



Graaf Jacob von Renen
(1703 – 1764)

Graaf Jacob Von Renen (1703 – 1764) was afkomstig van Memel, 'n stad in Pruisen, aan die uitwatering van die Dange in die Oossee (vandag Rusland), en wat in 1253 gestig is by Memelburg, 'n burg van die Duitse Ridders. Seun van Daniel von Renen en Catharina Crofki. Sy broer Daniël was die burgermeester van Altenburg. Die Graaf het na Nederland gevlug na hy sy teenstander in 'n verbode tweegeveg om die lewe gebring het. Op 18 Okt 1721 emigreer hy uit Goree, in Seeland na die Kaap die Goeie Hoop as adelborst ('n rang wat slegs hoër is as die van 'n gewone soldat) in diens van die Verenigd Oost-Indische Compagnie. Sit voet aan Kaapse wal op Donderdag 5 Maart 1722. Toe Jacob oorlede is was hy een van die rykste mense in Kaapstad en sy boedel is op nie minder as 180 000 gulden gewaardeer. Summarised from the Van Reenen Van Renen Vanrenen Familie/ Family book printed in Sept 1994.

Translation

Count Jacob von Renen (1703 – 1764) was born in Memel, a town in Prussia on the Dange River where it runs into the Oossee (today part of Russia). He was the son of Daniel von Renen and Catharina Crofki. His brother Daniël was the Mayor of the town Altenburg. He killed an opponent in an outlawed duel whilst in the Prussian army and fled to the Netherlands. Still a teenager, on the 18th October 1721 he left Goree in Seeland on a ship to the Cape of Good Hope South Africa as a midshipman (a rank only slightly higher than a foot soldier) in service to the Dutch East Indian Company. He disembarked in Cape Town on Thursday 5 March 1722. He became one of the richest men in the Cape and on his death his estate was worth over 180 000 Gulden.

Count Jacob Von Renen never returned to Prussia to claim his estates. His grandson was Dirk Gysbert van Renen (who built the Beer Brewery in Newlands, Cape Town) and Joseph Barry and his 2 nephews Thomas and John all married granddaughters of Dirk Gysbert van Renen.