

# Oms Haantjie

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*Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrich Henning Familiebond*

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

## English Translation

### Prince Philip could learn a lesson from Oom Hansie

During the months of January and February the ninety-seven-year-old Prince Phillip, husband of Queen Elizabeth of England, was in the news twice. First, he turned over his brand-new Range Rover, causing an accident with another vehicle and injuring some of the passengers in the other vehicle. Immediately the question was asked, in the media, whether he should be allowed to still drive at such an advanced age. Barely a month later the Prince was caught not wearing a seat belt. Again, the world was in uproar about his “irresponsibleness”.



**The hundred years old Hansie Henning of Rouxville arrives on 3 February 1971 on his own, with his own car at the town-hall of Rouxville for the birthday party which was arranged for him**

This made me think about the late Uncle Hansie Henning from the farm Houtkop, in the Rouxville district.

Early in 1871 Johannes Stephanus Henning was born, as the first child of b1.c6.d6. Jan Hendrik Rudolf

Henning \*13-10-1844 and his wife Baltrina Frederika (nee Botha), on the farm Stolskraal in the Rouxville district. Johannes Stephanus Henning was to reach the ripe old age of on hundred years old – the first Henning to reach this age.

A hundred years old is a unique achievement for a human. However, what made the centennial of Oom Hansie Henning from Houtkop, Rouxville, even more unique was the way he still lived and acted. He appeared to be a strong man in his late sixties or early seventies. As such, he was almost “something worth seeing” – truly a genetic wonder.



**Hansie Henning on his hundredth birthday in 1971 with his son, Kerneels (Cornelis Francois \*13-10-1905) and his daughter-in-law, Trienie**

For his hundredth birthday a huge birthday celebration was organised for him in the city hall of Rouxville. It was no “elderly old uncle” that arrived and had to be helped out of the car and carried to the doorstep – it was an energetic, slender man that arrived in his own car and quickly climbed the stairs of the city hall. In fact, Uncle Hansie and his car were a familiar sight on the road from the farm into

town where he visited his favourite places to drink coffee.

In the city hall there was a big commotion. The master of ceremonies, the grandchild of Uncle Hansie’s sister and principal of Rouxville, Olof Henning (b1.c3.d10.e4.f6.g1.), was ready with a full-length program of toasts, speeches, songs and music. There was cake, tea, many guests and telegrams from State President Jim Fouché and Prime Minister John Vorster. One of the events on the program was the solemn handover of Uncle Hansie’s driver’s license to the local traffic officer.

At a given moment Uncle Hansie waved the master of ceremonies over to cancel the handing over of his driving license because he “still wanted to drive a bit”.

Unprepared, he delivered a brilliant impromptu speech which was so unique, sparkling and witty that one simply couldn’t believe that the speaker was an entire century old. With staggering dexterity, he alternated seriousness with sparkling humour, captivating the 200 guests.

The extent of his speech was, more or less, as follows: “I am delighted to see you all here. My long life is primarily due to the grace of the Lord”. He expanded on the topic for a while and then continued with: “My long life is also due to being a calm person. I don’t recall ever being angry or very excited. I was always fit and healthy. Just a short while ago I walked from my son, Jan’s farm Ebenhaezer, without a walking stick. (The farms are about 6km apart). I didn’t fall behind in time. I lived in the days of ox wagons and enjoyed it very much. I have flown in a Boeing and I believe that they landed on the moon the other day. I shall keep this walking stick you

gave me and use it one day when I am old (laughter from the audience). Maybe I can lend it to my four sons in the meantime. Look, there they are, all four of them: old and grey!” (laughter from the audience).

In his speech he elaborated about the joy that farming has given him, his belief in the community of Rouxville, the healthy spirit of companionship of the people in the South-East Freestate and once again the seriousness of religion and recognition of the Creator.

At the end of his speech he said, with a theatrical wave of the hand: “Widows! They are my life!” (Great laughter from the audience). In the same year (1971) Uncle Hansie lead the way for a short distance of the spring walk in which there were about 200 participants.

When his brother Faan (b1.c6.d6.e5) was buried, in 1967, he said that he, himself, would never be sick for a long time, but would suddenly lie down and die. Nine months after his interesting 100<sup>th</sup> birthday Uncle Hansie felt slightly sick, laid down, quickly weakened and died. He will always be remembered as a genetic wonder, which remained so remarkably strong and healthy until 100 years.

League secretary, Olivier Henning, prepared an article for the four Afrikaans newspapers in South Africa. Only the Volksblad, which is distributed in the Freestate, published an edited version. They tracked down someone, Hendrik Smith (86) from Rouxville, who knew Uncle Hansie well. Hendrik recalled that Uncle Hansie regularly bought a packet of peppermints from Aunt Babes Coetser’s shop and then went to visit one of the widows in town. He would offer her a peppermint and, quietly, they would sit across one another, sucking the peppermints. After they had a coffee, he would get up, put his hat on, gallantly bow and then drive back to the farm.

## **Henning tragedy in Middelburg**

Danie Brand Henning (33) \*17-4-1985 (a2.b5.c4.d1.e1.f2.g3.h4.i1.) died after being electrocuted on the roof of his house, in Suidstreet, Groenkol, Middelburg, Limpopo, while trying to fix his Dstv dish.

His wife, Natasha, said that she couldn’t understand why she and the children were not electrocuted because she and their son crawled to his side. They did feel some buzzing from the electricity and her daughter received a shock when she touched the ladder.

Mrs Natasha Henning said that they are not sure of the exact time that her husband died since they only found him at around 15:00 on the roof.

Danie visited her at her place of employment (Studio 27) at about 09:00 and told her that he was going to borrow a signal tester from a friend to fix the Dstv dish. He was then going to lie down for a bit because he was not feeling well. That was the last time she spoke to him.

“I didn’t call him, because I thought he was having a lie down since he was not feeling well.”

Natasha arrived home shortly before 15:00 and saw the ladder, leading to the roof, against the wall. She started calling her husband but when she received no answer, she continued her search for him in the house.

Their children, the seven-year-old Danie and eight-year-old Danisha, asked whether they could go swimming. Natasha suddenly felt dizzy and decided to lie down

on the bed. She decided to call her husband's friend to ask what time Danie was at his place. "At that point my thinking was that he went for a ride with someone."

Danie Jr. suddenly ran into the room and said: "Daddy is asleep on the roof!" Natasha immediately went outside and climbed up the ladder with little Danie following.

The moment she reached the top of the ladder and touched the roof she felt a strong electrical shock but when she saw her husband a short distance in front of her, she decided to crawl to him.

Before she could prevent it, little Danie came up the ladder too, crying, also feeling the electrical buzzing. "I didn't want him to see his dad like that, but it was too late. He already saw him."



**A photograph taken during December 2018, shortly before the accident of Danie, his wife Natasha and their two children, Danisha (8) and Danie (7)**

According to Natasha there was a mark on the Dstv pole which led her to believe that her husband must have touched it. "The electricity left his body through his toes."

Natasha could see that her husband has already been dead for a while and told her son to get down from the roof and find help.

At this point Danisha, who was still on

the ground, started crying. "She received a shock when she touched the ladder."

Natasha said that she and little Danie also felt shocks as they crawled towards the ladder.

"I don't understand why Danie was killed. My child and I were shocked too, but we weren't injured. We should have been dead too."

Since there was nobody else at home with him, Natasha suspects that Danie died between 10:00 and 15:00.

Natasha described her husband as quiet and someone who would do anything for his family. "That is why he went up the roof to fix the Dstv." The family moved into the house in December 2018.

Natasha is still waiting for the results of an autopsy and the municipal investigation into the cause of the electric shock.

Our family chronicle was still lacking information on several generations of this family. Natasha and her husband's two brothers and two sisters only had limited information on their ancestors. With intensive research we were able to reconstruct this branch of the Henning family tree and add twenty-eight members – including relatives by marriage. This is the largest number of members of one family we could add at one time in many years. However, there are still a large amount of unknown information. Danie's father – also called Danie - died in 2005. His grandfather and grandmother were Douw Gert Brand Henning and Hester Susara Kirk. From here all the pieces of the puzzle fell into place.

## The First Liberation War 1880/81

In researching the Henning Family Chronicle over the last thirty-nine years, Olivier Henning was also able to reconstruct the military history of the Henning Families. However, there was one shortcoming – he could never find supporting evidence for the involvement of any Henning in the First Liberation War of 1880/1881 between the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republic and Britain. For the last few months Olivier set rectifying this gap as his main goal.

The First Liberation War of 1880/1881 between the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republic (ZAR or Republic of Transvaal) and Great Britain was probably the most interesting of all wars in which the awaking Afrikaner nation was involved. In this war the Boer forces defeated the British forces in all the battles and Britain suffered its greatest defeat and humiliation in its history. To this day it is the only war in which the British suffered defeat.

Unfortunately, the First Liberation War was badly documented. All archived collections were found to be incomplete. The author thus approached the foremost specialist on this war, Dr Jackie Grobler, the new Dean of the Department of History at the University of Pretoria:

*"During my research I worked through all the archive collections about the war that I am aware of. Nowhere did I find any mention of Henning individuals participating in war activities that I considered important enough to record at the time. In those days there were no listings of commando members and there was no mention of any Hennings among the burgers who were wounded or killed.*

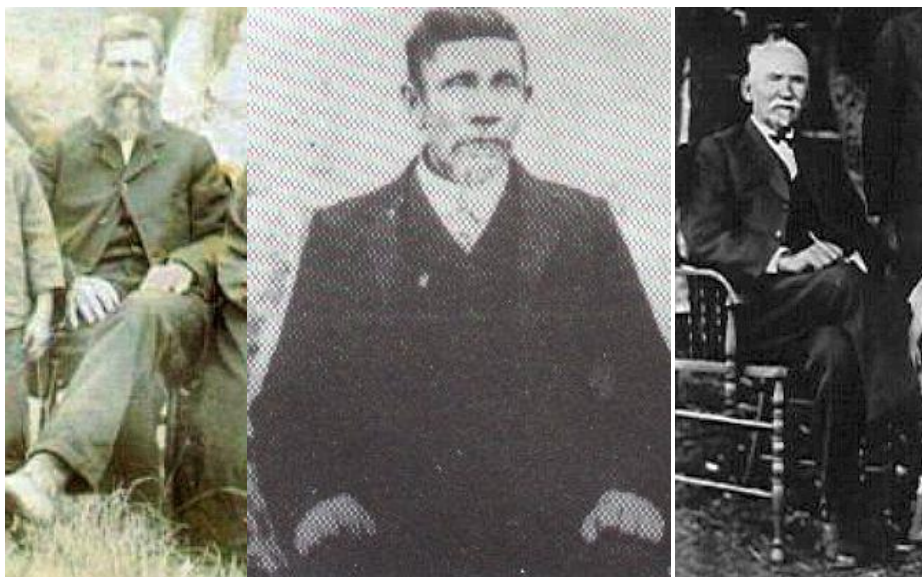
*I can't think of any source that would reveal the involvement of one or more Hennings in the war. This does not mean that no Hennings were involved. On the contrary, it is quite possible that Hennings were involved."*

In the light of this information Olivier Henning retrieved all the names of Henning men, from the Henning Family Chronicle, who lived in the ZAR during 1880/81 and were between the ages of 18 and 65. These men would have been the only ones to have possibly served in the fighting forces of the Republic.

The following is a list of names of all the Henning men that could possibly have served in the ZAR forces during the First Liberation War:

- a2.b5.c2.d13. Pieter Jacobus Henning \*5-8-1852. He was born on the farm Bulkop, Potchefstroom and later farmed on Elandskuil, Potchefstroom;
- a2.b6.c4.d1.e5. Willem Hendrik Henning \*5-6-1860. After getting married in 1877 he lived with his family on the farm Waterval in the Koster area of the Rustenburg district;

- a2.b6.c4.d3.e5. Pieter Jacob Henning \*8-6-1860. He was married in 1882 in Potchefstroom. To our knowledge he lived in the Potchefstroom district before his marriage but unfortunately the name of the farm is not known;
- a2.b9.c1.d4. Izak Jacobus Henning \*21-11-1852. By 1880 he lived with his family on the farm Leliespan in the Lichtenburg district;
- a2.b9.c3. Jan Hendrik Henning \*8-1-1816. He moved, in 1842, to the Transvaal. The farms Hennopsrivier by the Waterberg and Twee Rivieren on the Selonsriver were allocated to him in 1840.
- a2.b9.c3.d3. Hendrik Jacobus Henning \*25-4-1843. He was married in Pretoria. He owned the two farms, Hammanskraal and Putfontein, with his brother in law (S J Marais);
- a2.b9.c3.d7. Jan Hendrik Henning \*11-1-1855. He was born on Putfontein. It is inferred that his father (mentioned above) was also the owner of this farm before his brother took the farm over from their father;
- a2.b5.c2. Pieter Hendrik Henning \*8-9-1804. Shortly after his marriage to Aletta Catharina Martha De Bruyn in 1836 he followed in the tracks of the Great Trek leader, Andries Hendrik Potgieter to Potchefstroom, where he farmed on Matjesspruit. In 1880 he was already 76 years old and based on this information it is assumed that he was already to old to join the republic's forces.



Three of the Hennings who could possibly have been members of the forces of the ZAR during the First Liberation War 1880/81. Left: a2.b6.c4.d1.e5.Willem Hendrik Henning \*5-6-1860 of the farm, Waterfal, distr Koster; Middle: a2.b9.c1.d4. Izak Jacobus Henning \*21-11-1852 of the farm Leliespan, distr Lichtenburg; Right: a2.b9.c3.d3.Hendrik Jacobus Henning \*25-4-1843 of Pretoria. He was wounded twice during the Second Liberation War – known as the Anglo Boer War 1899 -1902

For the sake of completeness, a short account of the war is given:

In February 1877 the British government violated the Sandriver-Convention of 1852 in which Britain guaranteed the independence of the Boer republics and annexed the Zuid-Afrikaansche Republic (ZAR)

Initially, most burgers accepted the annexation, but eventually more and more started protesting. Especially in Potchefstroom, many burgers revolted. On December 10, 1880 about 10 000 burgers gathered in Paardekraal (today Krugersdorp) and decided to reinstate the Boer republic.

On December 15, 1880 a Boer force rode into Potchefstroom to have the First Proclamation printed by a local printer. The Boers and British engaged in skirmish which started the First Liberation War.

On December 20, 1880 British forces, commanded by Colonel Ansthruther, advanced from Lydenburg to Pretoria to enforce British authority but were stopped at Bronkhorstspuit. In a short bloody battle General Frans Joubert with 150 men defeated the British within 10 minutes. This has become known as the Battle of Bronkhorstspuit.

Eight days later, on December 28, 1880, a Boer force under the command of General Piet Joubert (dug in at Laing's Nek, east of Majuba Hill) was attacked by the British led by General Colley. Again, the British were annihilating defeated – the Battle of Laing's Nek.

On February 8, 1881, General Colley led a show of force from his camp at Mount Prospect, heading for Newcastle. Colley wanted to teach the Boers attacking his convoys a lesson. At Skuinshoogte, close to Ngogo, General Nicolaas Smit and his men defeated the British after intensive fighting. The battle was given the name “The Battle of Ingogo” or “The Battle of Skuinshoogte”.

The last, and most devastating, battle between the British and Boer forces took place on February 27, 1881 at Majuba Hill. General Colley and his troops occupied the summit of Majuba Hill, looking down at the Boers at Laing's Nek. With superior military ingenuity General Nicolaas Smit and his forces outwitted the British attackers inflicting a devastating defeat on them.

The battle led to the signing of a peace treaty by British commanders on March 27, 1881. This was the only war in the history of Britain that the super power lost and probably the most humiliating of defeats in its history. A defeat which they would later avenge.

Although there were not many soldiers involved in the Battle of Majuba, the battle was of importance for the following reasons:

- A peace treaty was signed which, later, led to the Pretoria convention between the British and the young Republic of South Africa (ZAR) and ended the First Liberation War.
- Next to the Battle of Blood River, the Battle of Majuba Hill was the most important in Boer history because it established their identity as a nation. It gave them confidence in their language and culture which later led to the language movement and resistant against Great Britain during the Second Liberation War.
- The “fire-and-move” tactic used by General Smit and the Boers during the charge on the hill, was new and was only used by other armies several years later.

- The British could not easily forget the four defeats (Bronkhorstspuit, Laing's Nek, Skuinshoogte and Majuba). It probably led to the war cry "*Remember Majuba*" which was used during the Second Liberation War, better known as the Anglo-Boer War from 1899-1902. In this war Britain did everything it could to avenge its defeat during the First Liberation War which included inhuman actions such as the "Scorched Earth" policy and the establishing of concentration camps where thousands of Boer women and children were killed.



**Above: Jean van Biljon and Runé van Straaten during their marriage on March 23 2019 at the marriage venue, My Castle@Royal Jontica.  
Below: Sauer and Runa (née Henning) van Straaten, the parents of Runé**



## Wedding

On March 23 2019, Runé van Straaten \*14-11-1993 from Pretoriuspark, Pretoria and daughter of Simon Sauer van Straaten and Rubina Theunissa - née Henning (a2.b7.c8.d8.e5.f5.) - married Jean van Biljon \*28 March 1987 at the beautiful marriage venue "My Castle@Royal Jontica", Garsfontein, Tierpoort.

This beautiful and enjoyable wedding was attended by about 80 family members and friends of the bride and groom, and while everyone will be talking about this wonderful wedding for many years, no one enjoyed the opportunity more than the bride and groom. They were on the dance floor until the early hours of the morning and only a few guests were able to keep up with them.

Jean van Biljon is the son of the late Louis Petrus van Biljon and Hester Lazaya Johanna Boock. His stepfather, the second husband of his mother, is Vincent Lumley.

Jean and Runé both work for Beefmaster Feedlot in Christiana, where Jean is the manager of food safety, health and the environment, and Runé is manager of stock and procurement. They live on the farm where they work.



# Alwyn Henning in the middle of the Schweizer Reneke Race Rumpus

In January 2019 a political bomb exploded in the beautiful, peaceful, rural town of Schweizer-Reneke, when the provincial education department as well as all three large rainbow nation political parties accused an innocent Afrikaans Grade-R teacher of racism and then expelled her.

Miss Elana Barkhuizen took pictures with her cell phone of a colleague's class on their first day at school and sent it to parents with the intention of assuring them that their little ones are in good hands. Unfortunately, this picture showed all the white children (all aged between 4 and 6 years old) sitting at the main table, while a small group of black children sat to the side at a small table.

Immediately the situation was labelled, by the political wolves and the MEC for Education in the North-West Province, as blatant racism. However, the teacher placed the children at a separate table to give them individual attention with the help of an interpreter because they could not understand Afrikaans or English.

The head-master of the Schweizer-Reneke Primary-school is a2.b1.c3.d12.e1.f1.g6.h1. Alwyn Petrus Henning, born 28-6-1966. He was, just like Elana Barkhuizen, brutally bullied.

We realised that Alwyn was under so much pressure by the political wolves and the Department of Education that we did not want to contact him for the moment. One day, after the election, when the rumpus is over, we would like to obtain the full story from Alwyn.

## Henning Virtual Museum

We are still busy to expand the Henning virtual museum and all Hennings are invited to visit the Henning website at [www.henning.org](http://www.henning.org) from time to time. Please also sign our guest book and tell us about your experience.

Marthinus Henning, from Welkom, drove to Aliwal-North in December 2018 to take pictures of the exhibition in the Kerkplein museum.

During the building of the Henning exhibition in 1991, the late uncle Len Henning locked the display cabinets in a secret way. Unfortunately all the volunteers that knew how to open the cabinets have already died and



Hi mom .... did our grand-parents really looked like this?

there is nobody left in Aliwal-North who knows how to open the cabinets. Thus, Marthinus was unable to take pictures of the items in the cabinets.

League secretary Olivier Henning, son of Leonard (a2.b7.c8.d8.e3) is now planning to visit Aliwal-North at the end of April 2019 to unlock the display cabinets and photograph all the artefacts. He assisted his father manufacturing the display cabinets. Thereafter we would be able to finalize the virtual museum.

## New Family Chronicle

In 2004 Rudolf Henning, one of our committee-members from Belville, suggested that we publish the Henning Family Chronicle on CD. It made good sense, considering the speed at which computer technology was progressing and printing costs were also astronomically high making it unaffordable to the family league.

Rudolf, being a programming expert, produced a product after many hours of intensive work over several months, which offered us much more than what we could have hoped for. We sold several of these CD's.

For the last fifteen years, the chronicle on the CD consisted of six sections: 1. Origin and meaning of the name Henning; 2. Family coat-of-arms; 3. Family register; 4. Photo-albums; 5. Database and 6. Slideshow of the progenitor.

We are very proud of our Henning Family Chronicle on CD, but since we would always like to improve our product, we realised that some changes were necessary to create a clearer image of the Henning tribes in South Africa. The scope of the Family Chronicle has expanded to such an extent that changes to the format on CD were required. For example, there are more than 15,000 files and the records of 12,605 people (6271 men and 6334 women) on the CD.

To create a better view of all the Hennings in South Africa, Olivier identified fifteen sections: 1. The origin and meaning of the name Henning; 2. Family coat-of-arms; 3. Database (including several very interesting statistics on Henning families); 4. The different Henning tribes in South Africa; 5. Progenitor Christoffel Henning (a1); 6. Progenitor Peter Henrich Henning (a2); 7. Progenitor Georg Friedrich Henning (a3) and his Henning and Hennig descendants; 8. Progenitor Johan Wilhelm Henning (a4); 9. Progenitor Carl Christian Hennings (a5); 10. Military history; 11. Photo-albums; 12. References; 13. Family League; 14. Progenitor slide show; 15. Virtual Museum.

With these sub-sections it should be much easier to get any required information with only a few clicks of the mouse button.

**We would like to appeal to all Hennings to consider acquiring the new CD. The price will be kept the same as before i.e. R125.00 plus R10.00 postage. You will not only receive an updated, user-friendly family chronicle but you will also be contributing to the family league funds.**

# 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 assurance 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. This is invaluable for the family league. The monthly contributions of some of these members are so plentiful that in a year's time they contribute more than, or almost R2 000.00

- 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 Pretorius Park, Pretoria
- Gesina and Mathys Spangenberg of Swakopmund, Namibië
- Pieter Jacobus Stephanus Henning of Ramsgate

The following members made a once-off annual donation over the past three months:

- Jan (J J P) Henning of Bloemfontein – R200.00
- Mrs Marita (M C E) Henning-van Dyk of George-East – R100.00
- Mrs Elizabeth (E M) Dirker and her husband, Gerhard of Kocks-Park, Potchefstroom – R200.00
- Dr Pieter (P F J) Henning of Marble Hall – R400.00
- Stanley and Mary-Ann Henning and their two grown-up children, Heinrich and Anél of Wierda Park, Centurion – R600.00
- Marlene Page (born Henning) of Polokwane – R300.00
- Mrs Ellie (E S) Henning of Noorsekloof – R50.00
- Gerhard (G S) Henning and his wife Deidré of Royldene, Kimberley – R300.00

Unfortunately the number of donations we receive, every year decrease, which put the finances of the family league under pressure. Remember! No donation is too small and contribute towards the survival and progress of the family league. We encourage members who cannot afford to make once-off donations larger than R150.00, to sign a monthly debit order at their bank for a small affordable amount of (for example) R30.00. In this way you do not really feel the pressure of a once-off donation, but after a year you have contributed R360.00

The particulars of the current account of the Family League are as follows:

**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](mailto: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 R10.00).
2. Writing pads (50 pages) – R30.00
3. Suger spoons (gold plated) – R54.00 each
4. Collar badges – R30.00 each
5. Teaspoons (gold plated) –R50.00 each. **Very nice as a set of six with a suger 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 R10.00 and R20.00. Delivery by Postnet will be R99.00 for a parcel weighing 1 Kg.

**Please support the Family League!**

