THE SIOUX COUNTY DUTCH

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It is not unusual for any ethnic group to cluster together in a new homeland, and Dutch immigrants in the United States were no exception. Although greatly diminished in identity or number there are still Dutch pockets in the old "New Netherland." Still strongly ethnic are the communities established by the 19th century Dutch immigrants in the midwest. In the late 1840's two sizable groups of Dutch immigrants left the Netherlands for Michigan and Iowa. One group settled in Holland, Michigan (with an ever-widening circle of settlements around it) and the other in and around Pella. Although growing fast in the first few years, the latter colony could not expand in the immediate area and hence a group of Pella area residents moved to northwest Iowa.

Although primarily dealing with the Dutch settlement in this northwest corner of Iowa (Sioux County and its county seat, Orange City), the focus of this paper is on the similarities and differences of the mother and daughter colonies. Questions arose such as "How alike were they?" "Was or is Orange City in fact a clone of Pella?" Or, "How were the ingredients of each settlement different--for example, population, political climate, time of founding?"

Before moving into the history of the Sioux County settlement, it should be pointed out that it is sometimes difficult to find truth in the histories that have been written about the Dutch settlements in Iowa. It's not that there is so much fiction but that not everything is told. Authors and editors are often wary of giving the unpleasant facts because regional history is often a result of boosterism, or there is fear to offend the pioneer and/or their progeny. Nor are contemporary newspapers a totally reliable source; they were a propaganda medium par excellence. They served as an important vehicle to entice the pioneer or immigrant to newly-opened territory.

The pre-Civil War land boom which had come to a halt in 1857 was revived after this war was over, when Americans took advantage of the momentous Homestead Act of 1862. In the environs of Pella, land had become expensive and scarce and there were stirrings among the colonists (called "koloniale koorts" by skeptics)1 to move to the available and cheap lands in the West. In 1867 one group went to Oregon from Pella, and another to Kansas to begin new settlements, both of which ended in failure.

About that same time, Jelle Pelmulder, a teacher at Pella and H. J. VandeWaa, a farmer, began to inquire about acquiring land near Storm Lake and Cherokee.2 Upon a favorable reply they went to Henry Hospers, mayor of Pella, for help. The three men decided to advertise the availability of land in northwest Iowa in Pella's Weekblad (a Dutch language weekly of which Hospers was the editor) and announced a date for a meeting. No doubt Hospers echoed the sentiments of the colonizers-to-be when he wrote 5 years later that "going to northwest Iowa was so that the young people would not have to go to some strange country but could live together under the shadow of the church and school."3 By "strange country" he probably implied Yankee-infested territory. The response was overwhelming and the people decided to send a four-man exploratory team to northwest Iowa.

It took the committee, with VandeWaa leading, two weeks by mules and wagon to reach Sioux City, traveling through the area in which they wished

to settle. They told the land agent there that they wished to purchase or procure land in the Cherokee area and were informed that that area was still open as well as land in Sioux, Lyon and O'Brien counties farther west. After they arrived back in Pella, another ad was placed in Pella's Weekblad, and another meeting was held at which time 86 people desired homesteads, and thirteen were willing to buy. Several thousands of dollars were deposited with the committee for the purchase of government lands at $2.50 an acre for those who were not entitled to free land, or wished to have more. Another team of four men, led again by the intrepid VandeWaa, left on another expedition. On the way to Sioux City they were told that the land near Cherokee had virtually been bought up, proof of the land hunger and perhaps also of speculators getting wind of a possible mass migration. In Sioux City, at the land office, they met Henry Hospers (he only traveled by train--just as in the past the prominent Pella pioneers had taken steamships instead the more plebeian sailing vessels). They were informed that Sioux County was still available. The next day they left for that county with a surveyor and liked immediately what they saw.

They set the boundaries of the settlement, platted the city (called New Holland initially), and after having gone to Sioux City for the finalization of the land deal, returned to Pella. Already in October of 1869 several people went to Sioux County, but the majority waited until the spring of 1870. About fifty families settled in Sioux County, one family settled in Orange City. It was so named by Henry Hospers, who was the head of the townsite company, which included his wife and friend Jelle Pelmulder. In appreciation for all his work Henry Hospers was given one-third of the town site to sell at his pleasure, while proceeds of one-fifth was set aside for a college fund.

Fifty years later the beginning of the settlement was memorialized in Orange City's Golden Jubille Pageant of 1920, in which King Tornado and the Spirit of the Prairie warned the pioneers of hardships. Subsequently, from left or right onto center stage sprang genii of heat, spirits of cold, genii of drought, grasshoppers, hunger, cholera, small pox, and death. To which a pioneer sturdily replied:

> We fear you not! The tempest as they rave
> but cause the sturdy oak to send its roots
> still further downward. So 't will be with us!

These evil spirits, in the first years of the settlement, withheld their dreadful curses, and the colony thrived. The settlers immediately went to work on their obligation under the Homestead Act: to make improvements on the claim, ultimately to receive the binding title deed five years later. Germans and Luxemburgers, coming from far eastern Iowa, settled on the eastern perimeter of the county that same summer of 1870. The western border had already been occupied for about a decade by a handful of settlers and some crooked entrepreneurs who elected themselves to various county posts and benefited from fraudulent bonds. They were not destined to keep their power for long.

In 1871 Orange City had a one-room schoolhouse (used as church on Sunday), a blacksmith shop, a post office, a boarding house, and the beginning was made for a parsonage. In 1872 the English language newspaper,

the Sioux County Herald, moved to Orange City from the county seat in the west, Calliope. The Dutch settlement was doing well. In large measure success thus far was attributable to the leadership of Henry Hospers.

Hospers had come to Pella in 1847 as a boy of sixteen. Often described as a man of great learning, he was basically self-educated, although the training by his teacher father in the Netherlands elevated him educationally above the average settler of Sioux County. In Pella he became a surveyor, assistant teacher and attorney (for the latter two jobs he had studied in Pella), notary public, real estate broker, first candidate for county office, owner and editor of Pella's Weekblad, mayor of Pella from 1867-1871.

In 1870 he was appointed by the Iowa State Board of Immigration to be its agent in the Netherlands. Already a promotor of the northwest Iowa community by then, his two-month visit to the Netherlands provided an enormous boost to the new colony. He wrote a Dutch language pamphlet while there, entitled "Shall I Emigrate to America?" He himself supplied the answer in the sub-title: "Practically answered by a Hollander who resided twenty-four years in one of the best States in the Union." Returning to Pella in May he resigned as mayor, sold Pella's Weekblad, his real estate business and town properties (including his office which reportedly was built to look like a miniature castle),[4] and headed for Sioux county (by train, of course) in 1871. A house and store had already been built for him there. Although some called him "Prince of Orange" behind his back, he was esteemed on the whole. It is an indication of his leadership qualities that when he first set foot in his store, a pioneer remarked: "There is the father of the colony. From now on everything will go well."[5] Since money was scarce, farm produce was exchanged initially for goods in the store, but later Henry Hospers invented "store orders," which obligated the buyer to break a specified number of acres of Hospers' own land for store goods. Perhaps by then Hospers had been up to his ears in eggs and butter.

He was an able encourager when the colony, after a prosperous two-years stay, faced disaster after disaster until about the end of the 70's. If squirrels had been bad for the early Michigan settlers, the recurring visits of the grasshoppers to Sioux County were worse. It began in the early summer of 1873 when much was eaten by the grasshoppers, but some was left to harvest. They returned again in 1874, and although their destructive eating was selective, some farmers had been hit twice in a row. They could not pay off debts (often to unscrupulous implement dealers), taxes or buy seed corn for the next spring, and many were destitute. A state relief committee came to investigate their needs. Fifty-thousand dollars was appropriated during the winter of 1874-1875 for buying seed, grain, and vegetables and from Pella (where Pella's Weekblad devoted four consecutive articles on Sioux County's plight) came thousands of bushels of corn and carloads of coal. Henry Hospers spearheaded the county campaign for provisions, clothing, and blankets, especially for the northern townships of Sioux County which were harder hit. Several quitted their homesteads, but many were persuaded by Hospers to stay, and he extended them credit. People simply could not pay their bills--the newspapers are filled with pleas by storekeepers for payment.

The year 1875 provided relief from the grasshoppers, although the farmers were plagued by mice, too much rain and too many prairie fires, but

there were crops. The grasshoppers, however, returned every year after that until the end of the decade, again doing their destructive work selectively.

These voracious insects did not only spoil the crop but also the sunny prospects for the continuing influx of immigrants from Pella, other states in the Union and the Netherlands. Until the grasshoppers came, people had streamed into the county. In 1871 a group of 32 persons had come from Fillmore County in Minnesota, who settled near present-day Sioux Center, west of Orange City. Since this represented the farthest settlement, someone placed a sign, reading: "Hier houdt het menschdom op" (humankind ceases to exist beyond this point). The Sioux County Herald reported on October 11, 1872 that "in the last seven days no less that 168 souls came, of which six families [were] from Wisconsin [probably Alto], three from the Netherlands, one from Pella, and five from Minnesota." In March 1873, the same paper mentioned that "several families arrived in the past week from the Netherlands, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan," and somewhat unflatteringly, "two car loads of Hollanders." In April 1873, "another lot of Holland immigrants, about thirty in number" arrived, and, the report continued, "between 200 and 300 more are expected in a few days." Later that month the paper, somewhat hysterically, wrote that there are immigrants "on every train."

In the census of 1870 the population of Sioux County had been 575 but had climbed to 2,872 by 1873 (or 3,000 or 3,500, depending on which source can be believed) of which 1,500 were of Dutch descent.6 But then the grasshoppers came and with this adversity the propaganda war began, waged in the papers and pamphlets printed in the Dutch-American settlements of the United States.

The Sioux County Herald, of which Henry Hosper's son John became the editor in 1873, did mention the coming of the grasshoppers but downplayed the damage. In June 13, 1873 the paper reported that the grasshoppers had "come and gone without doing any serious damage . . . a little corn was eaten down but wheat and oats escaped uninjured." A week later the paper conceded that much was eaten, but that much was left, and refuted reports "about the crops of Northwest Iowa being eaten up by the grasshoppers . . . they have all disappeared and did no damage worthy of mention." By August of 1873 the grasshoppers came over again, but the Sioux County Herald made light of it: "It is said they are doing some damage on corn and oats (referring to an entry in the Pella Blade); wheat, though, is all safe." The following summer the paper was a bit more guarded: "Opinions vary about the damage."

On June 20, 1874 the first issue of the Dutch language weekly, De Volksvriend (the People's Friend) entered the fray. This unabashed propaganda vehicle was published by Henry Hospers, who was also the editor. The first issues were sent to various Dutch newspapers with the plea to include the news of De Volksvriend in their papers to "help prospective immigrants interested in the United States."7 It contained news from the Netherlands, the U.S.A. and local items. One-hundred-twenty subscribed initially and by 1895 there were 2000, and issues were sent to Michigan, New Jersey, Californai, Oregon, Washington, Texas and the Netherlands.

De Volksvriend also reacts to the adverse publicity in other Dutch-American communities. In 1871 the father of the Michigan settlement, the Reverend Albertus Van Raalte, counseled his people not to settle in the Western states, for the land there was covered by deep snow in the winter months--Michigan, he felt, was better.8 Undaunted, Hospers, in January of 1873, describes at length the extreme low temperatures in Marion County, Iowa, and in places in Michigan, whereas Sioux County was enjoying mild temperatures that winter. That same year the editors of the Sioux County Herald exhorts his readers in March not to go to Michigan--"many Hollanders are not so foolish anymore . . . only fifty acres at most can be acquired with difficulty in Michigan whereas in Northwest Iowa sixty acres can be put under the plough in one or two years, and have better soil. . . ."

The Michigan papers contineud to write about Northwest Iowa. One cautioned the Dutch in Michigan not to go to Sioux County for people were moving out of that county.9 Another published a letter written by pastor Jan Stadt of the Orange City Christian Reformed Church in July 1879 in which he expressed compassion for the suffering of his congregation. The editor, in response, asked the readers for a contribution to be sent to the church. De Volksvriend did not take kindly to this kind of publicity and poured scorn on this well-meaning minister: "His Grace has profited from these collections and it improved his financial situation to such an extent that he is riding in such a nice new buggy, drawn by a new horse, which would not shame a congressman."10 Not all Michiganders discouraged moving; the papers also published articles or letters in which the good prospects of the Sioux County colony were recounted.

It is puzzling that Dr. Cohen Stuart, a prominent visitor from the Netherlands, described the Dutch colony in Northwest Iowa in such lyrical tones after his visit in November 1873,11 for he was on the scene just a month before the Sioux County relief committee met to provide aid to various townships.

A contemporary of the Reverend Stadt was J. W. Warnshuis, Reformed pastor in Alton, who wrote five articles for De Volksvriend in the same year of Stadt's letter. Although conceding that the pioneers faced hardships, he claims that there were always abundant crops. His major thrust, however, is not minimizing the extent of crop damage, but in using recent entomological studies to make it a propaganda piece. A cure is at hand, he claims, for the ever-growing extent of cultivated lands eradicates the grasshoppers and there is therefore "no reason why man should avoid Sioux County."12

Probably Hospers was caught between acknowledging too publicly that all was not well and his desire to maintain his "empire." He seems to have been genuinely convinced that the prospects of the colony were good, and it turned out he was right. The grasshopper-free summer of 1875, notwithstanding the natural disaster of too much rain, was a boost and the county once again became desirable.

In 1875, Hospers put ads in newspapers in the Netherlands, promoting the colony with affidavits signed by two county officers, a minister and a doctor. Inquiries came from over-populated colonies in Wisconsin and Michigan, from New Jersey, New York and Illinois. Also, city folk in fast-filling Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Chicago, Rochester and Paterson wanted to

come. Land by then was five to twenty dollars an acre--still cheap, and terms were easy. In that same year a commission from Michigan came, and land was sold to the commission in the northern tiers of the county and just beyond.13

The physician A. F. H. de Lespinasse, a recent Dutch immigrant and living in middle Iowa with "low Germans, Irishmen and Yankees," had written a pamphlet, printed in Holland, warning future immigrants to be cautious. Henry Hospers, characteristically, invited him to visit Sioux County and the good doctor stayed. As a member of the Sioux County Immigrant Committee he wrote a pamphlet once again, which was published in the Netherlands. In it he extols the virtues of the Sioux County settlement: a healthy climate, good water, good and cheap land, proximity to markets and fellow Dutchmen.14 As it turned out, the poor doctor, although busy, had to supplement his income by selling not only cholera drops, but soda water, paints and wines.

After a brief halt in immigration between 1873 and 1875, immigrants began to roll in again. By 1880 the county population was 5426, but it really began to soar in the 1880's, when the foreign population (of which the Dutchborn ratio was 2:1) constituted one-third of the population. This continued until the end of the century by which time half of all the Dutch in Iowa were living in the northwestern portion of the state.15

The influx of the land-lusting pioneers was accompanied by a similar influx of lawyers and/or land agents. The Sioux County Herald reports in April 1873 that "many lawyers and councillors settle in our midst," and in 1874 ten law/land offices advertised in the paper. It is not surprising that one of the streets in Orange City was called Lawyer Street. The lawyers and/or land agents offered to make collections, pay taxes, examine and perfect titles, furnish abstracts and buy and sell land. The papers are full of litigation notices, with land-jumping being the most frequent.

Apart from the lure of free or cheap lands, the immigrants coming to Sioux County were attracted by the railroad network, which provided the farmer with markets in St. Paul, Sioux City, St.Louis, Milwaukee and Chicago. A line was established at East Orange in the summer of 1872. The elated editor of the Sioux County Herald predicted in the February 1873 issue that Sioux County was "destined to be the geographical center of the world in railroading." In 1875 a line was completed in the western portion of the county, through the northern townships (east/west) in 1878, and finally one through Orange City on an east/west line in 1881. The Great Northern was built in the 1890's and traversed the center of the county going north/south.

The railroads brought other township towns into prominence, and with it the desire by the inhabitants for their town to become the county seat. This was not unusual; contests like these were common in all counties of Iowa. One of the fast-growing towns was Sioux-Center--important commercially to the western townships. Because of its centrality and its position on an important railroad, Sioux Center tried to become the county seat twice in the 1890's, but the other townships rallied around Orange City. Although not geographically at the center of the county, Orange City was viewed by many as the spiritual center of the colony, from which other settlements fanned out. It is not by accident that Alton, three miles away,

was called East Orange at first, and Hospers (ten miles north) North Orange. Harrison, South Dakota, more than 100 miles away and settled by Orange City "expatriates" was called New Orange for a short while.16 Alton--the new name already implied treason--also tried to obtain the county seat in 1901, but to no avail.

Orange City held the county seat, but she herself had wrested it from Calliope in 1872. It was preceded by an event which has heroic overtones in Orange City annals. The Board of Supervisors (except for Henry Hospers) had refused to accept the bonds of two newly elected officers: the treasurer and the auditor. Although the objection turned out to have had some legal validity, there was also strong feeling against the Dutch bloc. After the election a lot of county political power had shifted to the Dutch. The Board of Supervisors considered the rejection final, and the Dutch population took recourse in a raid. On the very early, and very cold morning of January 22, 1872, about one-hundred-and-fifty settlers left for Calliope in prairie-grass filled sleds, arriving there about 10 o'clock in the morning. Hospers had arranged for a judge from Sioux City to be there, but he also was not able to change the position of the Board of Supervisors. The mob decided to act. The ramshackle courthouse was locked but was axed open and the very heavy safe and county books were loaded onto sleds and everyone returnd to Orange City, warmed by a lavish supply of whiskey. Tempers on both sides cooled and, after the decrease of the size of the bonds, the new auditor and treasurer were accepted and the safe and books were returned. The documents did not stay long in Calliope, however, for in November 1872 the population of Sioux County voted to relocate the county seat to Orange City, and the move in January of 1873 was without violence.

The hostitlity to Dutch power was very evident from the start. One Calliope objector told the mediating judge that "no wooden shoe Dutchmen could run the county as long as he had anything to do with it."17 At the 1875 Republican County Convention the leaders refused to acknowledge the Dutch delegates and even adopted the slogan "down with the Dutch." The Hollanders, who represented two-fifths of the voters, withdrew but rallied their forces. De Volksvriend of September decried the action: "Will you allow this? Drop your threshing and come to the polls--let's vote as one man--don't let them win by your staying at home. Eendracht maakt macht!" (unity through strength). They succeeded, whereupon the editor exulted in October: "With Batavian and Frisian fist-blows their Know-nothing designs were demolished." The resentment against the Dutch was for good reasons, for non-Dutch settlers saw their towns and areas gradually settled or bought up by the Dutch.

Although a Sioux County Democrat insisted during the summer of 1874 that hot "weather makes good corn, corn makes whiskey, whiskey makes Democrats, and therefore we are bound to carry the election,"18 he was quite wrong. The Pella Dutch were Democrats, but when they came to Sioux County they changed their allegiance to the Republican Party. This cannot be wholly explained. The change was not unprecedented: the founder of the Pella settlement, the Reverend H. P. Scholte himself had changed his party membership abruptly in 1859, and became a Lincoln Republican. Whether Henry Hospers can be made responsible for this turnabout is yet to be proven. He had been a Whig in Pella before 1855 when he changed his membership to the Democratic party. No doubt the Republican administration was friendly to

business and the railroads and therefore good for the real estate business. Another likely factor, found in the writings of the pioneers, was the emotional issue of the preservation of the Union. And the Union was associated with the Republican Party. Henry Hospers also, in setting forth the Republican principles of De Volksvriend, put first the faithfulness to the indivisibility of the Union. It is also significant that, although Hospers might have had no say in it, some townships in Sioux County were named Sherman, Grant, Sheridan, Garfield and Lincoln.

The newspapers and settlers' accounts do reflect a desire to be good Americans (several were Civil War veterans), and Fourth of July celebrations were exuberant affairs. But the names given to the towns or townships still indicate nostalgia for the homeland: Orange, Maurice, and Nassau, or Newkirk, Middleburg and Cappel(le). Perhaps the Hollanders found the following synthesis acceptable when it appeared in the anniversary issue of De Volksvriend in 1895: "De Volksvriend has always been mindful of creating good faithful Americans," and "to make Dutch virtues, character and courage indigenous in this country, beginning with Sioux County. And whatever becomes indigenous, becomes American." Not only was the county to become the center of the world in railroading, but it was perceived as its moral center.

Virtually all the immigrants who came to Sioux county were Reformed religiously, and when they came that spring of 1870 they began to meet for worship in the sod-houses of lay preachers. A congregation was formed as a mission station under the auspices of the Classis Holland of the Reformed Church in America, in May 1871, with about 45 families. It was apparently not a totally homogeneous bunch and according to a letter to the editor in the Sioux County Herald of March 21, 1873, the Pella people, who were the majority, did not agree with each other religiously. The writer continued that the addition of people from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and the Netherlands (the latter subdivided into provincial entities) did not help. This probably accounts for the formation of the Christian Reformed Church two months after the Reformed Church was organized. But the letter writer finished the letter by saying that the church unanimously extended a call to the Reverend Seine Bolks, who, although first declining the call, accepted the second invitation in the early spring of 1872. The Christian Reformed Church had to wait six years before the aforementioned villified Reverend Jan Stadt arrived. What Henry Hospers did for Orange City materially, the Reverend Bolks did spiritually. No intellectual, he was a fiery preacher. After leaving the farm as a young man, he had received his training under the Reverend Albertus Van Raalte (leader of the Michigan Dutch) in the Netherlands. At that time he also acquired some knowledge of medicine, and he was also the colony's physician in the early years. He, as well as Hospers, was a strong encourager in the grasshopper days.

The fact that Orange City wished to remain the center of all activities, and was reluctant to set up churches in outlying areas, prompted the founding of two Presbyterian churches, in East Orange and North Orange. This forced the hand of the clergy and consistory and under the Reverend Bolks' leadership two Reformed congregations were organized, resulting in instant depletion of the Presbyterian churches. From then on new Reformed churches, and eventually Christian Reformed churches, sprang up in community after community.

One of the reasons Bolks had accepted his call to Orange City was the desire to begin a Christian academy and university there. He had been an early proponent of the founding of the Holland Academy and of Hope College in Michigan, and he wished to establish a similar institution in Orange City. He said later that the grasshoppers had flown away with his hope in the early years, but by 1882 the Northwestern Classical Academy was incorporated, and classes began in 1883. The purpose was two-fold: to prepare young men for seminary in order to fill the pulpits of the rapidly forming churches in the West, and to train teachers for the country schools. The school grew slowly, but steadily. The student body came not only from Northwest Iowa, but also from the Dakotas, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Virtually all the teaching personnel were Hope College trained and were Michiganders.

Despite the refining influences of the Academy, the churches, a cornet band, a Glee Club, debating and literary societies, Orange City apparently also displayed characterisitics of the typical frontier town, and alcohol was freely consumed. The Pella contingent probably was not anti-alcohol, since Lake Prairie Township had defeated the adoption of a prohibitory law in 1855 by a vote of 250 to 31, although the state of Iowa adopted it.19 Charles Dyke, in his folksy account The Story of Sioux County, described the existence of several saloons and the drunken behavior of various colonists, to whom he gave fictitious names, presumably to spare the feelings of the descendants. Hospers was here also careful to protect the Orange City reputation, by refuting, in October of 1872, Pella's Weekblad's assertion that there were saloons in Orange City. "We cannot find one--all drink a glass of wine at home, if they have it." To give Hospers the benefit of the doubt, perhaps saloons sprang up with the tide of non-prohibitionary immigrants coming in the 80's. Dyke also mentioned boot-legging which seems to be verified by the Ellerbroek ad in the local newspapers with the claim that he was the "only one in Orange City who can legally sell spirits."20

By 1891 the situation had grown out of hand apparently and anti-liquor factions worked toward enforcing the prohibitory law. When the property of prohibitionists was vandalized the major of Orange City publicly denounced the "demoralizing influence" of the three saloons.21 A chapter of the W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) was formed that same year as well as the Holland Township Temperance Alliance in 1891. Whatever the need for such organizations was, they also represented another step toward the Americanization of the colony.

The charges and counter-charges between the Pella and Orange City newspapers, such as mentioned above and in other places, were partly in jest, partly in real rivalry. But the connection remained close for many years (there was a Pella Street in Orange City, for example). In order to see whether Sioux county was doing as well as it claimed, the Pella Blade organized an excursion in September 1873, and the Sioux County Herald proclaimed: "Mother is coming." About 150 to 300 people came (depending on the source), and 100 buggies picked them up at the East Orange station. The Pella Band played, the Orange City glee club sang, and they had gargantuan banquets. But most importantly, several visitors purchased Sioux County land!

Two years later, in September 1875, Pella residents again visited the colony and the Sioux County Herald urged the readers to "get quartettes together, put your organs in shape [referring to the culinary feast in 1873?], string your violins, get out your flags, and prepare garlands of flowers."

If the ties were so close, if so large a portion of the population of Sioux County was from Pella, can it therefore be said: "So mother, so daughter?" I don't think so. First of all, there were, and perhaps still are, real differnces. Secondly, the Sioux County settlement with Orange City as nucleus was the pattern for subsequent settlements in the West, and Orange City has more in common with them than with the settlements in the East.

The colony in Sioux County had a different beginning than the Pella settlement. Most settlers of 1870 merely relocated--they carried with them the habits and patterns formed and set in Pella during the twenty-plus years since its formation. They carried with them the Yankee Dutch tongue, the instruments for a future band, American agricultural know-how, gospel hymns, Sunday school material, a store of patriotic American sheet music, etc.

No doubt the Pella core was significant for the tone and ways of the community. Yet these migrants were a different breed of people from those who had founded Pella. These had been urban folk, mainly from the provinces of South Holland and Utrecht, and many from the large cities. Several of them were highly educated and some had been people of prominence in the Netherlands.

The group which trekked to Sioux County from Pella tended to be more heterogeneous (the first exploratory team represented the provinces of Gelderland, Friesland and South Holland), less sophisticated and educated, and definitely rural.

Although Hospers tended to behave in an aristocratic manner, the rest of the leadership of Orange City was not cast in the old-country upper class mold, but represented the American ideal of the self-made man and Yankee know-how. Comparing the Reverend H. P. Scholte with the former farmer Seine Bolks, or even the well-connected A. E. Dudok Bousquet with Hospers will bear this out. For example, Harper's Magazine was sold in the bookstore in Pella in 1854 (and probably later as well) whereas in Orange City the Michigan book dealer Doornink advertised mostly spiritual fare, and certainly not Harper's Magazine.

This is not to say that Orange City did not have a share of Dutch intellectuals. They came because they were lured by the romance of the West, but they were never in leadership positions because they tended to be either liberal theologically and/or eccentric socially. They generally moved on farther West or they returned to the Netherlands.

Although the first Sioux County settlers were often the off-spring of the first settlers who had been involved in the early years of sectarian struggles in Pella, they were not schismatic. By 1870, when these settlers left Pella, the church situation had "normalized" and they went fully intending to form either a Reformed or Christian Reformed Church.

Added to this core, and ultimately dwarfing it, was the flow of migrants from other states and immigration directly from the Netherlands. In 1880, in Holland township (in which Orange City is located), the Pella Dutch outnumbered the out-of-state settlers 2:1; and in Orange City 3:1. By 1900 they still seemed to dominate, although many immigrants from the Netherlands had swelled their numbers. There are a good number of people from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Illinois, and several returnees from the Dakotas.

In West Branch township (in which Sioux Center is found) settlers almost outnumberd the former Pella colonists 2:1 in 1880. Not included in this statistic were the numerous direct immigrants from the Netherlands, who kept coming into the county, especially in the 1880's.

Some of these Dutch immigrants moved into Orange City, which rose from a population of 320 to 929 in 1885. This equal mix of Dutch immigrants and land-seeking Yankee Dutch was the make-up of most Dutch/American settlements in the West and the Sioux county colony was probably a first of this type, and was therefore not a clone of Pella.

Pella had been a place of refuge among previously settled Americans but the Sioux County settler had a territory all to himself and therefore did not have to "compromise" with existing groups. The church situation reflects this--there were no other denominations than the "reformed" ones in Sioux Coutny in the first few years. Pella, in 1881, had twelve churches of which only five were "reformed."

The vision for Christian education (as expounded by the Michigan leader Van Raaltee), in harmony with the tenets of Calvinism was carried out by the Michigan contingent and the Northwestern Classical Academy was founded on similar principles as Hope College. One factor may have been the neo-Calvinist vision of integration of faith and learning. When the leader of this movement, Abraham Kuyper, visited Orange City in 1898 he was received joyously by both Reformed and Christian Reformed churches. It is noteworthy that graduates of the academy went to Hope College in large numbers in the early decades of its existence and hardly ever to Central University in Pella. It might well have been because Central University was not "reformed" and "foreign." K. Van Stigt, a Pella inhabitant, deplores, in Geschiedenis van Pella, Iowa en Omgeving, the prevailing opinion in Pella that it is of little import in the area of academic training that the Central University is a Baptist and not a Reformed school.22

In summary, the Dutch settlement in Sioux County had developed into a society different from Mother Pella politically (the change from Democrat to Republican), socially (Sioux County was more totally rural, more heterogeneous, representing all provinces of the Netherlands and Dutch-Americans from various states), and religiously (more solidly reformed, and less pluralistic). And because of the heterogeneity Orange City became a type for subsequent settlements in the West.

ENDNOTES

1. Henry S. Lucas, Netherlanders in America (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1955), 351.

2. The history of the settlement can be found in several books or papers. See, for example, Lucas, Netherlanders in America; Gerrit Draayom, Herinneringen aan Vroeger Dagen in Sioux County (Hospers, 1924), Jacob Van der Zee, The Hollanders of Iowa (The State Historical Society of Iowa, 1912); G. Nelson Nieuwenhuis, Siouxland: A History of Sioux County, Iowa (The Sioux County Historical Society, 1983); De Volksvriend, 19 September 1895 (anniversary issue).
3. De Volksvriend, 25 June, 1875. The underlinings are the author's.
4. De Volksvriend, 19 September, 1895, 17.
5. Draayom, Herinneringen aan Vroeger Dagen in Sioux County, 16.
6. Statistics do vary: see the Sioux County Herald, 7 February, 1873; Van der Zee, The Hollanders of Iowa, 179, 180; Lucas, Netherlanders in America, 348 and Draayom, Herinneringen ann Vroeger Dagen in Sioux County, 21.
7. De Volksvriend, 20 June, 1874.
8. Lucas, The Netherlanders in America, 310.
9. Ibid., 347.
10. Ibid., 348.
11. Jacob Van der Zee, "An Eminent Foreigner's Visit to the Dutch Colonies of Iowa in 1873" (based on the journal kept by the Rev. M. Cohen Stuart), Iowa Journal of History of Politics, Vol. 11 (Jan./Oct. 1913).
12. J. W. Warnshuis, "De Geschiedenis van Sioux County," De Volksvriend, 19 June, 1879.
13. Van der Zee, The Hollanders of Iowa, 157, 158.
14. A. F. H. de Lespinasse, De Nieuwe Nederlandsche Volksplanting in Sioux County, Iowa. In het belang van Landgenooten en Landverhuizers beschreven (Amsterdam: C. L. Brinkman, 1875), 7.
15. Van der Zee, The Hollanders of Iowa, 189.
16. Lucas, Netherlanders in America, 379.
17. Ken Hansen, Calliope (Dearborn, Missouri, 1982), 97.
18. Sioux County Herald, 9 July, 1874, Local News section.
19. Van der Zee, The Hollanders of Iowa, 220.
20. De Volksvriend, 20 July, 1876, Local News section.
21. Sioux County Herald, 4 March, 1891.
22. K. Van Stigt, Geschiedenis van Pella, Iowa en Omgeving (Pella: Weekblad Drukkerij, 1897), 87.