

# Ons Haantjie

Nr 127

Aug 2016

## *Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrich Henning Familiebond*

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

**English translation**

## ABW Medals awarded to Henning's



**Left: The Free State Anglo Boer War medal;  
Above: The name of Gert Frans Henning is engraved on  
the edge of the medal**

We reported in Newsletter 125 of February 2016 on the Facebook auction of military memorabilia, where the Anglo Boer War (ABW) medal of b5.c4.d4.e5. Gerhardus Philippus Engelbertus Henning \*17-5-1877 came under the hammer. The family league also made a bid, but we were outbid by a dealer - in our opinion, with a trick. It was a huge disappointment for us.

After he received newsletter 125, Marthinus Henning of Welkom (b7.c2.d3.e4.f3.g2. Marthinus Christoffel \*15-11-1963), who is a collector of military memorabilia, informed us that he has the ABW medal of b5.c5.d8.e2. Gert Frans Henning of the Boshoff Commando in his collection.

These ABW medals are very precious and sought-after items in any collection of military memorabilia. This medal was awarded to 27 Henning's. All their names can be seen in Section 4 of Chapter 13 of the Henning Family Chronicle.

Marthinus Henning is a valued member of the family league, therefore, we are glad to know that this medal is safe in the hands of one of our members.

The following particulars of this Gert Frans Henning is known to us:

**b5.c5.d8.e2. GERT FRANS HENNING \*Boshof 31-10-1876, †Christiana 3-6-1963, xBoshof 14-12-1903 MARIA ELIZABETH JOUBERT \*Boshof 12-2-1885, †Springs 29-5-1951. xxWed MAARTINS. xxx HESTER MAGDALENA MARIA CROUSE (born Rabie) \*Bloemfontein Jan 1884, †Christiana 18-11-1956. xxxxBESTER JOHANNA CATHARINA LOMBAARD (born Du Plessis)**

Gert Frans was a farmer and later in his sixties a shoemaker. During the ABW he served in the Boshoff Commando under Cmdt Koos Du Plessis and later under Cmdt Piet Jacobs. He participated in battles at Colesberg, Paardeberg and Kimberley and was taken prisoner of war on 8 December 1901 near Brandfort. He was kept prisoner at St Helena. During the whole war his spouse and her parents had to flee from the British.

On page 7 of this newsletter we also report on the death of Abraham Johannes (Apie), the youngest son of Gert Frans Henning and his first wife, Maria, who died recently in the age of 95 years. We regret that uncle Apie never heard that his father's war medal was safe in the hands of one of our Henning's



**b5.c5.d8.e2. Gert Frans Henning \*31-10-1876, his wife Maria Elizabeth (born Joubert) \*12-2-1885 and four of their children. F.l.t.r. f7 Maria Elizabeth; f1 Gabriël Jan Andries \*12-9-1904; f5 Gert Frans \*3-11-1916 and f6 Abraham Johannes (Apie) \*13-1-1921. We report on page 7 on the death of Apie on 19 March 2016 in the age of 95 years**

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AANVRAAG VOOR ZUIDAFRIKAANSE REPEUBLIEK EN GRANTIE VRIJSTAAT COROLGHEEDALJE 1899-1902. VORM "B".

Volle Naam en tegevoortwoordige adres.	Rang by Republikeins Krijgsmachten.	Macht of Kommando waarbij de Aanvrager diens dienst deed.	Datum en Plaats of Distrikt van Dienst.	Naam en tegevoortwoordige adres van Offisiere onder wie de Aanvrager diens dienst deed.	Veldslager of Gevechten wa. aan deelgenomen.
Gert Frans Henning Rohyn Staat Christiana	Burgos.	Boshof Distrikt onder Kommandant Frans Du Plessis Bloemfontein onder Kommandant Piet Jacobs Pa. & Helena	3 Mei Okt 1899 to Boshof Nuyens vally Brandfort onder Kommandant Koos Du Plessis	Offisiere. overduidelijk Kommandant Vermaak.	Colesberg Paardeberg Kimberley

Ik doe hierbij aansoek voor bovengemelde Medalje en verklaar dat bovenstaande informatie korrekt is.

G. F. Henning (Aanvrager)

Ik sertifiseer hierby dat ik persoonlik die aanvrager ken en dat hierboven verstrekte informasie waar en korrekt is.

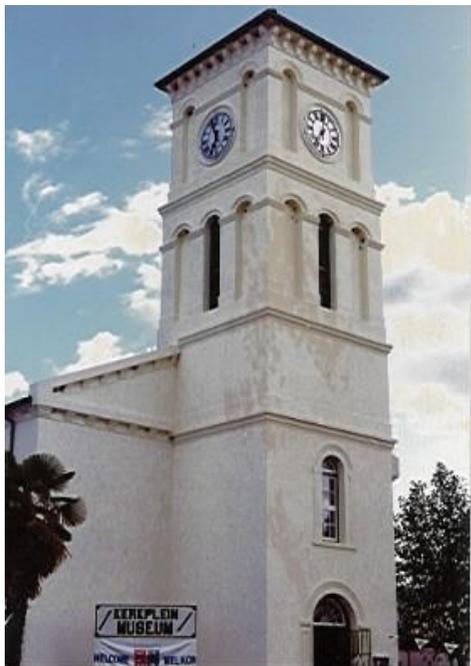
*Goedekeuring*  
*Henning*



- ..... } Offisiere onder welke de aanvrager diens dienst deed. (Rang en Adres).
- J. J. S. van der Merwe* } Offisiere die persoonlik kennis draagt van die feiten. (Rang en Adres).
- J. J. S. van der Merwe* } Burgers die met die feiten bekend sijn. (Adres).

The application Gert Frans Henning submitted during 1940 for his ABW medal. The ABW took place 40 years earlier

## Henning Exhibition in the Church Square Museum, Aliwal North



The front entrance of the Church Square museum, Aliwal North during the inauguration of the Henning exhibition in 1992

Over many years we have reported several times on the problems at the Church Square Museum in Aliwal North, where the Henning family have an exhibition. Several Hennings were involved with this old church building since it was erected in 1857. b1.c3. Jan Hendrik Henning, as an elder, served on the building commission and b7.c8. Olivier Henning was one of the first “voorsingers” – leadsinger of the congregation and was involved with the erection of the building.

Aliwal North have two museums – the town museum and the church square museum - which are manned by volunteers under the supervision of the municipality. In 1987 the municipality started with a display of the history of the town in the church square museum. They invited the first three families who settled in the Aliwal North district – the De Wet family, the Joubert family and the Henning family - to erect a display in this museum. Only the De Wet and Henning families were able to

comply with this request.

Until 1995 things still went well and the municipality accepted full responsibility for the management and maintenance of the museum. The two families – De Wet and Henning – only had to construct their exhibitions and maintain it. The museum committee, consisting of volunteers from the town, managed and manned the museum under the guidance of the municipality. This arrangement worked very well. When an ANC city council took over in 1995 things changed drastically and the municipality started refusing to provide any financial assistance for the management and maintenance of both museums. At one stage they even considered closing down the church square museum and use it as a store room.

During 2003 the management committee of the Henning Family League requested a meeting with the mayor, me Edith Sokudela and her management team, in order to improve the relationship and collaboration between the two parties. League Secretary, Olivier Henning represented the Henning Family League. He was assisted by members of the De Wet family and volunteers from the community.

The new municipal administration had the perception that all museums only told the history of white people. Olivier Henning tried to bring to their attention that the Aliwal North museum committee tried it's best to build an exhibition depicting the Xhosa people and their culture. He personally donated a portrait of paramount chief Krelu (1818 – 1893) to the Aliwal North museum. This portrait is of utmost importance for the Xhosa nation, because there only exist very few pictures of 19 th century Xhosa leaders and this is the only one of Chief Krelu.



**League Secretary Olivier Henning in 1995 presented a portrait of Krelu, Paramount Chief of the Xhosa nation to Mrs May De Wet, who was in charge of the Aliwal North museums at that stage. This is the only photograph of Krelu that exist**

b7.c8. Olivier (OJGC) Henning \*1-12-1834 (Oelman as he was called) of the farm Damfontein in the Aliwal North district apparently was on good terms with Krelu and asked his son-in-law, Syd Fuller, (pharmacist and photographer at Aliwal North) to take a photograph of Krelu. This photograph was placed in one of Oelman's photo-albums.

Olivier Henning also emphasized the tourism value of the two museums. In spite of beautiful promises by the mayor, nothing positive has happened until today. The municipality still refuse to provide funds for the maintenance of buildings and there are no collaboration from their side. Due to this, many citizens who would have made themselves available as volunteers, stay away. There are only enough volunteers to man the main town museum. At the church square museum only a note at the entrance tells visitors that they have to report at the main museum to get the keys for the church square museum.

The family league management committee realises that our museum is on borrowed time. Our biggest problem is where do we go with our exhibition? Who are going to pull the present structure down and remove the artefacts? All management committee members are already senior citizens and live far from Aliwal North. There are no family league members left in Aliwal North.

Over the past few months we received two letters from Mr Hannes van den Berg and Madeleine Joubert, the only two volunteers manning the museums. They tried to explain the problems they experience:

1. Due to age, Mr van den Berg moved during June to live with his children in Gauteng;
2. Mrs Madeleine Joubert, who have been involved for many years, is already 81 years old. She can no longer walk up and down the streets of Aliwal North begging for donations for the museum;
3. Due tot the fact that the municipality do no maintenance on the buildings, a hole developed in the roof of the church squire museum. Pigeons entered through this hole and befouled several exhibitions – including the Henning exhibition. Her husband tried to shoot the pigeons, but the roof has to be repaired and the exhibitions cleaned. They try to raise funds by means of several projects.
4. In the past our family league made contributions on a regular basis, but we stopped when it became clear that our exhibition is on borrowed time. The executive committee has now decided that as long as the church squire museum exist, we would contribute on a regular basis – at least once a year. We made a donation of R1 000.00.

We would have loved to make a bigger donation, but this was al we could afford at this stage. If there are any of our members who would like to make a personal donation, you could contact mrs Madeleine Joubert personally at the E Mail address: mjoub@lantic.net or you could make a donation to the family league, which would be added to our next donation. **Account particulars are: Henning Familiebond, ABSA Bank Villiersdorp (branch 334 612) Account number 2890 610 423**

## Deaths

It is with sorrow that we have learnt of the death of the following Henning s over the past three months:

1. b5.c5.d8.e2.f6. Abraham Johannes Henning \*13-1-1921
2. b6.c1.d3.e5.f11.g3. Jan Hendrik Henning \*22-10-1931
3. Karen Elise Fowels \*10-4-1941 (born Pundsnes) wife of Reverend Bjarne Fowels, great grandson of b7.c8.d1. Martha Johanna Elizabeth Henning
4. Elise Magdalena Henning \*3-12-1951 (born Vandenplas) wife of b9.c3.d3.e3.f4.g2.h2. Dr Nicolaas Gideon Christiaan Henning
5. b1.c8.d6.e8.f1.g1. Pieter Hendrik Stephanus Henning \*13-11-1949

**(Note the intervals between the dates of birth of the first four people – 1921, 1931, 1941 and 1951)**

**b5.c5.d8.e2.f6. Abraham Johannes Henning \*13-1-1921.** Apie and later uncle Apie, as he was called, died on 19-3-2016 at Polokwane (Pietersburg) after his kidneys and lungs collapsed at the age of 95 years and two months. He worked for Anglo American as financial manager and retired at Pietersburg.

During 1992 Apie and his wife, Jeanetta were attacked by a swarm of bees. The bees made a nest in a tree in the Henning garden and a swarm of trek-bees annoyed them. Mrs Jeanetta Henning died in this attack and Apie was taken to hospital with more than 1 000 bee-stings.



**Uncle Apie and his second wife, Susanna. He died in the age of 95 years and two months**

Apie was a member of the Gideons for many years. The Gideons is an inter-denominational association of Christian business - and professional men. After his retirement he kept himself busy repairing radios and he played bowls.

After his wife, Jeanetta's death, in 1993 he remarried the widow, Susanna Maria Elizabeth Adlam (born Van Vuuren). When she died in 2011, uncle Apie moved to Pretoria, but things did not

go well there. In 2013 his stepdaughter, Drienie Vorster went and fetched him to come and stay with her.

Uncle Apie is the son of Gert Frans Henning who's Anglo Boer War medal we reported on on page 1. Apie also appears as a young boy on the photograph on page 2

**b6.c1.d3.e5.f11.g3. Jan Hendrik Henning \*22-10-1931.** Jan Hendrik Henning died on Monday April 4th 2016 at the age of 82 years at the Universitas hospital, Bloemfontein after a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, four children, nine grand-children and four great-grand-children.

He was born in Chubut, Argentina. He was one of the second generation Hennings who emigrated to Argentina, who were born there. His father, Douw Gerbrand Henning was born there in 1906.

Jan Hendrik's nickname was Riek. In Argentina his Spanish name was Juan Enrique for Jan Hendrik. He was called on his second name – Enrique. Enrique later became Rique (Riekie) and there-after Riek. His mother died in Argentina when he was three years old.

At the age of five years, Riek returned in 1938 to South Africa together with his father and 234 other Afrikaner families. He went to the Technical High



**Jan Hendrik (Riek) Henning \*22-10-1931 and his wife Quenton. He died on 4 April 2016 in the age of 82 years**

School in Bloemfontein, where he had woodwork as subject. He qualified as cabinetmaker and became co-owner of the company, Republic Furniture in Bloemfontein, which was well known for their Stinkwood -, Blackwood – and Yellowwood furniture. In spite of his high age, he built a new lounge suite for them a few weeks before his death at home in his garage.

Riek married Quenton Mattheus on 19 December 1958 and two sons and two daughters were born out of this marriage which lasted 58 years.

**Karen Elise Fowels, wife of Rev Bjarne Fowels of Hjelmeland, Norway.** Over many years we have reported several times on the life of the Fowels family of emiritus Reverend Bjarne Fowels of Hjelmeland, Norway. The great-grandmother of Bjarne was b7.c8.d1. Martha Johanna Elizabeth Henning, born at Damfontein, Aliwal North on 26-8-1857. Martha married the Dutch teacher Herman Zurich, who arrived at the Cape of Good Hope a few years earlier. They had eleven children and their daughter, Wilhelmina Catharina Zurich \*23-10-1880 first married James Fowels. This couple had two children. Wilhelmina later married the Norwegian skipper, Michael Landmark who visited East London with his ship often during the first decade of the 20th century. Here he and Wilhelmina met. After their marriage she and her two children joined Landmark returning to Norway. All their descendants, therefore, became Norwegian citizens.

Bjarne Fowels served as a chaplain for the Norwegian Seamans Church at Rotterdam, Netherlands; Liverpool, England; seven years in Durban, South Africa. Thereafter he became a military chaplain for a Norwegian army company in Jordan and during the 1980's he also served as one of the peace monitors of the United Nations with the indepenence process in Namibia. During his term in Durban, he knew that he had ancestors in South Africa, but he was not in a position to investigate it further.

Later he came in touch with League Secretary Olivier Henning and together they reconstructed his South African ancestors. We can say without doubt that Bjarne is very proud of his Henning ancestors. He even became a proud member of the Henning Family League. He transplanted his love for South Africa onto his wife and children. It is with sorrow that we have to report on Karen Elise's death. We repeat the tribute Bjarne wrote for his wife.

*Karen Elise was born 10 April 1941 on the farm Pundsnes, Hjelmeland. She went to Bryne High School and took her matric in Stavanger. She become telephone operator and worked in Stavanger, Oslo, Ås and Ski. She graduated at Oslo University and took exam in Norwegian elementary level. For one year she was teaching in secondary modern school, Askvik. Later in life she was teacher for asylum seekers. The church played a central part in her life. She was baptized, confirmed and married in Hjelmeland Church. Some of our children were baptized there and our youngest son also confirmed there. After marriage in 1964 we lived various places: Ski, Sauda, Kjevik, Rotterdam, Liverpool, Durban and Setesdal, before we ended up in Hjelmeland. She was accountant at the seamen's churches where we worked, and became bank clerk, first in Sparebanken Sør, later in Hjelmeland Sparebank. We travelled worldwide, and her favourite shopping place was Dubai.*

From left: Brynjar and wife Olaug,  
 Bjarne and wife Karen Elise,  
 Sunniva and husband Bjørn Inge, Merete, Asgeir,  
 Kjell, spouse of Merete



**Rev Bjarne Fowels, his wife Karen Elise and their children and children in law in their national dress – which they are very proud of!  
 F.l.t.r. Brynjar and his wife Olaug; Bjarne and Karen Elise; Sunniva and her husband Bjørn Inge; Merete; Asgeir; Kjell spouse of Merete**

*“Karen Elise was such a dear and wonderful woman. She was one of the most welcoming and generous people I know, always smiling and helpful, with love and care for all,” a friend recalls. She is right. KE was very fond of her family, strong, engaged, humorous and social. Everyone could come to her to get help. She was such a good friend. For 50 years she annually sent about 800 Christmas greetings – and received the same amount. She was a lady. Our native staff in South Africa appreciated her very much. The sailors loved her. She had a great concern for street children in Mocambique and elsewhere. She wrote poems for various occasions and was a humorous causeur. The Mission to Seamen and The Norwegian Mission Society were always close to her heart. She was highly estimated wherever we lived. She loved to pick wild berries and mushrooms in the forest, loved plants, gardening, cultivate vegetables, potatoes, strawberries, flowers, tomatoes, grapes and fruit trees.*

*She lived in prayer, and remembered every one. Every night. Sometimes in distress she could shout loudly in prayer. She had promised her mother to continue the ladies society for The Norwegian Mission Society in Hjelmeland. She knitted, did crochet and embroidery work, sewed and was clever with her hands. She was well informed and very gifted. She was an excellent chef, and enjoyed making exotic food. Served us*

restaurant food daily, always with dessert, often blue berries she had picked herself. She gave without expecting to receive something in return, was so sociable and kind. To quote one of our friends: "Heaven has become much richer by getting a person like her."

She was a proud grandmother, and lived to see her 9th grandchild, Sienna, and hold her in her arms.

Karen Elise had a by-pass operation in 1998. Before Christmas last, her health started to decline, and we understood our dream to do the pilgrimage walk together to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, would remain a dream. Three times she was taken by helicopter to Stavanger Hospital and one time by ambulance boat for serious heart failure. Each time she returned home full of optimism. In spite of several encroachments in Stavanger, she got to be operated in a hurry in Bergen and was transferred by helicopter for the operation. We sat for 10 long hours, waiting for the result. Sunniva had come from Thailand, and all our four children were looking forward to the doctors' report. It was a complicated operation. Karen Elise was kept in coma for nearly a week and then slowly the doctors woke her up. After 2 weeks she was transported by ambulance plane to Stavanger Univ. Hospital emergency unit. 7 weeks later she was not able to stand on her feet, walk or talk. We tried to read her lips, which was not always easy. But her mind was clear all the time. She did not recover from the post operation period, and on 15 April 2016 shortly before 9 in the morning I got a phone call from the hospital that Karen Elise had stopped breathing, and the doctors tried awakening. I was only minutes away, and arrived few minutes too late.

I felt comfort in helping to wash her and make her ready for the funeral, which was held on 26 April. We decided to do the practical things ourselves, without using undertaker, and gave the ceremony a personal character. The big wreath that covered the coffin was made by Olaug, Brynjar's wife. So was the one shaped like a heart full red roses, from children and grand children. On the floor around the coffin were yellow roses imported from Thailand. The piano music (partly played by Brynjar, partly by Sunniva), the hymns, the service, the solo melodies ("You wake me up", sung by Bodil Elise, 14, and "You'll never walk alone", sung by her father). The song "Make me a channel of your peace", sung by four of us, is in fact Franz of Assissi's prayer. This was accompanied by saxophone and piano. Merete made a speech about her mother. The sermon was held by Sunniva's father in law, Rev. Svein Holberg. Instead of flowers we requested a gift for Sunniva's work for poor children in Bangkok. The song sheets with photos of KE were printed in Thailand, and her husband brought them on his arrival the night before. I knelt down and lowered the coffin into the grave.

We invited to a commemoration in the nearby hall. We had prepared open sandwiches etc. ourselves. Family and friends brought cakes and cooked coffee.

Our four children think of happy days of childhood, when mother made life secure and happy. For the children she brought up and embraced she will always be inside, as a guideline, as a compass. "Walk on, walk on with hope in your heart, and you'll never walk alone". Whosoever putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

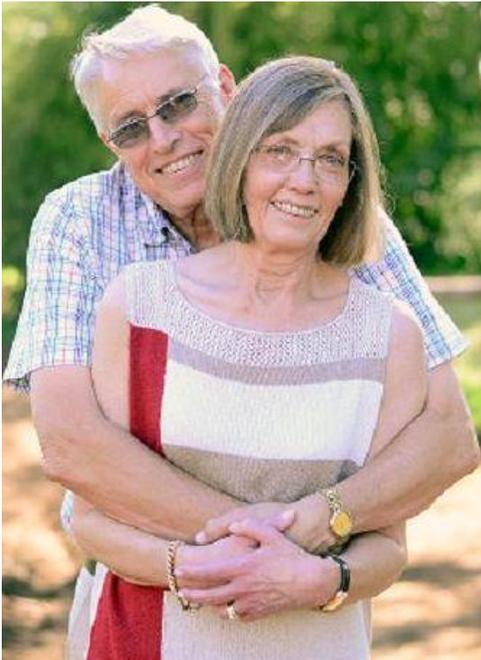
*She knew where she was going and has reached the safe harbour. Although she is not alive any longer, her presence is still always there, beyond time and physical presence. There is another dimension. She has fought a good battle, finished her course and kept the faith. Our lived one has gone through a triumphal archway from earth into the great beyond. She will know more pain or sorrow. To quote one of her friends: "The world has lost a beautiful lady inside and out".*

*The loss and pain is huge. Let us rejoice for her great life past and be glad for her present life in Heaven with Jesus, which is far better. There will come a day when we will again be reunited with our precious one. That day will be a time when there will be no sorrow. We've got so much to be grateful for. We will always remember how sweet and good she was. We cannot call the dead back to life, but we can prepare to go to meet them. We readjust our lives without a dear wife and mother. It is a big hole to fill.*

*Bjarne.*

**Elise Magdalena Henning \*3-12-1951 (born Vandenplas) wife of b9.c3.d3.e3.f4.g2.h2. Dr Nicolaas Gideon Christiaan Henning.** Elise Henning died on Saturday 28 May 2016 at the age of 64 years and 6 months at Lyttelton Manor, Centurion. Elise was born December 3rd 1951 at Lumbumbashe (Elizabethville), Zaire (Belgian Congo).

When she was five years old, her parents moved to South Africa and settled at



**Dr Nico Henning well-known veterinary surgeon of Lyttelton Manor, Centurion and his lovely wife Elise, who died on 28 May 2016**

Durbanville. Elise attended school and matriculated at the Durbanville High School. In 1974 she obtained the degree B Sc Pharm in pharmacy at the Potchefstroom University.

In January 1977 she married Vernon Charles Peeters, but he died in April 1981 of Leukaemia. No children were born out of this marriage. During October 1981 she met the young veterinary surgeon, Nico Henning and they got married on 2 October 1982. Only one daughter, Giselle was born from this marriage. Giselle qualified as dentist and moved to Australia.

As a pharmacist, Elise was loved and respected in the community — especially in Doringkloof, where she had her pharmacy. She loved nature, her pets, nature reserves, birds, classical music – especially operas! – reading, world tours and boat voyages. She was a remarkable intelligent and loved person.



**b1.c8.d6.e8.f1.g1. Pieter Hendrik Stephanus Henning \*13-11-1949** died on 1 April 2016 in Pretoria. Approximately one month before his death he (unexpectedly) started feeling sick and was admitted to the intensive care unit of a hospital in Pretoria. A week later he was transferred to an ordinary ward and the day before his death, he was discharged. Pieter was the spare parts manager at one of the Mercedes Benz dealers in Pretoria.

**Photo of Pieter Hendrik Stephanus Henning \*13-11-1949 a few days before his death on April 1st 2016**

## Money Matters

Thank you to everybody who made donations to the family league over the past three months. It is sincerely appreciated and contribute towards the attainment of the objectives of the family league. Every cent of this money will be spent in the interest of the Henning family, and in particular the Henning Family League. It is a pleasure to mention the names of those who contributed R300.00 or more.

- Marthinus (MC) Henning and his wife Henesia of Welkom – R400.00
- Gerhard (GS) Henning and his wife Deirdré of Royldene, Kimberly – R400.00
- Stanley- and Mary-Ann Henning of Wierda Park, Centurion and their two children Heinrich and Anél - R900.00
- Dr Pieter (PFJ) Henning of Marblehall – R350.00
- Tappies (PH) Henning and his wife Wanda of Farrarmere, Benoni – R5 000.00
- Kobus (JS) Henning and his wife Anna of waverley, Pretoria – R300.00

Also many thanks to those members who contribute by means of a monthly debit order. This method is priceless for the family league.

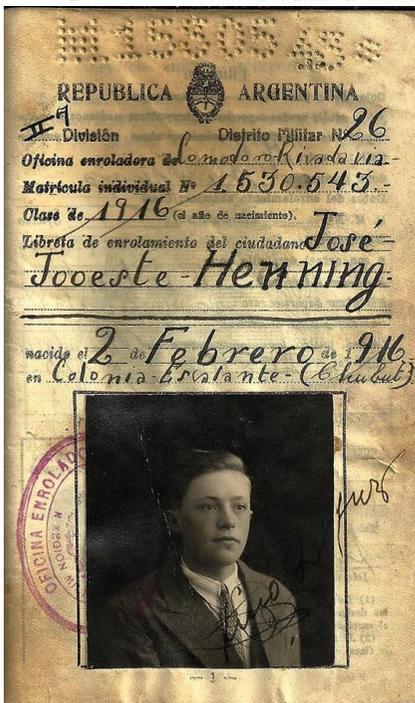
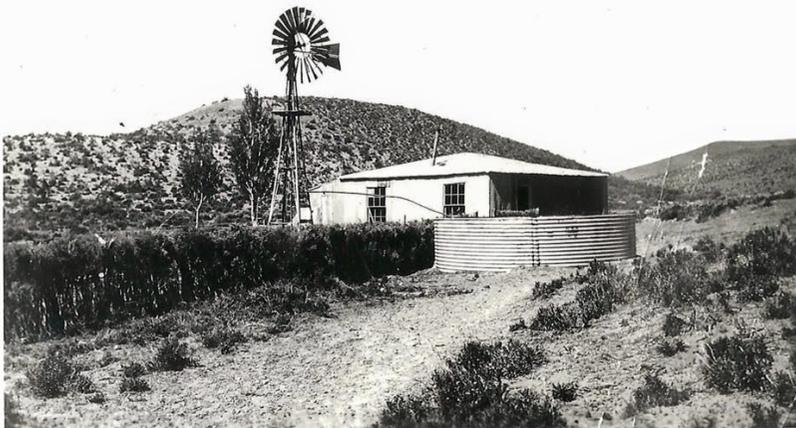
All contributions can directly be deposited into the account of the family league. Particulars are as follows: **Henning Familiebond, ABSA Bank Villiersdorp (branch 334 612), Account number 2890 610 423. It is a cheque account.** Please use your name and member number as reference. Your member number appears on the envelope of this newsletter or if you receive the newsletter by E Mail, with your name in the addressee column.



**How's this for size!  
For Hennings nothing is impossible**

# Photo's of b6.c1.d3.e5.f3.g3. Josef Jooste Henning \*2 Feb 1916

The parents of Josef Jooste (or Jopie as he was called) emigrated in 1905 to Argentina. He was, therefore, born on their farm Strypoort, district Escalanta, Chubut, Argentina. He returned with his parents in 1938 to South Africa. We recently received the following photographs of him and their farm in Argentina.



Above: The Strypoort farm house of the Henning family

Left: Argentinian citizenship certificate of Josef Jooste. Note how his names are spelled in the document.

Below: 'n Photo of Jopie Henning and his wife Maria (born Odendaal)



## **b7.c5.d8.e4. Onstaal Henning \*1-3-1905**

Rev Jurie van Wyk is a cousin of b7.c7.d10.e4.f3. Pieter Hendrik Henning of Horison, Roodepoort. Recently he was doing research in the church archives of the NG Church in Bloemfontein. One of the documents drew his attention and he made a copy for his cousin. From his side Pieter passed this document over to us.

This document, with caption: “’n Groot Sending Vriend” — a Great Mission Friend – is a tribute which appeared in the magazine, “Die Basuin” of December 1938 on the death of Onstaal Henning, a missionary at Nkana, North Rhodesia (Zambia). This tribute by a colleague, rev W P Dippenaar give us a glance on the life of one of our deceased Hennings.

Onstaal Henning was born March 1st 1905 at Brandfort as the fourth child of b7.c5.d8. Johannes Jacobus Henning and his wife Elizabeth Johanna Susanna (born Naude).

As the language Afrikaans today is under pressure by the South African government, as well as other unfriendly people, Afrikaans also came under pressure by the imperialist, Lord Milner, with his policy of Anglicizing, shortly after the end of the Anglo Boer War. In 1905 Johannes Henning and his wife Elizabeth, therefore gave their fourth son the interesting and beautiful patriotic name Onstaal – meaning “our language”.

Onstaal died October 14th 1938 at the young age of 33 years and seven months. He left his wife and two baby children of one and a half years and six months behind.

We are not going to translate the whole tribute, but only extract the main messages from it:

1. Early in his life, Onstaal Henning became converted and had the desire to lead pagans to christianity; At the age of 21 he moved to central Africa, where the distress of the natives and lost paganism took hold of him;
2. Over and above his other tasks, he had the desire to bring the message of Jesus to pagans in their own language. Onstaal was a tobacco farmer in Northern Rhodesia and a deacon in the congregation where he was a member;
3. In 1930 he moved to Nkana, where he served both white Christians and pagans. The first Sunday school was instituted by him. He was the leader of the Christian troop serving the whole community;
4. Onstaal was the cashier of all the NG Church congregations in the copper region. Everybody were sure that their money was in safe hands;
5. Onstaal even tried to influence the government to be interested in missionary work;
6. He loved his own country, language and culture;
7. Onstaal was a model of precision, order, solidity and faithfulness

A large number of whites and natives attended his funeral. The missionary choir sang appropriately.

Unfortunately we could not get hold of a photograph of Onstaal Henning

