

# Ons Haantjie

Nr 143

Aug 2020

*Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrich Henning Familiebond*

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*Verskyn vier keer per jaar: Februarie, Mei, Augustus en November*

## With a Spring in Your Step

**5 August 2020 at 17:30 (pm) DStv Channel 144 KykNET**  
**– Met ‘n Huppel in die Stap**

In May 2020, during lockdown, we were approached by our old genealogical friend Isabel Groesbeek. These days she is managing the Genealogical division of the FAK (Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurvereniginge). She wanted to know whether the Henning Family League had a suitable person who lives in the Pretoria/Johannesburg area who would be prepared for an interview with a member of the KykNET production team for an episode in the series “Met ‘n Huppel in die Stap” (With a Spring in Your Step) to discuss family reunions and the sharing of memories.

Isabel indicated that she immediately thought of the well organised Henning Family League. To her question I could immediately give her the name of the most qualified person for the task – a2.b7.c8.d8.e1.f2.g2 Stanley Henning, born 20 October 1961 who lives in Wierdapark, Centurion.

As a 23-year-old unmarried man he was the second youngest person to attend the founding meeting of the Henning Family League on 21 July 1984. At the time he was elected to be on the first committee. During the first country-wide Henning Family Festival, that took place over the weekend of the 9th to the 11th of October 1988 in Aliwal-North, Stanley and his Wife Mary-Ann (née Nel) had their first-born baby (a boy) baptised in the NG Church in Aliwal-North by Ds Willie Henning. The whole church was filled with Henning Festival attendants. At the time Ds Willie Henning was serving the congregation of the NG Church Hannover.

Stanley was interviewed on the 18th of May by the well-known actor Lieb Bester. **The program will be aired on the 5th of August 2020 at 17:30 (5:30pm) on the KykNET channel. All Hennings are invited to watch the program.**



Stanley Henning

## Henning/Vorster connections in the Stormberge

Many of the modern Hennings, who have grown up in the cities, are not aware of the fact that the Hennings have deep roots in the Stormberge in the North-East Cape. This includes the towns of Aliwal-North, Burgersdorp, Dordrecht, Moteno and Jamestown, as well as the South Free-State towns Rouxvill and Zastron.

The weather system of this area makes it one of the most arid parts of South Africa. It is a world of long tedious droughts, followed by fast and heavy thunderstorms. There is no surface water. One must drill deep and in the old days this was not possible. The coldest temperatures in South Africa are measured here in winter – temperatures of minus 20 degrees Celsius are common. There is no firewood available. This is the reason why the black tribes avoided the area and only later, when the Trekboere moved into the area, they moved in in the hope of getting food from the settlers and perhaps small jobs.

During the years 1820 to 1840, the first Trekboere started settling in the Stormberge – that included families such as the Hennings, deWets, Jouberts and Vorsters. They were all farmers with no formal education but a great deal of initiative, resourcefulness, and the desire to work hard.

Despite these difficult conditions the farmers were not deterred from settling and making a success of their farms. They had a desire for freedom that could not be extinguished, and this desire was to be one of the most important characteristics of the Stormbergers that was carried into the future by their descendants.

In the Stormberge district, which later became Aliwal-North, a2.b1.c3 Jan Hendrik Henning, born 17 May 1805 and his wife Anna Magdalena (née Du Plessis) marked a farm for himself in the early 1830s and called it Elandshoek. A short distance from there – which later became the district of Jamestown - Olof Abraham Vorster, born 18 November 1816 and his first wife Elsje Swanepoel, settled and named their farm Spitskop. The distance between the two farms can be covered by car in about 30 minutes, but in the days of the Trekboere, when the fastest transport was by horse, it took a few hours. The families would definitely have known one another because the area was sparsely populated, and the Boers always assisted one another. Both couples had large families.



a2.b1.c3. Jan Hendrik Henning \*17 May 1805 and his wife Anna Magdalena from the farm, Elandshoek, dist. Aliwal-North

It became clear that the Vorster family would have a great influence on the history of these two Henning families.

Two of Olof Vorster's daughters married Henning men from Elandshoek. Two of his grandchildren married Elandshoek Hennings and yet another daughter married an Aliwal-North Henning.

The two daughters of Olof and Elsje Vorster who married Henning men were Anna Christina, born 6 November 1845 and Martha Aletta, born 17 December 1852. They became friends and later married two of Jan and Anna Henning's sons, a2.b1.c3.d10. Christiaan Rudolf Henning, born 26 January 1844 and a2.b1.c3.d12. Alwyn Petrus Henning, born 17 January 1848

After the death of his wife, Elsje, Olof Voster married a second and a third time – first to Petronella Johanna (unknown surname) and then to Anna Catharina Elizabeth van der Merwe, born 5 Mei 1838.

Pieter Johannes Vorster, born 1864, the son of Olof Vorster, and his wife Annie settled on the farm Treurfontein in the Aliwal-North district. Their daughter,

**a2.b1.c3.d10.  
Christiaan Rudolf  
Henning \*26-1-  
1844, and his wife  
Anna Christina  
(born Vorster) \*6-  
11-1845 and their  
children with their  
spouses. The  
particulars of all  
these children can  
be confirmed in  
the Henning  
Family Chronicle**



**a2.b1.c3.d12.  
Alwyn Petrus  
Henning \*17-1-  
1848, his wife  
Martha Aletta (born  
Vorster) \*17-12-  
1852 and their  
children. You can  
read more about  
them in the Family  
Chronicle. The  
nine sons can all  
be considered  
heros of the ABW.**



Johanna Christina Barendin, born 6 May 1906, married one of the Elandshoek Hennings – Christiaan Rudolf Henning, born 14 December 1905 (a2.b1.c3.d10.e8.f1.).

We are also aware of Oelof Abraham Vorster who married a2.b1.c3.d5.e8. Anna Maria Henning, born 11 April 1873. She was the youngest daughter of Jacobus Henning, an older brother of Christiaan Rudolf and Alwyn Petrus Henning (mentioned above) – thus also one of the Elandshoek Hennings. Unfortunately, we do not know exactly who Oelof Abraham Vorster was, but we suspect that he was the son of Olof Abraham Vorster, born 18 November 1816 on the farm Spitskop.

Olof Vorster and his third wife, Anna, also had a few children. One of the daughters was Aletta Susanna, born 1 October 1876. Aletta Vorster befriended a Henning – a2.b7.c2.d18. Marthinus Christoffel Henning born 8 December 1878, the eighteenth child of Marthinus Christoffel Henning and his second wife, Cornelia from the farm Driefontein (a neighbouring farm of the well-known Henning farm, Damfontein in the Aliwal-North district). Driefontein was also just a short distance from Elandshoek and Spitskop.

For interest's sake we would also like to mention that one of Olof Abraham Vorster's, \*1816, other sons, Willem Karel Vorster, born 29 April 1869, the father of former State President B J (John) Vorster and his brother, Koot (Jacobus Daniël) Vorster, was the former Moderator of the General Sinod of the NG Church.

This is probably our most significant connection between the Henning family and any other family in South Africa that we are aware of.



**Left: Annie Vorster, wife of Pieter Johannes Vorster \*1864, the parents of Barendina Vorster \*6-5-1906 shown on the photo to the right with her groom, a2.b1.c3.d10.e8.f1. Christiaan Rudolf Henning \*14-12-1905**



# 19<sup>th</sup> Century Henning Families and the Influence of Dutch Teachers

The aim of the establishment of a replenishment station by the Dutch East-Indian Company (VOC) at the Cape of Good Hope in 1652 was to enhance business and make money. They had no idea that they were key to the development of a new nation at the Southern point of Africa. Their employees weren't purely puppets that would work from morning 'till night – simple uneducated people. The employees were people seeking a place where they could fend for themselves, educate their children and serve their God.

The VOC did employ salaried ministers to the Cape. For a period of 150 years most of the burgers in the Cape were Dutch speaking but eventually French and German speaking immigrants as well as slaves from Batavia, Ceylon, Indonesia, and Madagascar had a strong influence on language. The only education that children received were from their parents or the catechism of the Cape Church.

After the second occupation of the Cape of Good Hope in 1806, Britain systematically anglicized the Dutch colony. In 1822, for instance, they announced that English would be the only language used for administration and justice. The Cape



**Martha Zurich (born Henning) \*1857, wife of Hermanus Zurich, her daughter, Adalena and her husband Jack Kramer and their first child. Herman Zurich was the first teacher at the school on Damfontein, where he taught the Henning children and other children from the farm and the surrounding areas.**

Church that started using Scottish ministers, as well as the two Dutch Reformed Churches, the Reformed (Hervormde) Church and the Reformed (Gereformeerde) Church, came to the realisation that they would have to help with the recruitment of Dutch teachers in the Cape of Good Hope. From the middle of the nineteenth century they managed to attract a stream of Dutch teachers.

Thus, during September 1857, the ship *Angenita Adriana*, left Rotterdam for the southern point of Africa with a large group of emigrants. However, the ship skipped the Cape and docked at Port Natal (Durban), where all the passengers went ashore – including Willem Hendrik ZURICH, born 1828 and his wife Wilhelmina Catharina (née HEIJBLUM) born 1830, whom he married shortly before the trip. Both were recruited to serve as teachers in the Republic of the Orange Free State.

It seems, though, that they spent only a few months in Smithfield, in the Orange Free state, because we were able to trace them early on, living on the farm Vogelvllei in the Wodehouse (Dordrecht) district. Shortly afterwards they moved to Aliwal-North to the farm Olyvenkloof. It was here, in the Aliwal-North district at the end of 1857, where the

Zurichs came into contact with the Henning family of Damfontein. The young Olivier Johannes Gerhardus Henning \*1834 (a2.b7.c8), who got married the year before – 1856 – farmed with his father Gert Frans Henning.

The firstborn of Olivier and Cornelia Henning, a daughter by the name of Martha Johanna Elizabeth, was born on 26 August 1857. The first child of Willem and Wilhelmina Zurich, a boy named Hermanus, was born a year later, on the 24th of August 1858 on the farm Olyfenkloof. Both families had ten more children after this.

Herman Zurich and Martha Henning were married on December 26, 1877, when she was 20 years old and he was 19. One can assume they would have been ready, at that time, to start teaching. His father-in-law, Olivier Henning, appointed him to teach all the Henning children and the “bywoner” children.

The Zurich/Henning combination seemed to be a healthy combination. Of the eleven children that Herman and Martha Zurich had, the eldest daughter Amelia lived to the age of 103. Their son, Herman Evers Zurich died at 102 in a motorcar accident where he was the driver. Wilhelmina Catharina Zurich died at 99 years old and Anna Elizabeth at 89 years old. Two of their children died as babies during the 1918 flu

epidemic, two died in accidents and one died at the age of 74 years old.

In time Herman Zurich took up better teaching positions until he and his wife ended up in Melville, Johannesburg, where they lived until their death.

The photo of the Damfontein Primary school, was taken between 1918 to 1920. The only Henning, we could identify, was a2.b7.c2. d4.e6.f2. Cornelis Hermanus Henning, born 5 November 1906. He lived with his parent on the farm Klipfontein. We could not identify any of the Damfontein Henning children.



**Damfontein Primary school, ca. 1918- 1920. Unfortunately we are only able to identify one of the children. Far left back: a2.b7.c2.d4.e6.f2. Cornelis Hermanus Henning \*5-11-1906. The teacher was Mr. Gert Roux.**

## Even Stronger than Uncle Hansie

The article on the previous two pages dealt with Herman Zurich, born 1858, who was a teacher on the farm Damfontein in the Aliwal-North district where he taught the Henning children. At the time he also got married to one of the young Henning daughters, Martha Johanna Elizabeth Henning \*26 August 1857. Four of their children were to live to extraordinary ages, for example Herman Ever Zurich, born 17 July 1889.

Herman Evers Zurich was to live to the age of 102 years old and still be healthy enough to drive his own car. Unfortunately, it was not his fate to die of natural causes. He died in a motorcar accident where he was the driver.



It reminds us of the article in Newsletter 138 of May 2019 where we told the story of Hansie Henning of Rouxville who drove himself in his own car to the birthday celebration that was arranged for him in the city hall of Rouxville.

**Herman Evers Zurich \*1889, son of Martha Henning \*1857 and his second wife, Helena Köpke. He died at the age of 102 in a car accident.**

## **Jan Willem Rudolph Henning \*4-5-1885 & his pipe**



**Jan Willem Rudolph Henning born 4 Mei 1885 on his motorbike with his pipe in his mouth. His wife, Hester, is looking over his shoulder**

We received this letter from a2.b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g2. Pieter Abraham Henning \*16-10-1941 from Pretoria:

*Good Day Olivier. I found the story in Haantjie about the St Helena-pipe very interesting. Attached is a photo of my grandfather Jan Willem Rudolph Henning born 4 May 1885 (a2.b1.c6.d4.e6.) on his motorbike with his pipe in his mouth. This was taken at his house in Terblanche street, Hobhouse. He fought in the war but was never taken captive. His three sons Theunis, Salomon and Jan also smoked pipe, as did my two late brothers, Jan and Salomon and my two surviving brothers Phillipus and Theuns and I also smoke pipe.*

*I would like to ask you a favour. In the long drop toilet at the house of Oupa Jan in Hobhouse, which was quite a distance from the house, there was a large metal framed photo of General Jan Smuts. Oupa put the picture up in the long drop on purpose because he did not like Jan Smuts at all. Do you perhaps know of someone who lives in Hobhouse, or who have any contacts there who can determine whether the photos are still there? If it is I would very much like the photo even if I must pay for it.*

*I am not surprised that so many of us smoke. If I remember correctly, Peter Henrich Henning our ancestor was a tobacco merchant from Lippstadt Germany. I would also like to mention that my two sons, Salomon and Theuns, do not smoke at all and I am very proud of that. However, my daughter Marissa does smoke and believe it or not, she learnt to smoke in Germany. After matric she spent a year in Heidelberg*

*Germany as an au pair with a professor in law and his wife a medical doctor. They both smoked. My daughter also learnt to speak fluent German in Germany.*

*I have a few more interesting photos of my grandfather that I will send you in time. I almost forgot, I learnt to smoke on the farm, Reward in the Reitz district, of my other grandfather, Piet Loots. I made my first pipe from a corn cob and the stem from a reed. Tobacco was freely available and cost nothing and horses produced the best tobacco – it just had to be dry enough.*

**Editor.** We forwarded Pieter's Hobhouse-long-drop-request to Letitia Henning, widow of a2.b7.c8.d.e1.f2. Olivier Henning who lives in Hobhouse. Unfortunately, we do not have the result of the request.

## **Henning Achievements Abroad**

In the last few years, the small stream of Hennings emigrating to other countries has become stronger. Some of these emigrants have informed us of their departure but unfortunately a large number have not. We welcome it if we receive news of the activities of these people.

Pieter Henning from Marblehall (a2.b5.c1.d3.e5.f2.g4.h1.i2.) sent us a newspaper clipping from The Monroeville News of Wednesday May 2020. It is the local newspaper which is published in Monroeville, Indiana, United States of America. Nicola Carmin Henning \*2002-7-29, daughter of, Josef Jooste Henning and his wife Birgit (née Fritsche) from Monroeville, Indiana, USA was chosen as the Prom Queen of the local Heritage High School. Many of our older people will not really know what a "Prom Queen" is, but we accept that the young folk will know exactly what is meant by that.

Dad Josef Jooste Henning is the pastor of the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church (Soest), Fort Wade, Indiana, USA.

Following is the article from The Monroeville News:

### ***David and Henning named '20 Heritage Prom royalty***

*Little did they know when the planning began for the annual Heritage High School Junior Senior prom that it would end up one for the record books.*

*With the schools closed due to COVID-19 concerns, no prom dance was held this school year. In fact, it was one of the many Spring events that was cancelled.*

*The baseball and softball fields stood empty and e-learning was the norm with teens connecting on Zoom. Students posted online of social distancing, posing for photos decked out in formal attire or casual clothing. Just for fun, some for boredom and some of the young ladies posted sentimental photos with their first loves – their dads. Trying to come up with ideas that they could still have fun with and make the most of traditions. The students voted online to select the 2019-2020 Prom Court. Candidates elected to prom court were chosen by their peers with five girls and five boys.*

*Making the selecting were Chris Baker, Cody David, Clay Gerardot, Gage Pritchard, Spencer Whitaker for the gents and Isabel Davis, Nicola Henning, Nicole Kohrman, Sarah Ree and Kate Voirol for the ladies. In the final tally Cody David and Nicola Henning were crowned King and Queen!*



Left: Nicola Henning chosen as the Prom Queen of the Heritage High School, Monroeville, Indiana, VSA.  
Below: Nicola's father, Josef Jooste Henning \*28-6-1969. He is the Pastor of the Emmanuel Evangelic Lutheran Church (Soest), Fort Wade, Indiana, VSA is



## Philip Henning honoured as an 'All American'



**Philip Barry Henning \*10-11-2000 from Bloemfontein becoming one of the top tennis players in the world**

A great honour has befallen the young South African Davis Cup tennis player, Philip Henning, in America. Philip, of course, is the son of a2.b7.c7.d10.e3.f1.g2. Gerard Carel Henning \*10-12-1971 and his wife Carlien Lize (née Fichardt) from Bloemfontein. We have reported about his achievements several times in the past.

The young Philip from the University of Georgia, who is visiting his parent's home in Bloemfontein during the Corona-virus restrictions, was celebrated in May as an "All-American".

The All-American status is something that the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) awards only

to the top players in American universities.

"It is a prestigious honour that is awarded at the end of the season (which is from August to May) to the top 20 players", says Philip. "It is a great honour and privilege for me to receive the All-American status. It is something for which many college players put in a great deal of work and many hours."

Philip, who was in his second year this year, was the 11th in America on the last ITA ranking. With that the number two player from the University of Georgia was the Bulldogs' top player on the American ranking list.

He is one of the three Bulldogs, together with Trent Bryde and Tyler Zink, who were honoured as All Americans. Georgia won nine of its eleven matches and closed the season with six consecutive victories.

Philip says that he was quite lucky to get a flight, in March, to South Africa.

"I arrived just before they cancelled flights and was fortunately not stranded in America. The season was not quite at its end – we were on our way to Florida for a match, but the day before we left everything was cancelled."

Philip says that the highlight of his season was the match against Ohio when he secured victory for Georgia with his singles match. "The victory also secured a record for our coach, Manny Diaz, in college victories."



**Charles Brittz and his wife, Celesté (born Henning) with their boy Hanno (4) and baby daughter who was born 20 Januarv 2020**



**Ds Kosie Henning and his wife, Carlizé, with their son – also Kosie – named after his father and grandfather. He was born on 29 August 2018.**

Philip is one of the university's five names sportsmen to receive the Sportsmanship-Ethics Award. He is an ex-pupil of Grey College, made his Davis Cup debut for South Africa last year again Bulgaria in Cape Town. He beat Gabriel Donev with 6-2, 6-3.

## Henning Babies

We are always delighted to hear about the birth of babies where one of the parents is a Henning. A2.b1.c3.d10.e8.f1.g1.h1. Johannes Gerhardus (Johan) Henning \*19 March 1954, from Bloemfontein, recently passed on some new information about his children and grandchildren – amongst other things that his daughter, Celesté, born 5 March 1985 and her husband, Charles Johannes Brittz from Bloemfontein had a new baby girl, Mia, on 29 January 2020. Mia is their second child. Their eldest is a boy with the same name as his father was born on 9 June 2016.

Charles and Celesté, both, used to work at PWC in Bloemfontein as Chartered Accountants, but Celesté was recently appointed as a lecturer in Financial Accounting at the University of the Free State.

Ds Kosie Henning (a2.b6.c4.d1.e5.f5.g6.h3.i3. Jacobus Adriaan Gerhardus) born 17 July 1993 and his wife, Carlizé (born Snyman) had a new baby on 29 August 2018. He

has the same names as his father and grandfather but will be called, like his dad, Kosie.

Kosie and Carlizé are expecting a little girl to arrive on about 2 September 2020. We hope to be able to report about her birth in the November 2020 newsletter. Ds Kosie is the minister of the Reformed (Gereformeerd) Church, Harrismith.

## Deaths



**a2.b5.c1.d5.e6.f1.g1.h1. Jan Andries Henning, born October 30, 1941** of Fichardt Park, Bloemfontein passed away on June 10, 2020 at the age of 78 years and eight months. Although he died at his home, he had been in the hospital regularly the previous year due to various medical problems. He leaves behind his wife, Mara and four daughters, with their families.



**Our loving brother, Fanie Henning  
\*1-5-1946 who passed away on 18  
June 2020 at the age of 74**

As secretary of the League I am saddened to report of the death of my brother, Fanie (Stephanus Rudolf Kruger Henning, born May 1, 1946, a2.b7.c8.d8.e3.f5.) of Kuils River. Fanie was admitted to the intensive care unit of the 2 Military Hospital Wynberg early in the morning on 16 June 202, after he suffered a massive stroke. He passed away on the morning of 18 June. He was 74 years old.

Fanie was trained at the old SA Railways and Harbours as a machine manufacturer. He built parts for locomotives. In 1968 he received an inter-departmental transfer to the South African Army where he was appointed as an ammunition tester. He had to evaluate and approve all consignments of explosive ordnance machinery (such as bombs, rockets, projectiles etc), received from manufacturers, before it was accepted into the SA Army inventory.

After his retirement he served as warden in the Reformed (Gereformeerd) Church Bellville-East, where he was loved by all members. Fanie was a professed believer.

For the past 22 years Fanie served on the committee of the Henning Family League where he made valuable contributions. He leaves behind his wife Hettie, two children, Rudolf and Cornelia, a daughter-in-law Eldine, and three granddaughters.

## Money Matters



Please, even if it is a small one!  
Henning - Donation

The Henning Family League survive on the donations of well-meaning Hennings who can see the value of a well organised family league. If all Henning families only could donate what they can afford – how few it may be, we will survive.

Many thanks therefore to all those members who donate on a monthly basis by means of a debit order. A small amount of as little as R30.00 a month, give us a contribution of R360.00 per year, which is of great value to the family league.

You arrange yourself with your bank to install a debit order. You have full control over the issue and can decide at any time to increase, decrease or stop the debit order. This is definitely the

backbone of the income of the family league.

Donation once a year is also very valuable and we cannot survive without these contributions.

**All donations can be deposited into the account of the Henning Family League. The particulars are as follows:**

**FNB Villiersdorp (branch 200 712), Current Account 6265 7601 483**

**Please use your member number and/ or Initials and surname as reference who made the contribution.**