Family trees of Henning clans of England are compiled according to the system where the character a. plus a number, in the sequence Henning clans came to our attention, is allocated to the progenitors of these clans. The character b. plus a number, beginning with 1 for the first child, 2 for the second child, etcetera, is allocated to the second generation. The character c. is allocated to the third generation, together with a number indicating the position of all children. The same process is followed for the fourth (d) and all subsequent generations.

All descendants of a specific person is shown in full before we proceed to his next brother or sister.

In the Family Tree the following genealogical signs and abbreviations are used:

* indicate Born
≈ Baptised
† Died
χ Married
χχSecond marriage. Three or more crosses for subsequent marriages
÷ Divorced
N.N. Nomen nescio (name unknown)
D/o Daughter of
S/o Son of
C Circa (approximately)

Crosses in brackets (χ) behind a person’s name, indicates from which marriage this child was born.

Photographs are shown at the end of the family tree of each clan.
Henning Clan no 1: John Henning and his Descendants

It appears that the first Henning arrived early in the 16th Century (or even earlier) in England. We found on the website of the hamlet Cruxton, in the county of Dorset that John Henning, a merchant of Poole, obtained property during the reign of Charles I – reference is made of Henning’s Crookston (Crookston = Cruxton).¹ There is no indication if this was his baptism name or whether he came from elsewhere and his name was anglicized from Johannes to John. There is also no reference to his parents or other family. Until new research shows otherwise, we will accept that John Henning was the first Henning to move to England and we will allocate the generation code “a1.” to him (progenitor of first clan).

In 1575 John Henning purchased the estate, Poxwell Manor, near Weymouth, in the county Dorset. He and his descendants lived at Poxwell Manor for almost 350 years.²

a1. John Henning was married to Ursula Achyn of Pelynt, Cornwall. Unfortunately we only have the names of one child from each the following four generations:

a1.b1. Edmund Henning of Frome Whitfield, married to Anne, d/o William Masterman

a1.b1.c1. Robert Henning of Alton Pancras, married to Jane, d/o Thos. Spratt of Woodsford Castle

a1.b1.c1.d1. Edmund Henning of Poxwell, married to Elizabeth, d/o Robert Wansborough

a1.b1.c1.d1.e1. Martha Henning, d/o Edmund Henning, married to Charles Buxton

Poxwell, or Pokeswell as it is pronounced and often found written, is a tiny place straddling the A353 on two sharp bends approximately 6 miles East of Weymouth. The Manor House, set back from the road and fronted by hedging, was the seat of the Henning family. Poxwell was formerly in the possession of Cerne Abbey.

After the dissolution of the monasteries, Elizabeth I granted it to Thomas Howard of Lulworth and Bindon. In 1575 it was sold to John Henning, a merchant of Poole. The porch bears a date of 1613 and the Manor is listed in the Survey of Dorset of 1625. A date of 1634 was inscribed over the archway of the gateway, which suggests that maybe this was added at that time.

By 1699 the Manor had passed to its next heir, Elizabeth Trenchard nee Henning, the wife of Colonel Thomas Trenchard of Wolfeton (in the parish of Charminster near Dorchester). In 1727 the Trenchards resettled at the Henning estates.

The Land Tax assessments of 1798 show just three plots of land for Poxwell. John Trenchard is the proprietor of Poxwell Farm, which is assessed at £40, 18 shillings, 8 pence, and Water Combe Down at £4 16 shillings. Both were in the occupation of Edmund Henning, a Weymouth banker.

¹ Website of the Hamlets of Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch, Dorset, England. Read the script at the end of this family tree

² Research done by Tim Vale, a British citizen living in Budapest, Hungary and forwarded in 2012 to the League Secretary of the Henning Family League, who published an article about this Henning clan in the quarterly Newsletter no 112 of November 2012 of the Henning Family League
Weymouth’s great patron, King George III often visited Henning at Poxwell. The third plot, Watercombe Farm is owned by the Honourable Lionel Damer and occupied by Thomas Billett.

The Henning Bank of Weymouth failed and so the manor house and land at Poxwell were passed to the Pickards of Bloxworth and is still owned by the family descendants.

The Manor was rather neglected over the years, but extensive renovations were carried out in the 1930s to bring the it back to its former glory.

We were fortunate to obtain photos of banknotes issued by the Weymouth and Dorsetshire Bank which belonged to Edmund Henning. One can see that only half of the value of one of the notes were paid out, when problems at the bank started.

Footnote 1: Extract from the Website of the Hamlets of Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch, Dorset, England

Cruxton, Recorded in Domesday as Frome after the river. It was called Fromma Johannis Croc in the Pipe Rolls of Henry II 1177, Croctston 1195, Crokeston 1204, Croxtone 1205, Crokeston 1227, Crokleston 1346, Crokkeston 1428. Besides the above Johannis Croc, who must have held the place in or just before 1177, we have mention of William Croc here in 1195 and 1205, and of his family in 1227 in the Pipe Rolls, etc. So no doubt the original meaning was Croc’s town. The personal name of Croc of Scandinavian origin was fairly common in medieval England and has been assumed to enter into several place names in Danelaw. We may compare the personal name Grim which is Scandinavian, combined in the name Grimstone (Grim’s town) two miles away. Croc is found in Wiltshire and Hampshire, in the Domesday Book. There is a list of the owners of Cruxton from 1205, when ‘William Croc’ (William of Croxtone) gave 30 marks to have seize of the vill of Croxtone which had been recovered by him in the court of the lord, the King, whilst he was Earl of Moriton, against William Turpin by an assize of ‘mort d’ancestor’; and thence the same William was afterwards disseized by the King’s precept; and the Sheriff of Dorset was commanded to take security for the payment of 30 marks at the Exchequer and to cause to have seize. Later we hear of John de Crokston holding it in the reign of Edward I, and later still of its becoming divided into Lower and Higher Crookston; the former being in the ownership of John Henning in the reign of Charles I (hence Henning’s Crookston) and the latter in the ownership of Richard Channing in 1654 (hence Channing’s Crookston). It must have been a bigger place in the old days, as must all of these hamlets, for we find Henry III granted a market and a fair here.
The Manor House on the Poxwell Estate where a Henning family lived for 350 years since 1575. Sometimes the name Poxwell is written and pronounced as Pokeswell. There was once a small church standing alongside the Manor House, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist and rebuilt in 1868, only to be demolished a hundred years later in 1969.

A sketch made centuries ago of the Poxwell Manor Home, where a Henning family lived for 350 years since 1575.
A bank note issued by the Weymouth and Dorsetshire Bank owned by Edmund Henning.

A bank note issued by the Weymouth Bank. Only half of the value could be paid out by the bank when the bank fell into trouble.
Henning Clan no 2: Family Tree of Gustav Leopold Henning *1795 and his descendants

Gustav Leopold Henning and his descendants are the second Henning clan in England which came to our attention. The progenitor Gustav Leopold Henning is, therefore, numbered a2. Gustav Leopold had six children — three sons and three daughters. At this stage we only have particulars of one son – a2.b4. Carl Albert Leopold, *3-2-1834 who emigrated to England, and his descendants.

All particulars for this family tree were provided by a2.b4.c1.d1.e2.f1. Richard (Perry) Broad

- a2. GUSTAV LEOPOLD HENNING * 1795, χ 10-4-1826 CHARLOTTE WILLMAN
  Gustav Henning was a Prussian citizen living in Buchau, Magdeburg, Prussia, but are shown as the progenitor of this British Henning family.

- a2.b1. SOPHIE JOHANNA CLARA HENNING ≈ 21-5-1827
- a2.b2. CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH MARIE HENNING ≈ 17-7-1830
- a2.b3. HERMAN FERDINAND HENNING *12-6-1832, ≈ 16-6-1832
- a2.b4. CARL ALBERT LEOPOLD HENNING *3-2-1834, = 21-2-1834, χ Jerusalem Kirche Berlin 16-8-1858 AMELIA ANN WATSON * Holland 1837, † Blean, Kent, UK 1926

Carl Albert Leopold Henning was an officer in the Prussian Army. He and his wife, Amelia presumably became British subjects during 1886 – the same year his son, Albert, became a British subject.

- a2.b4.c1. ALBERT HENNING * Buckau, Magdeburg 1-8-1859, χ St Pancras Church, London 27-6-1885 EDITH LUCY KENDERINE *St Pancras, London 17-3-1864, † 25-5-1933; χχ 29-6-1933 ALBERTINA ELANOR CULLEN *1877, D/o Stephen Felix Cullen

Albert became a British subject in 1886. His certificate of naturalisation was issued on 8 November 1886. He was a tutor of English and music, a composer and later a chemical manufacturer. He even published a letter in the British Medical Journal (photo 1 and 2 at the end of the document).

- a2.b4.c1.d1. CARL ALBERT HENNING (χ)*24-7-1886, † Universtity College Hospital, London 31-3-1949, χ Shillong Church, India 29-2-1916 HELEN MARY THORP * Mattishall, Norfolk 1-8-1881, † 31-7-1957, D/o William Nicholas Smyth Thorp and Octavia Helen Robbins (daugter of Rev William Robbins); χχ Alec registry Office 16-12-1939 VIOLET HARRIET ROPE * Strumpshaw, Norfolk 1899, † 1985

Helen Mary Thorp travelled to India in June 1914 where she met Carl Albert Henning at the Shillong Races. Their wedding reception was at the Burdwar Tea Estate, Assam.

Carl Albert deserted his first wife, Helen, and three children and moved to Germany with Violet Rope. They found Sarassani’s Circus at Dresden, where he was employed as an elephant trainer and circus agent. Violet rode the liberty horses. Whilst working for the circus, Carl Henning was gathering intelligence for the British War Office. He and Violet Rope had three children before they married in 1939: John Stanley *1929, Phillip *1932 and Sylvia *1934 (photo’s 3, 4, 5 and 6 at the end of the document).
Vivian’s daughter, Genevieve wrote the following about her mother’s service in the Women’s Land Army (WLA). At the time she was working on her great uncle’s farm in the Suffolk Brecks. Told in her own words, Viv describes five years of long hours, often in cold and wet conditions, learning on the job how to harness and plough with horses, use a scythe and drive sheep. In spite of hardships and uncertainties, she thoroughly enjoyed those years, relishing the friendships and the outdoor life. “We weren’t expecting the rain and the tanks”, begins one of Viv’s favourite stories. She left the Land Army to marry John Broad in Flempton Church on 6th July 1946.

The WLA was first established in World War I and was reinstated in June 1939, playing a fundamental role in agriculture production during World War II. Food shortages and a reliance on imported food were a real threat with many men leaving the land to join. By 1943, there were more than 80 000 ‘Land Girls’ and 6 000 women in the associated Women’s Timber Corps (WTC), cutting trees and running sawmills.

Land Girls took over much of the agricultural work previously done by men, including lambing, milking cows, looking after poultry, ploughing, threshing, working with horses and digging ditches. Although Britain did have to impose food rationing during World War II, the WLA ensured that Britain never actually ran out of food.

The Women’s Land Army was disbanded in 1950. The contribution of the WLA and WTC to the war effort was finally acknowledged to individuals in 2008 with a Veteran’s Badge and a letter from the then Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Gordon Brown MP.

Perry provided all particulars and photographs for this family tree. Photo 7 at the end of the document

Phillip was a member of the Royal Navy

Sylvia graduated at the University Of Oregon and owns her own garden design business
- a2.b4.c1.d4. PHYLIS HENNING (χχ) *1913
- a2.b4.c2. AMELIA ANN HENNING * Torgau 8-1-1861
- a2.b4.c3. JANE LUCY CLARA CHARLOTTE HENNING *Büchau 10-3-1863
- a2.b5. AUGUSTE PAULINE JOHANNA HENNING *4-8-1836, ≈ 4-9-1836
- a2.b6. FRIEDRICH WILHELM CARL HENNING *26-1-1839, ≈ 24-2-1839

**Photo 1:** a2.b4.c1. Albert Henning *1-8-1859, his second wife, Albertina Elanor (born Cullen) with their children and Elanor's sister, Florence Cullen *1880. From left to right: a2.b4.c1.d4. Phyllis *1913; Albert *1-8-1859; a2.b4.c1.d3. Brian Albert *21-11-1907; Albertina Elanor, second wife of Albert *1877 (behind) and sitting on chair, Elanor's sister Florence *1880

**Photo 2:** a2.b4.c1. Albert Henning *1-8-1859, his second wife, Albertina Elanor (born Cullen) *1877 and their two children, Brian Albert *21-11-1907 (d3) and Phyllis *1913 (d4)
Photo 3: a2.b4.c1.d1. Carl Albert Henning *24-7-1886 as a Captain in Bombay 1917

Photo 4: a2.b4.c1.d1. Carl Albert Henning *24-7-1886 in Ludenscheid, Germany

Photo 5: a2.b4.c1. Carl Albert Henning as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF 1941


Photo 8: A2.b4.c1.d1.e2.f2. Genevieve Broad *29-11-1953, D/o Vivian Edith Henning, married John Christopher Broad