

Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrick Henning Familiebond

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English Translation

Poelie Henning and World War II



Pieter Hendrik Henning *25-11-1920 and his bride, Marjorie Margaret Hough *4-6-1925 married both in uniform on June 8th, 1944 during World War II

In April 2018 I received an E Mail from Adele van Heerden. She is a daughter of b1.c6.d6.e8.f3.g1. Isabel Aletta van Heerden (born Henning), born 3 September 1948. Adele wanted to know whether the first 1984 edition of the Henning Family Tree was still available.

During our correspondence Adele could, with the support of her uncle, Pieter Hendrik Henning *24-1-1950 (g2) provide us with a great deal of new information and photographs of their branch of the Henning family. With everything we already knew about this branch of the family, plus the new particulars Adele supplied, we could compile a much more complete and interesting picture.

In this article we will concentrate on Adele's grandfather, b1.c6.d6.e8.f3. Pieter Hendrik Henning, born 25 November 1920. He was the third child of b1.c6.d6.e8. Pieter Hendrik Henning, born 17 September 1884 and his wife Maria Petronella Elizabeth (born Weitsz) born 21 May 1893.

Great-grandfather Pieter Henning (e8) and his wife lived on the Henning farm, Houtkop, in the Rouxville district. This farm is located next to the N6 national road between Rouxville and Aliwal North – nearer to Aliwal North, but on the Free State side of the Orange river. The father of this Pieter Henning, b1.c6.d6. Jan Hendrik Rudolf Henning, born 1844, was the first owner of Houtkop.

Houtkop is one of several farms in the district of Rouxville which belonged to Henning descendants of b1.c6. Johannes Stephanus Henning, born 1814, e.g. Klynplaats, Palmietfontein, Heuningkrans, and of course Klipkop, the historical Henning farm, which belonged to b1.c6 Johannes Stephanus himself. During 1865 with the First Basuto War, impy's of Mosjesj, paramount chief of the Basuto's, attacked Klipkop. Although the few men on the farm made a gallant stand, the Basuto's succeeded in burning down the house.

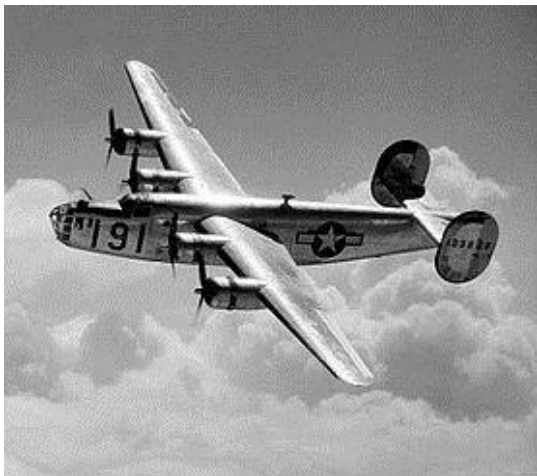
During 1918 twin boys were born on the farm Houtkop for grandfather Pieter Hendrik Henning *1884 and his wife Maria Petronella. These two boys were named after the fathers of Pieter and Maria. Their third child, who was born on 25 November 1920 was also a boy and, according to tradition, he was given his father's name – Pieter. This little Pieter, therefore grew up on Houtkop. As a small boy he was given the nickname "Poelie". As a farm child, far from any town, without radio or newspapers, Poelie most probably was not aware of all the problems on the political and economic front, but he must have experienced the consequences. In the years shortly after the First World War and the government was trying to boost the economy, there were huge political and labour unrest as well as the the major drought of the early 1930's. Due to all these things farmers and their families were forced to live humble

lives. All work on the farms had to be done by the farmer and his family themselves. As a boy, Poelie, and his brothers and sisters, had to participate in all activities on the farm, as well as do his school homework.

It is clear that great-grandfather Pieter (*1884) made sure that his children were not only schooled in the running of a farm. All of them stayed in school until they passed matric. In those days this was exceptional. All of them, therefore, took up other professions. Unfortunately, we could not establish exactly where they went to



Pieter Hendrik (Poelie) Henning and his girlfriend Marjorie Hough, who got married shortly after this photograph was taken, are standing at the back, with Poelie's oldest brother Hennie standing in the middle, with a friend and his girlfriend sitting in his fancy sportscar – a 1936 model Peugeot 402



Although this photograph was taken of a B24 Liberator Bomber of the American Army's Air Force, it is identical to the aircraft Poelie Henning was a crew member of



The crew of B24 Liberator XI Bomber no R-EV958 of 31 Squadron of the South African Air Force. Back: Lt P H Henning, SAAF, Navigator; Sgt Todd RAF; Flight Officer George Crossman RAF; Capt Thomas John Lesar SAAF Pilot and aircraft commander; Lt R Searle SAAF, Co-pilot. Front: Wo Pepper RAF; Sgt O'Neill RAF; Sgt May RAF

school, but suspect that it must have been Aliwal North which was just a few kilometres away and both the primary and high school in Aliwal North were boarding schools.

Poelie (*1920) passed matric in approximately 1939/40, when the Second World was already in full swing. Private jobs were scarce and he decided to join the South African Air Force. Because he had matric, the Air Force had several directions in which he could be trained. He ended up at 44 Air School in Grahamstown, where he started training as a navigator, air gunner and bomb aimer. The training was done on Anson and Oxford light bombers. He completed his training at Grahamstown on 16 March 1944 and was transferred to 61 Air School, George where he received specialised training as navigator on Anson aircraft until 20 May 1944.

He was now ready for the big adventure! On 15 June 1944 he departed for Egypt. They only flew during the day and the trip took three days. He was incorporated with the 76 OTU (Operational Training Unit) Palestine, where he became a member of the crew of one of the B24 Liberator Bomber aircrafts. The crew got to know one another,

as well as their aircrafts.

On 24 September 1944 they were transferred to the Air Force Base Abu Sueir, near Port Said to complete the last phase of their training. Squadrons of the British Royal Air Force (RAF) and the United States Army Air Force were stationed here. Here they trained to do flying operations, landings, evasive actions and to do real bombings. Poelie was also trained as co-pilot and did several solo take-offs and

landings. They completed their training on 26 October 1944. They were now ready to be utilized operationally under life threatening conditions!

The allied bombers were a formidable force and the number one enemy for the German and Italian Air Forces. They were definitely not to be handled with kid gloves. On 26 October 1944 they departed from Cairo, Egypt, to Bari, Italy, where they were allocated to 31 Squadron of the South African Air Force stationed at Celone. Poelie served here until 4 April 1945. During this time they completed several bombarding operations and supply drops. Poelie's logbook shows that they bombarded the following places: Verona, Treviso, the docks at Monfalcone (in the furthest north-eastern corner of Italy) and Vizenza. They also dropped supplies in Yugoslavia. During all these operations Poelie served as the navigator of their aircraft.

They had a narrow escape on March 9th, 1945, when their aircraft was attacked by a German Junkers JU88 aircraft. With the formidable armament of the B24 Liberators, Sgt O'Neill (of the RAF) who manned the machineguns shot down the JU88.

On 5 April 1945 Poelie and several of his colleagues flew with a Mitchell B25 aircraft from Florence to Foggia Main and on April 11th they departed with a Dakota from Bari, Italy to ZAS Pretoria (the present Swartkop Air Force Base), where they arrived on the 15th April.

The group was transferred from June 22nd until July 23rd 1945 to 10 WING SAAF, Pietersburg on standby. Here they practiced with the new Ventura aircraft. Fortunately, the war ended before they could be deployed again.

Four war medals were awarded to Lt Pieter Hendrik (Poelie) Henning: 1939-45 Star; Italy Star; War medal; 1939-45 and Africa Service War Medal as displayed from left to right on the photograph below.



After Poelie demilitarised he started to work at the Department of Bantu Education where he worked until he retired.

Poelie apparently met the love of his life, the lovely young lady Marjory Margaret Hough during his training at Grahamstown or George. She was a voluntary member of the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) which was started a few years



The lovely Marjorie Margaret Henning (born Hough) *4-6-1925 who was only 35 years old when she died

b1.c6.d6.e8.f3. Pieter Hendrik (Poelie) Henning *25-11-1920 and his son Pieter Hendrik (g2) *24-1-1950

earlier in a support role for the Air Force. All the members of the WAAF were volunteers and their prime task was to take over certain tasks from male airmen.

They were married on June 8th, 1944 at Pretoria. A week after their marriage (on 15 June) Poelie departed for Egypt. Marjory would have been very proud of her husband – she was indeed a volunteer herself – but the fear that the worst could happen with him, must have terrified her.

Poelie and Marjory was only married for seventeen

years, when she died on May 18th, 1961, at the young age of 35 years. Nine years later Poelie married the widow Isabella Margaret van Eck (born Eales).

Although he got his nickname, Poelie, as a child, his grandchildren called him “oupa Pollie”. He had an African Grey parrot with the name “Pollie”. Grandpa Pollie died on 12 October 2002 at Jan Kempdorp in the age of 81 years and ten months.

Photographs of our two Parsonage Mothers

In the Haantjie no 133 of February 2018 we told the story of the two daughters of b6.c1.d3.e4. Andries Gerhardus Henning (*1859) and his wife, Cecilia Johanna (born Venter) *1865 of the farm Lemoenkloof, Fauresmith. Both were parsonage mothers of the congregation of the Reformed Church at Nylstroom. Maria Magdalena (Miemie), fifth child, and Liberta, eight child, successively served as parsonage mothers from 1910 until 1960, i.e. 50 years, while their husbands were the ministers of religion of the congregation. At the time of publishing issue 133 we did not have suitable photographs of them. We only had a photograph of when they were children.

In the meantime Cornelia Henning of Kuilsriver (who will one day take over from me as League Secretary) obtained several photographs of these families. She could also obtain additional historical facts about Miemie and her family.

Miemie Henning was only eighteen years old when she and the thirty-one year old Rev Johannes Petrus van der Walt (*1878) got married in January 1910 – a year after he was ordained as minister of the Waterberg (Nylstroom) and Pietersburg congregations. After school he started with his studies at the seminary of the Reformed

Churches at Burgersdorp, but then the Anglo Boer War intervened, and he had to discontinue his studies. A few years after the war he realised that it was his mission to become a minister of religion and he enrolled again at the new seminary at Potchefstroom. He completed his studies in December 1908 and a month later he was called by the Waterberg congregation at Nylstroom.

The couple had to toil under very difficult circumstances after the Anglo Boer War. Huge poverty prevailed. Rev van der Walt had to serve almost the whole of the Northern Transvaal. From time to time he travelled for six weeks at a time alone through Northern Transvaal without his family hearing a word from him. There were no such things as telephones or an effective postal service.

Miemie and Rev JP van der Walt had only been married for twelve and a half years. On August 2nd, 1922 he died, 27 days before his 44th birthday in a hospital in Johannesburg from cancer, after a long and painful illness. His medical practitioner advised him to go to Johannesburg for an operation.

At the age of 31 years Miemie was left behind with six children, of which the oldest was 11 years old and the youngest six months. The care and education of these children with the scanty income of a widow of a deceased minister was a huge problem.

She and her children remained in Nylstroom until January 1931, when they moved to Potchefstroom for the sake of the education of her children.

She never remarried and was a widow for more than 43 years. After her death on May 18th 1965, 10 days after her 74th year she was buried next to her husband in Nylstroom.

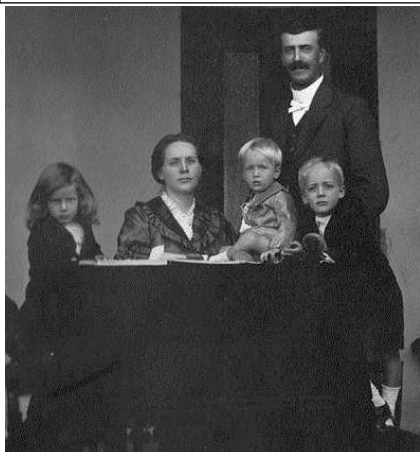


b6.c1.d3.e4.f5. Maria Magdalena (Miemie) van der Walt *8-5-1891 (born Henning) and her husband, Rev Johannes Petrus van der Walt *29-9-1878



We had a poor copy of this photograph but could now obtain one of much better quality. b6.c1.d3.e4. Andries Gerhardus Henning *31-10-1859 and his wife, Cecilia Johanna with some of their children and grand children on their 50th wedding anniversary during 1930. Miemie and her husband could not attend

Front v.l.t.r.: Cecilia Johanna Venter (d/o Liberta[f8]), Philopatria(f2.g6.) Johan Yssel (s/o Catharina Maria[e4.f7.]), Cecilia Johanna Yssel (d/o Catharina Maria[e4.f7.]), Elizabeth Margaretha Venter d/o Liberta[f8]). Middle: Jan Yssel and his wife Catharina Maria (f7) with their youngest child on her lap, Joseph Jooste (f2), father Andries Gerhardus and mother Cecilia Johanna (born Venter), Liberta Venter (f8). Back: Andries Gerhardus (f2.g2.), Willem Frederik (f2.g4.) and Cecilia Johanna (f2.g5.)



Rev J P van der Walt and his wife Miemie and their three boys, Andries (died young), Hansie and Tjaart



Liberta Venter (born Henning) *19-2-1922. Her spouse, Rev Hendrik Johannes Venter succeeded Rev JP van der Walt in the Waterberg congregation at Nylstroom, when he died in 1922. Like her sister Liberta served with distinction in this congregation



Photograph taken at the funeral of b6.c1.d3.e4 Andries Gerhardus Henning *31-19-1859 on 4-8-1932 of his widow and children. Back: Liberta Venter (f8); Magdalena Johanna Vorster (f4); Catharina Maria Yssel (f7); Maria Magdalena van der Walt (f5). Front: Joseph Jooste Henning (f2); mother Cecilia Johanna Henning (born Venter); Hendrina Johanna Nienaber (f3); Cecilia Johanna Erasmus (f1)



b6.c1.d3.e4.f5. Maria Magdalena (Miemie) van der Walt (born Henning) *8-5-1891, husband of the late Rev Johannes Petrus van der Walt and her 6 children with the death of her husband, v.l.t.r: Anna *24-9-1918, Johannes Petrus *21-11-1914, Tjaart Nicolaas *4-12-1910 (in Miemie's arms) Liberta *19-2-1922, Cecilia Johanna *18-1-1916, Adriana Maria Hendrina *3-4-1917. Their second son, Andries Gerhardus *5-6-1912 was three years and 7 months old when he died

Henning Family Farmers in Orania

We are sure that most of our readers have taken notice of the good progress that have been made in the district of Orania with the concept of selfdetermination for Afrikaners and how this town has developed over the past few years. We are aware of several Henning's who are involved in one or other way, either as inhabitants, members of the society or supporters.

In the June 2018 issue of the Orania Movement newsletter, *Voorgrond* we read of the record harvest of olives of b6.c1.d3.e4.f2.g2.h1 Prof Jozef Jooste Henning *1-2-1945 and his daughter, Cornelia (married Jooste) and her family:

More than just an olive farm (by Ester Le Roux)

When you are met by a friendly, tail wagging Labrador as you enter through the gate you can be sure that you are about to have a great visit! A little further away, in the shade of a large tree, several women are busy sorting olives. All over the place there are crates and containers full of purple and green olives. Someone pulls up a chair for you and as you get involved in the conversation and listen to the background noise of the olive press, your eyes are

opened to a new world. In the meantime, Anton Enslin, the manager of the olive grove, and his helpers arrive from the grove to drop off crates with olives.



Prof Jozef Henning, Jasper Jooste, Debbie Jooste and Gerhard Jooste (son, daughter and husband of Cornelia)



Corneli Jooste and her father and mother, Gerhard Jooste and Cornelia Jooste (daughter of Prof Jozef Jooste Henning)

Olives have a strong association with The Bible and the olive tree can live and bear fruit for thousands of years. For Cornelia, her family and their boutique olive farm this is a symbol – of her own family, Orania and the Afrikaner nation.

She tells the story of how her parents, Professor and Mrs Jozef Henning (during his term in office with the North-Cape Provincial Legislature), noticed the flourishing olive trees on the sidewalks and gardens in Kimberley. They started picking and preserving olives and just before the end of the millennium

decided to plant about 1000 olive trees on their agricultural holding in Orania – mainly *Mission* and *Frantoia*. In 2007 they started picking olives for the first time. Doctor Gawie Nel, Orania's fulltime dentist, looked after their olive farm, because the Hennings established in Pretoria after their term in the Legislator's office.

Ever since then it has been a tradition of the extended Henning family to annually join the olive picking in Orania. Young and old help and as the years go by they all learned about farming with olives, establishing markets for fresh olives, preserved olives and olive oil. In 2011 the harvest was about seven tons and in 2012 it was twenty tons. The olives are of high quality and initially they provided to markets in Hartswater, Bloemfontein and Pretoria. Over the years there were less successful harvests and several challenges to maintain the olive grove with the required expertise, especially when doctor Gawie could not continue managing the grove due to health problems.

In 2013 they acquired their own olive press. For the family it was a highlight when they received training in March/April 2013 to operate the new press. Since then the olive farm has been focussed on the production of olive oil.



The bottled olive oil products of the Henning/Jooste families

This year, Cornelia tells us, the family was only available for a long weekend in April to help and she had to, for the first time, with helpers from the community, carry most of the responsibility for the olive sorting and oil press. Her greatest fear was that the press would break, but fortunately she had no problems this year.

Overwhelmed, she tells us, that according to the experts the trees should yield about 16 tons of olives, but this year they harvested 40 tons. They had to purchase a large number of crates and two large coolers for the oil – each with capacity of 1100 litres. Olive trees deliver cyclical larger and smaller yields. Cornelia speaks with praise of Anton Enslin and his wife who have been managing the olive grove for the last two years.

In turn, Anton Enslin, speaks with great enthusiasm about the successful harvest this year and the care of the grove over the two years. His wife and children, who are being home schooled, are now also involved in taking care of the olive grove and he finds them indispensable. He emphasises the importance of benefitting from the time windows for fertilising, pruning and irrigation.

He also sings the praises of his harvest team of nine young school leavers, who came to help in Orania. Last year they received about 300 applications, but this year there were more than 1500! He praises the young people for their hard work and enthusiasm, as well as their co-operation with Mr Coffee who supervises the olive picking. When one of the team is sick, the other compensate and they harvest between one and one and a half tons of olives per day. In this way the young men get to know Orania and healthy interaction makes for enhancement of virtues. They gain knowledge of olive farming and they learn to operate the harvesting machinery and vehicles. They work hard to finish by the end of May because the harvest team must move to the pecan nut harvest in the second week of June – fortunately they get three extra harvesters for that.

The boutique-type of olive farming of the Henning-family fits the Orania community like a glove – a small local farm whose diligence enhances the community. One cannot help but to become aware of the spirit of co-operation that exists between the workers. From both Cornelia and Anton one gets the feeling that there is more to the farm than just the olive grove that has to be managed and the olives that have to be harvested. It is about the greater Christian calling to cultivate and occupy in a responsible manner so that joy and co-operation with fellow man will bring a harvest of salvation for those involved and their progeny. Cornelia tells us how her family, in a unique way, got to know one another and strengthened their family ties by working together during the harvest time over the years. Something wouldn't trade for anything else in the world.

Cornelia has dreams of expanding the farm and bring more products to the market, such as soaps, massaging oils, medicinal products, tapenades, dried olives, briquettes for making fire etc. Her family already produce these items on a small scale for own use. You can follow their activities on their website at <http://www.noordkaapolywe.co.za>. To purchase olives or olive oil, or for more information regarding the olive farm, call Cornelia on 082 903 1427 or Anton on 072 966 6711.



This is invaluable for the family league.

- Jan Andries Henning and his wife Cornelia of Montana Park, Pretoria
- Jan Hendrik Henning and his wife Nicolina of Glenstantia, Pretoria
- Past Antonie Henning and his wife Nellie of Wonderboom South, Pretoria
- Pieter Hendrik Henning and his wife Anna of Durbanville
- Runa and Sauer van Straaten of Doringkloof, Centurion
- Gesina and Mathys Spangenberg of Swakopmund, Namibië
- Pieter Jacobus Stephanus Henning of Ramsgate



Please! Even if it is a small one

Money Matters

We again want to thank all those well-meaning Hennings who made donations to the Family League over the past three months. This fine gesture is appreciated immensely and shows that the Henning Family League is important for many and on the right way.

We want to give the insurance that every cent we receive, will be spent for the benefit of the Henning family and more specific, the Henning Family League.

First of all we thank the seven members who contribute regularly on a monthly basis, by means of a debit order.

We also want to thank the following members who made contributions over the past three months:

- C B (Neels) Henning and his wife Bernice of Tampa, Florida, USA – R1000.00
- Mrs Carol Allan (born Henning) and her husband, John of Dunvegan, Edenvale – R750.00
- Mrs Linda van Tonder (born Henning) of Ferndale – R100.00
- Mrs J J B Henning of Klerksdorp – R100.00

We appeal to all Hennings to consider a donation from time tot time to the Family League. You decide yourself how much you can afford.

FNB Villiersdorp (Branch 200 712); Account name – Henning Family League; Account number – 6265 7601 483. Please use your initials and surname, and if possible your member number, as reference who made the donation.

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.**

- Teaspoons (gold plated) –R50.00 each. **Very nice as a set of six with a sugar spoon**
- Sugar spoons (gold plated) – R54.00 each
- Collar badges – R30.00 each
- 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**
- Writing pads (50 pages) – R30.00
- Henning CD – R125.00 each (postage R10.00).
- 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 R10.00 and R20.00. Delivery by Postnet will be R99.00 for a parcel weighing 1 Kg.

Please support the Family League!



1. Henning CD – R125.00
2. Writing pad (50 pages) – R30.00
3. Sugar spoon –R54.00
4. Collar badge – R30.00
5. Teaspoon – R50.00
6. Cuff links – R100.00