

Jacob Kruger - Corrections regarding this Progenitor.

Barry Kruger
www.krugerfam.com



Researchers of South African families are privileged to have publications such as the *Genealogies of old S.A. Families* and the series *South African Genealogies* available to them. These publications thus formed the starting point for my research about the Kruger family.

I became aware of the differences between these two publications relating to one of the Kruger progenitors, Jacob Kruger. I assumed that the latter publication had to be an improvement of the earlier publication. An example of such an improvement is the article that appeared in *Familia*, no. 4 of 1983. The article included a letter from a Mr. Förste about Jacob Kruger and this information, which appear after the publication of *Genealogies of old S.A. Families*, was then included in *South African Genealogies* series.

The signature of Jacob Kruger.

The signature of the progenitor appears in the publication *Groot Suid-Afrikaanse Familienaamboek*^[8]. I decided that I wanted to include an example of this signature in my planned book on the Kruger family and set out to obtain my own copy. This would also allow me to resolve a small issue that I had become aware of.

In his work “*Die Verhaal van ‘n Familie*.”^[4] (The Story of a Family) Prof. DW Krüger states that Jacob Kruger could not write and that he signed his will with a cross. There are however a number of contract documents in the Cape Town archives of which the references indicated they were signed by Jacob Kruger on behalf of other citizens. These documents, including Jacob Kruger’s will, was checked and they were indeed signed with a cross. Prof. DW Krüger was thus correct. The existence of Jacob’s signature still needed to be resolved and I wanted to make sure that Jacob Kruger did not learn to write later in his life. Documents that he signed before his death was checked and they were still signed with a cross.

The issue was resolved with the discovery of a signature similar to the one in *Groot Suid-Afrikaanse Familienaamboek* on a document of 1770. This document was drawn up after the death of Jacob Kruger in 1749 and was signed by his son, also called Jacob Kruger.

This discovery made me realise that I had to investigate the differences between the various publications myself.

The differences regarding Jacob Kruger:

- The spelling of the name of the village where Jacob Kruger was born. (Sadenbeck or Sandenbeck as well as Priegnitz or Prignitz)
- The surname of Jacob Kruger mother. (Hartwig or Pemöller).
- The number of children that Jacob Kruger fathered.

The birthplace of Jacob Kruger - Sadenbeck.



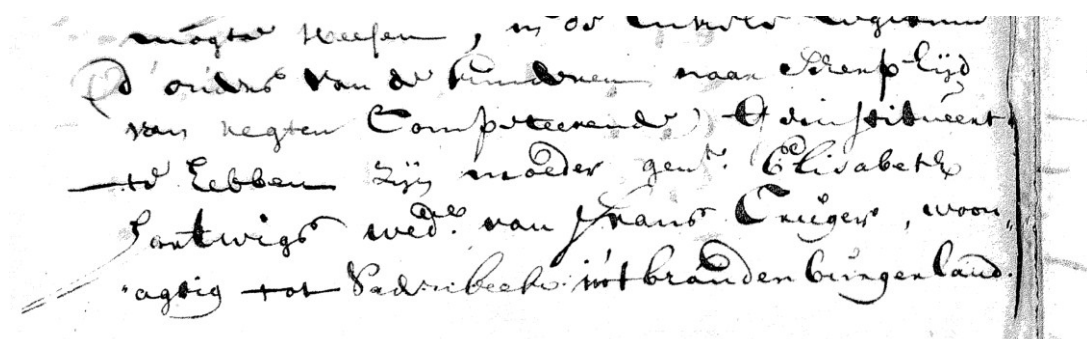
The name of the village where Jacob Kruger was born is Sadenbeck en the district is Prignitz. This is how it is still spelt today^[7], indicated on maps and written on road signs. The photo on the left shows an example of one such road sign on which the words *Municipality Sadenbeck* and *District Prignitz* appears. The residents celebrated 550 years of the existences of the village in July 2000. The activities included a tribute to Oom Paul Kruger. The villagers are aware that the ancestor of the

famous President of the ZAR was born there. The incorrect spelling what appeared in Förste article was also transferred to *SA Genealogies*.

The mother of Jacob Kruger - Elizabeth Hartwig.

The Förste letter^[2] also resulted in the name of Jacob's mother being changed to Pemöller when *SA Genealogies* Part 4 was published in 1992. Mr Förste stated that the death entry of Frantz Kruger's widow Elisabeth, gave her surname as Pemöller and made the statement that an earlier researcher could have easily made a mistake thinking that her surname was Hartwig, as there was a witness named Hartwig Pemöller present at the baptism of their sixth child.

The person who is being contradicted is not an earlier researcher but Jacob Kruger himself! In his and Johanna Kemp's will^[5,6] of 1720 (see below), the following is written "*..te hebben Sijn moeder gen. Elisabeth Hartwig wedue van Frans Crúger woon agtig tot Sadenbeek int Branden Burgenland*". (...his mother named Elisabeth Hartwig widow of Frans Crúger living in Sadenbeek in Branden Burgenland) This entry also further supports the spelling of the name of the village as Sadenbeck.



...mogte Weefan, in de ...
D'ouders van de kinderen naan eerenlijc
van regten Competerand. O diefideent
te Ebben Sijn moeder gen. Elisabeth
Hartwig wed. van Frans Crúger, woon
agtig tot Sadenbeek int branden burgenland.

The slave child of Jacob Kruger.

In the publication *Genealogies of old S.A. Families* eight children^[1] are listed for Jacob en Johanna. The first child being b1 Jacob Kruger, baptised on 17 July 1718. In the publication *SA Genealogies*, Part 4, a new child was added to the list as being the first born. This child was also called Jacob^[3]. The first two children listed are thus b1 Jacob baptised 13 October 1716 and b2 Jacob baptised op 17 July 1718. There is a note attached to this entry which referred the reader to the slave baptism register of Cape Town under the date 13.10.1716. I decided that I wanted to check the slave baptism register myself.

The title of this part of the register^[10] reads: "*Doop-boek van de Slaven-kinderen der E. Comp. waar over de E.Comp. als Getuige Staat.*" (Baptism book of the slave children of the company over which the company stands witness) The baptism entry reads "*13 do Een kind van Jannetje, van de Caap, gen. Jacob } half-slag.*" (13 do One child of Jannetje of the Cape, named Jacob, half-breed). No father is mentioned. There is also no mention of the surname Kruger. In my opinion this entry does not support the conclusion that this is a child of Jacob Kruger. The names Jacob and Jannetje appear a number of times in the register and it is evident that there were a number of people with these names at the Cape at this time. I would very much like to give any child of a Kruger his place in the Kruger register but feel that until there is other supporting evidence, I should rather err on the side of caution.

Die arrival date of Jacob Kruger - 29 January 1714.

Access to sources such as the VOC^[11] documents and ship records and the *Resolutions of the Political Council*^[9] resulted in another error being found which can now be corrected.

The ship *Middelwoud*, with Jacob Kruger onboard, did not arrive at the Cape in 1713 as was often stated. The ship started its journey in 1713 but only arrived at the Cape on 29 January

1714. According to the VOC records the *Middelwoud*, a ship with a displacement of 804 tons, left Wielingen, Netherlands on the 14 October 1713 and arrived in the Cape of Good Hope on 29 January 1714. The ship continued with its journey on 22 February 1714 and arrived at its destination in Batavia on 1 May 1714. The arrival date of the ship at the Cape is further confirmed by the *Resolutions of the Political Council*^[9] where it is noted on the 30 January 1714, that an officer of the company had arrived on the *Middelwoud* the day before. Here the name of the ship was written as *Middelwout*.

Johanna Kemp

Readers will note that I refer to Johanna Kemp and not to Jannetje Kemp. I found that with her confirmation on 13 February 1716 as well as the baptism of her and Jacob's children, her name was written in the registers as Johanna Kemp. The entry for their marriage on 1 May 1718 does call her Jannetje Kemp of Cabo de Goede Hoop.

In summary:

Jacob Kruger *Sadenbeck, district Prignitz, Brandenburg, Prussia^[12] (now Germany) 28.07.1690 ≈01.08.1690 †29.10.1749, son of Frantz/Frans Cruger and Elisabeth Hartwig. Jacob arrived on 29 January 1714 as a soldier aboard the *Middelwoud* x Cape Town 01.05.1718 to Johanna Kemp * about August 1691 †27.10.1778 (possibly the daughter of Nikolaas Kemp and Cecilia Swerisse)

Sources:

1. De Villiers, CC & Pama, C.: Genealogies of old S.A Families. Part One, Cape Town, 1981, page 435.
2. FAMILIA: Quarterly journal of the Genealogical Society of South African., Volume 20, No. 4, 1983.
3. Heese, JA & Lombaard, RJT: South African Genealogies, Part 4 J-K. Pretoria, 1992, page 482.
4. Krüger, DW.: Die Verhaal van 'n Familie. Hogsback, 1975.
5. Cape archive, Cape Town: CJ 2600 - 67 (1720) Will Jacob Cruger
6. Cape archive, Cape Town: MOOC 7/1/7 - 66 (1720) Will Jacob Cruger and Johanna Kemp, filed 1749.
7. Kruger, Jan: Discussions and photo's taken during his visit to Sadenbeck.
8. Pama, C.: Die Groot Afrikaanse Familienaamboek. Cape Town, 1983, page 193.
9. Resolutions of the Council of Policy of the Cape of Good Hope Cape Town Archives Repository, South Africa: C.31, pp 81-84, 30 January 1714, TANAP website, <http://www.tanap.net>
10. Transvaal Archive, Pretoria. Copies of the baptism registers of the Cape Town congregation including the slave registers. 1713-1742, FK2148.
11. Uitgevaren voor de Kamers van de VOC, National Archief Den Haag, Middelwoud, web site - <http://voc.websilon.nl>
12. Around 1640, the German speaking population comprised more than three hundred separate states. Over time these states amalgamated into Brandenburg that in turn became part of Prussia. Only in 1866-71 was political unity achieved through the statesmanship of Bismarck and was Germany united in a federation under Prussian control. The King of Prussia then became Kaiser Wilhelm I.

This is the English version of the article that appeared in FAMILIA, Vol.41, No.3, 2004.
© Barry Kruger, 2004.