

# 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

### Henning Museum on the Internet

It is with pleasure we announce that the Henning museum at the Henning Web site on the Internet at [www.henning.org](http://www.henning.org) is now fully functional. We would like to invite all Hennings in South Africa to walk with their fingers through our museum and look at our exhibition. At the opening page of the web site you can click "Museum" and cycle through the pages in the virtual Henning family museum.

We could not find any trace of another virtual family museum anywhere else in the world.

League-secretary, Olivier Henning and Jannetta Steyn – the daughter of his sister,



**Hi mom! Did our grandparents really looked like this**

Leonie – worked hard to compile this museum. While Olivier prepared the exhibition, Jannetta was responsible for the programming and outlay – she is indeed a Doctors-degree qualified computer-scientist. Although her speciality is Bio informatics, software engineering and computer modeling, her general knowledge of the computer science is so advanced that she could take hold of any project and succeed. Jannetta financed out of her own pocket and managed the Henning web-site on the Internet. She is a researcher and lecturer at the Department of Computer Science at the Newcastle University in England.

After you have walked through the museum, please make a remark in the visitors book of the museum. Click the relevant key at the top of the opening page (on the right hand side).

Please spread this message to all your family members with access to the internet and help us influence more Hennings to become members of the Henning Family League.

# Closing of the Henning Exhibition, Church Square Museum

It was heartbreaking for us when we had to close the Henning exhibition in the Church Square Museum in Aliwal North, due to the hostile conduct and actions of the Maletswai town council and municipality.

From 1987 until 1994 the most cordial co-operation existed between the Henning Family League and the town council and municipality of Aliwal North. With the taking over of the town council in 1994 by a hostile political party and the appointment of (apparently) incompetent officials, this cordial co-operation came to an end. The municipality ceased to do any maintenance work on the building, which is supposed to be a historical monument and rolled several stumbling blocks in the way of the museum committee. This museum committee consist of volunteers – mainly pensioners – from the town. They started to warn us that our exhibition is in danger and will have to be removed.

The two old and sickly men, Olivier Henning and his brother, Fanie (Stephanus Rudolf Kruger Henning \*1-5-1946) travelled with Fanie's pick-up van to Aliwal North during the first week of September 2019 to fetch all the Henning artefacts exhibited in our exhibition. All these items are now stored at the house of Olivier in the Villiersdorp district.

We would like to return all items to their original owners, but the family league does not have the finances to return them by any means to their original owners. Most donors is in any case already dead. If there are people who want the items they donated back, they will unfortunately have to collect it themselves at the home of Olivier in the Villiersdorp district.

The plan is to present all unclaimed artefacts which are of real historical value to the Heritage Foundation or the War Museum of the Boer Republics. The Heritage Foundation is responsible for the maintenance of Afrikaner monuments and memorials, like the Voortrekker Monument, the Blood River terrain and several other monuments and memorials country wide. The Henning Family League is a full member of the Heritage Foundation and a Friend of the War Museum.

## History of Specific Hennings:

We try to tell the history of at least one Henning (or Henning family) in every newsletter. Sometimes we tell new stories which came to our attention shortly before, but in other cases we repeat stories which has already been included in the Family-Cronicle, but is hidden today between almost 13 000 other people in the Cronicle.

With the Henning museum on internet, which is now fully functional and the prominent role the Church Square museum in Aliwal North played for many years, we decided to tell more about Jan Hendrik Henning, born 17 May 1805. He and a2.b7.c8. Olivier J G C Henning played important roles in the erection of the first church building in Aliwal North.

When the church council of the Aliwal North congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church decided in 1857 to erect a new church, Jan Hendrik Henning was appointed as member of the Building Commission. We are in the lucky position to have two photographs of Jan Hendrik and his second wife Elizabeth (born Krugel).

a2.b1.c3. Jan Hendrik Henning was born 17 May 1805 and grew up on the farm Zoutfontein in the Graaff Reinet district. He was baptised on Sunday 10 November 1805 in the



**a2.b1.c3. Jan Hendrik Henning \*17-5-1805 and his second wife, Elizabeth Marguerita (born Krugel) \*15-6-1813**

church at Graaff Reinet. Later this area, Achter de Sneeuwberg (Behind the Snow Mountain) was incorporated into the Cradock district.

Due to regular droughts and other acts of God, like locusts and migrating antelope (today we call them springboks) which devoured all of the grass, the farmers were constantly under huge pressure.

After his first marriage with Anna Magdalena Du Plessis, he, together with his parents and his brothers started looking for better feeding-grounds for their cattle deeper into the interior of the land. Between the years 1819 and 1825 we find them in the Brakriver Fieldcornecy – in the vicinity of the present Middelburg and Hofmeyr. Therefore, in the middle of the inconsistent Karoo where there are always more dry years than wet years. Two of his uncles owned farms in this area during these years.

Hereafter they moved to the area which would become the district of Albert, where he obtained a farm near the present railway-siding HENNING, west of Stormberg-station, near Burgersdorp. Approximately 1836/37 he demarcated a farm in the area which would

become the district of Aliwal North. He named this farm Elandshoek. Several of his children were born on this farm.

His beloved wife, Anna died in 1873, when she was only 62 years old. Later on, he married Elizabeth Marguerita (born Krugel), who was the widow of Petrus Bothma and thereafter Cornelus Cloete.

Later in his life Jan Hendrik and Elizabeth settled in the town Aliwal North, where he died on 6 January 1881. He is , therefore, one of only a few Hennings of this time period who died in a town and not on a farm. He was buried in the old cemetary in Durban Street, AliwalNorth.

Because the sandstone gravestone started to moulder away, one of the descendants of Jan Hendrik, the late a2.b1.c3.d7.e9.f2. Maj-Genl Pieter H S Henning, a retired police officer, mounted a copper plate with his particulars on the gravestone.

Much of the handwork of Jan Hendrik and his son's can still be seen today on Elandshoek – among other things a rock wall of several kilometres and the homestead. During 1857 the church council of the congregation of the Dutch Reformed Church in Aliwal North appointed a building commission with the task of handling the planning and erection of a new church building. Jan Hendrik Henning was a member of this commission. He and a2.b7.c8 Olivier JGC Henning therefore, played prominent roles in the erection of the building. The Aliwal North town museum, with the Henning exhibition, was housed in this building from 1991 until 2019.

## Photo-albums of Historical value



**The quality leather jacket of the photo-album which is after 150 years still in good condition. Unfortunately, due to handling, the inside pages are in a bad condition**

It is always a pleasure to page through old photo-albums, because it usually recalls good memories of the old days. The oldest photo-album we exhibited in the Henning Exhibition in the Church Square Museum in Aliwal North, and which can now be seen in our virtual museum, was an album which belonged to a2.b7.c8. Olivier Johannes Gerhardus Cornelis Henning, born 1 December 1834 and his wife Cornelia Susanna (born Kotze).

It is estimated that all the photographs in this album were taken between the years 1860/70 and 1895.

The tragedy is, however, that with exception of one, no other photographs had names or captions. The grand-children of Olivier- and Cornelia Henning (all of whom have already passed away) could only recognise some of the people, like their parents, uncles and aunts in a few photographs. It is suspected that there could even be one or more photographs of Olivier's parents, a2.b7. Gert Frans Henning \*1785 and his second wife, Gerbreg Leviena (born Olivier). They

only died in 1873 and 1880 respectively, but due to the fact that nobody could identify them, this would stay a secret forever.

The only photograph with a name on it, was a photograph of a black man. One can see that he must have been an important person. The name Kreli is written on the photograph.

League Secretary Olivier Henning grew up as a child with this photo-album in their home. He knew that the photo-album belonged to his dad's grandparents and often paged through the album and looked at the interesting photographs. He remember that he enquired why Kreli's photo was in this family album and that his dad replied that Kreli was the "king" of the Xhosa nation and that Kreli and greatgrand-dad knew each other well due to business transactions. Olivier therefore realised that this was an important photograph.

Paging through history-books, one will quickly realize that Kreli was indeed an important person. He was born approximately 1818 and was the son of Hintsas, the previous Xhosa paramount chief. He succeeded his father in 1835 and was also known as *Sarili ka Hintsas*. He was the fifth leader of the Gcaleca sub-group of the Xhosa nation, before he became paramount chief of the whole Xhosa nation.



a2.b7.c8.d8. Olivier Johannes Henning \*11-9-1869 as 'n seun en sy suster Janetta

a2.b7.c8.d6. Janetta \*26-6-1866

Foto bo en onder van a2.b7.c8.d8 Olivier Johannes Henning \*11-9-1869 op verskillende ouderdomme

a2.b7.c8.d4. Olivina Gertina (Olivia) Henning \*22-2-1863

a2.b7.c8. Olivier Johannes G C Henning \*1-12-1834 as 'n man van in die veertigs, dus ongeveer 1875 / 80

Nie seker wie dit is nie

Onbekend

Some of the photo's in the album where we could recognise people. Olivier Henning \*1834 appear as a 40/50 year old man on the photo left below. Olivier Henning \*1869 appears on three of the other photo's at different ages and two of his sisters could also be recognised



As the majority of the photo's in the album, nobody on these pages could be recognised

Paramount chief Kreli died in 1892 in Shorola, in Bomvanaland. He was paramount chief for 57 years.

After the capitulation of the South African government in 1994 League Secretary, Olivier Henning obtained and studied a policy document of the new Eastern Cape Province. The Provincial Government expressed the intention that it would endeavour to make its museum-services representative of all population groups.

In the spirit of reconciliation between the cultural groups in South Africa, Olivier arranged on behalf of the Family League to make a portrait enlargement of the photograph of Chief Kreli, with the idea to present the portrait to the Eastern Cape Province Museum Services. The inscription was engraved in Xhosa, Afrikaans and English on a copper plate. It was also mentioned that the Henning Family League presented the portrait to the Museum Services.



**a2.b7.c8. Olivier J G C Henning \*1834, his wife Cornelia and grand daughter, Cornelia Schoombee. The photo of Paramount Chief Krelu was mounted in their photo-album**

**Krelu \*1818 Paramount Chief of the Xhosas from 1835 until 1892**



Several letters over a period of a year were written to the authorities in Bisho. Unfortunately they did not acknowledge receipt of any of these letters. We came to the conclusion that these authorities were not really interested in true Xhosa artefacts or, that there was nobody who could read or write. We would have to wait until somebody who could read and/or write was appointed.

At last it happened! On 15 May 1995 Pierre Swanepoel phoned Olivier from Bisho. He was seconded a few days earlier to the Eastern Cape Province and was busy working through all the letters which piled up. He indicated that they were interested in the portrait. He would collect it personally at Olivier's home on his next staff visit to Pretoria. During their conversation it became clear that this Pierre Swanepoel and Olivier were at school together. By October 1995 Olivier haven't heard anything from Pierre Swanepoel and he, again, phoned the Bisho offices. It became clear that the seconding of Pierre Swanepoel was withdrawn a few days after their discussion in May 1995.

What happened here, forced Olivier to donate the portrait to the Aliwal North Museum, to add to their collection of the black tribes of the Eastern Cape

Krelu became well known when he conquered the Tembu's in 1854. Four years later (1858) and in 1873 he again conquered the Tembu's.



**League Secretary, Olivier Henning present the portrait of Paramount Chief Kreli in 1996 to Mrs May De Wet of the Aliwal North museum**

Against the British rulers at the Cape he distinguished himself as a skilled diplomat. In 1846 he outmanoeuvred Sir Andries Stockenström during a peace-conference. The decisions of this conference were terminated in 1848, which paved the way for a friendly gathering with Governor Harry Smith near King Williamstown. From 1850 to 1852 he was again at war with the British, but was beaten. In 1853 he agreed to a peace treaty.

His reign was finally broken after the Great Cattle-Killing Delusion of 1856 when a young Xhosa girl, Nongquase preached that the day was approaching when

Europeans in their country would be driven into the sea. Dead chiefs would arise, kraals would be filled with cattle and grain pits with new harvests.

Upon that day the sun would rise blood-red, fields would stand ready for reaping, illness would disappear, as would old age. All white people and those who had disobeyed orders from the other world would be carried into the sea by a very strong wind.

To make these things possible, it was necessary to kill every head of livestock in the hands of the Xhosa nation, and to destroy all grain and garden produce. Paramount Chief Kreli and the whole Xhosa nation believed Nongquase and destroyed everything. Despite the efforts of the authorities at the Cape and missionaries, the destruction began and could not be stopped. Altogether over 200 000 head of livestock were killed. Special kraals were built for the cattle that would rise from the sea and huts were strengthened to withstand the coming hurricane.

February 18, 1857 was the date on which the miracles were to happen. When the sun rose as usual and no sign appeared of anything extraordinary, the Xhosas realised that they had been misled. A nightmare of starvation and despair descended upon the people. Official figures showed that the population of British Kaffraria, the present Transkei in the Eastern Cape fell between January 1, 1857 and July 31, 1857 from 104 721 to 37 229. Large sums were given for relief, but the military power of the Xhosas was broken forever.

It is interesting that a person on a small, non-committal photograph in a Henning photo-album could have had such a huge influence in the history of South Africa. How many other photos of this kind is laying concealed somewhere in the albums of Henning family members?

The most important lesson we have learned from this photo-album was however the importance of names and captions for all photographs.

## Marriages

In this newsletter we report on two Henning marriages which were brought to our attention:

1. **Pieter Hendrik Henning, born 7 January 1993**, third son of a2.b6.c1.d3.e5.f3.g4.h6.i3. Pieter Hendrik Henning and his wife Deidré of the Strand were united in marriage with Fenetta van Zyl on 1 December 2018 at the Zevenwacht Estate between Stellenbosch and Kuilsriver.

Fenetta is the daughter of Herman Jacobus van Zyl and his wife Maria Alida (born Visser). She was born in Port Elizabeth 14 June 1994, but her parents moved to Cape Town when she was still very small. She, therefore grew up in the Cape.

Pieter is a physiotherapist in Durbanville at Van Zyl Physiotherapists. He obtained his BSc Physiotherapy degree at the University of Stellenbosch, while Fenetta work as a Dietician in Stellenbosch. She also obtained her BSc Dietetics degree at the University of Stellenbosch.



**Pieter Hendrik Henning and his bride, Fenetta, on their wedding-day 1 December 2018 at the Zevenwacht Estate, with his parents, Pieter Hendrik Henning \*21-4-1960 en Deidré (born Muller). In front sit grandmother Elmar Henning (ELIZABETH MARIA TULLINGH \*Indonesië 23-6-1929)**

### Elrike Henning and Wilhelm Robbertse

2. The second marriage which came to our attention was between a2.b7.c8.d8,e5.f3.g3. **Elriké Henning \*2-2-1991 and Wilhelm Petrus Robbertse \*26-1-1989**, who were united in marriage on 21 September 2019 at Magoebaskloof in the district of Tzaneen.

Elriké is the youngest daughter of Pieter Naudé Henning and his wife Ingrid (born Kapp) of the farm, Cashumi in the George's Valley section of the Tzaneen district. Over and above the normal produce of a sub-tropical farm, like avocado's, flowers, etc, Pieter and Ingrid also have huge eucalyptus plantations and a saw-mill.



Wilhelm was born in Potchefstroom as the son of Dr Wilhelm Robbertse and his wife Ria. Wilhelm Snr is a medical practitioner at Potchefstroom, while his wife, Ria is a Maths teacher. Originally she came from Koster.

Both Wilhelm Jnr and Elriké work on Elriké’s father’s farm Cashumi. Wilhelm, who is a Mechanical Engineer, is the manager of the treatment-plant for wood-products.

Elriké is a Chemical Engineer and the manager of the Laminating factory on the farm.



**Bryan Kenneth Henning and his wife, Bianca with their first born, Iris Angela**

## A New Henning Baby

The beautiful baby-girl Iris Angela, first-born child of a2.b6.c1.d3.e5.f3.g4.h6.i2 Bryan Kenneth Henning \*14-1-1990 and his wife, Bianca Angela (born Basson) \*19-7-1992 was born on 1 February 2019 at Somerset West.

Bryan is the son of a2.b6.c1.d3.e5.f3.g4.h6. Piet (Pieter Hendrik) Henning and his wife Deidré of Strand, while Bianca is the daughter of Simon Petrus Basson and his wife Angela. We hope you have noticed that Bryan and Pieter Hendrik Henning, who got married (previous page) are brothers.

We believe little Iris will only bring happiness in the lives of her parents and grandparents.

## Henning Boy plays Craven-Week Rugby

a2.b6.c1.d5.e1.f2.g1.h7.i2.j2.Pieter Jacobus Henning and his wife Suzette of Worcester informed us that their son, Justin, born 13 January 2001 participated during July 2019 in the Craven - / Academy Week in Bloemfontein as a member of the Boland rugby-team. Justin was appointed as captain of the Boland under-18 team.

**Justin Henning of Worcester, who was appointed as captain of the Boland Under-18 rugby-team at the 2019 Craven-week**



## Henning Davis Cup Tennis-player



**The 19-year-old Philip Henning of Bloemfontein who was a member of the South African team in the Davis Cup tennis-match against Bulgaria**

The Davis Cup Tennis competition has been one of the most important international tennis competitions for men in the world and South Africa have entered a team since the beginning of the competition.

On 13 September 2019 the Davis-Cup Tennis teams of South Africa and Bulgaria played a tournament in Cape Town in the Europe/Africa1 division of the Davis-Cup. The eighteen year old Philip Henning (a2.b7.c7.d10.e3.f1.g2.h1.) of Bloemfontein, who is at the moment a student at the Georgia University in the USA, was one of the members of the South African team, in spite of the fact that he is still a junior. Philip played very well. He won his match against Gabriel Donev very easily within an hour with 6-2, 6-3 and helped the South African team to win the tournament with 4 – 1. This was the first Davis Cup match Philip played for South Africa. With this victory he again proved that he is one of the tennis stars of the future.

After this victory South Africa will again participate in 2020 in the Europe / Africa1 division of the Davis-Cup. Philip is the son of a2.b7.c7.d10.e3.f1.g2. Gerard Carel Henning and his wife Carlien of Bloemfontein

## Death: Gerhardus Stephanis Henning

a2.b1.c6.d1.e1.f2.g1. Gerhardus Stefanis (Gerhard) Henning born 24 Junie 1956 of Kimberley died on Sunday 1 September 2019 from heart trouble. He is survived by his

wife Deirdré and their son Thomas, his wife, Vanessa and a lovely two year old grand daughter.



**Gerhardus Stefanis Henning of Kimberley who died on 1 September 2019**

Gerhard grew up and went to school at Dealesville. He did his National Service at Upington and Riemvasmaak, where-after he worked at several branches of the old Central-West Co-operation. After thirty years of service he retired and they moved to Kimberley, where he started to work at GWK, also an agriculture enterprise. He worked until the age of 60 when he finally retired.

He was an eager collector of vintage cars and tried to attend all car-shows. He also loved gardening.

Gerhard and his wife Deirdré was married forty-two years. He was a devoted, beloved and gentle person and his death will leave a gap on several terrains.

Their daughter, Maricelle died twelve years ago.

## **Show Garden of Marieta van Dijk (born Henning)**

The August issue of the magazine “Open Gardens of South Africa 2019 introduce several show-gardens in the Hoekwil area, near Wilderness on the Garden-route which can be visited by the public on Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 November 2019. One of these show gardens belongs to Gerrit and Marita van Dijk. The name of their garden is TE DHÔ. We know Marita better as a2.b6.c1.d3.e5.f3.g5.h4. Maria Cornelia Elizabeth Henning born 1 February 1959. She is a descendant of one of the Henning families which moved to Argentina in 1905 and returned in 1938. While she lived in Somerset West she also served on the management committee of the family league.

Hoekwil is a hilltop hamlet nestled in the Garden Route. It is a hidden gem just 7km inland of Wilderness, awaiting to be explored. The town and farm gardens are mostly large and show biodiversity at its best. Indigenous forest, fynbos, aloes, flowering shrubs, succulents and lots of roses are showcased in gardens that have mountain, lake and seaviews as spectacular

natural backdrops. The gardens on show include working farms with lush, pastoral meadows, the quaint and quirky, wonderfully wild, and formally manicured. This will be Hoekwil's 6th Open Gardens and we are proud to share our little piece of paradise where we co-exist with bushbuck, bushpigs, porcupine and baboons. Viewing is best done at a leisurely pace wearing sensible shoes.

Gerrit and Marita's garden used to be a wilderness of pine-trees and other alien species, but is now an informal bird, bee and butterfly haven with a medley of plants. A surprise feature is the unusual pond with an island. Chickens and ducks peck happily in this rustic old-world garden that has path ways leading to quite seating areas. Everything in this garden makes the trip worth while.



**A view on one of the corners of the show-garden of Gerrit and Marita van Dijk at Hoekwil, Wilderness, which is displayed in the August 2019 issue of the magazine "Open Gardens of South Africa 2019"**

## Money Matters

Over the past two years it did not went well with the finances of the Henning Family League. The stream donations received from our members, became smaller almost every month and it became necessary to start using some of our savings from the previous 38-years to pay our accounts.

The printing of our newsletter as well as other essential expences, like computer apparatus and internet services use large sums of money.

Notwithstanding the five members who donate monthly by means of a debit order, the following members have contributed over the past three months:

1. Dr Tjol (M E J) Henning and his wife Amanda of Lyttelton, Centurion – R500.00
2. Marhinus (M C) Henning and his wife Henesia of Welkom – R300.00
3. Neels (C B) Henning and his wife Bernice of Tampa, Florida, USA – R1 000.00

We appeal to all Hennings to make a donation, no matter the size, to the Family League from time tot time. The particulars of the account of the Family League are as follows:

**FNB current account 6265 7601 483; Branch 200 712 (Villiersdorp); Account name: Henning Family League; Use your member number and/or Initials and Surname as reference**