

**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) VanRoek-el, 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.

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**VANDE KROL, KEITH AND JOAN**

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Keith Dwayne Vande Kral and Nellie Joan Verhoef were married in Pella on May 17, 1968. Keith was born on June 24, 1944, to Glen and Nola (Monsma) Vande Krol. He was their second child and oldest son. He was raised with his older sister, Dorothy, and younger twin brother and sister, Judy and Jerry, on a farm south. of Lynnville. When he was 12, the family moved to a farm south of Sully. He attended the Ludwick country school through sixth grade. He was the only student in his class. His seventh through twelfth grades were spent at the Lynnville-Sully schools. After a few years of working at various jobs in the Sully area, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served during the Vietnam crisis. He was discharged from the Air Force in Apr. of 1967. Nellie Joan was born to Willem and Neeltje "Nelly" Johanna (Griffioen) Verhoef on Feb. 19, 1945, in Bambrugge, The Netherlands. She was their second child and oldest daugh-ter. Her given name at that time was Neeltje Johanna Alida. It was tradition in The Netherlands in those days to name the children according to certain rules. The oldest son was named after the father's father. The oldest daughter was named aft+ the mother's mother. The next son wi named after the mother's father, and the ne: daughter was named after the father's motl er. Other children were named after ti couple's brothers and sisters. A child who WE not named according to this tradition we said to have been

given a "free" name Breaking this tradition was not always looked upon with favor by the rest of the family. Nellie was born at the end of World War I and even though the Germans were retreating before the Allied Army, they still occupied Amsterdam and its surrounding towns, one of which was Buitendijk. The winter is known as the "Hunger Winter" in Amsterdam, and many babies died that winter due to a scarcity of food. Her father was a meat and milk inspector and was able to obtain extra food for the family. In 1949 Nellie emigrated with her parents Willem, and younger sister Jannette to the United States. They did not enter the United States through Ellis Island as so many immigrants have done. Rather they entered by way of Nova Scotia, Canada through Port Huron, and then by train to Iowa. From 1949 until 1960, Nellie lived on a series of farms in the Grinnell, Tracy, Bussey and Leighton areas. She attended schools Grinnell, Tracy, and Bussey. When she was in fourth grade, she started attending Pede Christian Grade School. During that time three brothers and one sister were born. Gall was born Mar. 16, 1952, and was killed in a swing accident on Oct. 24, 1958. Harry Joht was born Jan. 2, 1954. Theodore Peter was born on Feb. 16, 1957, and died seven days later. Marjorie Elaine was born on Mar. 28 1958. In 1954 Nellie became a naturalized citizen in a ceremony in Des Moines. Her name at that time was changed to Nellie Joan. In 1960 Nellie Joan moved with her family to a farm just south of Pella. She graduated from Pella Christian High School in 1960 and from Blodgett Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Pella, Iowa, 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 Meerland, 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 Meerland, The Netherlands. She died July 2, 1950, at the age of 92 yrs., 5 mos., 11 days. Seven children were born to this union. Hendrik "Hendrik" VandeKrol, born in Meerland, 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, daughter of John and Mary (VerHeul) Elschot. She died July 1927. Both are buried in Sully 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 Sully, 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, Mar. 23, 1898, Marion Co., Ia.) One child, daughter, Gertrude Henrietta, was born to this union on Feb. 25, 1899.

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## **VANDE KROL, KEITH AND JOAN**

### **F677 by Joan Vande Krol**

Keith Dwayne Vande Krol and Nellie Joan Verhoef were married in Pella on May 17, Keith was born on June 24, 1944, to Glen and Olga (Monismaj Vande Krol). He was their second child and oldest son. He was raised with his older sister, Dorothy, and Hunger twin brother and sister, Judy and Harry, on a farm south of Lynnville. When he was 12, the family moved to a farm south of Sully. He attended the Ludwick country school through sixth grade. He was the only student in his class. His seventh through twelfth grades were spent at the Lynnville-Sully schools. After a few years of working at various jobs in the Sully area, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and served during the Vietnam crisis. He was discharged from the Air Force in Apr. of 1967. Nellie Joan was born to Willem and Neeltje "Telly" Johanna (Griffioen) Verhoef on Feb. 1, 1945, in Buitendijk, The Netherlands. He was their second child and oldest daughter. Her given name at that time was Neeltje Thanna Alida. It was tradition in The Netherlands in those days to name the children according to certain rules. The first son was named after the father's father. The oldest daughter was named after the mother's mother. The

next son was named after the mother's father, and the next daughter was named after the father's mother. Other children were named after the couple's brothers and sisters. A child who was not named according to this tradition was said to have been given a "free" name. Breaking this tradition was not always looked upon with favor by the rest of the family. Nellie was born at the end of World War II, and even though the Germans were retreating before the Allied Army, they still occupied Amsterdam and its surrounding towns, one of which was Bامbrugge. That winter is known as the "Hunger Winter" in Amsterdam, and many babies died that winter due to a scarcity of food. Her father was a meat and milk inspector and was thus able to obtain extra food for the family. In 1949 Nellie emigrated with her parents, older brother—Willem, and younger sister Jannette to the United States. They did not enter the United States through Ellis Island as so many immigrants have done. Rather they entered by way of Nova Scotia, Canada, through Port Huron, and then by train to Ottumwa, Ia. From 1949 until 1960, Nellie lived on a series of farms in the Grinnell, Tracy, Bussey, and Leighton areas. She attended schools in Grinnell, Tracy, and Bussey. When she was in fourth grade, she started attending Pella Christian Grade School. During that time three brothers and one sister were born. Gary was born Mar. 16, 1952, and was killed in a swing accident on Oct. 24, 1958. Harry John was born Jan. 2, 1954. Theodore Peter was born on Feb. 16, 1957, and died seven days later. Marjorie Elaine was born on Mar. 28, 1958. In 1954 Nellie became a naturalized citizen in a ceremony in Des Moines. Her name at that time was changed to Nellie Joan. In 1960 Nellie Joan moved with her family to a farm just south of Pella. She graduated from Pella Christian High School in 1958; and from Blodgett Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Grand Rapids, Mich. as a Registered Nurse in 1966. In 1967 Nellie Joan, now known as Joan, moved back to Pella and started working at the Pella Community Hospital. After Keith and Joan were married, Keith started working for Van Dyke-Duven Funeral Home while attending Central College. During that time, their son K. Dwayne was born on Oct. 9, 1970. In the fall of 1970 Keith began working as a claims adjuster for Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company. The family moved to Monticello, Ia. and lived there until March of 1972. The family returned to Pella in Apr. of 1972, and Keith began working as a sales representative for Van Gorp Manufacturing of Pella. Their daughter Teresa Lanell was born on Aug. 25, 1972. Joan again started working at Pella Community Hospital in Apr. of 1974. In 1977 Keith and Joan bought an acreage and built a house on the land, four miles north of Pella. They moved in December of 1977. In January of 1978, Keith became the first employee of a newly formed company, Precision Pulley, Inc. Presently, the family still lives on the acreage north of Pella, as part of their family activities includes showing horses. Dwayne and Teri are also very active in academic, athletic, and musical activities at Pella Community High School. Joan is supervisor of the Special Care Unit and Co-Director of Nursing at the Pella Community Hospital. Keith is a regional manager for Precision Pulley, Inc.

**by Joan Vande Krol**