

Noel Kretzmar

Surgeon

And much more

Compiled by his daughter Geraldine Auerbach
MBE, London, updated April 2022



Noel Kretzmar was born in 1899 in Birzh Lithuania, his father's family home (or in nearby Simberig or Shimberg, where his mother's family came from). His parents were Tuvye and Taube (née Morris) Kretzmer. He came to South Africa aged 4, with his mother and three older siblings in 1903, to join Tuvye (now called Tobias in South Africa) who had emigrated to South Africa when Noel was a baby in 1899. The family settled in Malmesbury where they ran a general dealer's store.

After racing through school and studying medicine and surgery in Edinburgh from 1919 to 1925 Noel started his medical practice in Kimberley in January 1926. He married Kimberley girl Beryl Bergman, (2nd of four daughters of Jacob and Amalie Bergman) in February 1935. They had two children, Theodore (born 1936 – now living in Johannesburg) and Geraldine now Auerbach (born 1940, living in London). Noel practiced medicine in Kimberley for 63 years – from 1926 to 47 as a General Practitioner, then from 1948 to 89 as a General Surgeon. He was highly esteemed and trusted by his patients and colleagues, pioneering several procedures in South Africa and representing his district on the Medical Council of South Africa. He left Kimberley after his 90th birthday in 1989, soon after his dear wife Beryl had died. He relocated to Johannesburg to be nearer to his son and family. He passed away at 98 ½ in 1998. He is buried in the Kimberley cemetery beside Beryl.

The Noel Kretzmar Story (as at April 2022)

Chapter 1: Lithuania, Birzh, Simberig, 1899 – 1903

Chapter 2: Malmesbury, 1903 – 1919

Chapter 3: Edinburgh, 1919 – 1925

Chapter 4: A Batchelor in Kimberley 1926 – 1935

Chapter 5: Marriage to Beryl Bergman 1935 – 1989

Chapter 6: Noel's Medical Career in Kimberley 1926 – 1989

Chapter 7: Family life in Kimberley 1936 – 1957

Chapter 8: The Children grow up and Leave Kimberley 1957

Chapter 9: After the Children Left home Kimberley

Chapter 10: After Beryl, Johannesburg 1989 – 1998

Chapter 11: Holidays in Cape Town 1989 – 1998

Message to his grandchildren and future generations

Epilogue and comments, also Birzh memorial commemoration 2019, and the Kretzmer family tree.

Click here to read the full [Noel Kretzmar Story](#)

You can also read other articles related to Noel:

- [Kretzmar, Beryl \(née Bergman\)](#)
- [Bergman, Jacob and Amalia, \(née Friedlander\)](#)
- [Tuvya Kretzmar letters complete](#) Letters from Noel's father Tuvye (Tobias) Kretzmar in Cape Town to his wife Taube in Lithuania complete:1899 - 1903
- [The Great Kimberley Diamond Robbery](#) – a story that involves Noel.
- [History of Medicine on the Diamond fields](#) Text of a presentation Noel Kretzmar gave to the Historical Medical Society of Edinburgh in April 1974
- [Cvi, Anna \(now Teper\)](#) writes about Dr Kretzmar and his help to their family