



HERBERT, Katherine Ann

Kate HERBERT | 22 Mar 1978

KATHERINE ANN⁷ HERBERT (STEPHEN WILFRED⁶, RONALD HAROLD⁵, HAROLD⁴, JAMES BROADBENT³, JAMES BROADBENT², THOMAS¹) was born on 22 March 1978 in Moedersbond Hospital, Pretoria, South Africa. She is the granddaughter of KATHLEEN NORAH⁷ FLEMMER (MARIUS TOGER⁶, HANS CHRISTIAN⁵) born on 12 August 1914 in East London, South Africa and died on 31 October 1972 in Cape Town, South Africa.

----- Personal History - Kate Herbert January 2003

I was born on 22 March 1978 in Pretoria - of all places! My parents are Stephen and Judy Herbert. Of my grandparents, I only met two - my father's father, Ronald, and my mother's mother, Renee. When I was four years old, we moved to Johannesburg and shortly after that my brother Nicholas was born.

We spent seven good years in Johannesburg and I have lots of fond memories of this time. It's still the longest time I have ever stayed put in one place! We then moved on to Cape Town where I spent a year at school in Claremont, before we were off AGAIN (it's a theme!) - this time to Canada. It was completely different to anything I had ever seen and was quite hard initially - being an awkward 13 year old - to fit in. Still, Canada proved quite a good place to be - despite fact I never really learnt to ice skate or ski! However, my dad's company had other plans and just two years later we were moved to Holland. Again, was a completely different experience but we soon settled into a lovely house near The Hague. I went to the British School in the Netherlands and really enjoyed it - still in regular contact with lots of my old friends from those days. In fact most of us have ended up living in London.

After finishing school in 1996 with some good A-level results, I spent a year in Cape Town having fun before starting university in York, England. I decided to do an English Lit honours degree - and it turned out to be a good choice, as we only had one two hour class a week and no compulsory lectures!!! I made some really good friends at York - and living in York itself was a treat as it is a lovely city, still surrounded by Roman walls. It's also true that everyone is much friendlier 'up north'. York was also a good base to travel from, being half way between London and Edinburgh, so I did get to see most of England, Scotland and Wales.

After graduating in July 2000 (mum, dad and brother flew from SA to witness it!), I moved to London and after doing some temping work landed a job with a PR company. The work itself was very interesting, lots of media training for big corporate types - the company itself couldn't really offer me much in terms of a career. So in May 2001, I packed it all in and went backpacking around Australia on my own for four months.

As you can imagine, that wasn't too much of a hardship! Travelled all over the east coast and, in Melbourne, managed to meet up with my cousin Matt and his lovely wife and also Granny Lucy. I also managed to fly to, perhaps my most exotic holiday location yet - the Solomon Islands, near Papua New Guinea. The diving there was incredible!

Decided the rest of 2001 was a write off and so ended up back in Cape Town for Christmas - and stayed and stayed! Was the first time I had had the opportunity to spend time in Cape Town with my parents for years - and of course, spending time in Kalk Bay is always a pleasure! After four months I realised that I had to get back to real life and earn some money [read: father was keen for me to get out and earn some money] so I headed back to London, where I have been ever since (well give or take the odd fantastic holiday funded by Dad).

For the past few months I have been working for the Department of Health in Whitehall. It's been quite a good job, I write up reports for the Chief Medical Officer. These go on to his website. Sadly it is not a permanent position and appears to be coming to an end very soon. I'm hoping to get a job either as a Private Secretary to the Chief Medical Officer or move into the charity sector and work for a charity with links to Southern Africa. I have started working for a charity called Starfish in my spare time - a group of South Africans living in London who raise money for children orphaned by AIDS I'm still enjoying being in London - most of my friends now live here - university, school AND South African ones! In the long run though I would like to settle back in South Africa and hopefully this will be possible within the next five years.



Steve with Greg (18 mnths) and Ella (4 yrs)



Greg (18 months old)