

Reasons for your name

A further clue when looking for surnames or relatives in some cultures or traditions is to look at the person's middle name. The aim of this is to look for common denominators of a person's name

1. Cyril James Hunter de Vos – His father was John George de Vos and mother was Harriet Hunter
2. Pedro de Silva Wijeyeratne's father was Jacob and his father was Pedro
3. With my daughter Paige Elizabeth Joustra the Elizabeth was named after her Great Grandmother Elizabeth Wilhelmina Johanna van seggelen
4. George Frederick van Ranzow Brohier goes back four generations to a union between Pieter Isaac John Brohier & Anna Elizabeth Louisa Isabella van Ranzow

Note: Names where also given to children in honour of friends or known achievers of the time and not always family.

Family Folklore vs. Actual

- ✓ Of all the family stories you will hear there is a certain amount of truth, myth and misleading information that you will encounter. **“All information is useful information”**.

Dead Ends In any tree dead-ends are inevitable and need to be put in the right context: -

- Temporary
- Try from other directions
- You may never be able to get more information

For a number of obvious and not so obvious reasons you will find that availability of information simply isn't available. Reasons can be: -

- ✓ Damage to records by Wars
- ✓ Damage to records in General *Fires, floods*
- ✓ Religious

- ✓ You're at the start you *may have come to the first person in your line to take on a surname. Depending on the stature of the person will depend also on the date to which information was recorded or traceable.*
- ✓ Historic/Political *acts of genocide, exile/ banishment, revolutions or historic events can all be reasons for information being destroyed or left behind and subsequently lost forever.*

Whatever the reason for coming to a dead-end it is important to remember to be proud of what you have discovered and there is so much more to just recording names and dates. Another way to look is if you hadn't embarked on this quest the amount of information might have been linked and logged down for future generations to enjoy. If you feel you have exhausted all possibilities then your next step is to go back to another line you wish to trace.

My view on dead-ends is one more of a challenge than a disappointment and that as my experience grows I can revisit these dead-ends for another attempt