

# Ons Haantjie

Nr 129

Feb 2017

*Nuusbrief van die Peter Henrich Henning Familiebond*

Wingerd 205  
Theewaterskloof Landgoed  
Villiersdorp

Posbus 121  
Villiersdorp  
6848

Tel: 028 840 0113

[www.henning.org](http://www.henning.org)

E-pos: [olie4@henning.org](mailto:olie4@henning.org)

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

## English Translation



b6.c1.d3.e5.f1. Joseph Jooste Henning \*15-5-1882 (left) and his wife Andrisina Gertruida (Sienie)(born **Coetzee**) \*Jun 1886 (far right), with his brother Barend Jacobus \*30-4-1884 (f2) and his wife Johanna Marthina (gebore **Coetzee**)\*27-4-1888. Note the difference in spelling between the surnames of the two women. This story is about Barend Jacobus and his wife

## The Schweizer Reneke Hennings

Some months ago we received an email from Johannie Mocke of Toowoomba, Australia. Her maiden name was Jordaan, but her mother was born Henning and grew up in Schweizer Reneke – b6.c1.d3.e5.f2.g7. Johanna Martina Henning, born 26 March 1926. Johannie is enquiring if she could also receive the “Ons Haantjie” newsletter.

Johannie and her husband, Douglas Mocke, are the parents of two lovely daughters, Monique and Michelle. This family moved to Warner, Brisbane, Australia during October 1998, where Douglas had already been working for a year. During 2007 the family moved to Toowoomba and their two daughters got married. They lived in Pretoria before they emigrated.

Johannie was named after

her mother and Henning grandmother. She and her grandmother were baptised Johanna Marthina, while her mother was baptised Johanna Martina. Johannie not only supplied us with several genealogical particulars of her mother and her mother's brothers and sisters, but also several historical photographs and touching stories of her Henning ancestors.

We, therefore, begin this family's story with Johannie's grandfather, b6.c1.d3.e5.f2. Barend Jacobus Henning \*30-4-1884.

Barend Jacobus Henning was born on the farm Heuningkrans in the Albert (Burgersdorp) district. You are welcome to read the history of his parents, Joseph Jooste Henning \*1862 and his wife Gertruida Susanna (born De Klerk) in the Family Cronicle. When Barend's parents emigrated to Argentina in 1905 he and his older brother, Joseph Jooste (photo on first page), stayed behind in South Africa.

A few months later, on 8 January 1906, he got married to Johanna Marthina Coetsee \*1888 in Burgersdorp. Approximately the same time he bought the farm Knapdaar, in the district. Seven of their eight children were born at Knapdaar, but in 1939 disaster struck when his beloved wife Johanna died. Barend thereafter decided to sell this farm and move to Schweizer Reneke where he bought the farm Boomplaas.



**The house on the farm, Boomplaas, district Schweizer Reneke, where Barend Jacobus Henning \*30-4-1884 and his family lived. Almost every Sunday he held church for all the farm employees on the verandah**

He became friends with the widow Martha Rebecca Hand (born Van Zyl) \*9-3-1897 and they got married during the early 1940's at Schweizer Reneke. For them a baby boy, Pieter Hendrik, was born on February 26th 1943.

Barend Henning was a well-known cattle – and grain farmer in the district and several travelers often stayed over night on his farm. He and his family held family prayers every morning and on Sundays he held a church service for all his farm



**The school bus used to transport the Henning children to school at Schweizer-Reneke. One can imagine what mischief happened on a bus like this**

workers on the verandah of his house. From time to time he also held Holy Communion for the farm workers.

There were rich phosphorus ridges on the farm, which glowed at night. The black people of the neighbourhood believed that it was goats.

Barend Henning died on March 30th 1951 and was buried in the graveyard on the farm Boomplaas, Schweizer Reneke.



**Johanna Henning \*1926 and her horse. After seeing this photo Gert Jordaan realised that he wanted to know this girl better**

Johanna Martina Henning, born 26 March 1926, was the seventh child of Barend Jacobus Henning and his wife Johanna Marthina (born Coetsee). Although she was born at Burgersdorp, she grew up on the farm Boomplaas in the Schweizer Reneke district — the farm she loved with passion. On this farm she could ride on horseback and do everything a vivacious kid loved to do.

Two of the older brothers of Johanna, Barend Jacobus (g4) and Louis Johannes (g6), had a school friend, Gert Johan Daniël Jordaan, at Schweizer Reneke. Gert Jordaan was born and grew up at Goedehoop in the district of Schweizer Reneke near Bloemhof.

Johanna was five years younger than Gert Jordaan, but knew that he was a good friend of her brothers. They were even in the same school. In the course of time her two brothers, as well as Gert Jordaan went to Pretoria to seek work. The three friends even lodged in the same area.

Louis Henning had 'n photograph of his sister, as a sixteen year old girl sitting on horseback, in his room. Gert Jordaan saw this photograph and remembered the small girl at their school. Gert gazed for a long time at this photograph and could not



**Gert Jordaan and Johanna Henning on 31 Augustus 1946 on the stairs of the Magistrates Court, Durban, just after they got married there, the first time**

believe his eyes that the young little girl he remembered could develop into such an attractive young lady. There and then he decided that he would like to be married to this attractive girl.

Not long after this incident Johanna went to visit her two brothers in Pretoria and met Gert Jordaan again. Immediately a relationship developed. Both were hopelessly in love.

Shortly thereafter Gert Jordaan accepted a post in Durban at the Colenso Powerstation. However, he yearned passionately for his girlfriend Johanna Henning. He wrote her a letter to come and visit him by train. The train arrived in Durban on 31 August 1946. The same day they decided to get married with a special licence in the Magistrates Court, Durban. However, they married officially the following weekend in the church.

Unfortunately the climate in Durban did not agree with Johanna and she acquired serious attacks of Asthma.



**Gert Jordaan \*1921 and his wife Johanna (born Henning) \*1926 and their four children, f.l.t.r. Gerrie (\*1947; Pieter \*1964; Ben \*1950 and Johannie\*1957**

After medical advise they were obliged to return to Pretoria. They settled on the slopes of the Magaliesberg.

Gert was appointed, on 20 December 1956, as Deputy Messenger of the Court for the district of Pretoria. He served in this post until his retirement. After his retirement he started his own business as Sherrif

for the Pretoria Magistrate. Due to his broad knowledge of legal matters many attorneys consulted him from time tot time.

Gert Jordaan was a family man, with deep christian values. However, he always had a joke up his sleeve. He and his wife had four children: Gert Johan Daniël (Gerrie) Jordaan \*Durban 3-12-1947; Barend Jacobus (Ben) Jordaan \*Durban 26-1-1950; Johanna Marthina (Johannie) Jordaan \*Pretoria 17-1-1957 and Pieter Adriaan Gouws (Pieter) Jordaan \*Pretoria 17-3-1964.

Gert Johan Daniël Jordaan and his wife Johanna Martina (born Henning) were married for 64 years when she died on 24 April 2011. He died on 22 February 2013 in Pretoria.

## Historical Photographs

In Newsletter 127 of August 2016 we reported on the Anglo-Boer War medal of b5.c5.d8.e2. Gert Frans Henning, which is in the military memorabilia collection of b7.c2.d3.e4.f3.g2.Marthinus Christoffel Henning \*15-11-1963, of Welkom in the Free State.



**b7.c2.d3. Gert Frans Johannes Henning \*8-8-1843 and his baby boy, Marthinus Christoffel (e4) \*14-1-1873. Except for the Martini-Henry rifle over which we report in the article, it appears that the wine bottle is a very good Groot Constantia red wine (only a joke!)**

The same Marthinus Henning now sent us three very old photographs. The first of his great-grandfather, Gert Frans Johannes Henning \*8-8-1843 (b7.c2.d3.) and his son, Marthinus Christoffel \*14-1-1873 (e4), as a baby boy. This baby boy Marthinus Christoffel is the grandfather of Marthinus of Welkom. The second and third photographs were of his grandfather's younger brother, Gert Alwyn Johannes Smit Henning \*15-12-1878 (e8). Although we had photographs of all three men, these photographs show other facets of their lives.

The first photograph shows b7.c2.d3. Gert Frans Johannes Henning \*8-8-1843 holding his fourth child, the baby boy Marthinus Christoffel \*14-1-1873 (e4). It appears as if the young Marthinus could be between eighteen months and two years of age. If this is correct, the photograph was taken approximately 1874/75. The rifle Gert is holding, is a Martini-Henry.

Marthinus mentions that his great-grandfather started fighting with this rifle during the Anglo-Boer War



**Above: b7.c2.d3.e8. Gert Alwyn Johannes Smit Henning \*15-12-1878 and his bride, Johanna Francina (born Van der Merwe \*1870 Below: Gert Henning or John, as he was called**



(ABW). After a short while he obtained a Mauser, wrapped the Martini-Henry in canvas, and hid it in a rock-fissure in the mountains near Ladybrand in the Republic of the Orange Free State. After the war he fetched his old rifle.

Marthinus is convinced that this Martini-Henry which belonged to his great-grandfather, is the same rifle that he inherited. Marthinus is a collector of military memorabilia. He knows for sure that his rifle belonged to his grandfather, but he speculates that this is also the rifle that belonged to his great-grandfather. His father's oldest sister, Janet (b7.c2.d3.e4.f2), told him that this was in fact also his great-grandfather's rifle.

The rifle in possession of Marthinus was manufactured during 1872 and is one of the first generation of Martini-Henry's. Martini-Henry started manufacturing rifles during 1871. The rifle in the photograph, which was taken approximately 1874/75, seems to be in a very good condition. One can then deduce that he bought the rifle during the previous year or two, which brings us at the date of manufacturing of the rifle Marthinus owns. On grounds of these calculations Marthinus is convinced that his rifle and the rifle on the photograph is one and the same rifle.

Marthinus still regularly shoot with this rifle. He is a member of the Southern Africa Arms and Ammunition Collectors Association, Free State Branch. Every month they commemorate a battle of the past. At these gatherings you have to shoot with a weapon of that period. Members also try to wear a uniform of the same period and battle.

Marthinus usually shoots with the Martini-Henry when, in February, they commemorate the battle of Majuba which took place during the First Anglo-Boer War. Weapons older than 1881 may be used at

this gathering. For the two gatherings commemorating battles of the second Anglo-Boer War, he also uses his Martini-Henry. In May they commemorate the “bitter-ender” gathering and in October the ultimatum gathering. Weapons older than 1902 may be used during these gatherings.

Ammunition for Martini-Henri rifles has not been available for many years. Therefore, owners of such rifles have to reload ammunition themselves. They use machined brass sheaths and cast the bullet noses themselves. Thereafter they load with black powder. Marthinus experience every one of these gatherings as a nice “brain cleaner”.

The other two photographs we received from Marthinus were of his grandfather’s younger brother, b7.c2.d3.e8 Gert Alwyn Johannes Smit Henning \*15-12-1878. He was known as John. The one photograph was taken on his wedding day with Johanna Francina van der Merwe \*3-4-1870, and the second photo is of him alone.

## Interesting Expressions in the idiom of the People about Cocks

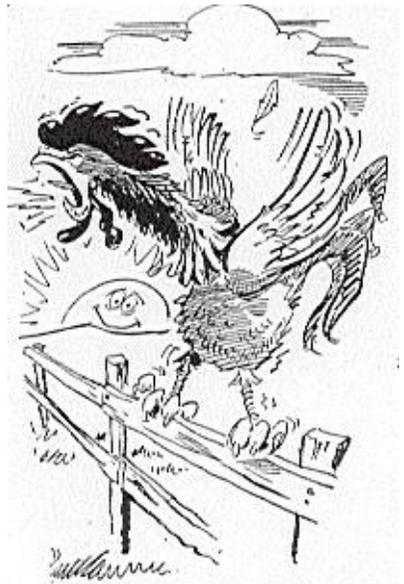
Interesting expressions in the idiom of the people runs like a golden wire through the history of humanity. Many of these expressions peter out in time, fall into oblivion, or are misunderstood after lapse of time. Others live on – sometimes in a new shape. As a Henning, I find expressions about a cock very interesting, due to the engagement our surname has with a cock and I hope our readers will also find this article interesting.

I would like to handle two interesting expressions in the idiom of people about cocks in this article, namely, how the name Henning originated seven hundred years ago and secondly, the cock Jesus referred to when he warned the apostle Peter that he would betray him three times before the cock crows.

I want to begin with our own surname, Henning, which originated as a nickname. Many Afrikaansspeaking Henning’s thought that the word had something to do with a hen, but my research proved that this hen was actually a cock. Most of our readers most probably have already read this story in the Family Cronicle, but for the sake of completeness I would repeat the most important parts in this article.

Towards the end of the thirteenth century a man with the name Johannes, lived in the vicinity of the town Stralsund next to the Baltic Sea. In those days people of this region had their own language or dialect. In this dialect a male fowl was called a “hen”, while a female fowl was called a “henne”.

Johannes had a boy who was baptised with the same name. This little Johannes was very lively and intrepid – a real bantam cock! His father, therefore, gave him the nickname



“Henning”. In their language this meant a bantam cock. Over the centuries the origin and meaning of this word faded away. Now, almost seven hundred years later we could trace the original meaning of this name.

Every Sunday morning the radio station Pretoria FM has a program, “Bybelse Argeologie” (Biblical Archaeology) presented by Rev Neels van Tonder. One of the talks Rev Van Tonder had during November 2016 was about the apostle Peter, who would betray Jesus three times before the cock crows.

This talk of rev Van Tonder also had a very interesting outcome. In Matthew 26, verse 34 (as well as Mark 14, verse 30) we read the following: “I tell you the truth” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times”

For almost two thousand years people of all languages who read the Bible, accepted that Jesus spoke of a cock (or rooster). If one analyse this deliverance of Jesus, it becomes clear that something does not make sense. It is clearly said that it was night, and we know that cocks do not crow at night – they sleep! Secondly, researchers of the way of living of the Jews in the days of Jesus only recently established that fowls, in those days, were not allowed in towns. Fowls were not accepted as domestic animals. Matthew 26 also indicate that Jesus and his apostles were busy enjoying the Passover in a city.

The question immediately arise: What type of cock was Jesus talking about? The researchers only recently came to the conclusion that the cock Jesus was referring to was in fact a human being. At all synagogues there was always a Rabbi (or other functionary) who, at specific times of the day, climbed on the roof of the synagogue and called a message out loud — exactly like it is happening today at all Muslim mosques. This person was known, in the idiom of the people in the days of Jesus, as the cock which crowed. This meant that Jesus was aware of the exact time this cock would have crowed. He did not guess, which would have been the case if the cock referred to was a rooster. This is an example that shows us how easily an expression in the idiom of the people can be misunderstood over time.

## Deaths

**b6.c1.d1.e9.f4.g1.h3. Frank Henning \*21-12-1951** was the third of four children of Willem Nicolaas Henning \*26-11-1921 and his wife Elizabeth (born Holm) \*24-5-1925. He was born in the Far East Rand Hospital between Springs and Brakpan. Frank attended the Brakpan East Primary School and thereafter the Technical High School, Brakpan. His first job was as storeman at Shoprite in Brakpan. He worked for Shoprite for a few years while also studying mechanical engineering. After Shoprite he worked for Temsa in Springs and then joined Alcatel Altech Telecoms as production manager, where he worked for fifteen years. In 2001 he took the opportunity to start a hydraulics business in Barberton.

During December 1978 Frank married Anette Susan Pretorius. The marriage ceremony was performed in Boksburg by Rev Japie Venter of the Reformed Church Brakpan congregation, At this time the family was still living in Brakpan. After the death of Frank’s father, his mother went to live with them. When Frank made the move to Barberton, his mother



**b6.c1.d1.e9.f4.g1.h3. Frank Henning \*21-12-1951 who died at Barberton on 17 February 2016**

went with them and he built her a nice flat in the backyard. Sadly, his loving wife died a year after their move to Barberton on 3 February 2002. Frank and his son Heinrich, thereafter, stayed alone in their house with Grandma Elizabeth in the flat. Grandma Elizabeth died on 8 September 2015 at the age of 90 years and three months.

In the meantime Frank's son Heinrich started helping his father in the business every day after school and during school holidays, while also learning about the management of the business.

A few months after his mother's death, Frank himself was diagnosed with bone marrow cancer and he died tragically on 17 February 2016.

Sixteen years after Frank established the family business it is still doing well. Heinrich joined the business fulltime in 2014 after he obtained his degree in Marketing. Since 2015 he and his wife live in Barberton, after they moved from Nelspruit (50 kilometres from Barberton) to be

nearer to their business. They were very glad that they could share their baby daughter, Marcelle, for nearly the first year of her life with Grandpa Frank.

Heinrich describes his father as follows: "He had intense love and respect for his wife and his mother. There was nothing he would not do for them. He was a hardworking and honest person at home, as well as in business. He was a good leader with a strong personality. It was easy to get along with him. One always knew exactly where you stood with him. He was fond of working in his garden – especially his rose garden. Most important of all – he was the best father and grandfather anyone could ask for."

## Money Matters

The Henning Family League can only survive if we are financially independent. We, therefore, rely on voluntary contributions by our members and we are delighted that the Henning family has an open hand. In the 33-years of its existence the family league could always fulfil its obligations.

We could always count on our members who contributed voluntarily on an annual basis. Some time ago we left the suggestion at our members to consider contributing a small amount of as little as R20.00 every month, rather than a bigger amount once a year. We are very thankful that several of our members there-after

accepted our suggestion, and some of them not only contributed a “small amount”, but generously. These monthly contributions are of great value to the family league.

Many thanks therefore to the following members who contribute monthly:

- Jan Andries Henning and his wife Cornelia of Leraatsfontein, Witbank;
- 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 van Doringkloof, Centurion;
- Gesina and Mathys Spangenberg of Swakopmund, Namibië;
- Pieter Jacobus Stefanus Henning of Ramsgate



How's this for size! For Henning's nothing is impossible

As usual we thank all members who made once-off donations for the year and mention the names of those who contributed R300.00 or more:

- Rev Bjarne Fowels of Hjemland, Norway R1657.55 after bank charges for the foreign transfer was deducted.
- J C (Jack) Henning and his wife Anna of Hartenbos — R300.00
- J S M (Jan) Henning and his wife Maria of Lyttelton-Manor, Centurion — R350.00
- Heinrich Henning of Barberton, on behalf of his father Frank Henning. We also report in this newsletter on the death of Frank Henning earlier in 2016 — R360.00
- Dr P A (Philip) Henning and his wife, Anna of Langebaan — R300.00
- J G (Gerhard) Henning and his wife, Dorie of Mafekeng — R500.00

**In November 2016 we informed all our members that we changed our bankers. The particulars of the bank account of the family league will in future be as follows: FNB (First National Bank) Villiersdorp (tak 200 712); Account name – Henning Familiebond; Account number – 6265 7601 483. Please use your initials and surname, as well as your member number as reference. It would be appreciated if all contributions in future would be deposited directly into this account.**

**We are going to keep the old ABSA account open for a few months, until we are sure that all our members have taken note of the new account.**