
2132 Saxonwold, South Africa

Barberton Museum
Private Bag 1626
1300 Barberton, South Africa

[Anglo Boer War Musuem](#)

P.O. Box 34061
9325 Faunasig, South Africa
Tel: +27-51-447-3447
Fax: +27-51-447-1322
email: [Archivist](#)
website <http://www.anglo-boer.co.za>
Records from 1848 - concentration camps and cemeteries

War Graves

[Commonwealth War Graves](#)

[Australian War Graves](#) in South Africa

Military

[The South African Irish Regiment](#)

South African Military units [online database](#)

South African Military [online images](#)

Chamber of Mines

<http://www.bullion.org.za/>

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

[Online Catalogue](#)

Family History Library
Church of Latter Day Saints
P O Box 33642
2000 Johannesburg, South Africa

Miscellaneous

[Rob Griffiths List of Lists](#) website

It now includes:

- 1) 1820 British Settlers.
- 2) Natal Legal Practitioners, 1902.
- 3) Natal Civil Pensioners, 1902.
- 4) Natal Civil Servants, 1902.
- 5) Germans in Kaffraria.
- 6) German Immigration via East London, 1858, 1877 and 1878
- 7) Members of the Rhodesian Pioneer Column.

[Ron Smit's e-Family](#) website is full of useful information

Dalene Oertel has a website of old families in [Lady Grey](#).

The Death Notice

Understanding the South African Death Notice, its importance, usefulness and drawbacks.

Death Notices: Can be good, bad, indifferent . . . and even downright dangerous

1. What is a Death Notice?

- a. It is the founding document in an estate file
- b. It is the official communication (notice) of the death to the Master of the High Court whose office has jurisdiction over estates
- c. It is not to be confused with Death Certificate which has different purpose and legal status

2. What is its purpose?

- a. to inform the Master of the High Court of the death and to provide the names of next-of-kin i.e. potential heirs -whether or not there is a will
- b. to inform the Master whether the deceased had assets, property or possessions to be passed on to heirs or other claimants such as creditors
- c. to inform the Master where the deceased resided at the time of death
- d. to inform the Master whether the person reporting or communicating the death is indeed in a position to do so

3. Where do you get it?

- a. Master's offices in the various jurisdictions, i.e. Pretoria, Cape Town, Bloemfontein, Pietermaritzburg, Grahamstown
- b. Archive depots - ditto
- c. On film through the Family History Center of the LDS at Parktown, Johannesburg

4. What is its significance as source for genealogists?

- a. It is easy to get hold of
- b. It potentially contains a great deal of biographical and genealogical data - including the names and addresses of the deceased's parents and children
- c. In most cases it contains more information than the death certificate
- d. It is part of the estate file - itself a potentially rich source of genealogical information and leads to other areas of research

5. What is its status as a research document?

- a. It should be considered a primary source only for the date and place of death
- b. It is at best a secondary source for all of the other information it contains, including the name(s) of the deceased - whomever signs it

6. Is it reliable as a source document? That depends on . . .

- a. who signs it
- b. her/his knowledge of deceased, nearest and dearest, life of deceased and family
- c. her/his tendency to be thorough/accurate
- d. her/his emotional state at time
- e. probably half a dozen more factors

7. What do you do with it?

- a. Cite the death notice as a source for each item of data i.e. name/event/date/place you record from it
- b. If your genealogy programs allows it, apply a reliability rating each time you cite it
- c. The reliability rating can vary from DN to DN and in each DN for each item of data recorded from it
- d. Attempt to obtain a primary source for every item of data contained in the DN

8. What does it look like? See attached sample.

9. Interpreting the archival codes . . .

- a. KAB: Cape Town Archives Repository
- b. NAB: Pietermaritzburg Archives Repository
- c. SAB: National Archives Repository (Public Records of Central Government since 1910)
- d. VAB: Free State Archives Repository
- e. TAB: National Archives Repository (Records of the former Transvaal Province and its predecessors as well as of magistrates and local authorities)
- f. TBE: Port Elizabeth Archives Repository

10. . . . interpreting continued

- a. MOG: Master of the High (Supreme) Court, Grahamstown.
- b. MOOC: Master of the High (Supreme) Court, Cape Town.
- c. MHG: Master of the High (Supreme) Court, Pretoria.
- d. MSCE: Master of the High (Supreme) Court, KZN.
- e. MHG: Master of the High (Supreme) Court, Orange Free State Provincial Division

11. Why is it potentially downright dangerous as a source document for researchers?

- a. Because the person who completes it may provide incorrect information through ignorance, carelessness, or even deliberately.
- b. There is a great potential for fraud – deception
- c. Many genealogists view it and use it without question
- d. Many genealogists fail to make even the slightest attempt to verify its contents.

DEATH NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN "THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT, 1913"

1. Name of the deceased: _____
 2. Birthplace and Nationality of the deceased: _____
 3. Names and Addresses of the Parents of the deceased

{	Father: _____
}	Mother: _____
 4. Age of the deceased: ____ years ____ months ____ days.
 5. Occupation in the life of the deceased, or, if a woman, of her husband: _____
 6. Ordinary place of residence of the deceased, or if a woman, of her husband:

{	_____
}	_____
 7. Married or unmarried, widower or widow: _____
 - (a) Name of surviving spouse (if any), and whether married in community of property or not.

{	_____
}	_____
 - (b) Name or Names and approximate date of death of pre-deceased spouse or spouses :

{	_____
}	_____
 - (c) Place of last marriage: _____
 8. The day of the decease: _____
 9. Where the person died:

{	House: _____
}	Town or place: _____
}	District: _____
 10. Names of the children of the deceased, and whether majors or minors:

{	_____
}	_____
}	_____
}	_____
}	_____
- State separately the children born of different marriages, and give the date of birth of each minor. Names must be written out in full. If there are no children, and either or both parents be dead, then give the names and addresses of the brothers and sisters of the deceased.
- | | |
|---|-------|
| { | _____ |
| } | _____ |
| } | _____ |
| } | _____ |
| } | _____ |
| } | _____ |
| } | _____ |
| } | _____ |
11. Has the deceased left any movable property? _____
 12. Has the deceased left any immovable property? _____
 13. Is it estimated that the estate exceeds £300 in value? _____
 14. Has the deceased left a will? _____

Dated at _____ the _____ day of _____ in the year _____.

Signature: _____

Capacity: _____

(State in what capacity and whether at the time at or near the place of death)

This notice must be completed and signed by the *Nearest Relative or Connection of the deceased*, who shall, at the time, be at or near the place of death - or in the absence of such near *Relative or Connection*, by the person who, at or immediately after the death, shall have the chief charge of the house in, or the place on, which the death occurred, and must be sent either to the Master, or, if the death occurred in a district wherein a seat of provincial government is not situate, the Magistrate of the District, in duplicate, within fourteen days of the death.

Family Group Sheet

Husband	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Father	
Mother	
Wife	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Father	
Mother	
Children	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
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Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Birth	
Chr	
Death	
Burial	
Marriage	
Prepared by :	Comments: