

Henrietta Rolffs, 100, of Pella

Henrietta Nieuwsma Rolffs, 100, of Pella passed away Aug. 16, 2006. Funeral services were held Aug. 19, at the Covenant Reformed Church in Pella. Interment was held at the Oakwood Cemetery in Pella. Memorials can be given to the Pella Christian Grade School or the Pella Christian High School.

Henrietta Van Kooten was born in Appledorn Gelderland, the Netherlands, on Dec. 7, 1905. She came to America with her parents, Hendrik and Cornelia Schut Van Kooten, along with 10 brothers and sisters when she was four years old. Her family eventually consisted of 16 siblings, eight brothers and seven sisters. Henrietta went through the 7th grade in school, helped her parents and then worked as hired help in various homes as a young girl. Henrietta then met John Nieuwsma, a son of Henry and Anna Zylstra Nieuwsma, and they were united in marriage on Jan. 20, 1927.

To this union four children were born: Harlan, Connie, Doretha and Dennis. Henrietta and John Nieuwsma lived and farmed near Peoria, where they raised their four children. They later moved to a farm west of Pella, and then moved into a home in Pella. John spent 14 years in the employ of the Rolscreen Company in Pella prior to his retirement in 1968. He passed away unexpectedly Aug. 2, 1971, at the age of 67 years. Henrietta lived alone for seven years and then met and married Dick Rolffs on Dec. 27, 1977. Henrietta and Dick Rolffs continued to make their residence together in the Pella Manor for many years. Dick passed away on Jan. 30, 2001, at the advanced age of 96 years.

She had a fond devotion for her four children and their families: Harlan J. and Shirley (Rook) Nieuwsma of Marion; Connie L. and Ted Overbergen of Oskaloosa;

Doretha J. Plate of LeMars; Dennis J. and Diane (Carney) Nieuwsma of Woodbridge, Virginia. Henrietta maintained a special interest in the well-being of her seven step-children: Henry and Hermina (Arkema) Rolffs of Sully, Janet and Guy Jansen of Pella, Cornelia and Wilbur Vos of Sully, John and Shirley (Rooy) Rolffs of Willmar, Minnesota, Dorothy and Marion Vos of Oskaloosa, Mildred and Louis Lanser of Newton, Marvin and Janice (Wichhart) Rolffs of Oskaloosa; her 27 step-grandchildren, 86 step-great-grandchildren and 17 step-great-great-grandchildren. She had a special place in her heart for her three living sisters: Cora (John) Bruxvoort of Oskaloosa; Nellie (Harry) Terpstra and Pauline (George) Terpstra both of Pella; her one living brother, Albert Van Kooten of Oskaloosa; and her sister-in-law, Lucille (Paul) Van Kooten of Denver, Colorado. Henrietta was preceded in death by her husbands, John Nieuwsma and Dick Rolffs; one grandson, Duane Plate; three step-great-grandchildren: Laura Rolffs, Christopher De Young and Chase Huizer; one step-great-great-granddaughter, Amarie Rolffs; her parents, Henry and Cornelia Van Kooten; and the following sisters and brothers and their spouses: Tillie and Dick Van Klaveren, Hattie and John Van Arkel, Dena and Jake Van Kampen, Cornelia and Henry Van Steenwyk, Henry and Wilma Van Kooten, Cornelius and Jennie Van Kooten, Peter and Jennie Van Kooten, Gerrit and Durky Van Kooten, Roy and Nellie Van Kooten, Paul Van Kooten, Everett Van Kooten, a brother who died in infancy in the Netherlands; her brothers-in-law: John Bruxvoort, Harry Terpstra and George Terpstra; and a sister-in-law, Marie (Albert) Van Kooten.