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Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrick Henning Familiebond

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English Translation

Pieter Hendrik Henning in service of the UEIC



The caption of this painting indicate that it was done by Cornelis Pronk of the buildings of the East India House at Enkhuizen in 1729. This was the Head Quarters of the Chamber of Enkhuizen, where Pieter Hendrik Henning enrolled on 14 July 1765. In this article we try to tell what happened at this building when new soldiers and sailors were employed. The painting is kept in the Rijk's archive in Northern Holland

The computerization and opening of the archives of the United East Indian Company (UEIC) a few years ago opened worlds for our research into the early history of our Henning progenitor, Pieter Hendrik Henning.

For example, we discovered that our progenitor did not sail with the ship, De Vrouwe Petronella to the Cape, but with the ship De Jonkvrouwe Kornelia Jakoba. Documents in the Cape Archives (for example the certificate dated 25 November 1783 granting free-burgher status to Pieter

Hendrik) indicated that he arrived with the ship De Vrouwe Petronella. When we launched a search in the Company's archives, we discovered that Pieter Hendrik's name was not listed in any of the ship's lists of the voyages of the Vrouwe Petronella, but his details clearly appeared on the ship's list of the 14 July 1765 voyage of the Jonkvrouwe Kornelia Jakoba to Batavia. Pieter Hendrik's free burgher certificate was issued 13

years after his arrival. It would seem that after all those years a mistake was made with the ship's name. We have already reported on this in Newsletter 103 of August 2010.

It was very dangerous to work for the UEIC! More than 60% of the Hennings who worked for the UEIC died during service!

In Newsletter 103, we also had an article of Henning's who entered the service of the United East India Company (UEIC) between the years 1652 to 1795 to perform service at places around the world where the Company was involved. To our amazement we discovered that 90 Hennings was employed by the UEIC during this hundred and forty three years. The majority were employed as soldiers and Pieter Hendrik Henning, father of the majority Hennings in South Africa, was one of these soldiers. He was employed on July 14, 1765 at the Chamber of Enkhuizen of the UEIC and left the same day with the return ship, Jonkvrouwe Kornelia Jacoba to the Cape of Good Hope.

The UEIC had six sections - chambers - where workers were employed. These chambers were Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Hoorn, Delft, Middelburg and Enkhuizen.

It was very dangerous to work for the UEIC! Of the 90 Hennings 48 died in service, two drowned when their ship sank, five went missing and two ran away. Only four – of which Pieter Hendrik was one - became free burghers.

Karel Schoeman's book, *Stamland: 'n Reis deur Nederland*. Human & Rousseau, c 1999 gives a very good picture of the desperate conditions in which people sought work at the Company. It shows great similarities with what happened a year ago at the University of Johannesburg when thousands of prospective students trampled one another in their efforts to ensure that their applications took precedence over the other people who wanted to study. It seems our old father in his search for work, may also have been exposed to similar uncivilized behavior.

Due to the bad reputation of the UEIC, not many Dutch people wanted to work for the Company. Labour conditions and wages were not attractive. To work as a soldier was even less attractive. Due to this the Company



A second painting of the East Indian House at Enkhuizen, the Head Quarters of the Chamber of Enkhuizen. It shows the building from the opposite side as the painting on the front page

had to seek for labourers and soldiers from other countries. Many of these employees, therefore, came from cities next to the North-, East- and White Seas or Germany.

Germany suffered from poverty, hunger, war and persecution. There were misfits, criminals and adventurers among these people. Job seekers could report at any of the Chambers of the UEIC, but because Amsterdam was the third largest city in Europe

(London and Paris were larger), most went there. Mostly they had to stay over in alleys in back rooms or attics where prostitutes were operating. On certain days, “*according to custom*” it was announced in all streets and alleys, with drums, flutes and trumpets that new workers were needed at the Company. The offices were situated at the “Oostindisch Huis” (East-Indian House), a chain of buildings in “*Oude Hoogstraat*” (Old High Street), extending from the Dam to the old bulwark, where the walls of the mediaeval city was. Currently the original main building is used by the Sociological Institute of the University of Amsterdam.

A quote from Karel Schoeman's book describes the conditions that potential employees of the Company were exposed to, as follows: "A crowd gathered at the front door and potential recruits are allowed to enter the building in groups of twelve to fifteen people. The moment the door is opened, everybody near the door try to force their way into the building. It often happened that somebody is crushed to death. The determined number of men are allowed inside before the doors were closed again. Anybody not standing back quickly enough, are manhandled by the porters. It is almost unbelievable how these men try to force their way into the service of the UEIC. I have seen men climbing up to the window on the second floor above the front door. They cling to the iron grill in front of the window, until the front door is opened and let loose the moment the door is opened. They then fall on the heads of the men standing in front of the door and are pushed into the building by the masses in front of the door. Even men who are rejected, do not lose hope; they put on a different uniform and wait for an hour or so before trying again to force their way inside. They are often lucky enough to be accepted, especially by the end of the day when it appears to be a shortage of applicants."



A painting by Abraham Storck with a view over the harbour on the island Texal on the Southern Sea. All UEIC ships departed from this harbour because the Southern Sea intself was to shallow

Those who could serve as sailors or soldiers, had to enter a contract for five years service in the East or at the Cape. This did not include the time of the forward – and return journey, therefore, at least two years had to be added. The women involved at the issuing of uniforms (known as “*sielverkopers*” – soul sellers) provided them with a ships-trunk with basic necessities, like a coat, shirts, nightcap, mattress,

clay pipes and brandy or gin. After this, the long journey began almost immediately.

The Southern Sea was too shallow for ships, therefore the UEIC ships departed from the island of Texel. Everyone enrolled at Amsterdam, Hoorn and Enkhuizen,



Etch by Renier Nooms of the departure from the East Indian House to the island Texel, from where all ships departed



A fleet ships prepare to depart from the island Texel for their journey to Batavia

were moved with flat-bottomed vessels to Texel. This is how progenitor Pieter Hendrik Henning departed on 14 July 1765 with the Returnship Jonk-vrouwe Cornelia Jacoba from Texel.

The route runs from East-Indian House along the new High Street and the Snoekjesgracht, to Oudeschans and to the scaffold at Montelbaanstoren, an old Renaissance Tower which was part of the old city wall. There is an etching of this exodus by Renier Nooms and an oil painting by Abraham Storck. The Oude Schans with its murky waters and the Montelbaanstoren today still exists.

With the forward journey, ships were overstaffed, to provide for losses due to illnesses or deaths.

Normally 200 men departed with the forward journey, compared with 110 men on the return journey.

The sailors were housed with their chests and hammocks between the ships guns and the cargo, with the roof height 1.8 meters and ventilated by the hatches and gun ports. Further down below the waterline was the space where the soldiers were housed. It was only ventilated by the grid in the spillway and was 1.5 meters high. These men were mostly Germans. Our progenitor, Pieter Hendrik Henning was most probably housed



Scale model of a return ship, like the Jonkvrouwe Kornelia Jakoba on which Pieter Hendrik Henning traveled to the Cape of Good Hope

here. Can you imagine how traumatic it must have been to live under these conditions for at least four months (the travel time between Netherlands and the Cape) - you cannot stand up straight and have to crawl on your knees to your lair. Think of the smell in such an unventilated place where a lot of men are plugged in for so long - without enough water to wash yourself! One can get sick just from the thought!

Scurvy and typhus were the diseases that claimed the most lives. Scurvy was a terrible disease. Teeth fell out, gums became ill and had to be cut away, breathing

problems and swollen limbs were the consequences.

The prescribed morning prayer on UEIC ships read: “O eternal, almighty God and Father! Liberate us with your mercy from all harmful storm winds, and all other distresses. Give us good weather and competent winds, for our journey to be prosperous. We praise your name and honour our fatherland and everybody who is concerned”

As we already know, Pieter Hendrik Henning departed on 14 July 1765 with the returnship “The Jonkvrouwe Kornelia Jakoba” from Texel. This ship was built during 1763 in the Enkhuizen shipyard. It was 140 feet long and weighed 880 tons. It carried a crew of 290.

Pieter de Leur was the captain of the ship with the 14 July 1765 voyage to Batavia. The ship arrived on 22 November 1765 at the Cape of Good Hope and departed on December 12, 1765 on the rest of his voyage to the Far East. It can be assumed that Pieter Hendrik Henning set foot for the first time on the shores of the Cape of Good Hope on 22 November 1765 - within a few days exactly 250 years before this newsletter.

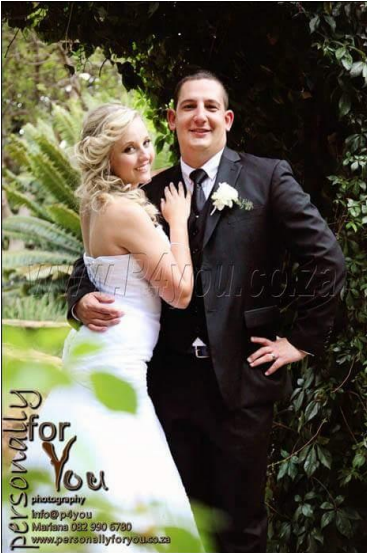
The UEIC archives also indicate that the Jonkvrouwe Kornelia Jakoba in 1772 sailed from Batavia to Bengal. The ship perished on 23 July 1772 in the estuary of the Hougly river in Bengal. It stranded on a treacherous sandbank. All the crew members were saved. The accident was attributed to overloading. Seemingly contraband and private merchandise were even stacked on the deck.



Jan Andries Henning of Leraatsfontein

Jan Andries Henning *26 April 1949 of Leraatsfontein, Witbank provided us with a photograph of his family, which was taken on his 66th birthday this year.

Back: Wilmari, Wanda (Herd), Andrew (Herd), Barinda.
Middle: Juan, Jan, Corrie, Conrad.
Front: Hendre, Wian, Chenade, Genre, Werner, Corné



Marriages

b7.c1.d3.e1.f1.g1.h2.i3. Drian Henning *19-9-1984 got married on 20 March 2015 at Pretoria with Maritsa Erasmus *17-9-1991.

Henning Website

At last we came so far redesigning the Henning website on Internet. Everybody is, therefore, cordially invited to visit our website. We hope and trust that you will be satisfied with the new design. Any remarks or suggestions would be welcomed.

The address of the Henning Website is

www.henning.org

Death of Hennings

I met **b1.c3.d7.e9.f1.g2. Nicolaas Johannes (Nico) Henning *1-10-1942** of Die Wilgers in Pretoria on 21 July 1984 when we came together at my house in Wierda Park, Centurion to institute the Henning Family League. Nico and his wife, Marita attended the meeting because they were interested in the family tree and history of the Henning family. On grounds of his inputs, Nico was elected as a member of the first Executive Committee.

Over many years I got to know Nico as a very good friend, comrade, patriot and a very intelligent, hard working and contributing member of the executive committee. When the management of the family league moved to the Western Cape during 1997, Nico retired, but we still maintained contact.

When I received the news during Monday 7 September 2015 that Nico died the previous day, it was a huge shock for me and a sad day because he was a real comrade and precious friend.



b1.c3.d7.e9.f1.g2. Nicolaas Johannes (Nico) Henning *1-10-1942. After his retirement he learned to fly micro light aircraft

Nico Henning was born at Windhoek in Namibia, but completed the largest part of his school career in Benoni. After school he completed a B Sc degree and a honours degree in Chemistry at the University of Stellenbosch. He also met his future wife at Stellenbosch, but they got married in Pretoria, where both of them started working. Shortly after the birth of their first daughter, Nico resigned his job at SABS and they moved to Ceres, to start a new business with a partner in the distilling of essential oils

from buchu leaves. Although their oils met international standards, the market was too small to keep the business standing. Nico, therefore, accepted a job at Tsumeb Corporation Ltd, a mining company in Namibia.

When an opportunity occurred at Ceres Fruit Growers in the Boland, Nico and Marita returned to Ceres, where he could continue his love for chemistry, with the development of the first dilution from fruit concentrates, which is still available as Ceres juices on the shelves of Supermarkets.

After the birth of their four children, Nico and Marita moved to Pretoria where both were employed at the CSIR. Nico was involved at several sections and projects at the CSIR.

With his retirement at the CSIR Nico returned to one of his old passions, viz flying. Earlier he was a member of a gliding club near the Magalies mountains and progressed to solo level. Due to financial constraints he could not keep up with this hobby. With his retirement he started flying micro light aircraft. He was the oldest person on the club records who could master this technique.

A stroke in one of his eyes forced him to relinquish this hobby. Over and above his love for flying, he had a mechanical aptitude and even serviced his own vehicles. He rebuilt a Trax-four-wheel-drive vehicle. On his list of successes were the building of a trailer, security gates for their home and a lounge suite with plywood.

After the death of his wife he wrote two small books, "My ander Helfte" (My other half) and "Die Geloof van Gawie Goedeman" (The faith of Gawie Goedeman).

However, Nico will be remembered as the spouse and father who's wife and children came first. His presence during the years they grew up, will be remembered. His death caused a big gap in the lives of his children and six grand children.

The last words in his booklet “Die Geloof van Gawie Goedeman” translates as follows:

“I am gone, but not dead. I am not somewhere, but also not nowhere. I am the love that bind us and in this love we will again find us and create a new world”

During August Nico lost a lot of weight and towards the end of the month his daughters persuaded him to go to hospital because he was so weak. He was admitted at the Sungarden Clinic in Pretoria. A sonar showed metastasis of cancer in the liver. Nico would not allow further tests and requested to be transferred to a hospice, where he died a few days later. None of his children expected it so soon.



b5.c5.d9.e2.f2.g1. Ds Gert Frans Henning *5-7-1936 of Hartenbos who died on 3 May 2015

We also learnt that **b5.c5.d9.e2.f2.g1. Gert Frans Henning *5-7-1936** died on 3 May 2015 at Hartenbos. Reverend Gert Henning was the oldest son of Stephanus Johannes (Fanie) Henning and his wife Alertta Susanna (Lettie) born Croucamp. He matriculated with distinction in Latin and then started with Theological studies. He obtained his BA degree at the University of the Free State and completed his theological studies at the seminary at the University of Stellenbosch. He served the NG Church congregations at Venterstad, Violdrift, Bloemhof and the Air Force Gimnasium in Pretoria.

He married Hester Salamina Kleynhans of the district Riversdale. The couple had three sons, Alphonso [Fonnie], Stephné [Stef] and Francois. Unfortunately he lost his first and second wives by divorce, but his third wife was eventually the big love of his life. He and Beryl Amelia (born Müller), a retired teacher were married until his death on 3 May 2015.

Being a minister of religion was his life calling. With his first divorce in 1984 he, unfortunately, lost his status as minister of religion. He then started working as an estate agent at the Currie proprietary company, one of the oldest companies in Pretoria. After this he worked for six years as a representative for Sanlam, before he became an independent broker. He, however, always had the yearning to return as a minister of religion. Until his death he was known as Reverend Henning.

Some of his strongest attributes was his modesty and kindness – qualities which made him the ideal councillor. There are few people who could listen with such pity and empathy to the problems of a fellow man as Gert Henning.

b5.c4.d3.e2f1.g5. Willem Sterrenberg Henning *10 May 1937 died on 31 May 2015 at Klerksdorp. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Maria Cecilia (born Geyser) and two children with their families. He served for 38 years as training official at the Stilfontein Goldmine. When the mine closed during 1992, he went on early

retirement. He also served for many years on the church council of the Hervormde Kerk (Reformed Church) and was involved with Sunday school, where he was the Superintendent of Sunday School.

Since 1999 he suffered from diabetes. Later on he developed a rash on his legs which was diagnosed as vascolites. On 8 May 2015 he was admitted to the Rosebank Netcare hospital in Johannesburg, where he was treated by a vacular specialist. He was for three weeks in the intensive care unit, but the treatment was unsuccessful. He then died of septicaemia.

Unfortunately we were unable to acquire a photograph of Willem Sterrenberg Henning.



Money Matters

In spite of the fact that the management committee of the family league abolished compulsory membership fees, we stay dependant on donations to survive. We, therefore, appreciate any contributions in all respects.

Firstly we would like to thank those members who contribute on a regular basis by means of a monthly debit order. We gladly 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 (PJS)

Henning of Ramsgate. As regular as a clock these four names appear on the monthly bank statement of the family league.

We would like to encourage as many members as possible to consider this option. Even a small amount of R20.00 per month, is of great value to the family league, because over a year, this total up to R240.00 for the family league. Over time you do not feel this small amount any more against your budget and you have full control over the transaction. You decide when you would like to adjust or discontinue the debitorder.

Secondly we would like to thank everybody who made once off contributions over the past three months. As usual we mention the names of members who made ample donations of R300.00 or more. Mrs A E (Ena) Henning of Rietfontein, Pretoria, the widow of the late Herman (H F) Henning donated R500.00 in memory of her beloved husband.

All contributions can directly be deposited into the account of the Henning Family League. The particulars are as follows: ABSA Bank Villiersdorp (branch 334 612), Account no 2890 610 423. It is a cheque account. Please quote your membership number and/or initials and surname as reference. Your membership number appears on the envelope of this newsletter. If you receive the newsletter by Email, your member number would appear next to your name.

World Première of film, The Boers at the End of the World

The world première of the film, *The Boers at the End of the World* took place on August 28th 2015 at the Silver Screen Festival. Afrikaans and English versions of the film were made – Afrikaans title being, “Boere op die Aardsdrempe”. It is a documentary film about an Afrikaner community who lives in a remote part of Patagonia, Argentina.

It is general knowledge that four Henning families emigrated during 1905 with a large group of Afrikaners of the North Eastern Cape to Argentina. In 1938 b6.c1.d3.e5.f3. Pieter Hendrik Henning led a huge group of these emigrants back to their fatherland, but 463 of their family members (including several Hennings) stayed behind in Argentina.

The film is about the struggle these people have maintaining their language and culture in a predominant Spanish speaking country. It is clear that Afrikaans would die out shortly, due to insurmountable problems.

During 2013 League Secretary, Olivier Henning heard of this project. He contacted the film producer, Richard Finn Gregory of the *Good Work Picture Company* and told him about the involvement of the Henning family in this event. We provided mr Gregory with a copy of the book of P H Henning, the leader of the group who returned to South Africa in 1938, as well as a copy of the Henning CD.

We received an undertaking that recognition would be given to the Henning Family League for it's involvement and contribution. Apparently an interview with a Willem Henning is included in the film.

The producer is at present busy with negotiations with DSTV's Kyknet channel concerning the broadcasting of the film. There-after a DVD would be made which the public could acquire.

We will keep you informed when the film would be broadcasted and when it would be available on DVD.

A Champion Weightlifter

Wednesday August 5th 2015 during the program, *Kwela* on the DSTV channel *Kyknet* one of the presenters, Pieter Koen had an interview with b6.c4.d1.e5.f5.g6.h3. Jacobus Adriaan Gerhardus (Koo) Henning *13 May 1957 of Modimole (Nylstroom, as our people know this pleasant town).

Koo is a man of several talents. On the academical field he has a doctors degree (Ph D) in pedology which he obtained in 1991 at the old Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education. He is a flower expert and provides consultation services to flower farmers.

He also has his own gimnasium in Nylstroom where he does personal training and several of the town's inhabitants train under his supervision.

Koo is also a first-rate champion weightlifter. Since his school days weightlifting fascinated him. During the nineteen seventies and – eighties he was the junior and

senior South African Champion in his weight class. During his National Service he was also the Defence Force champion.

The details of his weightlifting career reads as follows:

- SA Junior champion in the light weight division. He also won the Bennie Oldewage Award for Best weightlifter in all divisions.
- SA Senior weightlifting champion in the Light weight division..
- SA Universities weightlifting champion in the light- and middle weight divisions. Also the award as best weightlifter in all weight divisions.
- SA Defence Force weightlifting champion as a lightweight, as well as the award for best participant in all the weight divisions.
- SA Senior power lifting champion in the light weight division.
- More recently: 2014 – Improve the 30 year old record of Tony Asaro in the middle weight division for veterans over 50 years with 3 kg. He also pushed the heaviest weight above his head which any weightlifter over 50 years of age in all weight divisions ever could lift
- 2015: Improve his 2014 veterans record with a further 2 kg.
- At present sixth on the world rankings in the 50 - 60 age group.

Koos represented South Africa in international competitions against Germany and the USA. These competitions were held in team connection and the South African team came out as victors every time. Against Germany they participated twice – first in Germany and the second time in Potchefstroom. Against the USA the tournament was in Johannesburg.

Koos has this year been selected to represent South Africa from September 16th 2015 at the World Weightlifting Championships in Finland. The 58 years old Koos participated in the 50 – 60 years age group in the 77 Kg weight division.

In spite of the fact that the South African Weightlifting Federation entered him, he had to go alone, without any support (technical – or financial). Competitions like this is very technical and require good planning and attention. All the other participants from other countries had coaches and managers.

The humble Koos said that he was very privileged to participate against the biggest champions in the world – all of them were his heroes. He is very satisfied with the sixth place he at the end scored – the same position he held on the international grading list.

Weightlifting is a very popular sport in Europe for people older than 35 years and the championships in Finland was the biggest weightlifting competition ever held. The competition was very stiff. Participants from the old East Block countries dominate this competition for many years. To end up under the first three, participant had to lift (in two categories – the “snitch” and the “clean and jerk”) at least one and a half times his own weight.

Koos said that he participated for specific reasons in this competition. Firstly he tried to prove that it is possible to participate and perform on international level well without steroids, in a sport where steroids are used generally.

The use of steroids in many sports is a problem and many young children believe that they cannot perform well without steroids. He also wanted to set an example for people of his own age and show them that it is never too old to live a healthy lifestyle.

Exercise is not an insurance that you are not going to get sick or live a long life, but it is your duty to care for the body you have been born with and ensure that you stay healthy.

Koos is dispirited to see how wrong many of our top sportsmen and –women exercise. Our rugby players struggle to compete internationally. One of the reasons for this is wrong techniques to build speed and explosive power.

He would be happy if a few of our sportspeople would realise that they rely to much on brute force and not explosive power and start using the correct methods of improving explosive power. He really hope that his participation in Finland would motivate and help other sportspeople.

It was interesting that every nation at the world championships used their own languages, due to the fact that almost nobody could speak English. The competition was held in Finnish due to the fact that English was just as incomprehensible as Finnish. Koos, therefore, started to use Afrikaans, because nobody could, in any case, understand what he talked about.

Koos and his wife, Gertruida have three children. Their daughter is expecting her second baby. She is a small woman of 52 kg, but recently won the bronze medal at the Gauteng Open Weightlifting championships. Their oldest son is a labour consultant in Upington, while their second son is a fourth year theological student at the Theological Seminary at Potchefstroom.



b6.c4.d1.e5.f5.g6.h3. Jacobus Adriaan Gerhardus (Koos) Henning *13 Mei 1957 who is most certainly the best weightlifter in South Africa. During September 2015 he won the sixth place at the World Championships in Helsinki, Finland. Weightlifting is dominated by the old East Block countries and Koos's sixth place was as good as gold for an athlete of the rest of the world

A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for everybody