

Hendrik Kremer

The History of the Kremers as written by Tamme
Kremer and translated by a school teacher in
Uithuizen and then later rewritten by Lena A. Huizenga.

Some years ago, Mr. Harry Kremer from Redlands, Cal. visited his native town in the Netherlands. There he met with relatives, who scarcely knew of his existence. Yet they opened their homes to him, seeing he identified himself as a "Kremer". While there he discovered that Tamme Kremer had written down the family history, dating back to 1734. This intrigued Harry and so he asked the local school teacher, whether he would translate the manuscript into the English language, which he consented to do. But when the task was completed it was written in such a stilted manner, that it is difficult to comprehend the meaning. For example here is a paragraph, which is copied verbatim.

"The meaning of which will follow presently, it is in the main to try to honour the elders in remembrance. Then in this way to rescue some oblivious, in the faint hearted hope that this reproduction of tradition and remembrance, may form a contribution of solidarity in family life, to the honour of those who preceded us. But above all to the honour of him, whose greatness especially finds expression in the bewildering variation in outward and inward life of all whom He created".

From this you will gather that it is no small task to decipher the meaning of the author. Yet for posterity's sake it is well that we know a little of our ancestors.

1734

The history dates back to the year 1734, when Roelof Hendrik and Heika Friks were married.

Just the marriage date is recorded and in those days they did not have a surname. It is to be noted that the first recorded name was Roelf Hendrik and that his eldest son's name was Hendrik Roelfs.

1774

On Jan. 8, 1774 Hendrik Roelf and Trijn Jans were married. The eldest brother of the groom, Tamme Jans and the parents of the bride and groom

were witnesses to the marriage ceremony. This is the first time that the name "Tamme" appears in the family history, but each successive generation has had a son by that name. Those who emigrated to America called their sons "Thomas".

At the time of the marriage the bride and groom would designate to whom their property would go to, in the event there would be no children surviving them. Usually it was shared equally between the two families. However on a parchment sheet Hendrik Roelf insisted that it be recorded that the silver knife and fork, which gentlemen usually wore in a specially designed pocket of their shirt, should remain on his side of the family. That it should be given to the eldest son of each generation. At present this knife and fork is in possession of Tamme Kremer and his eldest son is to receive it, upon his death. The fact that these utensils were made of silver, gives one the impression that the Kremers were people of means. The document, which is yellow with age, is still with the family. It also records that the bridegroom got 900 gulden (\$300.00) from his parents and the bride received 400 gulden (\$125.00) from her parents. The bridegroom was the eldest of 19 children and with this dowry they were able to purchase a farm, getting a mortgage on it. Each child upon his marriage received the same amount and each one bought a farm of 50 acres with the dowry. Thus we see that in this area most of the land was owned by the children of Hendrik Roelf. Thus they were considered land lords and felt superior to the other people in the community. In Dutch one calls it "Adel" meaning something like royalty.

1774 was a year of prosperity for all of Holland.

1780-1784 Trouble with England

1787 Fierce civil discention in the Netherlands.

1789 French Revolution.

1793 War against England.

1795 The House of Orange receive the French like brothers. Netherlands is assessed one hundred million gulden (\$40,000,000.00) to pay war expenses to France.

1797 Invasion of the British and Russians in Holland.

1804 Napoleon becomes emperor of France.

1810 H Holland was annexed to France.

As noted before, our ancestors were land owners. Each farmer had a heavy morgage on their farm. All went well when Holland was prosperous, but when a depression came and the morgage holders insisted on having their money back, they were unable to pay it. Thus within a very short time all 19 children of Roelf Hendrik became poor, for they had to give up their farms to the morgage holders.

Each child had to choose a new vocation and Hendrik chose to work for a firm that sold various toilet articles. (The Stanley Firm is such a company today) When they saw Hendrik coming to their door to sell merchandise, they would call him, "Kremer" seeing that was the name of the firm, which he represented. So when later on he had to choose a surname by law, he chose the name KREMER. As early as 1813 Hendrik's son was known to be called Hendrik Kremer.

1846

Tamme Kremer, the son of Henry Kremer, married Petronella Hoppenga. To them were born eight children of whom two died in infancy, three migrated to America and the others remained in the Netherlands. Tamme became a carpenter in Uithuizen, Groningen. His wife Petronella, was a vivacious young woman, who at an early age had to discontinue her education and become first a nursemaid and later a servant girl. Her employer was a wealthy man, who wished to dodge military service. Her father, in a drunken stupour, signed a document stating that he would be willing to take the place of the rich man, should he be called for military duty. Petronella, who had been ^oeye-dropping entered the room, snatched the signed paper from her father's hand and threw it in the burning fireplace. She was ambitious and sold white chalk, which was used to paint the walls and she made sour-kroust for sale. She was a god-fearing woman but never publicly professed her Lord. Her dying testimony was

"His grace is sufficient for me".

Petronella Hoppenga Kremer was born Oct.12,1817 and lived for 77 years.She was known to have had a fiery temper and at times she would take it out on her children.At one time her husband witnessed the punishing of a child and he cried out,"Nell, do stop punishing the child.One would think you had a serpent in you". And yet she was tender and loving to her family.At age 48 she gave birth to twin daughters and one of her quotes is,"I wouldn't wish having twins to my worst enemy".

She wore a golden cap, which was adorned with^a beautiful lace cap, fastened by huge gold pins and adorned by smaller gold pins. This was a fashionable head dress in those days and as it was costly it gave a woman distinction and prestige.But in order to wear this gold cap, one had to cut the hair very short.Later in the twentieth century when it became fashionable to wear one's hair short, the Bible was quoted as to its sinfulness. But then the young girls would point to the pictures of their grandmothers and say,"Grandmother had bobbed hair!!"

Tamme Kremer moved his family to a modest home on the Noorder Straat and there they raised their six children.When the twins were born the father said,"We will never see these children grow up".And yet he saw both girls grow up and have families of their own.

He was a member of the State Church, but when Rev.Henry Kok seceded from that church ,he went along with Rev.Kok and joined the Reformed Church in the Netherlands.In America it is known as the Christian Reformed Church.

Tamme and Petronella had three sons and each one married women ten years their junior.

A brief synopsis is given of each child of Tamme Kremer.

Hendrik Kremer - son of Tamme Kremer

Hendrik, the eldest son was born in 1847. He married a girl ten years his junior whose first name was Fredericka.

For years they lived in Warfum, Groningen, where he had a small department store. It was from this store that his sister Altje would purchase merchandise and sell it to her customers in Uithuizen.

At least four of their children were born in the Netherlands. Their two oldest children were twins and they named them after their paternal parents, namely Tamme and Petronella.

Toward the end of the century Hendrik and family moved to Chicago, where he was employed in one of the largest department stores of the city, Marshall Field and Co. Fredericka was an able seamstress and could do beautiful embroidery work.

With pride they raised six children, who took their place in the church and community.

1. Tamme (Thomas) married a fine woman by the name of Maddie.

2. Petronella (Nell) married Theodore Koelikamp when she was but seventeen years old. She, being the eldest grandchild, could tell the younger generation some of the tales of the early years of her childhood.

3. Martje (Maddie) married Theodore Klempf and raised a large family on the farm.

4. Henry lived in Chicago and raised several children.

5. Nicholas lived in Chicago and her suburbs for many years. Then suddenly decided to move to California, where he died.

6. Harry, the youngest son, was to have been named Simon, but his mother thought that that name sounded too Jewish. He was in the grocery business during the early years of his marriage but then later on he moved to Redlands, California, where his children reside.

Nicolaas, the second son of Tamme and Petronella Kremer was born about 1849. He seemed to be a bright child and therefore it was thought that he should become a teacher. He therefore was placed under the supervision of a local teacher and later on received further education. He was honoured by the Queen and received a coveted badge, which he would gladly have laid at the feet of his parents, to whom he was indebted for his education, for, at great sacrifice they gave him the means to complete his education. Nicolaas married a young girl ten years his junior, who was proud and haughty and who was not compatible with the humble school teacher. There was no love between them and their three children were brought up in a home, where parents were at odds with one another constantly.

Their eldest son became a teacher, the second son had to be taken up in an insane assylum, where he died as an adult. The daughter took after her mother and became a cantakerous woman.

During vacation Nicolaas would go to his hometown and visit with his brother Simon, who lived in the parental home. There he found love and peace in the midst of that busy family. And as the years crept on, his one wish was, that he might be burried amongst his own kinfolk in Uithuizen. He was on his way to the undertaker to make arrangements for the time, when the Lord would call him to his heavenly home, when he was struck by a truck and a skull fracture caused unconsciousness, from which he never recovered.

He was a man of distinction but very brusque and one could call him a typical Kremer, for he had all the characteristics known in the Kremer character. He could be blunt but truthful. The relatives always laid the blame of his unhappy marriage to his wife, but I do not think that he was an esy person to live with. Yet he was admired and loved by his students.

The graves of our ancestors are ^{careed} ~~carred~~ for by the youngest son of Simon Kremer, who was named after this uncle. He considers it an honour to be entrusted with the care of those, who have gone before us, and when he was offered money in payment for his services, he refused to accept it.

I must say that one of the strong traits in the Kremers is, loyalty to their own families and relatives. They may be outspoken at times but as one of their number repeatedly said, "Blood is thicker than water". No matter what happened to a relative, he would find a staunch friend in the other members of his clan. To illustrate this:

One day a stranger stood at the door of one of the Kremers' Home. He announced himself as a Kremer and told whose son he was. Immediately the home was opened to him and a strong bond of friendship and love was established. It was so strong that after a few years, the stranger from California decided once again to visit the place of his birth and meet his relatives.

Aaltje Kremer:

Little is known of the eldest daughter. She must have helped her mother with the chores in the house and at an early age she married a young man by the name of Cornelius Afman, who was a painter. Apparently Cornelius Afman didn't hit it off too well with his wife's brothers. There seemed to be a little friction between the two families all through the years. Eight children were born to this couple and when the mother was still very young she died leaving eight motherless children.

1. There was Thijs who raised a very large family and had two foster children. They lived in Ten Post, where he was a prominent painter.
2. Neltje was an easy going person, who willingly would have gone to America, to help her brother with his housekeeping, if it hadn't been for her husband-to-be, who was much older than she.
3. Tamme made his home in Ulrum and raised a fine family and he too chose the trade of painting.
4. Jelte (John) had the wander lust in him and at age 19 he sailed for America, where he arrived at the home of his uncle and aunt in Chicago. John was opposed to labour unions and for that reason moved to a Chicago suburb, where he could ply his trade of painting, without being molested by union officials. He married Tracy Fisher and had two children. After the first world war John wanted to try his hand at farming so decided to settle in Sheldon, Iowa. There, one calamity after another befell him. In 1918 his wife gave birth to a daughter and then became sick with Influenza and died. His son and daughter were taken to the relatives in Chicago and John asked his sister Neltje to come and help him. When she couldn't go, her younger sister volunteered to go and that was how Berentje (Bertha) came to America. In 1922 John re-married but his little girl, whom they called Tracy, had died and so with his son Cornelius he came to Chicago to try once again to establish a home and be a painter. Years of prosperity and happiness followed and John saw his five grandsons grow up. Death took him at a time, when there was so much to live for. Then a few years later Cornelius followed his dad in death, which was caused by a cardiac arrest. Now five young men carry on the name of Afman with honour, each one in his own profession.
5. Hendrik married Tamme's wife's sister but she died at a very early age. He re-married and lived in Leens as a painter. Tamme and Hendrik lived close to one another and they were usually seen together on outings. Hendrik had the distinction of having red hair.
6. ~~Jan~~
6. Jan, the man who also lost his first wife, and who earned his livelihood in painting. Now, in his old age, he has a very comfortable home in Haren, which is commonly thought of as an aristocratic suburb of Groningen.
7. Cornelia became a nurse and was married to Herman Sierink and had four children of whom one is a pastor.

8. Berentje comes somewhere between the boys but just where I do not know. She was small of stature but was known for her many talents in hand craft and in household chores. At an early age she had to leave home and become the little maid in a wealthy home. She was soon promoted to be the head maid in either a minister's home or a doctor's home. At any rate, she learned the fine arts of housekeeping. Her father had re-married but the home atmosphere was not one of love.

When the call came from America for help, Berentje was ready to offer her services to her brother. All her earthly possessions arrived in a huge wooden box in Chicago, where she was making her home with relatives. It was here that John met her and took her to his farm in Sheldon, Iowa. Bee, as she was usually called, had lived in comparatively luxury in the homes, where she was a maid. Now she had to shift for herself with very primitive household conditions. The bathroom was outdoors, the water had to be pumped out of the well and not knowing the English language, she was lonely and homesick. While on board the ship, she had met a young man by the name of Nicholas Beenes. They had exchanged addresses and one day this young man appeared on the scene in the Iowa home. A short courtship ended in marriage and John took his son to Colorado, where he had relatives. He picked up the paint brush and moved frequently with his son, doing paint jobs as far west as New Mexico. In Denver he met a stunning redhead and a romance began to blossom and within a few months a new home was established in Chicago, which gave permanency for the little boy.

Bee, in the meanwhile saw that her husband wasn't a farmer at heart and so they made plans to come to the big city. The home of the Huizengas was always open and a home was found on 14 th Place, where two pretty baby girls were born to them on April 23, 1924. Eight children came to brighten this home, which was surrounded by poverty.

At an early age Bee had to lay her household staff down and she finally succumbed to Nephritis, leaving her seven children and she was burried next to an infant son on Mount Auburn Cemetery. To this day her children call her "Blessed" for they have fond and loving memories of their mother, who worked so valiantly during the years known as the Depression Years.

If Bee could open her eyes and see her seven children as they are established in their homes, walking in the fear of the Lord, she would be so very thankful to the giver of all these gifts.

Mr. Nick Beenes had diabetis and had to have his both legs amputated in the closing years of his life. His health was poor during most of his life, which necessitated Bee to find work outside of the house.

Klaas Afman.

9. Klaas, the youngest of the large family, was a jolly fellow who apparently didn't have the responsibilities like the older children. At any rate he didn't feel inclined to be a painter, like most of his brothers had felt. His father continued at his trade for he had an ailing wife and a very frail child. At an early age he married a pretty girl from Winschoten and together they struggled through life, but at a different pace than the others. Klaas was glib with his mouth and he made an excellent salesman. He later on patented a certain glue, which brought an additional income. His four children were raised in the city and had the advantages of city life. When John and Lena came to Holland for a visit in 1958 it was he, who decided that all the brothers and sisters should be at the boat dock to meet the brother. He entertained the group the night before embarkation and they all went to his home for a re-union. Klaas has three children living in California and the eldest daughter, who married a preacher, is living in Bloemedal, where he is a radio preacher.

Today the descendants of Cornelius Afman and Aaltje Kremer come together for a family re-union every other year. They meet in a restaurant, where they have a warm meal and then afterwards some one shows slides and a time of fellowship is had. Many of the grandchildren are painters and they are doing it on a grand scale, having hundreds of employees working for them. The Lord has blessed them materially but also spiritually. They can sing, "We are one in the Lord!"

Simon Kremer

The third son of Tamme Kremer was a man with many talents, although to see him walking on the street, one would not think so. He was a carpenter by trade and an excellent one, they say. He built many a home in Uithuizen and the people who employed him knew they could expect good workmanship. He learned his trade the hard way and spent many years as an apprentice. He cared for his parents and saw to it that they had a few luxuries in life. His avocation was bartering. How he loved to buy a cow or a pig, fatten it and then sell it with profit. As a boy he had pigeons and rabbits and his life seems to have been surrounded by animals of one kind or another.

Not until he was 33 did he marry the girl for whom he prayed the Lord for. She was a girlfriend of his twin sisters and she was rather shy and so he loved to tease her. She in turn preferred his teasing to being ignored by him. She was the housekeeper at the home of a farmer and once, when he visited her, she offered him a cup of cocoa, which she knew he liked. He looked at the cocoa and then at her and said, "Where did you get the ingredients to make this drink?" She replied that she had bought the cocoa but that the milk and sugar came out of the household supplies. When he heard this he curtly said, "I will not be beholden to the farmer for a cup of cocoa, so I will not touch it." So she had to pour the delicious drink down the drain.

Eight children were brought up in the home of Simon Kremer and Henrietta Norden.

1. Tamme, the eldest son, lived in Uithuizen and had a hatchery. He raised a large family, who are scattered over the face of the earth.
2. Jan was a military man of whom I know little.
3. Dina married a man who bought and sold cattle. She lives in Uithuizen.
4. Petronella Alida showed signs of a mental breakdown during her teen years and has been confined to a mental institution for the past 57 years.
5. Piet became a teacher but never became a headmaster. He lived all his married life in the province of Drenthe.

6. Anna, the one who could tell fantastic stories to children , lives in Hardenberg and is the wife of an undertaker.
7. Nicholaas, who was named after the schoolteacher, followed his grandfather and father's profession and became a skilled carpenter. He inherited the love for animals and seems to have pigeons and animals under his care most of the time. He lives in his parental home, which he modernized. The beds, which were formerly built in the wall were torn out and the bedrooms were built upstairs. The favourite nook in that house is the family room, where for three generations, the family has gathered for fellowship. It was in this room that they found their father, Simon Kremer, dead in his chair. He had taken a nap and the Lord called him Home in his sleep. It is here that the rest of the children gather and reminisce of bye gone days. It is in this room where Nick's four children romped and played. His wife has carried on the tradition and the home is open to all who wish to dwell under her roof. It is here that the tradition of all the Kremers culminate. The Kremers are a staunch family, with strong characteristics of which they are proud. Two of Nick's daughters have established their individual homes in the city of Groningen, while the third daughter is married to a man, who works for the post office. The son lives in a different province and has no inclination to follow in the profession of his ancestors.

A strong faith in the Lord is seen in this family.

8. Altje Kremer Vasse:

When Altje was but a baby, her grandfather found great joy in watching her. And as the years unfolded and she became a boyant young girl many of the traits found in her father, could be seen in her. She loved to barter and although there wasn't much opportunity to do so, while she was still at home, her talents unfolded as she grew older and established a home of her own. She cared for her mother in old age and was the joy of her father in his declining years. And when cupid came and snatched this precious daughter from Simon, he cried tears of joy and of pain.

Now Altje is the wife of a retired painter, whose 9 children call her "Blessed". Because of Altje's business ability the small paint store outgrew its usefulness and larger quarters had to be found. Today in large letters the department store on Main Street declares that Vasse Builds For the Future. No longer does Altje work in the store but her husband supervises it and the children, who have had an excellent education, have taken over the management and in such a way that the mother exclaims, "I myself, couldn't do it any better!"

Again we see God's riches blessings upon the home that gives Him the Glory and the Honour. It is a home, where God is the center and where He is glorified.

Martje Kremer Boer Smith

At the age of 48 Petronella Kremer gave birth to twin girls! The father looked at the cribs and said, "We will not be able to bring up these girls." Little did he know that he would see both of them as married women. Martje went out to work, doing housework and she was known to be an excellent cook. She was engaged to be married to a fine young man by the name of Menno Morden. At a young people's party she was seen flirting with other young men. Menno was not there but he soon heard about it and he told Martje that the engagement was off, he wanted a girl, whom he could trust. She was heart broken but tears could not change Menno's mind. She later married a Mr. Edward Boer, who was her senior by 25 years. He had two grown sons and the marriage was blessed with two more sons who were called Peter and Thomas. She lived in Kollum in Friesland and although Mr. Boer was not a Christian, Martje did love him very much. When the boys were still rather young Mr. Boer died of pneumonia and Martje opened a dry goods store.

In the meanwhile her twin sister had gotten married and had moved to America. One day a letter arrived stating that Mr. Huizenga and a friend of his was going to visit her. With anticipation she looked forward to this visit and when she saw her neighbour coming home from the bus station she inquired of him, whether there were any strangers who had come off the bus. "Oh yes", he replied, "the one was a gentleman, while the other was a farmer." Later on when she told the story she said, "The gentleman was Mr. Huizenga and the farmer was Mr. Lucas Smith". An acquaintance was made which developed into courtship and before long Mrs. Martje Kremer Boer was on her way to America, to marry Mr. L. Smith

The couple were married in VogelCenter, Michigan, where Mr. Smith had a farm. Later they moved to Sheldon Iowa where a daughter was born to them and whom they called Petronella. Mr. Smith had four daughters,

Martje Kremer BoerSmith cont'd

Martje had two growing sons and the baby made up the household. After the First World War, Iowa farms sold easily and Mr. Smith felt that he would like to invest his money in real estate. He therefore moved his family to Holland, Mich. where he dabbled in all sorts of real estate. At the time of Martje's death in 1927 all the children but the youngest were married. She had a stroke and on her deathbed she quoted Rom. 8:1, which was her testimony.

Mr. L. ^{was} Smith died that same year leaving his sixteen ^{year} old daughter to shift for herself.

Mr. Boer's eldest son, Koene came to America and was a prosperous farmer in Sheldon, Iowa.

The second son of Mr. Boer settled in Chicago and worked for Mr. H. Huizenga for more than thirty years. He was a very faithful employee and the children of his boss loved to listen to his stories which were far from classics. Peter Boer was an unbeliever and he made no bones about it. His children were all baptized but not all are walking in the Christian faith.

Peter Boer, the eldest son of Martje, moved to Holland, Mich. and there had a successful moving business.

Thomas Boer Smith, the second son of Martje, changed his name to Smith to please his step father. He died at an early age from a heart attack leaving his wife with three children.

Nelle Smith married Andrew Westenbroek in the heart of the depression and to them were born two sons. After her sons were married and had established homes of their own, her hobby was bird watching. She too died of a heart attack and one morning she was found dead in bed, her soul had slipped away while she was asleep.

Altje Kremer Huizenga

When the twins were born in 1865 the mother was worried that they would not be able to feed the two additional mouths but her husband had faith and said, "He, who gave us these girls, will fill their mouths too." Although they were middle aged, when the twins were born both parents saw their daughters grow up into beautiful womanhood. Martje chose to do housework on a farm, when she was an adult, but Altje preferred to buy merchandize from her brother Henry's store in Warfum and then go along the homes and sell her merchandize. The instinct of bartering was strong in her and thus she could stay at home and help her aging parents.

Petronella Hoppenga Kremer was troubled with rheumatism and due to complications of old age she left the family circle and her husband and children burried her, knowing that their mother, who had never publicly professed Christ, was indeed a sincere Christian woman.

After the death of the mother, Altje took charge of the household, until one day her prince charming arrived on the scene.

Mr. Harm Huizenga from Chicago, Illinois was visiting his parents in t'Zandt but his real purpose for going to Europe was to find himself a wife. He had worked as a village blacksmith in Uithuizen before going to America and thus he was well acquainted with the Kremer family. He had met their eldest son in Chicago and so decided to go to Uithuizen to deliver the greetings from Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kremer. He must have told some tall tales, which intrigued Altje and so at the end of the visit she was loath to see him go. She urged him to stay, to which he replied, "I'll come back tonight and visit with you for a while." A romance soon blossomed and wedding plans were made and the honeymoon was to take them to America, where they would establish a home of their own.

When Harm took Altje from her parental home, Simon, the third son volunteered to move into the parental home and take care of the old Tamme Kremer.

In 1897 Harm brought his bride to a small rented flat on the old west side of Chicago. Times were difficult, there was no indoor plumbing in the frame house. Strips of carpeting were bought and sewed together to give ^{them} their first rug. When their first son was born, he was so small that the mother carried him on a pillow. He was called Siert, after his paternal grandfather. After four years the second son came bursting on the scene and he was named after his maternal grandfather, "Tamme", which in the English is translated as Thomas.

The garbage business in which Harm was engaged in, must have done very well, for when Tom was four years, a trip to Europe was undertaken, but the chair of Tamme Kremer was empty and so Altje could not show her sons to her father.

Upon their return they moved to a four room flat on 14 th place near Laflin Street. There their daughter was born, whom they called Trientje after the paternal grandmother. She was later on known as Tena. With three children in the family another house was bought and this time they moved into a spacious house on the Avenue, which had previously been occupied by a doctor.

One night Siert got up to go to the bathroom and came back to tell his brother Tom that there was a new baby in the buggy. So together they went into the kitchen to see the new baby, who was named "Petro" after his maternal grandmother. At that time the language spoken in the home was Dutch, the church services were held in the Dutch language, but the children soon learned to speak the English language, when they played with their playmates on the sidewalks.

Altje Kremer Huizenga cont'd

The garbage business was doing well, Harm worked hard and things were going very well. Altje was able to buy herself a beautiful fur and a muff, which was the envy of the women in the church. She had several woolen shawls, which were worn casually, when going to the local grocery store.

Then one day in March, Altje thoughtlessly went outdoors to see a funeral procession go by. She caught a cold and pneumonia set in. A few days later she was delirious and a private duty nurse was called in to nurse her, but to no avail. She left that happy family circle on March 22, 1913. Her twin sister was living in Iowa at the time and those who attended the funeral saw the striking resemblance between the deceased and Mrs. L. Smith.

A housekeeper was found and for six dollars and board she agreed to take over the family duties. Apparently the arrangement wasn't too satisfactory for Harm once again set sail with his children to Holland. The first World War was raging but we arrived in Rotterdam safely. The next morning we were to take the train to the Northern section of Holland but the Inn keeper called us too late and we arrived at the railroad in time to see the train roll out of the station, causing difficulties on the other end. Telephones were not common in remote areas of Holland, so no contact could be made, to inform the waiting relatives. In the meanwhile Mr. William Huizenga and a maiden lady, with whom dad had been corresponding, waited patiently in Groningen, the capital of the province of Groningen. In the meanwhile Tom informed Tena and Peter that this lady, who met us in Groningen, was going to be our new mother. Father had sold his business and home furnishings and was contemplating on settling in the Netherlands, for his bride to be, refused to go to America.

The wedding took place Feb. 14, 1915 in the small church at t'Zandt and the new home, which had been purchased was in Bedum.

Altje Kremer Huizenga cont'd

Almost two years were spent in Holland. Bombs were bursting in Germany and the noise could be heard in Bedum, where the family lived in a comfortable home and with a maid to wait on the children. The maid earned a hundred gulden plus board and in American currency that would be \$40.00 plus board for a year.

On June 28, 1916 the tranquility of the home was changed, for a baby arrived, who was named Gerrit Harry. No sooner had he made his debut or thoughts of migrating to America were expressed. The older boys hankered to go back to America, while the younger children were happy and content to remain in Holland. An auction was announced and again the furniture was sold and boxes were made to pack the bed linens and other sundry things for the long voyage to America. The Germans and the British were fighting one another and it hardly could be called safe to travel, but the family bade loved ones farewell and after 18 days of journeying on the high seas, America, the land of the free, was seen on the horizon.

The baby was to have had the same formula all through the journey, ^{but} was apparently some one took some of the formula and the result was that the baby broke out in a rash and was put on a buttermilk formula. The home, which had been spoken for, was not vacant, so the family, who had been used to the luxurious living in Holland, moved into four small rooms at 1454 W. 14 th Place, where there was no indoor plumbing.

The business, which had been sold prior to going to Europe, was for sale, so Harm Huizenga, who had lived the life of a gentleman farmer, went back to work on the wagon. It was a hard winter, but in the Spring, the flat was available and redecorated and the family moved in. The baby thrived on his new formula and was the joy of the family. Every one seemed to help raise him and at an early age, he seemed self sufficient.

Altje Kremer Huizenga cont'd

In 1897 Harm Huizenga wooed Altje Kremer and they were married in a small church in Uithuizen. After bidding the relatives farewell they sailed for America, where four children were born to them.

1. Siert, named after the paternal grandfather, and later on called Sam, showed an interest in bookkeeping when he graduated from business college. His career was interrupted by going to the Netherlands with his family, but when he returned two years later he continued his vocation interspersed with real estate transactions. Five children blessed his home and with his wife, whose maiden name was Bertha Wezeman, they saw all five children graduate from high school and one son went on and graduated from the University of Michigan. The names of the children are:

- a. Clarence, who resides in Grand Rapids, Mich.
- b. Ella, who married Mr. Edward Taylor and resides in Cicero, Illinois.

Grace, who is mother of four children, and who with her husband, Cornelius De Horn, live in Evergreen Park, Illinois

- d. Ruth, the wife of Frank Post has five children and lives in Western Springs, Ill.,
- e. Harry, who has four beautiful daughters, lives in Western Springs, Illinois.

Siert died suddenly of a heart attack in 1953.

2. Ramme (Thomas) had all the characteristics of the Kremers. He showed talent in the line of business and chose his father's vocation, namely that of being a "Sanitary Engineer". He married Jennie Sterenberg and four children were given to them.

- a. Janet, who married Henry J. Evenhouse, lives in Hinsdale Ill.,

Harry, named after his paternal grandfather, married Lee Mastenbroek and lives in Clermont, Florida, where he is in charge of a Waste Management Concern.

Altje Kremer cont'd

c. Alice, has the distinction of being named after her paternal grandmother. She married a doctor who specializes in orthopedic work. Their home is in Wheaton, Illinois.

d. June, who was but three years old, when her father died, married Thomas Huiner, a sanitary engineer, and lives in Hinsdale, Illinois.

3. Tena, the only daughter, chose to be a missionary in Nigeria, where she worked for seventeen years.

4. Petro (Peter) the youngest of Altje's children was four years, when his mother died. His two years in the Netherlands as a child enabled him to speak the Dutch language and later on in life, he visited the relatives in the Netherlands. He married Elizabeth Bovenkerk and to them were born five children.

a. Betty Joan, who married Dean L. Buntrock, and who lives in La Grange, Illinois.

b. Suzanne, lives in Oklahoma City with her husband Herman Kanis and their three children.

c. Peter, his father's namesake, studied to be a lawyer and lives in Western Springs, Illinois.

d. Virginia and her husband James Jurries, live in Holland, Mich. with their two children. He dabbles in Real Estate and Finances. It is always nice to have a financier in the family.

e. John Charles has not completed his education as yet. He plans to do post graduate work. John and his brothers and sisters all have ~~from~~ graduated from college.

Although Gerrit Harry Huizenga doesn't fit in this genealogy, he has played an integral part in our family history and it should be stated that he has two children, namely Wayne and Bonnie, who have homes of their own, the one in Oak Brook and the other in Florida.