

Ons Haantjie

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Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrich Henning Familiebond

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English Translation

A Touching Henning Tale



This photograph appeared during 1960 in the Sunday newspaper, Landstem. This came with a letter which the fourteen year old girl a2.b1.c3.d10.e7.f3.g3, Aida Johjeen Henning *27-11-1946 wrote, in which she asked for a mother since her own mother died and her father could not look after them alone. The letter was published by Landstem and the widow Johanna Catharina Jacoba Dekker (born Smit) reacted to the letter. She and Michael Henning married the next year (1961). The photograph shows a2.b1.c3.d10.e7.f3. Michael Jacobus Henning *2-2-1918 and five of his children. F.l.t.r: Alberta Henning *31/10/1954 (g7), Elnaura Henning *22/11/1950 (g5), father Michael Jacobus Henning *2/2/1918, Magdalena Jacoba Johanna Henning *28/2/1949(g4), **Aida Johjeen Henning *27/11/1946 (g3)** and in front Michael Jacobus Henning *15/6/1953 (g6)

The history of mankind is rich with interesting family stories. Most probably all families have their beautiful, dramatic, humouristic or gripping stories and the Henning family is no exception. In the Henning Family Chronicle you will find several interesting stories — some would get you laughing; others would fill you with

In ou Baltiese dialek was Hen = Haan (manlik), Henne =Hen (vroulik). Henning = Haantjie

proudness or admiration; then there are the hardship stories which touch you emotionally or leave a knob in your throat.

Unfortunately our family cronicle has reached the point where it is so extensive that one could miss many of these stories. Fortunately we started since the first newsletter telling many of these stories to our members.

In this issue of the Newsletter we would like to tell the touching story of a2.b1.c3.d10.e7.f3. Michael Jacobus Henning born 2 February 1918 and the letter his fourteen year old daughter Aida Johjeen (nick-name Breggie) Henning, born 27 November 1946 wrote in 1960 to the newspaper, Landstem.

Michael Jacobus Henning was born on Bronkhorstfontein farm, in the Rouxville/Zastron district, where his father, Christiaan Rudolf Henning * 1877, farmed with different kinds of cattle and crops. His mother was Elsie Jacoba Johanna (born Pelser) *1873.

Father Christiaan served during the Anglo Boer-War 1899 – 1902 in the Rouxville Commando (Vechtkop Fieldcornecy). During battles between the forces of General Prinsloo and the British forces in the ‘Brandwaterkom’ (fire-water-basin) near Fouriesburg during July 1900, he was wounded in the leg. On 30 July 1900 he was taken prisoner-of-war together with almost 4000 other burghers and sent to the Diyatalawa Prisoner-of-War Camp in Ceylon (today Sri-Lanka). Due to his injuries he was left missing a leg and got the nickname ‘Chrisjan Houtbeen’ (Chrisjan wooden-leg). He then became the choir-leader of the prisoner-of-war choir which performed with other artists during concerts in the camp and on the island.

Father Christiaan and mother Elsie had four children — two boys and two girls. The oldest, Christiaan Rudolf Henning (born 1906), named after Christiaan’s father; thereafter was Barbara Jacomina Henning (1909) named after the mother of Elsie, followed by Michael Jacobus Henning (1918) and Elsie Jacoba Johanna Henning (1920), named respectively after the father of Elsie and the mother of Christiaan.

Michael left school after St. 6 and was trained by the Orange Free State Roads Department as a motor mechanic. During and after his training he worked and lived at Bultfontein for four years. Hereafter he joined the SA Railways and was transferred to Rouxville where he met the young attractive girl, Aida Johjeen Bann, born December 18th 1919 at Smithfield. Michael and Aida got married on 8 February 1941 at Aliwal North. Their first two children were born at Rouxville, followed Smithfield, Boshoff and Kimberley. During 1949 he returned to the OFS Roads Department as a ganger (foreman).

Eventually they had seven children:

1. Susanna Catharina Henning *Rouxville 5-6-1941
2. Christiaan Rudolf Henning *Rouxville 4-6-1943
3. Aida Johjeen Henning (Breggie) *Smithfield 27-11-1946
4. Magdalena Jacoba Johanna Henning (Linda) *Smithfield 28-2-1949
5. Elnaura Henning * Smithfield 22-11-1950
6. Michael Jacobus Henning * Boshoff 15-6-1953
7. Albera Henning (Albra) * Kimberley 31-10-1954

On 10 October 1959 Aida was killed by lightning, when she was not even 40 years old, on Taaibos farm in the Sasolburg district where they lived. Their oldest child was at that point eighteen years old and the youngest only five years.

Father Michael, who only received a small salary as a ganger, had to look after his children alone. This would have been a very difficult task for anyone under similar circumstances. While he worked the children had to look after themselves and grownups would know what chaos would follow when a lot of children from different ages have to decide who must do what and when.

Grandma Elsie Henning, who could have helped, unfortunately also died early in 1960. This left Michael in a critical situation.

During the course of 1960 the fourteen year old Breggie (Aida Johjeen) realised that things at home were not running well and decided that they urgently needed another mother, to look after them. This brave, disciplined and ingenious girl then wrote a letter to the Sunday newspaper, Landstem in which she asked if there possibly was a lady who would like to become their mother. Her own mother died and their father could not look after them alone, and over and on top of that, their grandmother, Elsie Henning (born Pelser) also died earlier in 1960.



Michael Jacobus Henning *2-2-1918 and his second wife, the widow Johanna Catharina Jacoba Dekker (born Smit). She reacted on the letter Breggie Henning wrote to the newspaper, Landstem

The letter and attached photograph (on page 1) was published by the newspaper and the widow Johanna Catharina Jacoba Dekker (born Smit) reacted. Michael and the widow Dekker then met each other and eventually got married during 1961.

Only three years later, on 1 September 1964 Michael Jacobus Henning died in the age of 46 years during an appendectomy at the Odendaalsrus hospital and his second wife, Johanna Catharina Jacoba, who was only three years his wife, was left with three under age stepchildren. She kept on looking after them for a while, but a year later she married Jan Ernst Crafford.

During December 1967 Elnaura (St. 8), Michael (St. 7) and Albra (St. 6) went on holiday to their older, married sisters, Breggie and Linda. When they wanted to return home after the holiday, stepmother Johanna Crafford informed them that she was no longer in a position to look after them. They, therefore, moved in with these two sisters, who looked after them until they left school and married.

Our heroine, Aida Johjeen (Breggie) Henning *1946 married Andries Gerhardus (Dries) De Lange on 27 February 1965 in Pretoria. After their marriage they moved to Hoopstad, where Dries farmed. They have three children, Aida Johjeen De Lange *21-8-1965, Barend Jacobus De Lange *1-7-1969 and Helena Catharina De Lange *31-3-1974.

2019 Ghoema Music Awards



Francois Henning who is known as the artist 'Snotkop' throughout South Africa

The Ghoema music awards is the only independent music awards for Afrikaans music in South Africa and takes place annually. After the 2017 awards we were very proud of a2.b5.c4.d4.e1.f7.g1.h2. Francois Henning *22-12-1972, who is known country-wide as Snotkop. He is one of the most popular artists, especially amongst younger people, in the country. He was nominated in four categories, of which he won two.

For the 2019 awards Francois was again nominated in several categories and we were looking forward to the award ceremony.

This event took place on 17 April 2019 at the Sun Arena in Pretoria. Shortly before 17 April the main sponsor, Multi Choice, plunged the ceremony in controversy by giving the organisers an ultimatum to withdraw the song "Die Lied" written by Steve Hofmeyr and performed by himself plus several other artists from the category 'Best Music video'. If this is not done, Multi Choice would withdraw their sponsorship immediately. Multi Choice clearly indicated that they do not like Hofmeyr clearly showing his Afrikanership, patriotism and love for his language.

The organisers realised that if they did not bow down to this ultimatum the whole award ceremony would be doomed to failure and several other deserving artists, like our Francois Henning who could win awards, would also be affected. They, therefore gave in to the threat of Multi Choice.

To show their dissatisfaction with this brutal interference several artists, like Bok van Blerk, Bobbie and Karlien van Jaarsveld, Jay, Touch of Class, Coleske-artists (under who's supervision the video 'Die Land' was shot) decided to boycott the award ceremony. Demi-Lee Moore who won this category mentioned in her speech that she only won due to the unmasked interference of Multi Choice and that 'Die Land' certainly would have won if there was no discrimination towards Steve Hofmeyr.

The interference of Multi Choice certainly drew a dark veil over the whole ceremony.

Once again we were very proud of Francois Henning because he was crowned as the winner in all three categories where he was nominated:

- Best Pop album by a male artist (Snotkop), for his song , Sous
- Best song writer in a collaboration group – Francois Henning, with Dirk van Niekerk
- Male artist of the year – Snotkop

Great-Grandmother of Henning girl congratulated by Queen

Pieter Abraham Henning *16-10-1941 (a2.b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g2.) wrote us this interesting letter about his grand-daughter Megan Henning, who is a born Australian.

I would like to tell you an interesting story about my grand-daughter, Megan. After my youngest son, Theuns Christiaan (a2.b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g2.h3.) finished his studies, he moved to England. Here he met the most beautiful girl. Her name Philippa Louise Squires (Squires being quite a rare surname). They married three years ago in South Africa but moved immediately to Brisbane, Australia.

On 7 September 2018 their baby girl – Megan – was born in Brisbane. Megan, therefore, is a born Australian with an Afrikaans father and an English mother. Megan still have a great-grandmother, Dorothy Grassby. She lives in the town Wakefield in the County Kettlethorpe, Engeland and is still able to do all her home work herself.



Megan Henning *7-9-2018 with her great-grandmother, Dorothy Grassby who is 100-years old



Queen Elizabeth II of Britain congratulates Dorothy Grassby with her hundredth birthday

Dorothy recently celebrated her hundredth birthday and received a card congratulating her from Queen Elizabeth II. With the visit of the royal family to South Africa in 1947 – I was six years old at that stage – we saw them in Bethlehem. Elizabeth was a young princess of 21-years at that stage. I could never have dreamt that the great-grandmother of one of my grand-children would be congratulated by that princess, who would become the famous queen of England.

I attach two photographs: One of Megan and her great-grandmother Dorothy and the second of the congratulation-card.

First Grandchild for Pieter (Tzaneen) Henning



a2.b7.c8.d8.e5.f3. Pieter Naudé Henning and his wife, Ingrid Henning (born Kapp) of the Cashumi farm, Tzaneen district recently experienced for the first time the pride of becoming grandparents. Their oldest daughter, Ineke Henning got married in 2012 to Jacobus De Wet Richter (known as Cobus) and their first child, Luan Richter, was born on 12 March 2019 at Sandton, Johannesburg.

Cobus is a wood Technologist working for Nukor, who import saw-mill – and warehouse machines from Europe. He handles the sale of these machines in South Africa and design the machine-lines for saw-mills and warehouses.

Ineke is a senior city-planner in Johannesburg.

Ineke Richter (born Henning) and her husband, Cobus Richter with their baby, Luan who was born 12 March 2019 at Sandton

Deaths

We have learnt with regret of the death of the following Hennings:

† a2.b5.c1.d5.e3.f1.g1.h2. **Jan Andries Henning, born April 27th 1949 of Montana Park, Pretoria died on 20 March 2019**

Jan was born and started his school career in 1955 as a five year old boy at the



Jan Andries Henning *26-4-1949 and his wife Cornelia Johanna (Corrie)

Eendracht primary school.

In 1966 he wrote matric at the

Langenhoven High School. He

was actively involved at the

Voortrekkers, a cultural movement

for young people, and was a member

of the school drill platoon as well as

a cadet officer. He also played rugby and cricket.

During July 1967 he departed for Bloemfontein to join #1 Special Service Battalion, an armoured car regiment in the Armoured Corps for his nine month military service, which ended March 1968.

Here-after was a very busy time from 1969 to 1991 in which academic studies followed, where he obtained diplomas, certificates and a degree in Administration and Management development. He also played rugby for the Under 21 teams of the clubs for his first few years of University, Adelaars and Oostelikes.

Concerning his career, he worked for short periods for the Department of Post and Tellecommunication, the Hotel Board, and the Armaments Corporation. In 1973 he joined Escom where he served the rest of his career — a very succesfull period where he perfomed exceptionally.

Jan and Cornelia Johanna van der Merwe (Known as Corrie) met each other at the church youth association of the Bosman Street congregation of the NG Church in Pretoria. They became great friends.

Corrie was born at Amersfoort and grew up as a farm girl on Palmietfontein farm, where her father farmed with several breeds of cattle and crops. She attended school at Amersfoort and later Ermelo. Since June 1969 the friendship between Jan and Corrie grew into a permanent relationship and they got married on 17 July 1971. They were blessed with a wonderful marriage of 47 years and 8 months.

Jan was a man of God, who served with a good will until his death. At all the places where they lived, he served on the church council of the local congregation and always gave everything to be serviceable. Every morning precisely 05:00 hours he got up to have his quiet time with his Heavenly Father.

19 March 1974 their first son, also named Jan Andries, was born and Wanda followed 26 November 1975. They are now for the first time financially in the position to buy their own house with a loan from his employer, Escom. They bought a house in Witbank where he served at the time.

Conrad Henning, their third child, was born on 17 March 1983. During January 2011 Corrie was diagnosed with breast cancer. After a very traumatic year of operations, chemo treatments and radiation Corrie was in remmition. During 2015 Jan was also diagnosed with prostatecancer.

April 2016 their daughter, Wanda, and her husband Andrew Heard and their two daughters, Genrê and Chenade emigrated to England. Jan and Corrie moved December the same year to Pretoria, to the Retirement Village Montana Renaissance. Fortunately they now live quite near their youngest son Conrad and his family.

After several medical tests during June 2017 and incomprehensable loss of blood the doctors again found spots of cancer in Jan's pelvis. He received radiation with 26 treatments until November 2017. During January 2018 he became very sick and was hospitalized. After an operation a tumour was removed from his colon, which was diagnosed as cancer. He almost died. He had to undergo chemo treatment, but in the mean time glandular cancer was also diagnosed. The cancer had spread and the chemo treatment had to be changed. On 8 May 2018 he was hospitalized again with serious septicaemia in his legs and his family again feared for his life. Wanda came all the way from England to visit him and he recovered miraculously. The chemo treatment continued and it weakened him considerably. In the mean time he had to get

several blood-transfusions because his HB count remained very low. Jan kept on weakening and by December he could not even walk on his own. In January 2019 he was admitted to hospital due to a low HB count of 2.9. The doctors were amazed that he survived and he received further blood transfusions. During February tests showed that he had Myelo Displastic Syndrome (MDS). This is a type of cancer that prevent the bone-marrow from forming red blood cells. His family was given the opportunity to say farewell to him appropriately. He had no pain towards the end, for which his family was very thankful. He made a gallant stand and up until the end tried to smile and never complained of his misery. He was calm and peaceful when he met his Heavenly Father on 20 March 2019. The community and his family is aware of and feel the gap he left.

Jan was one of the biggest supporters and donors of the Henning Family League. He was exceptionally proud of his ancestors and was aware of the value of the family league. As his family, the family league will also miss him very much.

† **b6.c4.d1.e5.f4.g7.h3. Susanna Catharina Petronella Bierman (Petro) (born Henning) *26-3-1948 died on 29 May 2019 at Somerset West, due to Leukaemia.**



Isak Bernard Bierman *25-12-1943 and his wife, Susanna Catharina Petronella (Petro) (born Henning) *26-3-1948. Her died on 15 May 2017 and she 29 May 2019

Petro was born at Lichtenburg and grew up in Pretoria Gardens. On 6 October 1967 she married Isak Bernard Bierman, who was born on Christmas day 25 December 1943. He was the son of Sarel Johannes Bierman and Jacoba Margaretha Bierman, born Trollip. The marriage ceremony took place at the 'Hervormde Kerk' Daspoort, Pretoria. From their marriage four children were born. They were also the proud grandparents of ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

They farmed on Boekenhout farm, Nylstroom district.

After the death of Isak in 2017 Petro moved to her daughter, Marita, who lived in Somerset West, where she passed away. Petro was the oldest daughter of Willerm Frederik Henning and his wife Jacoba Johanna Maria Henning (born van der Walt). Apart from her children and grandchildren, Petro also left behind one brother and three sisters.

In the death notices of the newspaper 'Die Burger' we took note of the death of a member of the third Henning clan – the Georg Friedrich Henning Clan.

† **a3.b1.c2.d2.e8.f4.g3.Catharina Johanna Maria Henning (Meisie) (born Van Wyk) *3-12-1951, died 1-6-2019, Wife of Willem Andries Henning *27-8-1951. Meisie Henning and her husband lived in Worcester.**

Family Tree Numbering System

Readers would have noticed that all the genealogical numbers we used in this newsletter for individuals begins with the letter 'a'. In the past we did not use the progenitor or first generation code and the numbers of all descendants of Peter Henrich Henning began with the letter 'b'

We always knew that there were several Henning progenitors who came to the Cape of Good Hope:

1. Christoffel Henning — date of arrival, approximately 1680
2. Peter Henrich Henning — 1765
3. Georg Friedrich Henning — 1765
4. Johan Wilhelm Henning — exact date of arrival unknown, in all probability the turn of the 1700s to the 1800s

Due to the fact that the Christoffel Henning clan became extinct by approximately 1721, we did not include this clan in the numbering system and only referred to the clan in the chapter on the Henning progenitors.

With the new lay-out of the Family Cronicle one can now identify all Henning descendants of all clans clearly and Peter Henrich Henning and his descendants will now be identified with the number a2.

Money Matters

With the death of Jan Andries Henning of Montana Park, Pretoria the family league lost his biggest donor and we now only have six members left who donate on a monthly basis, by means of a debit order.

Further-more, over the past three months only one other member (T P Henning – known as Flip) made a once-off donation to the family league.

The fact that the flow of donations to the family league, is getting smaller every year, puts the finances of the league under great pressure. Our expences is already

much bigger than our income. Only the printing of the quarterly newsletter, envelopes and postage are more than R2000.00 every three months. **We would like to appeal to all our members to consider sending the family league a donation from time to time. You decide yourself how much you can afford.**



Henning Souvenir

We still have the following Henning souvenirs available. You can order telephonically (land line 028 840 0113 or Cell 082 355 3801) or by E-Mail (olie4@henning.org). Unfortunately postage according to the weight of the parcel must be added on. We will therefore have to calculate the postage before you can deposit the money into the account of the Family League. Account particulars are as follows: **FNB Villiersdorp branch 200,712, Account name – Henning Family League; Account number 6265 7601 483. Please use your member number or initials and surname as reference.**

The number at the items is the same as the numbers on the photograph

1. Henning CD – R125.00 each (postage R15.00).
2. Writing pads (50 pages) – R30.00
3. Sugar spoons (gold plated) – R54.00 each – **only one left!!**
4. Collar badges – R30.00 each
5. Teaspoons (gold plated) – R50.00 each. **Very nice as a set of six with a sugar spoon**
6. Cuff Links — R100.00 set. **Really very nice! Can be worn with pride or displayed in a show case. Will also become a nice heirloom**

Determine postage cost before ordering. If you want us to send the parcel by registered post, this will add an extra R30.00 to the postage. Unless you want to place a really big order, postage would most probably be between R15.00 and R20.00. Delivery by Postnet will be R99.00 for a parcel weighing 1 Kg.

We repeat! There is only one sugarspoon left and due to the high cost we will most likely not manufacture any of these items again

