

## **History of Pella, Iowa 1847-1987**

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**VANDE KROL, GEURT**

**F676 by Mrs. Lester VanDerWilt**

Geurt VandeKrol, born in The Netherlands in Oct., 1829, left his homeland to come to America with his wife, two sons, and a daughter. It was during this trip that Geurt's wife and mother of the three children became ill with cholera, died, and was buried at sea thus, their arrival in this land of opportunity was much different than planned.

When they settled near Pella in 1863, Geurt (later known as Gerrit) was a 34 year old widower with three motherless children: Jan, (later John), 12 years old; Hendrik (later Henry); nine years old; and Nenntje (later Nancy) four or five years old. In 1866 Geurt married Celia Tysseling, daughter of Teunis and Teunje (Evers) Tysseling, who made a home for him and his children. She was born in July, 1829. To this union was born one child, a daughter, Nettie.

G. VandeKroll a farmer, section 29, Richland Twp., P.O. Pella, Ia., was the listing in the History of Mahaska Co, Iowa, 1878 and Proud Mahaska , published in 1900.

Geurt VandeKrol died June 16, 1881, and Celia (Tysseling) VandeKrol lived until Dec. 22, 1888. Both are buried in Black Oak Cemetery just east of Pella.

The children of Geurt VandeKrol are: Jan "John" VandeKrol, born Nov. 21, 1852, in The Netherlands, died Aug. 17, 1921. He is buried in Black Oak Cemetery, Marion Co., Iowa. He married Cornelia Van Roekel, Mar. 18, 1880. Cornelia was born Feb. 1, 1858, in Gelderland, The Netherlands. She died July 12, 1950, at the age of 92 yrs., 5 mos., 11 days. Seven children were born to this union.

Hendrik "Hendrik" VandeKrol, born in The Netherlands in 1855, He died July 14, 1919. A marriage license was applied for on Jan. 25, 1883, with Mary Elscott (Elschot) who was born May 1, 1861, Tairifiter of John and Mary (VerHeul) Elschot. She died July 8, 1927. Both are burredrigully Cemetery, Sully, Jasper Co., Ia. Nine children were born to this union.

Nenntje "Nancy" (VandeKrol) VanRoekel, born Aug. 22, 1858, in Holland; died on Nov. 20, 1928, in Sioux Co., Ia. She married Abraham Van Roekel (license record Oct. 25, 1877, Marion Co., Ia.) He was born Mar. 22, 1859; died Jan. 24, 1917. Both are buried at Boyden, Sioux Co., Ia. Twelve children were born to this union. It is believed at least the first two children were born in the Pella area and the others in the Sioux Co. area.

Nettie (VandeKrol) Varenkamp was born May 26, 1869; died July 8, 1909. She was married, Mar. 1898 (marriage license record-ed Mar. 23, 1898, Marion Co., Ia.) One child, a daughter, Gertrude Henrietta, was born to this union on Feb. 25, 1899.

**by Mrs. Lester VanDerWilt**

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### **ELSCHOT ELSCOTT JAN AND HIS FAMILY**

**F146 by Ernie Elscott and F147 Keith and Nola Emmert.**

Elschot was the name in Holland and in America it was John Elscott. John Elscott was born in Holland Jan. 17, 1829, and left there for America in about 1844 with his parents and two sisters. On the long voyage to New York his father and one sister died and were buried at sea. The remaining family settled in northern Illinois where his mother married William Brand. That couple is buried in the Catholic cemetery north of Pella. In 1849 the family moved west to the newly established Dutch settlement at Pella. John's next move was to the California gold rush. When he returned in the early 1850's he had \$3,000 in gold, a large sum at that time. It would have bought several hundred acres of Iowa land but he was talked into financing a cattle drive from southwest Texas to Abilene, Kan the railroad terminal at that time. If successful, that deal would have made a fortune but they never got the cattle to Abilene, a distance of about 800 miles. They had to cross too much desert area. He then married Catherine Verheul and farmed in the Pella area until 1885.

Their eleven children were born there. They were: Mary Vander Krol, Henrietta, Jennie Terlouw, Henry, Minnie (Vander Pol) Veldhuizen, Frank, John, Arie, Kate, Mattie Klyn, and Jake. The farming project failed but in 1885 a man named John Ackermann financed him to buy a 300 acre farm west of Sully. This amounted to \$8,000. The boys worked hard and paid for the farm. One of the boys, Jake, later owned 180 acres of that farm and today his grandson owns it. The corner west of Sully is known as the Elscott corner. Sully at that time was a village of only 10 or 12 families of Irish descent. The Elscott family was the first of Holland ancestry to settle in the Sully area. One day two of his sisters went into the village of Sully and came, home very angry. They had heard a raan remark that they were the corner Dutch; man's daughters. They thought they were being made fun of. John Elscott died June 31, 1903, and his wife Catherine passed away Sept. 11, 1918 They are buried in the Sully cemetery.

**by Ernie Elscott and Keith and Nola Emmert.**

## **The Donkersgoed family who also emigrated in 1866 with the ss England to USA together with Geurt van de Krol**

**By Mrs. Trynke Elbertsen Hoekstra**

**Translate Rienk A. Mebius.**

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The Donkersgoed family moved to the United States in March 1866 with ss "England" from Liverpool with 896 deck passengers, 16 cabin passengers and 122 crew including captain R.W. Grace. In Ireland another 122 deck passengers and one cabin passenger embarked. Four days after departure a boy on board dies unexpectedly. The cause of his death turns out to be cholera, a very contagious disease. The cause of death is kept quiet for some time and things are going well for another three days, no new cholera cases occurring. Then a severe gale occurs and the deck hatches are kept closed for two days and nights. The passengers are locked up in a damp room. The cholera returns in full power. It makes about fifteen victims daily who get a seaman's grave. Sick passengers are transferred to the ship's rear end. On nearing

the East coast, Captain Grace decides to head for Halifax, Nova Scotia, where "England" arrives on April 6, 1866. On arrival already 46 dead people are on board. The ship is kept in quarantine. A health officer, John Slayter, enters the ship. He tries to help as many people as possible, but he himself gets infected and dies. On April 10 the patients are transferred to another ship, "Pyramus". "England" is being disinfected the healthy passengers are taken from board and brought onto land, but isolated. Willem's eldest son, Steven, appears to be infected too and should stay on board. When later on his parents are again allowed on board, Elbert cannot be found. No records of Elbert are kept in the ship's logbook. He probably died of cholera and is buried in a Halifax mass grave. On April 18 "England" is allowed to lift anchor and continue to New York with 891 passengers and 116 crew. In Halifax 52 ill passengers remained for a while. The Donkersgoed family settles in Wisconsin, where until present day numerous descendants reside.

**(Info from Gretchen Rasmussen-Aamodt, Balswin, Wisconsin, ca 1978).**

**Source: Vereniging Veluwse Geslachten,**

**By Mrs. Trynke Elbertsen Hoekstra**