

WILLIAM AND CORNELIA HUYSER



William C. Huyser, son of Aart and Pietermella Vanden Hoek Huyser, was born May 1, 1864, in Barendrecht, the Netherlands. He came to America in 1885, at the age of twenty-one. His entire family, consisting of his father, step-mother, and five step-brothers and sisters, Maria (Mrs Jacob Colyn), Cornelius, Lyntje, Marinus, and Adrianus (Jim), made the long voyage first class. They recall how sick the many Russians were who traveled in the lower decks of the boat. All the possessions of the family were packed in wooden trunks, still a part of the families' heirlooms.

On March 4, 1893, he married Cornelia Vander Willt, daughter of Gerrit and Jennie Stann Vander Willt, who came from Breukelen, Utrecht, the Netherlands. They moved to a one hundred forty acre farm three miles south of Sully, Iowa, which his father bought for them for thirty-nine dollars an acre. Coming from Pella, where they were married, the newlyweds had to go down the banks and through the water of the South Skunk River because there was no bridge. When they arrived at the farmstead, a hog jumped out of the window of the two-room house. Straw and dirt were swept from the house before their household items were moved in.

William died of cancer on his face at the age of forty-two. It was believed the cancer started from an injury caused by a cow. During his long illness, his loyal wife carried on the duties of mother, nurse and provider. Relatives and friends were terrified by the disease and reluctantly stayed away

from the Huyser home. One relative, Marinus

Huyser, risked contracting the disease and went to aid the family. At the time of William's death, none of his sick room were burned. Kate was left to raise eight small children, ranging in age from six months to fourteen years. They were: Aart, born January 30, 1894, who married Nellie De Jong, died January 8, 1975; Nellie, born November 9, 1897, who married K. B. Vorsteegh, and later married Simon Vandepoel; Jennie, born August 20, 1894, who married Arie De Cock; Lena, born March 3, 1898, who married Fred De Jong; Gerrit, born August 9, 1898, who married Marie De Jong, and later married Heijer De Penning; Rosetta, born July 17, 1900, who married Gerrit Eysink; Agnes, born June 15, 1902, who married Flor J. De Jong; William, born August 11, 1905, who married Stella Vander Kamp, died July 18, 1972.

When William (Bill) married, he remained on the family farm, and Kate, his mother, moved to Pella. Later, she built a new home in Sully, the present home of the Marvin Goodlyke family. Grandma Kate passed away November 7, 1957, at the age of ninety years.



Children of William and Cornelia (Kate) Huyser
Front: Jennie, Rosetta, Nellie, Lena, Agnes
Back: Aart, Bill, Gerrit