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ORANGE CITY AND THE WESTERN MOVEMENT

The Sunday Des Moines Register for July 7, 1985, featured a story about Iowa and its citizens of Dutch ancestry. Staff writer David Westfall based his article on a report by the United States Census Bureau which stated that "6.5 percent of all Iowans say they have at least some Dutch in their blood--the highest percentage of any state." The state of Michigan ranks second in this respect, being only a half percentage point behind Iowa.

The writer of this article points out that Iowa's distinction in this regard was made possible when Domine Hendrik Pieter Scholte decided he would rather have his colony settle in Iowa - on the wide expanse of the open prairies than in the cramped and dark regions of the Michigan forest. Reverend Albertus C. Van Raalte, who at the same time was leading a party of Dutch from the Netherlands to western Michigan had invited Scholte to join him there.

Thus, in the summer of 1847 Domine Scholte and almost 900 of his followers entered Iowa after a long and tedious journey from the Netherlands - a journey which took twelve weeks.

Both Scholte and Van Raalte were ministers of the Separatist group of some sixteen congregations which had departed from the State Reformed Church of the Netherlands because they could not accept the arbitrary rules and regulations laid down by government sponsored church officers. The Separatists felt that the state church had departed from the traditional Reformed doctrines and were hindering the free proclamation of the Word of God.

Those that seceded from the state church were harassed and prevented from meeting outside of the regularly constituted church sanctuaries. Those who thus separated themselves were subjected to various indignities and persecutions. Although religious persecution died down after 1850, other considerations such as economic hardships caused many Dutch people to look to America which offered so many more opportunities for religious freedom and economic betterment.

Hendrik Scholte selected about 18,000 acres of land in Marion County, Iowa, as the site for his Dutch colony. The land was purchased from thirty Yankee farmers and from the United State government. The settlement was located in Jefferson and Lake Prairie Townships, in the northeastern part of Marion County. The lands were paid for in solid gold Dutch

pieces which had been carried with the colonists in a strongly built chest.

A townsite was platted and Scholte gave the name Pella to it, for he said the colony and town should be indeed, "a place of refuge." During the next few years many more Dutch immigrants came to Pella to settle in the town in the countryside. By the year 1868 there were nearly 4500 Dutch settlers in the colony, and the population was such that conditions became crowded.

During the summer of 1869 some citizens of the community began meeting together and discussing the possibility of launching out into some area where there still was cheap government land available. A number of the young people were now seeking to start farming for themselves, but were unable to pay the high prices for lands in the county. Much of the unoccupied land was held by speculators who were holding out for higher prices.

The Dutch had now lived in the Pella colony for twenty-two years and men such as Jelle Pelmulder began corresponding with land agents in western Iowa. He learned that northwestern Iowa was still open for settlement. A land association was organized by those men eager to obtain cheap government land and to found a new Dutch colony.

In April, 1869, the group appointed four men to investigate northwest Iowa, and to look for a site which would be large enough to include in one area, farms for some sixty-five families. The four were, Jelle Pelmulder, S.A. Sipma, Hendrik Van Der Waa, and Hubert Muilenburg. The men traveled in a light, canvass covered wagon, drawn by two young mules owned by Van Der Waa. They traveled overland by way of the villages of Newton, Webster City, Fort Dodge, Storm Lake, and Cherokee. The men traveled across country without benefit of roads or bridges. They used a compass and during the second week followed the stakes of the projected Illinois Central Railroad.

When they came to an area some twelve miles west of Cherokee they stopped to examine carefully the soil and found it much to their liking. The area, they agreed, would be large enough for a settlement of the size they contemplated. They knew too, that soon the Illinois Central Railroad would pass through the land for the stakes were planted there also.

The party then proceeded to Sioux City where they met with the federal agents at the land office. They expressed their desire to obtain title to the land west of Cherokee and said that they first would have to obtain authorization from members of their association.

Upon arrival in Pella the committee of investigation reported what they had found and there was much enthusiasm among the members of the association to settle for this site. A second committee was at once named to proceed to Sioux City and take out claims on the land. This committee was made up of Henry Hospers, Dirk Van Den Bos, Leendert Van Der Meer, and Hendrik Van Der Waa. It was agreed that Hospers go by train to Sioux City to begin work on the claims, and that the other three travel again by wagon and team with Hendrik Der Waa as driver.

Henry Hospers was at that time Pella's only land agent. he was owner of the Dutch weekly, Pella Weekblad. Mr. Hospers was also mayor of Pella and very much interested in the new colony plans. He indicated his support and said he would move to the new colony with his family.

Van Den Bos and Van Der Meer had been in Oregon traveling over the long and arduous route with a wagon team. When they learned of the planned colony in northwest Iowa they returned to Iowa by way of the Pacific to Panama, and then to New Orleans and on by river boat to Keokuk and Pella.

Hospers traveled by the newly built road to Council Bluffs and then to Sioux City on a recently completed branch railroad.

When the three reached Sioux City Hospers was there waiting for them at a rooming house. He had some bad news--the land they had selected near Cherokee had all been bought up by speculators. They were told some good news also. The agents at the land office informed them that Sioux County and some adjoining counties were still wide open for claims. The Pella men set out the next morning accompanied by a surveyor.

Upon arrival at the southern border of Sioux County the surveyor began using the chain measuring off the miles with the aid of the Pella men. They measured six miles north along the border of what was later to be the line separating Sherman and Nassau townships. They then measured some four miles eastward to the Floyd River where they camped for the night. As they walked east they passed the spot which was later platted for a townsite.

All the Pella men were more than pleased with the country they were passing through. They examined the soil and found it excellent. They admired the gently rolling landscape and the luxuriant prairie grasses and one of them remarked, "Oh, what a beautiful sight! Such rich soil! Where could one find a better place? Would that our friends and relatives back home could see this now!

After a few more days exploring the countryside, the men returned to Sioux City. Hospers remained at the land office

to make out the necessary claim papers. The three who had come in the wagon returned to Pella to make their most welcome report.

That September sixty-five men with teams, wagons, plows, and provisions accompanied by two surveyors and the wife of one of the men to serve as cook, journeyed to the colony site and staked out their farms, plowing a furrow around each 80 acres. Some ground was plowed for the planting of corn and what in the spring, and when all was done they returned to Pella.

The next spring, early in May, 1870, three wagon caravans set out for Sioux County. Upon arrival at their farms, temporary shelters were set up and some gardens and crops planted.

In 1870 the townsite was platted and called Orange City. The name honored William of Orange-Nassau, hero of the Dutch people. He is remembered as the leader of the Dutch people in their war for Independence during the Sixteenth century. The House of Orange-Nassau is much loved by the people of the Netherlands. One of the townships to which the settlers came is called Holland and another is called Nassau. These were the first townships to be settled by the Dutch in Sioux County. When William was assassinated in 1585, his son Maurice was named to succeed him. Later, a townsite near Orange City was named for him.

Many more Dutch families settled in the new colony during 1871, and in May a Reformed church was organized with thirty-four adult members. Church services were held for three years in the public school house which had been build in 1871 in the public square. A Christian Reformed Church was organized in July of that year.

Henry Hospers had gone to the Netherlands late in 1870 as a representative of the Iowa State Board of Immigration. He was commissioned to seek to encourage the people of that land to come to Iowa to make their homes. Hospers held mass meetings, talked with hundreds of interested persons, inserted advertisements in Dutch newspapers and carried on much correspondence connected with his task. In February of 1871 he returned to Pella and at once made preparations for moving to Orange City. He resigned his post as mayor of Pella, sold his business interests, and in June boarded a train with his family for northwestern Iowa. The Illinois Central railroad line now passed through Le Mars which took the family to within 15 miles of Orange City.

Before leaving for the Netherlands, Hospers arranged to have a carpenter from Pella build a house and a store in Orange City. Those living in the new colony were glad to

learn that Hospers was back. He was regarded by all as the undoubted leader of the new settlement.

Crops were good in 1871 and 1872, and several of the settlers began building more permanent houses with lumber purchased in Le Mars or closer to home at East Orange, just three miles from Orange City. In 1872 a railroad was constructed through Sioux County along the eastern tier of townships. The tracks entered the county at Sheldon and then ran south through Hospers and then on to East Orange. A small town named Carnes was platted seven miles south of East Orange. The railroad then proceeded to Le Mars and then finally to Sioux City.

On January 1, 1873, Orange City became the county seat as a result of the fall election in the previous year. County records were moved from Calliope, the first county seat which was located on the Bib Sioux River about 23 miles west of Orange City. Henry Hospers was chairman of the Board of Supervisors; A.J. Betten, Auditor; Jelle Pelmulder, Clerk of Courts, and J.W. Greatrux, of Grant Township, Treasurer.

The year 1873 was remembered as the first summer when grasshoppers invaded northwest Iowa and devoured almost all of the crops and garden plants. They came again in 1874 and again destroyed most of the crop. For some reason they did not hurt the growing crops in 1875, but from 1876 to 1879 they came again and again bringing disaster to farmers and hurting business men too. This was a crisis of major proportions throughout northwestern Iowa and some farmers sold out and left the area. Most of the people remained, as there seemed no place to go. Those that remained saw much better conditions during the 1880's.

Orange City received its first minister in April, 1872, when the Reverend Sein Bolks arrived from Zeeland, Michigan, to become pastor of the First Reformed Church. Services were held in the public school house in the town square for two years when work was begun on a church building. This was made possible when the congregation received \$4000 from "the East." The first worship service was held on Thanksgiving Day, 1874. The work on the church was far from completed since it was not yet plastered nor were there pews.

Henry Hospers began publication of a Dutch weekly, De Volksvriend, (The People's Friend), in June, 1874. The first months the circulation was only 120, but in twenty years time the paid subscribers numbered 2000.

During the grasshopper infestations when crops were destroyed throughout the colony, Henry Hospers remained confident that better times lay ahead. As chairman of the Board of Supervisors he kept taxes down by keeping county expenses at a minimum. He acted as banker for those needing

loans of financial aid, and in general tried to keep up the morale of the people through personal contacts and by means of his newspaper.

Henry Hospers in an editorial in De Volksvriend in 1874, wrote "there are more than four hundred families settled here; more than 15,000 acres are under cultivation; fifteen neat frame school houses grace various parts of our county; good roads have been laid out; the Sioux City and St. Paul Railroad runs squarely across our colony. East Orange and Hospers are two flourishing stations in our settlement."¹

Hospers continued, "although dark shadows, wrestlings, difficulties, adversity, and much privation also comprised a chapter in our colony's history . . . whatever the discouragements we now experience; we had expected worse; and it is far less terrible than that of the first colonists of Pella, Michigan, and Wisconsin."

But Van Hinte writing about the early years in Orange City, writes: "It is difficult to conceive of more hardship and misery than was endured in Sioux County in the years 1873 to 1879 . . . In the fall of 1874 the general discouragement in the Sioux County colony was so great that it would undoubtedly have ceased to exist as a Dutch colony if the invisible God operating in addition to two men who were supported by a small nucleus of the most strongly spirited pioneers, had not done everything possible to induce the colonists to stay, and for which they owe them everlasting gratitude."²

Henry Hospers was frequently called, "The Father of the Dutch colony," and Domine Bolks was hailed as "the spiritual Father." Van Hinte calls these men, "the saviors of the colony."

With better times coming in 1880 and during the rest of the decade, the time seemed ripe to establish a school of higher learning in Orange City. Since there was no high school anywhere near, it was felt that the colony needed a preparatory school; one that would give young people the opportunity to qualify for college or university. It was also evident that a secondary school was necessary to train teachers in the elementary schools of the county.

On August 1, 1882, incorporation papers were drawn up for Northwestern Classical Academy. Rev. Seine Bolks was named as president of the Board of Trustees, and Henry Hospers, treasurer. Hospers donated two city blocks in the south part of Orange City as a site for the Academy, and gave a sizable contribution for the school when subscription lists were sent around the community.

Classes began in September, 1883, in the consistorial chambers of the First Reformed Church and the local public school. In 1883, a two-story wooden building was constructed which became known as the "Pioneer School." The Pioneer school building was first occupied in January, 1884. The academy began with twenty-four students, but the enrollment increased as the years went by.

Northwestern has developed now into a four-year liberals college with around 850 students. In the inaugural address of Dr. Friedhelm Radandt, 16 October, 1979, he spoke as his topic, "Challenge From the Past." He said in part, "The direction of Northwestern College was set when these early settlers put their faith in action and pledged their meager resources to make a Christian institution a reality." Nothing has changed about that basic commitment."³ Northwestern's new president, Dr. James Bultman, took office at the beginning of the academic year, August, 1985.

According to the census of 1880, Sioux County had a population of 5,426. Orange City's population was 320. In 1882 a railroad was built across the southern tier of townships of the county. East of East Orange, Granville was platted, and the road continued on to make East Orange a junction town. The road then skirted the southern edge of Orange City, and the town of Maurice. Other towns included Ireton and Hawarden.

The village of Newkirk was started in 1882 when the Reformed Church of North Orange was organized in the northwest part of Floyd Township. The village of Middleburg was started in 1885 when the Free Grace Reformed Church was organized.

Sioux Center was settled by several waves of immigrants who came from various places where Dutch families had settled earlier. The first group into the community came in 1870, and other settlers followed until there were enough families to organize a Reformed Church of West Branch. In 1889 the name was changed into, The First Reformed Church of Sioux Center.

In the spring of 1880 surveyors platted a twenty acre piece of ground in the northwest corner of Section 9, West Branch Township, as the site of the First Reformed Church. A small village soon developed around the church property. A small parsonage was occupied by the church's first pastor, the Reverend James De Pree. This pioneer minister remained with First Church for thirty years. Reverend De Pree was one of the first members of the Board of Trustees of Northwestern Classical Academy.

As the years passed, Sioux center added Central Reformed Church, and three Christian Reformed Churches and a Protestant Reformed congregation. A Baptist Church is also found in Sioux Center.

Under the auspices of the Christian Reformed Churches of this area Dordt College was founded in 1955. It now has around 1000 students.

A small church village called Carmel is located northwest of Sioux Center and is a congregation belonging to the Reformed Church in America. It developed out of the First Reformed Church of Sioux Center.

West of Sioux Center another church village was founded in 1903. It is known as the Lebanon Christian Reformed Church.

The town of Perkins lies along the Great Northern Railroad tracks about six miles north of Sioux Center. Because of the proximity of Hull, just three miles east of Perkins, the latter community had declined noticeably.

By 1885 Dutch had settled in the townships of Holland, Nassau, Floyd, Capel, Sherman, Welcome, West Branch, and Lynn. The population of the county that year was 11,584. Ten years later Sioux County had a population of 21,405, according to census reports.

Dutch Settlements in the Dakotas

In 1881 some men in Orange City began talking about moving to the West. They were feeling the urge to settle another Dutch colony in the Dakotas, where land was said to be opening up to settlement, and could be obtained at cheap government prices. Someone said the men were succumbing to the "Dakota Fever."

The leader in this group was Frank Le Cocq Jr., the grandson of Francois Le Cocq, who had come over to Pella with the original group in the summer of 1847. Frank Le Cocq Sr., son of Francois, had been one of the settlers who had come to Sioux County in 1870. The grandson was enthusiastic about the possibilities of founding a new settlement in the Dakotas. With him were Leendert Vander Meer and Dirk Vanden Bos, men who had been members of the second investigation Committee in 1869.

As settlers continued to pour into the Orange City colony the time seemed ripe for the move into the West. Reports were coming that more immigrants from the Netherlands were planning to settle in northwest Iowa. A mass meeting was called in the fall of 1881 to which all interested persons were invited.

A reporter for the Sioux County Herald, wrote: "Another chapter in U.S. History is budding under the title of, "The Dakota Twig of the Sioux County Branch of the Pella Colony."

D. Vanden Bos, Leendert Vander Meer and Frank Le Cocq Jr. have organized themselves as a committee on explorations to look after a small patch in Dakota which old Chris overlooked A.D. 1492 . . . they will take formal possession of it in the name of the U.S. Congress and forthwith issue invitations to old bachelors to come and squat."⁵

The three men accompanied by Jacob Muilenburg and Arie Beukelman, set out with teams and wagons for Douglas County, Dakota Territory. The "Dakota Boom" was in full progress at this time and there was a great rush for government lands over all of the Dakotas. It was said, "Dakota land had proved itself a stronger lodestone than even Black Hills gold."⁶

The next spring several families left Orange City for Douglas County, Dakota, where the men mentioned before had selected land for another Dutch colony. The departure of the "Dakota Pilgrims" took place during the first week in May, 1882. The party traveled by teams and wagons to Hull, some 15 miles north of Orange City, where they boarded a special train headed for Dakota. Box cars were loaded with farm machinery, household goods and livestock. The families, men, women and children, occupied a coach in the rear of the train.

A new chapter in Dutch immigration was taking place. A strange sort of urge or spirit was causing people to move ever on and on, and it seemed as though this never would come to an end.

Plankington, Dakota Territory, a small town on the prairie, was as far as the Milwaukee Road went at that time. Here the immigrants unloaded their farm machinery, livestock, horses, and wagons, and as soon as possible, were on their way overland eighteen miles south to the site of the new settlement. Arriving at their marked homesteads they found a small group of their friends already there busy at work constructing temporary shanties. The advance party had come overland with teams and wagons and building materials, constituting a sort of vanguard for the groups to come. Among the advance party were, Dirk Vanden Bos and Jan De Velder with their families.

A town site was platted and given the name Harrison. Other towns soon made their appearance, such as, Grand View, the first county seat, New Holland, Joubert, and finally, Armour. By 1884 there were more than a thousand people settled on their claims and all government lands had been taken. The next year the total Dutch population had climbed to 3000.⁷

Frank Le Cocq Jr. is credited with being the founder of the town of Harrison, which he first named New Orange. By 1885 the town had twenty-five houses, two fairly large

churches of the Reformed faith, two blacksmith shops, four stores, and a wagon shop.

When the branch of the Milwaukee Railroad entered Douglas County, in 1886, it by-passed both Grand View and Harrison, and instead had town sites platted at Armour, five miles south of Grand View, and the town of Corsica, which the railroad officials located just five miles east of Harrison. Grand View as a result, disappeared altogether as all of its stores and houses were moved to Armour. Many of Harrison's stores and houses also were moved to Corsica. The two churches however, remained in Harrison as well as some stores and shops.

Other Dutch settlements were founded in nearby Charles Mix and Bon Homme counties. Some Dutch families moved into the Stickney, Dakota area, just to the north of Douglas County.

Albert Kuipers came from the Netherlands in 1882 and with the help of his son Hendrik, succeeded in starting a Dutch settlement in Charles Mix County. The towns of Platte, Edgerton, Castalia, and Nieveen, were started, all in Charles Mix County. This took place about the time when Douglas County was being settled. Many of the settlers coming into this colony came directly from the Netherlands.

Several Dutch families settled in Bon Homme County Southeast of Charles Mix, many of these families came from Orange City and directly from the Netherlands. A smaller group of Dutch settled further north in Campbell and Emmons County, South Dakota. Most of these families came from Holland, Michigan. Many families here fled back to Michigan during an Indian scare. Some remained, however. Smaller groups of Dutch moved into the country around Brookings, Estelline, Monroe, Chancellor, Castlewood, Volga and Colton, South Dakota. Sioux Falls, the largest city in the state, has two or three Reformed churches, indicating a sizable group of Dutch in that city.

In North Dakota small Dutch settlements were made near Hull, Marion, Litchville, and Westfield. Statehood for South and North Dakota was declared on October 1, 1889. The Dakota Territorial government ceased to exist on November 2, 1899. The President of the United States at this time was Benjamin Harrison. This may account for the change of the name of the Dutch town of New Orange, Douglas County, to Harrison.

Minnesota

Several important Dutch communities were made in the state of Minnesota. In 1894 land was offered for sale at very reasonable cost in Mille Lacs County, near the towns of Pease

and Princeton. An advertisement appeared in De Volksvriend, 17 January, 1895, offering land for sale at from \$3 to \$7 per acre. The advertisement was placed in the paper by land agent John Pluimers of Orange City, who represented M.S. Rutherford of Princeton, Minnesota. By 1917 Pease and vicinity had 110 Dutch families permanently settled here. The southern portion of the settlement reached as far as Princeton, Minnesota.

The success of the Pease settlement encouraged other Dutch families to move to Minnesota. A Dutch community encouraged other Dutch families to move to Minnesota. A Dutch community was established eighteen miles southeast of Ogilvie, in Kanabec County. In 1915 a group of forty-five Dutch families settled here. Uncleared land could be purchased for \$12 or \$15 per acre near the town of McGrath also in Kanabec County. One Dutchman remarked, "it is better to buy cheap land here than to pay high rents in Iowa."⁸

Other important Dutch settlements were made in Kandiychi, Chippewa, and Renville counties, some seventy-five miles west of Minneapolis. The settlements were promoted by land agents Theodore Kochs and Martin Prins, who represented the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company. About 34,000 acres of land were available at costs from \$6 to \$8 per acre. Advertisements for this land appeared in De Volksvriend and in other Dutch language newspapers, such as Pella's Weekblad, and De Grondwet of Holland, Michigan.

The town of Prinsburg was founded in 1885 and named after Martin Prins who died in 1885. Clara City was named after the wife of Theodore Kochs. Both towns support strong Reformed churches today. Dutch families moved in these communities from Michigan, Pella, Nebraska, and even from the Netherlands.

The village of Greenleafton lies in the SE portion of Minnesota, in Fillmore County. The first Dutch settlers came into York Township from Wisconsin in 1856. More Dutch came and by 1868 there were enough families to organize a Reformed Church. Miss Alice Greenleaf from New York sent the congregation a timely gift of \$3500 to be used to build a church. The settlement came to comprise four townships.

Across the state of Minnesota, westward, in Nobles County, a community of Dutch families was settled around the village of Leota. Two Reformed churches are today flourishing there. To the northwest, the large town of Edgerton has several Reformed church of Dutch origin. The town has an annual Dutch Festival in July. Two land agents of Orange City, of the firm, Slikkever and Visser, advertised in 1886, offering land for sale in southwest Minnesota, in the Edgerton and Pipestone areas. They were then asking a payment of only \$1 down per acre. They claimed to have some 60,000 acres of land for sale. In 1886 they organized an excursion to Pipestone County. Most of the land in southwest Minnesota,

however, was not settled by Dutch until into the 1890's. Dutch people moved into the communities of Chandler, Lismore, Luverne, and Leota during that period.

Of special interest is the Dutch settlement at Hollandale, Minnesota. This was sponsored by the Albert Lea Farms Company working with the Payne Investment Company of Omaha. Land was offered for sale which at one time was lake bottom and marsh, covering about 15,000 acres. It was located in Freeborn County in southeast Minnesota.

In 1919 about 6000 acres of marsh and lake was drained and offered for sale in 1922 exclusively for people of Dutch descent. Advertisements appeared in the Dutch weekly, De Volksvriend and several families from Orange City, Sioux Center, Hospers, and other localities where Dutch people are found, moved to Hollandale. Two young girls won first prize in a contest to suggest a name for the settlement, and Hollandale was selected. The Albert Lea Company offered special inducements to those who settled at Hollandale: helping to finance the construction of buildings, churches and a creamery.

The soil was excellent for the growing of potatoes, celery, cabbages and onions. Farmers received good yields on their crops and the colony proved successful from the start. In 1822 land there could be purchased for \$32 per acre. Hollandale has become a model Dutch-American community.

Washington

Beginning in 1894 Dutch settlers were attracted to the state of Washington. They were drawn to the area around Puget Sound on Whidbey Island and to Oak Harbor, and the Yakima Valley. A large Dutch settlement was started at Lynden in Whatcom County.

The influx of settlers into Washington came largely from Iowa. Among those who led the trek into Washington was Frank Le Cocq Jr., who came with his wife and nine sons to Lynden. Settlements were made in the Yakima Valley in several places. Zillah became a prosperous community. By 1903 improved farms were selling for \$100 to \$120 per acre. A Christian Reformed congregation was formed at Sunnyside, and the Dutch community there grew steadily.

At Oak Harbor the settlement grew more slowly at first, but by the end of 1899 there were 35 Dutch families there. Most of those who came to Oak Harbor were from the Mid-West. In 1903 there were three Reformed churches and the settlement made more progress as the years passed. The town of Lynden for a while, during the 1890's, was in a state of decay, but after the turn of the century conditions vastly improved, and

many Dutch settled in the town and in the Nooksack Valley. Here land could be bought for \$20 or \$30 an acre. Factories in Lynden also prospered, giving employment to hundreds. Farmers expanded on all sides of Lynden and northward into British Columbia. Dairy farming proved successful as well as general farming. By 1930 the census figures showed that there were 3,250 foreign-born Dutch living in Washington.

Montana

In Montana a Dutch settlement was established at Manhattan in the Gallatin Valley in the year 1898. Eighty-five Dutch families were living in the valley in 1911. These people had in twenty years progressed from early years of extreme hardship, to a period of prosperity and comfortable living. In 1930 there were 1253 Dutch living in the state, many of them coming from the Mid-West.

Colorado

The only Dutch community in Colorado is found in Denver. In 1907 a Christian Reformed church was organized in an area then known as south Denver. Rev. Izerd Van Dellen was called to this church from Orange City. This pastor found that many Dutch people, suffering from Asthma, would come to Denver for relief. He realized that some cooperative effort should be made to care for such ailments and the outcome of his idea was the founding of Bethesda Sanitorium. The institution has had the support of all Reformed Churches in the Denver area and throughout the Mid-West. Bethesda has, during the years, developed into a large, modern mental hospital, serving a wide area. During the past few years an annual Dutch Festival is held on the grounds of the institution. At the July festival this year (1985), the festival activities made a profit of \$25,500. Bethesda has branch clinics in several cities in the United States.

Texas

Although strenuous efforts have been made to settle Dutch people in the state of Texas none has been a success. In 1897 W. Van Amerongen of Orange City and A.J. Kemper of Rock Valley, attempted to get something started in Texas near Houston. The Texas Colonization Company had advertisements placed in De Volksvriend between 1895 and 1897, offering to sell land at "reasonable prices." It was claimed that two crops could be raised in one year.

Around 1900 some six hundred Dutch persons settled in a place called Nederland. Fourteen years later only four Dutch

families were still there. Nederland was located along the coastal region in the vicinity of Port Arthur. The hot climate and rice culture seemingly did not go well with the Dutch.

Nederland is still found on maps of Texas, but there is no Dutch colony there, and few if any Dutch families.

Nebraska

The Dutch never settled in Nebraska to any great extent. The only place where a colony was started was in Lancaster County, in an area about twenty miles south of Lincoln. Here the village of Holland was founded around a Reformed church. The first Dutch to arrive in the area came in the year 1868 when Hendrik Brethouwer came from Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Later that year four more families and three unmarried men joined Brethouwer around the future village of Holland. These people came all the way by team and wagon, traveling across Iowa, and crossing the Missouri River at Nebraska City.

Despite some adverse weather conditions, such as drought and hail or excess rainfall, the colony prospered and as more Dutch came to the area another village church community was founded some six miles south of Holland an called Pella. More Dutch settled around the town of Firth and organized a Reformed Church there. Holland remained a rural village with only a store of two, never developing into the kind of town such as Orange City. Many young people in this Dutch community in recent decades have found employment in the capital city of Lincoln and have made their homes there. A Reformed church affiliated with the Reformed Church in America, has been founded there.

Kansas

The most successful Dutch settlement in Kansas was located at Rotterdam, later called Dispatch. It is located in the southern part of Smith County, near the town of Cawker City. Although the early settlers suffered from drought and grasshoppers, most of the farmers stayed, and by 1880 conditions improved considerably. A Christian Reformed church was founded that year and about sixty families settled permanently at Rotterdam.

In 1877 a Dutch settlement was established in Phillips County Kansas. This was situated between Long Island and Prairie View. Here a congregation of the Reformed Church in America was organized. Most of these people had come from Holland, Nebraska, being attracted by the low cost of land. By 1885 the settlement was well established and more Dutch families were added to the church. Most of the farms in this

area averaged 160 acres. According to the U.S. Census of 1930, Kansas had 513 foreign-born Dutch citizens.

California

According to Henry L. Lucas, California failed to attract Dutch immigrants in spite of the advantages the state offered to them. Before 1900 only a few Dutch entered California, and they came mostly as individuals. The economic, climatic and scenic features of the state did not induce American born Dutch in any sizable numbers into the state either.

During more recent years there has been a most remarkable increase in the immigration of Dutch into California. This is attributed mostly to the work of real-estate agents. After 1900 more and more Dutch moved into California. Some Reformed churches first appeared at Redlands, and some families moved into Los Angeles. At Ripon a trainload of Dutch families arrived and the next year there were enough people there to organize a Christian Reformed congregation. Many from the Netherlands arrived there, and by 1945 the group numbered 185 families with a total of 844 Dutch people.

In the Los Angeles area Dutch settlements were formed at Bellflower, Compton, Hynes, Clearwater, Ontario, and Artesia. Most of these came from the Midwest, but a large number also came directly from the Netherlands.

By 1943 6,055 persons of Dutch ancestry lived in California or 1669 families, as reported by the Reformed churches in that state. The U.S. Census reports however, that in 1940 there were 9,754 Dutch of foreign birth living in California.¹⁰

Oregon

In 1875 a group of Catholic families settled in the Willamette River Valley. There were six families led by John Verhoort and John A. Van der Velden from De Pere, Wisconsin. Earlier, in 1864, several Dutch families from Pella arrived in the Willamette River Valley but they returned to Iowa and settled in Sioux County. They were led by Cornelius Jongewaard of Pella. No large settlements ever were made in the state. A small colony of Dutch settled around McMinnville where there was excellent soil. The 1940 census gives the state only 938 of Dutch ancestry.

Few Dutch settled in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Hawaii, Alaska, Idaho, or the southwestern states of Arizona, and New Mexico. Religious beliefs brought some Dutch to Utah.

Shortly after 1950, but still no extensive settlement of the Dutch ever took place in that state.

United States census statistics show that in 1870 there were 1951 Dutch of foreign birth in the Fox River Valley of Wisconsin. This was a Roman Catholic settlement and these people settled in the communities of Little Chute, De Pere, Green Bay and Hollandtown. Following 1870 more Dutch Catholics came to this area settling in Kimberley, Combined Locks, and Kaukanna. Dutch Catholics settled in the large cities of America. The Wisconsin settlement was therefore the largest settlement of Catholics in the United States.

Van Hinte suggests that the reason for the lack of many Dutch Catholic settlements in this country is that they lacked the pioneering spirit which was so characteristic of the Dutch Protestant immigrants.

Van Hinte attributes the difference between the Dutch Protestant settlements and those of the Roman Catholics to the spirit of Calvinism. He writes: "The greater virility of Calvinism, in distinction from Roman Catholics to the spirit of Calvinism. He writes: "The greater virility of Calvinism, in distinction from Roman Catholicism as a factor in colonization among the Netherlands, becomes evident when we inquire into the new settlements that came out of the early Catholic settlement in the Fox River Valley. The answer is clear--none of any significance; its achievements are little known. Earlier it was noted that there was little activity among the Roman Catholic immigrants and it is evident again. Where are the Roman Catholic daughter colonies? Where is there a Roman Catholic Sioux County or even an aborted Virginia colonization?"¹¹

Van Hinte believes that "the international character of Roman Catholicism may have weakened their national identity and ethnicity, making our former Roman Catholic fellow countrymen more easily inclined to live among the Roman Catholic Americans, Irish, French and other coreligionists, just as had been the case from the beginning in the Fox River Valley. This was in contrast to the much more nationalistic Calvinists who with their religion occupy a far more secluded position."

In his great work Netherlanders in America, a translation of Jacob Van Hinte's Nederlanders in Amerika, (Groningen: P. Noordhoff, 1928), the author has done for Dutch-American historical settlements in the United States what Alexis De Tocqueville for all Americans in his Journey to America. De Tocqueville traveled throughout the United States for nine months (1831-1832). Van Hinte had less time for his trip to the major Dutch settlements in this country, having only six weeks to make the rounds. It is remarkable how much Van Hinte

was able to accomplish in that short time when he gathered information for his great work.

Van Hinte raised the question during his travels: "How did the Orange City settlement differ from that of Holland, Michigan, or even Pella?"

First of all, Van Hinte says that the immigrants who came to Sioux County had not lived through the tense times of the Secession of the late 1830's and early 1840's. There was an altogether different "atmosphere" existing in the Orange City colony, than was found among the "forest dwellers" of Michigan and Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

When Van Raalte's Dutch immigrants landed in Western Michigan they found themselves in the midst of a deep and dark forest isolated seemingly from all civilization. By contrast, those who settled in Iowa, whether in Pella or in Orange City, were confronted with the wide and open prairies. At Orange City there were not trees whatsoever, only a few small scattered clumps of small willows along the banks of the Floyd River.

Socially, Van Hinte says that the Orange City settlers "stood at a somewhat higher level." He states that in comparing the situations in the Michigan colony and that in Orange City he comes to the conclusion that the Dutch who settled in Sioux County "were an exceptional breed." It was Van Hinte's observations that those Dutch in Iowa had adjusted to the American life-style more readily and that they "exhibited great will-power and vitality. In addition, they were selection material." It was the opinion of one American who lived in Sioux County during recent years that the Dutch "through their will power had made Sioux County into 'the best part of the best state in the Union'." ¹²

Van Hinte spent a few days in Orange City during his visit to the States in 1921. He was much impressed and termed the colony "fascinating." He said, "We are immediately aware that we are dealing here with an exceptional class of people--not exceptional in the cultural sense but in the physical and psychological sense."

Van Hinte credits the Pella Dutch for setting the tone for the Orange City settlement. The Pella people were better educated and possessed a more general outlook and understanding of life. Pella made the "greatest contribution to the development of the 'Farther West.'" Other western Dutch colonies, while they may not have been nearly as impressive as that of Orange City, were nevertheless the offspring of Scholte's colony.

Concludes Van Hinte: "Sioux County possessed the most enterprising, the most adventurous people who undertook to

migrate farther, which is not to say that those who remained behind were less capable. Quite the contrary!"

"Among the latter were those who had been successful, particularly through their initiative, their energy, and their development, they 'had made it,' and had even attained a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment that stamped them as spiritually superior."¹³

In conclusion perhaps we should give a word of caution about all that has been said here: A writer in the Sunday School Guide, published in Zeeland, Michigan, who writes under the pen name of Klaus said:

"Don't burn your wooden shoes. Just don't make an altar of them either."

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