

## *Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrick Henning Familiebond*

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

**English Translation**



b5.c1.d5.e9.f1. Daphné Olivier (born Henning, baptised Lessing) dance on her 90th birthday with their minister

## **The Story of Daphné Olivier (born Henning)**

Daphné Olivier (born Henning) celebrated her 90th birthday on 8 April 2015. She, however, grew up with the surname Lessing. When she wanted to get married in 1942, the minister told her that he must have a copy of her birth certificate. After obtaining this certificate she only discovered that she was actually born and registered with the surname Henning. Only the name of her biological mother was mentioned on the certificate. She was apparently adopted as a baby by a Lessing couple.

Daphné, therefore, always wondered who her real biological parents were, but were never in a position to try and find out. She and her husband got married on May 2 1942, but after having five children he died in 1961. In 1969 she married an old school friend, Jan Hendrik Christoffel Olivier.

When Daphné's children started planning her 90th birthday party, they decided to try and find out who her biological parents were, as a birthday present. Soon they heard of and visited the Henning website and contacted the League

Secretary of the Henning Family League. Although only basic information were given on the birth certificate, it was sufficient to identify Daphné's biological mother with a great degree of certainty.

We, therefore, start her story at the Bethulie Concentration Camp during the Anglo-Boer War, where several Henning women, children and even older men were kept prison.

The Bethulie Concentration Camp was erected during the Anglo Boer War on 22 April 1901. The “Hell Camp”, as Genl Christiaan De Wet referred to it, was one of the concentration camps with the highest death rates during the war. Life in the concentration camps, especially the Bethulie Camp, was a sustained struggle against death. Reverend H J C Becker wrote in his diary the following: “Twelve funerals in the mornings and seven in the afternoons in the Bethulie Camp ..... it was enough to break the hardest heart. Often I had to weep lonely, before I could preach.”

1 713 Boer women and children, of which 1 311 were children younger than 15 years died here in less than a year’s time. Of this total, 13 were Henning children and two Henning women.



But our Boer women did not allow this distressed and appalling circumstances get them under. A group of women in the Bethulie Camp got together and chose Matt 10:29 as their survival slogan, to which they clung diligently — **“Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your father”**. These women later did their best to accomplish that their symbol of hope and faith be depicted on the smallest South African coin. In 1923 Genl Smuts approved, due to pressure from Mrs Tibbie Steyn, that two sparrows be affixed on the South African quarter penny. Who of us remember those quarter pennies with the two sparrows?

However, the Bethulie Camp was not only a death camp! Shortly before the end of the war – on 9 May 1902 a baby girl was born here for the sixty six year old Jan Andries Henning \*6-1-1836 (b5.c1.d5. in the Henning family tree) and his young second wife Anna Sophia (born Roux, born approximately 1860). This baby girl was named Lea Magdalena. Jan Andries Henning could not go on commando due to age and bad health and was also imprisoned in the concentration camp.

One of the daughters from the first marriage of Jan Andries Henning – Johanna Elizabeth (married Pretorius) as well as three of his grand children (from two families) also died in the Bethulie Camp. Due to the influence and pressure of Emily Hobhouse circumstances in the concentration camps improved quite a lot towards the end of the war, therefore little Lea Magdalena was born under more bearable conditions.

After the end of the war, all persons in custody could go home. We can accept that Jan Andries Henning, his wife, Anna Sophia and their baby daughter, with only their clothes and few other belongings they used in their concentration camp tent, walked home. Their farm did not exist anymore – everything was burned down or demolished. All their cattle and crops were destroyed. One can accept that they searched for refuge and shelter in the town or elsewhere.



**The rebuilt rock-packing the women who were confined in the Bethulie Concentration Camp erected after the war, with a replica of the angel statue. The funds for the mould were donated by the Henning Family League**

After the war Lea Magdalena (or Lena as she was called) grew up, like all normal girls under very difficult circumstances with almost no facilities. Remember! After the war all citizens of the Boer Republics really had nothing left. Slowly all citizens started rebuilding their lives and still held on to their survival slogan from the Bethulie Camp: “Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your father”.

Towards the end of 1924 a serious tragedy (for those days) struck Lena – she became pregnant .... without being married! At that stage she was already 22 years old, but it was a huge sin in those days to be pregnant outside wedlock. Her father has already fallen away. He died in 1914. She had to decide on her own what to do with the baby. In those days it was totally unheard of for such a woman to raise the baby herself. Almost all babies born outside wedlock were made available for adoption. As a very religious person she had to take a decision totally in conflict with her conscience.

When this baby was born on 8 April 1925, she was immediately made

available for adoption. A Lessing couple – Louis Stephanus Lessing and his wife Clara Isabella (born Prinsloo) – adopted the baby and baptised her Daphné. They raised Daphné as their own child and this Daphné celebrated her 90th birthday recently.

Daphné grew up on the farm of her adoption parents near Nancefield, Johannesburg. As mentioned she married Jacobus Andries Botha on 2 May 1942 at Johannesburg and they had five children – two boys, Jacobus Johannes Mathysen Botha, the oldest child and Louis Stephanus Botha, the youngest of the five. Three girls fitted into the middle – Clara Isabella (married Van Zyl), Sophia Elizabeth Frederika (married Wiesner) and Jeanetta Priscilla (married Liebenberg).

After the death of her husband in 1961, Daphné in 1969 got married to an old school friend Jan Hendrik Christoffel Olivier. He unfortunately died in 1989. Today Daphné live in Potchefstroom and still enjoy good health.

## **History of a Maclear Henning Family**

b7.c8.d5.e7. John Brown Henning \*17-8-1902 was the seventh child of eleven children. When he was approximately eight years old, his father, Gert Frans Henning, died from stomach cancer. His mother, Sannie Henning, here-after decided that the family must



**b7.c8.d5. Gert Frans Henning \*10-9-1864, his wife Susannah Catharina (Sannie)(born Maartens) and the first eight of his eleven children. At the back: e1. Olivier Johannes (Tok) \*16-4-1890. Middle: e4. Adriaan Lourens (Adriaan) \*4-11-1895, father Gert, e3 Gert Frans (Frans) \*9-1-1894, e2 Hendrik Joachim (Hendrik)\*5-2-1892. Front row: e6 Robert Mathys Daniël (Bob)\*22-6-1900, e7 Johns Brown (John)\*17-8-1902, e8 Elizabeth Magdalena (Bettie)\*29-9-1904, mother Sannie. Front: e5 Filipe Daniël (Daantjie)\*7-5-1898**

move from their farm, Mertoun, in the Rhodes district to their other farm, Risler, in the Maclear district.

The move was done by two ox wagons over the Naudesnek pass in the Drakensberg mountains. The Naudesnek pass is still today the highest mountain pass in South Africa – a narrow gravel road.

John's oldest brother, Tok (Olivier Johannes) stayed behind on Mertoun, while his second brother, Hendrik, together with his mother and the four youngest children moved with the first wagon.

Brother Frans was in control of the second wagon, with all the other children, of which John Brown was the youngest. Many years later Frans told the family that on their way John came to him and said that he was very hungry. He encountered a feeling of powerlessness due to the fact that they had no food at all on the wagon. However! When he

looked up the mountain, he saw a number of bramble bush full of ripe blackberries. He immediately stopped the wagon and all the boys ate berries until they were filled.

Mother Sannie was a small lady-like woman who had to raise eleven children in one of the most inhospitable parts of South Africa. It must have been an overwhelming difficult task and John Brown and his brothers most probably learnt from a young age to be independent and innovative.

When John Brown married at the age of approximately thirty years, he already had his own general dealer shop. He often told the story (with a naughty smile) that when he married his wife, Aletta Maria Van Straten, he changed the name of his shop to "Henning & Co. When the people asked him if he obtained a partner, he answered "Yes, my wife is the Company!" This illustrates his relationship with his wife. She handled the ladies department of the shop very efficiently.

Later on John bought the farm Confluence (also in the Maclear district) – a neglected farm with a dilapidated house. Over the years he and his wife, Aletta improved this farm with good care and management to a show farm. The overstocked



farm recovered well and erosion ditches were filled. In the place of the dilapidated house a brand new house was built with neat sandstone blocks. The farmyard was transformed into a landscape of lawns, terraces, trees and shrubs, as well as a tennis court, where friends often met over weekends.

John also bought two other farms later. He was also deeply involved with the community of Maclear. His shop was taken over by the agriculture co-operation, but he and Aletta stayed on as directors. He was also actively involved with his church as an elder and Sunday school organiser.

It was a shock for his family when he died at the age of 57 from cancer. He, however, made sure that none of them would have financial difficulties after his death. He left his wife farms without debt and with new vehicles and implements. Aletta, who always shared in his farming activities, decided to continue farming until their son (also John Brown), who was 12 years old when he died, was old enough and able to take over the farming.

John Brown Henning was a successful businessman, but his children remembered him as a man with a soft heart who rendered assistance where there was distress. He handled his employees with respect and maintained a good relationship with them.

## Norwegian Henning Descendants visit South Africa



**Ruth Landmark (left) and her daughter Ann-Charlotte Torvildsen (right) with Olivier and Charlotte Henning at their home.**

Ruth S F Landmark (born 1946) of Vegaishei, Norway, her daughter Ann-Charlotte Andersen (married Torvildsen) and Ann-Charlotte's baby boy, Peder Henrich Torvildsen (18 months) of Oslo, Norway came on a holiday to South Africa during April 2015. This holiday was specially arranged because they knew that they were descendants of a few South African families and in particular, the Henning family.

Ruth's Landmark grand father was a ship's captain

early in the 20th Century. He was stationed for long periods in East London, where he met his future wife, Wilhelmina Catharina Fowels (born Zurich). She was a daughter of Herman Zurich \*1858 and his wife b7.c8.d1. Martha Johanna Elizabeth Henning \*1857. Ruth is also a sister of Rev Bjarne Fowels of Hjelmeland, Norway, who are a very active member of the Henning Family League.



They have been booked to return home on 21 April 2015, therefore they arranged to visit the Henning's of Theewaterskloof in the Overberg on 20 April. This being League Secretary, Olivier Henning and his wife Charlotte. A very pleasant and interesting day followed. Family history were exchanged and they also talked about the political situation in South Africa. It was clear that these Norwegians were well-informed of all the unpleasant things going on on the political front in South Africa. It is also interesting to note that the name of Ann-Charlotte's son is Peder Henrich. This is the equivalent of the German Peter Henrich and Afrikaans Pieter Hendrik. This little fellow therefore was named after our Henning progenitor.

**Ann-Charlotte's baby boy, Peder Henrich Torvildsen (18 months) who was named after the Henning progenitor, Pieter Hendrik Henning**

## Is this a Future Springbok Scrumhalf?

On 9 May 2015 I was watching the rugby match on TV, between the Afrikaans Boys High School, Pretoria (Affies) and Grey College, Bloemfontein. This is one of the



**b6.c1.d1.e9.f4.g1.h2.i1.j1. Divan Willem Henning \*13-2-1997 and his brother, Viaan \*23-9-2000 (j2)**

highlights on the schools rugby calendar. During the commentary, one of the names mentioned most, was that of the Affies scrumhalf, Divan Henning. His work rate is tremendous and he is one of the players making the biggest impression.

People who know me, would know that I have knowledge of most Hennings in South Africa. If I do not know the specific person, I would immediately try to find out more about him. In the case of this Divan Henning it became clear that I did not have him on

record. This is where the detective work started. Monday morning 11 May I phoned the Afrikaans Boys High School. The secretary politely told me that she may not give me any information, but that she would ask the parents to contact me.

I am so proud of our Henning parents! Tuesday 12 May I received an E Mail from Alet Henning, mother of Divan Henning, enquiring what information I want. I explained in detail why I am phoning and what I need. A few days later I received all the particulars of this family. My records were only up to date to Alet's father in law, b6.c1.d1.e9.f4.g1.h2. Willem Henning and his wife Marlaine Antoinette (born Kitchenbrand). Alet's husband is Douglas Henning. I, therefore, could include this whole family's records into the Henning family tree.

Divan, who is this year in matric, is clearly a sportsman of format, and then his leadership qualities does not stay behind. His school- and sport achievements read as follows:

1. Head boy of Bakenkop Primary School, Wierda Park, Centurion
2. Afrikaans Boys High School, Pretoria – scholar council and boarding house scholar council
3. Scrumhalf U/12 and U/13 Craven week Blue Bulls team
4. Scrumhalf first team White Bulls for two years
5. U/16 Blue Bulls A team
6. U/18 Blue Bulls Academy Team

Divan also have a younger brother – Viaan Henning – who also achieve very well. Viaan was deputy head boy of Bakenkop Primary School and in high school he was a member of the U/14 and U/15 Waterpolo A team of Affies/ He also plays scrumhalf for the U/15 C rugby team.



The caption of this photograph in Rapport read as follows: The eightsmen of Waterkloof, Dyllin Robinson gets his pass away in spite of Divan Henning, scrumhalf of Affies who forces him to the ground. Affies won 28 – 15" Unfortunately one cannot see Divan Henning's face

## Elrike Henning of Tzaneen Perform

b7.c8.d8.e5.f3.g3. Elrike Henning \*2-2-1991, daughter of Pieter Naude Henning and his wife Ingrid of the farm Cachumi in the Tzaneen district obtained the degree B Eng (Chemical) at the end of 2014 at the North West University (Potchefstroom Campus). The degree was conferred at a ceremony during March 2015 at Potchefstroom.



**b7.c8.d8.e5.f3. Pieter Naude Henning and his wife Ingrid of Tzaneen and their beautiful daughter, Elrike during the degree presentation ceremony which was held during March 2015 at Potchefstroom, where the degree B Eng (Chemical;) was awarded to her.**

Elrike hereafter applied for a position at the Company, Deloitte Consulting. This is a company of consulting Engineers. After a long and strenuous selection process she was notified in May that the position was awarded to her. She began to work in July.

## Lenélle Henning again won Gold!



In Newsletter 121 of February 2015 we reported that b7.c8.d8.e3.f4.g2.h1. Lenélle Henning was a member of the South African Junior team at the World Championships for Aerobic Fitness sport, which was held in Prague. She is the daughter of Leonard Henning and his wife Chantélle of Van Riebeeckshof, Bellville and a Grade 11 scholar at D F Malan High School, Bellville.

We have now learnt that she, as a member of the Junior Protea team, again won a Gold Medal at the 2015 South African Championships which was held on 27/28 July 2015 in Cape Town.

**Lenélle Henning of Van Riebeeckshof, Bellville again won a Gold Medal at the South African Championships for Aerobic Fitness Sport, as a member of the Junior Protea Team. She is the daughter of Leonard Henning and his wife Chantélle and the grand daughter of League Secretary Olivier Henning and his wife Charlotte**



## Marriage Photograph



b5.c1.d3.e1.f2.g2.h1.  
Johannes Lodewikus  
(Johan) Henning of  
Milnerstr 21, Nelspruit sent  
us a photograph of all his  
family members who  
attended the wedding  
ceremony of his daughter,  
Suzanne on 19 July 2014 at  
Nelspruit. Unfortunately  
Johan's wife Deanne died  
in 2012.

**Marriage photo of b5.c1.d3.e1.f2.g2.h1.i1. Suzaan Ann Henning \*7-10-1993 and Roan Du Plessis \*14-7-1992 on 19-7-2014 at Nelspruit. F.l.t.r. Keola van Biljon, a friend, uncle Ockert Johannes Henning \*25-5-1969 (g2.h3) and his wife Roline, uncle Petrus Gideon Vlok Henning \*28-10-1966 (g2.h2) and his wife Jacqueline, brides pair Roan Du Plessis and Suzanne Ann Henning, father Johannes Lodewikus Henning \*30-7-1964 (g2.h1.), brother Johannes Lodwikus Freidrich Henning \*17-10-1997 (g2.h1.i2), brother Rohan Ernst Henning \*15-2-2000 (g2.h1.i3), cousin Francois Vlok Henning \*31-8-1993 (g2.h2.i2.)**

## A New Henning Baby

b1.c3.d7.e9.f1.g2.h4. Daniël  
Stephanus Albertus (Danie)  
Henning \*1-8-1978 and his wife,  
Liesel (born van Wyk) of  
Bredasdorp in the Overberg became  
parents for the second time on 27  
March 2015, when their second boy,  
Ivan was born at Hermanus. Danie  
is a professional aeronautics  
engineer at Denel, building  
aeroplanes for the aviation industrie  
and the Air Force. He works at the  
Denel Overberg Test Centre near  
Arniston.

Here Danie can fulfil his  
passion for flying sport and undergo  
training in light aircraft and gliders.  
He try to spend as much time as  
possible in the air near Agulhas and Hermanus.



**b1.c3.d7.e9.f1.g2.h4. Daniël Stephanus Albertus (Danie) Henning and his wife Liesel with their two boys, the recently born Ivan (born 27-3-2015 and Nicolis \*15-5-2013**

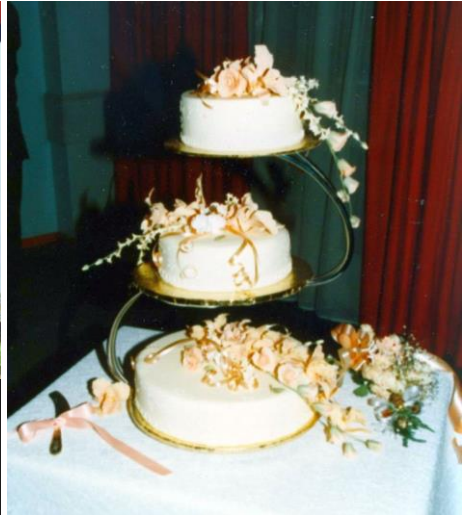
## Deaths

Elsie Johanna Henning (previously Evert, born Van den Bergh) \*11-9-1922 widow of b7.c8.d8.e3. Leonard Henning \*24-7-1908 died on 18 June 2015 at Welkom. She was 92 years and nine months old. Ouma Ellie, as she was called, was previously married to a Van den Bergh and after his death she married the widower Leonard Henning of Brakpan. Uncle Len outlived two previous spouses. When he died in 2001 at the age of 93 he and ouma Ellie had been married for almost 20 years. After uncle Len's death ouma Ellie stayed on in Brakpan for a few years, where-after she moved to Welkom, where she stayed with a friend, Sophie Venter. After she had fallen a few times and her friend, Sophie, who is also 87 years old, could not help her up, they decided to get her a place in the old age home in Welkom.

Ouma Ellie and her first husband had two boys, of whom one has already died. She is survived by one son and the five children of oupa Len. She will always be remembered for the beautiful wedding cakes she baked and decorated.



**A photograph of the late Leonard - and Ellie Henning taken just before his death in 2001. She died recently on 18 June 2015 at the age of 92 years.  
Right: One of the beautiful marriage cakes Ellie baked and decorated**



We also heard of the death of Marlainie Antoinette Henning (born Kithenbrand) \*15-1-1950 on 26 May 2015. She was the spouse of b6.c1.d1.e9.f4.g1.h2. Willem Henning \*25-7-1948 and the grandmother of Divan Henning – article on page 6. Unfortunately we do not have further particulars.

**Marlainie Antoinette Henning (born Kitchenbrand) \*15-1-1950 who died on 25 May 2015**

## Jokes

These two jokes are typical Afrikaans jokes and difficult to translate.

In the cartoon on the left, drawn by Lou Henning former cartoonist of the newspaper Rapport, the boy ask his father what an ancestor is. The father replied that he as well as grandpa are his ancestors. The boy then made the remark, if that's the case why are people proud of their ancestors. In the corner the chicken ask his mom if he descend from an ape. The mother replies that she does not know his father's family that well

The other joke mock the Electricity Supply Comission with their

power failures and load shedding and the fact that many people will have to go to bed very early. This would result in strange names for babies in the future.



## Money Matters

Thank you very much to all members who made financial contributions to the Family League over the past three months – especially those who made ample contributions. As usual, we mention the names of everybody who contributed R300.00 or more:

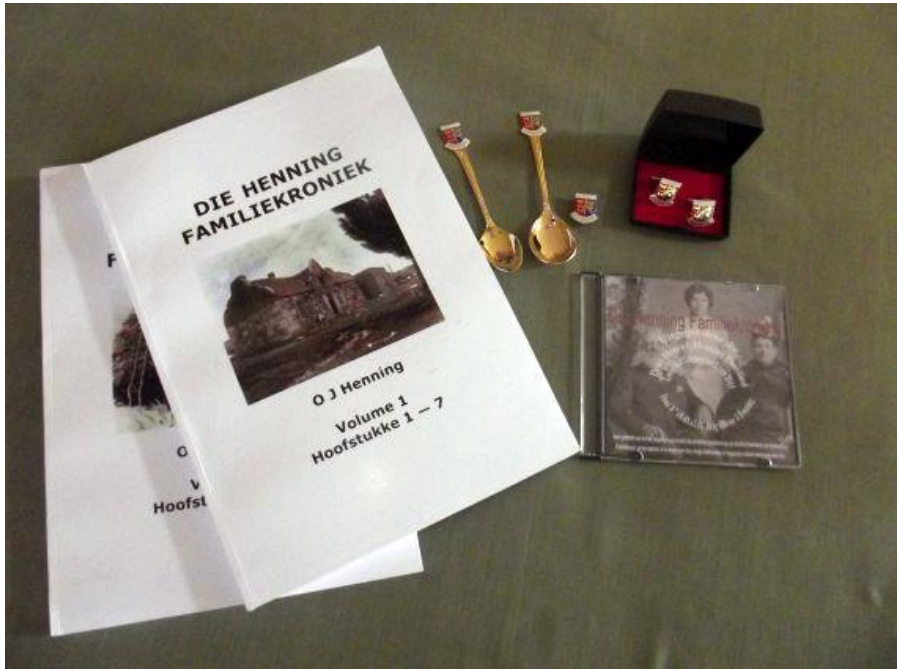
- Mark Henning and his wife Sheila of Bryanston, Johannesburg – R750.00
- Jozef (J H) Henning and his wife Lyndi of the Caribbean Islands –R500.00
- Dr P F J (Pieter) Henning of Marble Hall – R300.00
- Danie (D S A) Henning and his wife Liezel of Bredasdorp – R1 000.00

We also would like to thank all those members who donate on a monthly basis by means of a debitorder. Here we would like to mention the names of Jan Andries Henning of Leraatsfontein, Witbank; Jan Hendrik Henning of Glenstantia, Pretoria; Past Antonie Henning of Wonderboom South, Pretoria and Pieter (P J S) Henning of Ramsgate.

Many years ago the family league abolished membership fees and leave it now to all members to decide themselves if and how much they would like to contribute to the Family League. We must mention that the survival of the Family League is dependent on the contributions of our members, but we can be very proud of our members, because the family League's survival never has been under pressure due to a shortage of funds.

All contributions can be deposited directly into the bank account of the **Henning Family League**. The particulars are as follows: **ABSA Bank Villiersdorp (branch 334 612), Account number 2890 610 423**. It is a cheque account. Please use your member number and/or initials and surname as reference.

# Henning Souvenirs



We still have several Henning souvenirs available, which would make very nice birthday – or Christmas presents, or could be kept as souvenirs in a showcase. You can order by telephone (028 840 0113 or cel 082 355 3801) or by E Mail: [olie4@henning.org](mailto:olie4@henning.org).

Unfortunately postage is added according to the weight of the parcel, therefore, we must inform you beforehand how much this would be, before you deposit the money into the account of the Family League.

Account particulars are as follows: **ABSA Bank Villiersdorp (branch 334 612); Account name – Henning family League; Account number – 2890 610 423**). Please use your member number and/or initials and surname as reference

1. Teaspoons – R50.00 each. **Pretty as a set of six, plus a sugarspoon**
2. Sugerspoon – R54.00 each
3. Collar badge – R30.00 each
4. Cuff Links – R100.00 set. **Really very pretty! Can be worn with pride or displayed in a showcase.**
5. Writing pads (50 pages) – R30.00 each
6. Henning CD – R125.00 each (postage included)
7. Henning Family Cronicle – two A4 size volumes of 233 and 204 pages – R450.00 (only three sets still available. You also get a Henning CD free with this order.
8. We have an Index of the content of all 120 Henning Newsletters from 1985 until 2014 (30 years). It fill 40 pages and can be ordered for R10.00 each.