

# Ons Haantjie

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*Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrick Henning Familiebond*

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

**English Translation**

## REYCO Henning involved in the 2015 Nobel Prize for Physics



**Prof Reyco Henning, son of b1.c6.d3.e11.f3.g1. Cornelius Belthaser (Neels) Henning and his wife Bernice of Tampa, Florida, USA who was a member of the team researchers who assisted Prof Arthur Mc Donald to win the 2015 Nobelprice for Physics**

We reported in Newsletters no 95 of Aug 2008 and 101 of Feb 2010 on the academic achievements of b1.c6.d3.e11.f3.g1.h1. Reyco Henning \*13-9-1975. Shortly after he obtained his matric in 1993 at the Waterkloof High School in Pretoria, with distinctions in all his subjects, he emigrated with his parents and sisters to Tampa in the State of Florida, USA.

Reyco studied Physics at different American universities and obtained several degrees in Physics with distinction (Magna Cum Laude). The last being a doctors degree in Physics at the well known Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). For his doctorate degree he did research in the field of sub atomic particles (neutrinos).

In due course he was appointed as Associate Professor in Physics at the University of North Carolina(UNC) at Chapel Hill.

October 6th 2015 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced that the Nobel Prize for Physics for 2015 was awarded to two scientists, namely the Canadian Arthur B McDonald of the Queens University in Ontario, Canada (He is also the Director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory [SNO]) and Takaaki Kajita of the University of Tokyo in Kashiwa, Japan.

The SNO experiment discovered that two-thirds of the electron neutrinos created by fusion energy processes that power the sun, change their identity as they travel from the core of the sun to earth.

Neutrinos come in three different types or “flavours,” known as electron, muon or tau. They can flip from one flavour to the other as they travel through space at close to the speed of light. This ability to flip from one flavour to another implies that neutrinos have mass.

Despite the fact that billions of neutrinos from the sun stream through one’s body every second, day and night, they are elusive, ghost-like particles that have proven exceedingly difficult to observe. The SNO detector containing 1 000 tons of “heavy” water was built in an excavated cavity two kilometers underground, in the Creighton Mine near Sudbury, Ontario, for the sole purpose of detecting solar neutrinos. The experiment used 9 500 light sensitive detectors to observe the tiny amount of light produced when the solar neutrinos interacted with deuterium atoms in the heavy water.

Prof McDonald led this research project that included three physicists at the UNC at Chapel Hill — Prof John Wilkerson, Prof Reyco Henning and Mark Howe. Therefore, they were members of the team winning the Nobel Prize, although the prize is only awarded to the leader.

Reyco Henning worked as a post-doctoral fellow on SNO. During that time, he participated in the analysis group that studied SNO’s ability to do non-neutrino physics. He also contributed to on-site operations of SNO, both underground and on the surface.

Wilkerson, Henning and Howe are now working on the next big question about neutrinos, which is whether they are their own antiparticles. UNC-Chapel Hill is the lead institution for a major international experiment, called Majorana, which will attempt to address this question.

## **Dr Colleen Henning nominated for World Prize**

On 4 January 2016 we learned that an international organisation, the Wakie foundation, announced a shortlist of 50 teachers world wide, from which one person would be nominated as International teacher of the year for innovative teaching. The winner will be announced during March 2016 and



**Dr Colleen Henning, science teacher at St Johns College, Johannesburg**

would receive prize money of \$1-million US Dollars — approximately R15-million.

Two South African teachers were included in the list and one is a Henning! Dr Colleen Henning, science teacher at St John's College, Johannesburg was nominated due to her clever teaching techniques with on-line exercises and the use of videos.

Colleen is the wife of b6.c3.d9.e4.f1.g1.h2. Johannes Christiaan (John) Henning \*26-3-1959 of Atlasville, Boksburg.

She indicated that if she won the prize, she would like to get involved with the creation of a bursary fund for scholars struggling financially. She also would like to get involved with the establishment of a society of science teachers.

We should hold thumbs for John and Colleen Henning that she will be chosen as International teacher of the year 2016.

## **ABW Medal of Gerhardus P E Henning**

On Wednesday 16 December 2015 I received an e mail from Pieter Emile Henning, one of our retired committee members of the family league. He mentions that an Anglo Boer War (ABW) medal awarded to a GPE Henning will be auctioned on a Facebook auction which expires on 20:30 hours on Saturday 19 December 2015, when the medal would be sold to the highest bidder.

We identified GPE Henning as b5.c4.d4.e5. Gerhardus Philippus Engelbertus Henning, born at Lydenburg May 17th 1877. The following particulars appears in our Henning Family Cronicle:

- b5.c4.d4. Gerhardus Philippus Engelbertus Henning \*Lydenburg 17-5-1877; †Derby 2-2-1972, χLichtenburg CHRISTINA WILHELMINA PUTTER \*Ventersdorp 13-2-1879, †Ventersdorp 25-10-1950, D/o Dederick Johannes Gerhardus Putter and his wife Christina Wilhelmina; χχHELENA JOHANNA KOKOT (born Mentz)÷; χχχPretoria 21-9-1957 ANNA JACOBA HENDRINA GESINA THEUNISSEN

During the ABW 1899 – 1902 they lived on the farm Kalkfontein, district Lichtenburg. Later on he farmed on the farm Lelie, district Ventersdorp. During the war he served in the Lichtenburg Commando under Field Cornet Izak Claassen and Cmdt H Vermaas. The commando was part of the fighting formation of Genl De La Rey on the Western Front. He participated in battles at Mafeking, Kraaipan, Vryburg, Veertienstrome and Bloembhof/ Kimberley. He served until the end of the war. During the war his first wife and their eldest daughter were kept prisoner in the Mafeking Concentration Camp.

Unfortunately we could not obtain a photograph of Gerhardus Henning

Having our own Henning family museum, the sentimental value of this medal is priceless. The relevant facebook page indicated a starting price of R2 000.00. There was enormous interest – especially from dealers in coins and medals and people buying old medals for investment purposes. Several people had already made an offer. The highest bid was R2 700.00. Bidding increments of R50.00 were applicable. One of the people, apparently with good knowledge of the value of old medals, made the remark that the value of the medal was more than double the value of the highest bid at that time.

With approval of all members of the executive committee a bid of R3 000.00 was submitted. Clearly indicating that I represented the Henning Family League and that we were trying to obtain the medal for exhibition in our family museum in Aliwal North.



The ABW medal of GPE Henning. Below you can see his name engraved on the edge of the medal



I phoned the owner of the medal to determine whether it could be bought directly from him. Unfortunately he was not willing to do so and warned that we should keep an eye on the auction up to the last moment. I did not realize that investors and dealers in medals are so aggressive during auctions of this kind. I had hoped that my remark on the Henning family museum would prevent other people competing with us.

Saturday evening at 20:00 hours it still looked very promising for us — our bid of R3 000.00 was still the highest and several people posted positive remarks about our intention to display the medal in our family museum. At 20:20 hours one of the professional medal collectors – a Peddle – registered a bid of R3 050.00. I waited until 20:28 hours and submitted a bid of R3 100.00. The owner of the medal immediately reacted and acknowledged my bid. I was delighted and thought that my bid was the winning bid.

A minute later – at 20:29 hours – a dealer, Steven Thomson submitted a bid of R3 550.00. Immediately the organizer of the auction awarded the medal to Thomson. At that moment I was in doubt – was the medal awarded to me or Thomson? I tried to submit a new bid for R3 600.00, but the organizer and the owner immediately congratulated Thomson on buying the medal.

The remark of one of the earlier bidders, Pierre Rossouw speaks volumes:

*“Well, well Steven Thomson – seems you \*\*\*\*\* will deny someone their*

*own family medal in the pursuit of profit ... pure greed actually ... shame on you! In*

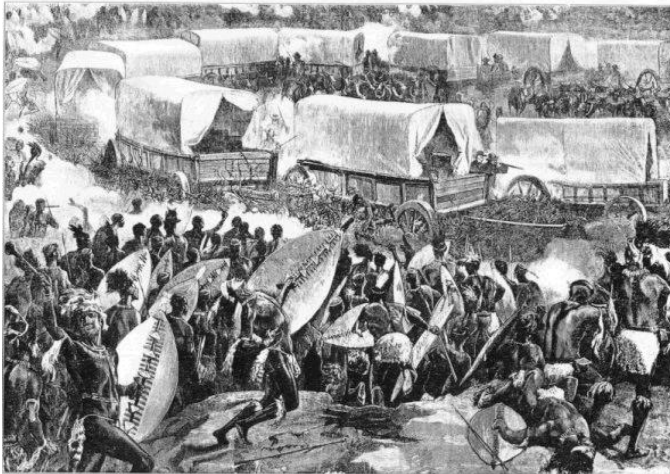
*stead of manning-up and bidding in advance to show your hand, you sneak in and take it in the last few seconds ... shame on you!!!”*

Unfortunately we think Pierre Rossouw’s remark is correct. Somebody with no conception of other people’s language and heritage, act like this. We can now stand in the row at Thomson’s shop, but we are sure that he will make his profit — a huge disappointment for us!

## Battle of Bloodriver

The bug of family history research also caught b7.c1.d3.e1.f1.g1.h1. Eugene Henning \*17-12-1948 of Faerie Glenn, Pretoria. Notwithstanding his Henning ancestors, Eugene started investigating the history of his ancestors with other surnames. One has to remember that everybody has a mother, who most probably has another (maiden) surname as your father. Every person has four grandparents, with four different surnames, eight great grand parents with different surnames. Thereafter the number of ancestors duplicate with every generation to 16-, 32-, 64-, 128-, 256-, 512- and 1024 in the tenth generation. Counted together all ten generations make up the number of 2048 different people.

Only 10 of your 2048 ancestors, in the tenth generation will most probably have the surname Henning, except if one of these Henning ancestors married a Henning girl. One will, most probably find that there will be one or more of the big Afrikaans families, like Botha, Venter, Nel, Kruger also under your ancestors and due to the size of these families, that husband



**A painting of the Battle of Blood river. Surely the battle which had the biggest influence on the history of South Africa and the Afrikaner nation — especially after the vow of Blood river. Although no Henning participated in this epic battle, many of our Hennings are descendants of people who participated in the battle**

and wives often have the same surname. In all probability you will find more Venters, Nel’s and/or Botha’s under your ancestors than Hennings.

There is also a big chance that some of these 2048 ancestors were in the limelight of South African history. Eugene told us the following:

I tried to trace any historical facts of the spouses of all my ancestors and had reasonably good results. Only with the spouse of b7.c1.d3. Gert Hendrik Frantz Henning, who

was born January 25 1838 in the Kramberg mountains (district of the later Aliwal North), I had huge difficulties finding anything. At last I made a breakthrough, with a huge surprise as bonus.

On the web page “Boerevolk ontleding” (analysis of the Boer nation), under the heading “The battle of Blood river” I discovered that the grandfather of great-grandmother Lucassina Susara Meyer (e6 Lucas Johannes Meyer) was one of the Commandants during the battle of Blood river. At that stage he was 47 years old. His son Lucas Cornelius Meyer (f1) (father of Lucassina) participated as a soldier. He was 27 years old.

I also found these facts in the Voortrekker Archival documents, published in 1937 and the Bloodriver centenary memorial book – although no date is mentioned, it was most probably 1938.



**The reconstructed Boer lager, made from bronze iron, which was erected during 1971 on the terrain of the Battle of Blood River**

It is noticeable that Lucas Cornelius (f1) died in 1839. The question immediately comes to ones mind - was he wounded during the battle or did he die due to normal reasons.

On the web site “Ontwikkeling van die Trekgedagte” (Development of the idea to migrate) by Jan C Visagie of the University of Stellenbosch fascinating historical facts about the

Meyer family, De Lange family and Piet Retief are given. As an example: Sara Johanna De Lange, spouse of Lucas Johannes Meyer (e6) was the sister of Johannes Hendrik De Lange, who was well known as Hans Dons in the history of our country.

Due to a petition Meyer addressed to Lt Governor Bourke on March 17 1827 his farm was confiscated by the government and the town Grahamstown was built here.

I also found out that Lucas Johannes Meyer and J S Maritz together wrote a letter on 15 December (the year is not mentioned) to Major Charters. Due to this letter he was appointed as Receiver of Revenue for the Boers in Natal. It was most probably the year 1838.

All this information was very interesting for me, and I really hope you will also find it interesting.

**Note by League Secretary, Olivier Henning:** The same Prof J C Visagie who Eugene quote, also wrote a book with title: Die Trek uit die Oos-Rietrivier – Studies oor die Groot Trek (1989) [The Trek from East Reed river – Studies on the Great Trek. (1989)]. In this book he tells the story of Lucas Johannes Meyer, grand father of Lucassina Susasa Meyer during the days of the Great Trek. From experience I know that almost all Hennings would have at least one ancestor – with another surname as Henning – who came in the limelight in the history of our country. As such our history and the history as one reads it in textbooks are interwoven.



**Back: Nina Goosen, Nico Goosen, Wilna Goosen (born Henning), Stephan Henning, Nardo Henning, Tamsyn Henning en Nicolise Goosen. Middle: Alet Henning (born Du Plessis), Bernard Henning, Grannie Wiena, Oupa Giep, Mary Anne Henning (born Hattingh), Stanley Henning. Front: Lennert Henning, Christiaan Goosen**

## **Chairman of the Family League celebrate 80**

The chairman of the Henning family League, Gideon (GS) Henning of Kalden St, Strand celebrated his 80th birthday on 10 October 2015 together with his wife Wiena, all their children, grand children, several friends and other family members. Gideon still enjoys good health for an 80-year old.

We would like to wish you many more healthy and the important position as

happy years to come. May you continue to perform as chairman. Well done Gideon !!!



**The team representing South Africa at the World Championships for Aerobic Fitness Sport during December 2015 on the West Indies Island, St Martinique. Lenélle Henning is the shorty in the middle**

## **Lenélle Henning performed well again!**

Last year we reported on the achievements of b7.c8.d8.e3.f4.g2.h1. Lenélle Henning \*23-1-1998, daughter of Leonard and Chantélle Henning of Van Riebeeckshof, Bellville. She was selected to represent the South African team (Proteas) at the 2014 world championships in Aerobic Fitness Sport in Prague, Czech republic. South Africa

gained good experience in this sport.

In 2015 Lenélle was again selected as member of the South African team to participate in the World Championships at St Martinique, one of the West Indian Islands near Cuba.

This year they came fourth! An exceptional achievement! As usual Russia was crowned as champions, with Belgium second and the Czech Republic third. The Department of Sport recognize Aerobic Fitness Sport and award Protea colours to the team members representing South Africa. They, however, do not contribute towards the expenses of the team, except for a nominal amount for affirmative action members. Because it is an amateur sport, without sponsors, parents had to bear all costs for their children.

This year Lenélle will be in matric at the D F Malan High School in Bellville. Due to her studies she will no longer be available for selection to participate for the Proteas.



**b6.c4.d1.e5.f7.g8.h4. Gerhardus Jacobus Petrus (Gerhard) Henning \*4-4-1971 who died on 2 Nov 2015 in a hit-and-run incident**

## Deaths

**b6.c4.d1.e5.f7.g8.h4. Gerhardus Jacobus Petrus (Gerhard) Henning \*4-4-1971** died on 2 November 2015 in a hit-and-run incident in Eastlynn, Pretoria, when he wanted to cross a road to go to a café.

Gerhard grew up in Newcastle, and moved to Pretoria in his early twenties, where he was trained as a wheel alignment technician. In 2013 he changed his occupation and started to work in the construction industry.

He never married, but had a daughter, Rochelle, with Leonie Rochelle Swanepoel.

Rochelle is married and has two children, Enrique- and Damien De Flammings.

Gerhard had a passion for motorbikes and the outdoor life. He could cook very well and enjoyed teasing his family.. His jokes were always some of the best.

It also came to our attention that **b1.c6.d4.e6.f2.g3. Salomon Johannes (Sampie Henning \*26-12-1945** died on 23-10-2015 in Pretoria. Unfortunately we could not get any further particulars.

## Marriages

Saturday 31 October 2015 was a joyful day for the families of **b7.c8.d8.e1.f2.g3. Alexander Henning \*5-5-1964** and the Germishuizen family of Bloemfontein. Xander's second daughter, Hetta (or Henriette Petronella as she was baptized) \*5-2-1990 tied the





**Hetta Henning \*5-2-1990 and Dean Germishuizen \*27-4-1989 taking a selfie on their marriage day**

knot with Dean Anthony Germishuizen, son of Jacobus Lodewikus Germishuizen and his wife Ronel Lorraine (born Du Plessis). The marriage ceremony and reception took place at Westline Aviation at the Tempe airport in Bloemfontein, where Xander often help out with air photography tasks.

The marriage ceremony was handled by Dr Hennie Maartens (spouse of the well known Afrikaans writer Maretha Maartens) who was the minister of the NG Church congregation where Xander's children grew up. Approximately 70 guests attended the wedding.

Hetta and Dean knew each other since schooldays. Dean's parents lived in the same suburb as the Henning family and the children often played together in the park in front of their house.

Hetta works as administrative assistant and debit- and credit clerk at Mason Costa in Bloemfontein. Dean is working as sales consultant at King Kong. He also handles their web site and Facebook pages.

## Money Matters

Many years ago the Family League abolished compulsory membership fees. We leave it to all Hennings to decide for themselves if they want to contribute towards the maintenance of the Family League and how much they would like to donate. The survival of the Family League however depends in all respects on the contributions of our members.

In spite of this uncertainty we can be very proud of the Henning family. The existence of the Family League has never come under threat, due to a shortage of funds. Our members regularly contribute enough to maintain the Family League and we hope this will continue for many years to come.

Contributions we receive, are used firstly for the day-to-day maintenance of the league. Thereafter funds are used to acquire office equipment like computers, printers/ copiers, guillotines, staplers, etc. If there are still funds available we would support cultural projects, where the history of the Henning family is also commemorated. This has happened several times at the War museum of the Boer Republics in Bloemfontein, the Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria and at towns like Aliwal North, Bethulie and Graaff Reinet. In all these cases visible recognition was given to the Henning Family League.

Our efforts to buy the Anglo-Boer War medal of Gerhardus Philippus Engelbertus Henning \*17-5-1877 on a Facebook auction, also fall into this category. We reported on this issue on page 3.

Over the past 30 years we slowly started building a reserve fund from which, hopefully, one day, we would be in a position to grant bursaries to promising Henning students.

The majority of our members contribute once a year, although a number who contribute by means of a monthly debit order, is slowly rising. The advantage of a monthly debit order is that a small amount (of R20.00 to R30.00) will not make a big difference to your budget. We, therefore, encourage members to consider this option. We would like to start thanking those members contributing by means of debit orders — Jan Andries Henning of Leraatsfontein, Witbank; Jan Hendrik Henning of Glenstantia, Pretoria; Past Antonie Henning of Wonderboom South, Pretoria; Pieter (PJS) Henning of Ramsgate and since October 2015, Pieter (PH) Henning of Durbanville.



Special thanks to all our members contributing R300.00 or more:

- TJ (Tjaart) Henning and his wife Louisa of Sinoville, Pretoria – R2 000.00
- CB (Neels) Henning and his wife Bernice of Tampa in the USA donated an amount of \$120.00 (US Dollars). Against an exchange rate of R14.056 an amount of R1 555.63 was deposited into the account of the family league, after commission and VAT of R131.10 have been deducted
- WP (Werner) Henning of Cresta, Johannesburg – R500.00
- Stanley Henning and his wife Mary-Ann of Doverglenn – R500.00
- WF (Willie) Henning and his wife Gerda of the farm Leeufontein, Burgersdorp – R400.00
- JC(Jack) Henning and his wife Anna of Noordstad, Bloemfontein – R350.00
- GS (Gerhard) Henning and his wife Deirdré of Royldene, Kimberley – R300.00
- Dr PA (Philip) Henning and his wife Anna of Durbanville – R300.00
- Mrs SD (Sylvia) Grobler (born Henning) and her husband Gert of Randpark Ridge – R300.00
- Mrs Marinda Heunis (born Henning) and her husband Marthinus of Mandini – R300.00

All contributions can be deposited directly into the Henning Family League account. The particulars are as follows: **ABSA Bank, Villiersdorp (branch 334 612), Account number 2890 610 423**. It is a cheque account. Use your member number and/or initials and surname as reference. Your member number appears on your membership certificate, or the envelope of this newsletter, or next to your name, if you receive the newsletter by e mail.