

# Preservation Update!

Newsletter of Historic Pella Trust, Inc.  
*'Preserving Yesterday with a Vision for Tomorrow!'*  
Volume 15 - Spring 2012

Annual Meeting, Monday  
April 9, 2012 @ 7:30 p.m  
at Pella's Opera House



Central College Jordan Hall – Built in 1905

An exciting evening is being planned!  
Keynote speaker, Dr. Mark Putman,  
President of Central College will speak on  
*'Preserving Higher Education's Historic  
Legacy: Learning and Community!'*

2012 Home and Business awards will be presented to  
Pella owners, honoring them for their efforts to  
preserve Historic Pella!

**The evening will end with  
a delicious dessert buffet!**

**See you there!**

South Main Street – Note the old automobile  
On the right side of the street. Circa; 1911 could  
be a college student late for class! Photo taken  
from the corner of Franklin & Main.



**Everyone is invited!**

## A.N. Kuyper, 'An Immigrant's Story'

Written by Ellie Gosselink – Information provided by Eunice Kuyper Folkerts and Peggy Kuyper Pierson

On a cool April night in 1849 Arnoldus N. Kuyper's grandparents, Arie Cornelis Kuyper and his wife Maria Streefkerk Kuyper with their family of 16 children began their long journey from Rotterdam along with many other families from the Netherlands.

Pieter, 7<sup>th</sup> child of his parents, (Arnoldus N.'s father) born in 1835, at 14 was eager for the adventures ahead of him as they sailed towards America.

The 43 day voyage was exceedingly stormy. Following are accounts written in a diary by a good friend of Arie and Maria Kuyper; Jan Hospers, who kept a daily account of the voyage on the 'Franziska' starting with the note: "At 10:30 P.M., May 3, 1849 the 'Franziska' weighed anchor and the long voyage began"...

From the daily accounts written in the diary the crossing was extremely rough causing hardships for the passengers as most of them suffered from terrible seasickness as the ship encountered days of high waves. As noted on May 11<sup>th</sup>, "Waves are very high, some of them breaking over the ship"... Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> – "Northwest storm. many waves break over the ship. The rolling of the ship is terrible." Everything rattles and breaks and bumps...in two parts of the ship, prayer meetings are held. There is much depression...no cooking can be done...the storm increases with the coming on of night. The sailors are on deck with knives in hand to cut the ropes if necessary."

On Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup> the diary notes, "Northwest wind. The storm is decreasing but the seas are very high." Then it was written on Tuesday, May 22, "Strong west winds...since the 12<sup>th</sup> of May the barber was unable to shave us on account of the rocking of the ship. The wind is increasing and a prayer meeting was held."

Finally on May 25, 1849 it was written, "Nice weather but cold. We have been shaved... The captain, said that he has made 50 voyages to American and found it unusual to have so many storms at this time of year."

"Wednesday, June 13, 1849 – "This morning we saw land. At 10:30 the pilot came on board. At 5 o'clock we entered the New York harbor were we anchored." June 14<sup>th</sup>, "passengers enjoyed the wonderful sights on shore. We are staying at 132 Greenwich street...sometimes there are 500 horse-drawn vehicles riding in the very wide street...covered with cobblestones."

Saturday, June 16 the family left New York City: "At 6 p.m., we boarded the boat for Albany." Arrived at Albany at 6 a.m.

Arie and Marie with their children then traveled by canal to Buffalo, leaving Albany on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and arriving in Buffalo on July 11<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup> the Kuyper family boarded the steamship 'Louisiana' bound for Chicago." They arrived in Chicago on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

On July 20<sup>th</sup>, the family boarded the steamboat 'Timoleon' bound for St. Louis, disembarking at Oquawka on the Mississippi, across the river from Burlington, Iowa. On Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> they left for Pella..." on three wagons at a cost of \$20 per wagon and 6 shillings for each driver plus feed for horses and passengers, arriving in Pella on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1849"

Arie and Marie Kuyper and their children set up home on a farm near Pella. Pieter attended school for a short time but was compelled to put aside his studies and assist in the support of this family by teaming, hauling coal, ice and other commodities. On March 3, 1859 Pieter and Jannetje Doedyns were married. They had three children. The first born was Arnoldus on August 7, 1863 followed by Marie in April 1866 and Arie P, April 28, 1872.

Arnoldus and Marie Louisa Neyenesch were married on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 1890. With a gift of \$3,000 and a team of horses from his father-in-law. Arnoldus's (A.N.) rise to the position of business success and prosperity was remarkable. He established a wide acquaintance among farmers while driving an egg wagon. In 1893 he embarked in the lumber business, known as the 'Kuyper Lumber Co.' A.N. and Marie and their three sons, Peter H., Louis Arnold, (Lou) and Julian A.(Bob) lived at 614 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Pella. (This home is presently owned by Phyllis and Abe Willems.)



Arnoldus and Marie Kuyper's home. Built in 1890 – 614 E. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Street Pella. It was here they raised their 3 boys, Peter, Lou and Bob.



Early photo of Arnoldus.N. Kuyper and his wife Marie Louise Neyenesch Kuyper ca: 1890

...continued on page 3...

**Arnoldus (A.N.) Kuyper, ‘An Immigrant’s Story – continued**

**Kuyper Lumber Company, Pella, Iowa**

The Kuyper Lumber Company dates back to the year 1892, when A.N. Kuyper backed financially by this father-in-law, Herman Neyenesch, opened for business with only an office and a small lumber shed located at Liberty and Broadway Streets. Arnoldus (A.N.) Kuyper was known as a man who worked his way up in the world by industry and diligence and soon had a business noted for its integrity and aggressive management policies.

The death of A.N. Kuyper at the age of 47 from typhoid shocked the community. At his death he also held the following list of positions: Vice-President, Citizens National Bank; Presiden of Pella Stacker Corp.; President of Pella Plumbing col; Director of Pella’s Overall Co; Pella Creamery and a Truck Organization. As noted at his funeral, *“We wish there were more citizen’s of his caliber”*.

A.N. left the Kuyper Lumber business under the management of his eldest son, Peter H. Kuyper. The firm continued to grow during this period until Peter left the lumber business to begin his own business, the Rolscreen Company, now Pella Windows Corporation.

The two younger brothers, L.A. (Lou) and J.A. (Bob) took over the management of the lumber company at this time. These young men were known as having the same tireless energy that characterized the management of the firm by their father and brother Peter. Their business motto was *‘Spreek met Kuyper – de kwaliteit houd handelaar’*, translated *‘Speak with Kuyper – The quality wood handler’*. The Kuyper Lumber Company closed in the early 1960’s upon the retirement of Bob Kuyper.



Kuyper Lumber Co. Founded 1892 at Broadway and Liberty Streets



Kuyper Lumber Company – Inserts Bob on left and Lou on the right – Picture taken circa 1930’s.

**Reminder:**

**Please plan to attend!**

**Historic Pella Trust Annual Meeting!**

**Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Opera House – 7:30 P.M.**

**Awards! Dr. Mark Putnam, Central College President, Keynote Speaker  
Delicious Dessert Buffet will cap the evening with style!**

## Message from the President

*Hello,*

*It has been said that spring is the time of the year when one's heart turns to thinking of love. This encompasses all that is attributed to the syndrome of courtship, such as flowers, a sense of the emotions of beauty towards one's attentive subject, and words intended to pass sweet thoughts. These thoughts are not necessarily designated to one of the opposite gender, they can be the description of objects such as our homes our gardens, or any of our interests.*

*As I review my time in the presidency of Historic Pella Trust, I feel these accolades toward those historical property owners whom have dedicated time, money, and their hearts into their real estate. They have shown pride and a deep value for the heritage their property represents. I am sure when they begin they might have wondered how they got into the task of restoration, yet as they toiled to completion their efforts were becoming a visible ending. This captivating feeling of pride was the "love" which they felt. In this Spring of the year, we can look around and witness these efforts by following the process of some of these properties.*

*On Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30, the Historic Pella Trust will hold its annual meeting at the Pella Opera House. We invite everyone to come and share the "love" of this heritage. There will be an informative program to bring you up-to-date on properties and a special message from Dr. Mark Putman, President of Central College, sharing the active role the college has taken in joining us to pursue our goals.*

*In closing, I want to share how much I have truly enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of all of these proceedings and watched as developments took place. It has also been my pleasure to work on the Board of Directors, with members who have such a tremendous amount of talent. These talents have shown focus, planning, energy, and most of all love. The love of heritage, as seen in the architecture of the buildings and homes in Pella, is immediately evident to an observer.*

*Sincerely,*

*Liz Epperly, Retiring President of Historic Pella Trust*

### **New Historic Pella Trust Items to Check Out! Be more involved and informed!**

- **Check our 2012 updated web-site: [historicpellatrust.org](http://historicpellatrust.org) - New items are being added weekly.**
- **Do you know of a historically significant house or structure that you may be concerned about? Bring it to our attention! We rely on you to alert us to homes or businesses that have:**
  - **Undergone a recent restoration project.**
  - **You are concerned may be at risk of being torn down.**
  - **Share stories with HPT of Pella's past. You can e-mail them to: [historicpellatrust@yahoo.com](mailto:historicpellatrust@yahoo.com). It might make it into our newsletter.**
- **Are you interested in serving on our Board of Directors, we occasionally have openings.**
  - **Give us your name and HPT will contact you when there is an opening. We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month.**
- **HPT has two different power-point presentations we're eager to share with your organization.**

### Jordan Hall – Central College University, Pella, Iowa

On June 1, 1905 Central College's Commencement Program was published in the Pella Chronicle newspaper of June 1, 1905. Half way down the program was this notation:

**TUESDAY, JUNE SIXTH (1905)**

2:30 p.m. – “Breaking of ground for the new building, Jordan Hall of Natural Science”

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In the June 8, 1905 Pella Chronicle the following article was noted on the front page:

**Jordan Science Hall**

*In accordance with the program as published in the Chronicle last week, one of the most interesting and impressive ceremonies of the present college commencement exercises was the breaking of the ground for the erection of the new building, the Jordan Hall of Natural Sciences.*

*This part of the program was fulfilled at 2:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, and although the exercises were impressive, enthusiasm ran high and interest in college matters was greatly strengthened by the event. Those who have labored the hardest to bring about this state of affairs, and those who donated toward towards the completion of this building fund were much gratified to see the first actual work commenced toward the speedy completion of the new building, which is so needed by the college. It is hoped that the new building will be completed in time for occupancy when the next school year begins next fall.*

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In the June 22, 1905 Pella Chronicle was the following item on the front page:

**Contract Awarded**

*At a special meeting of the executive board of Central College, Tuesday afternoon the bids for the erection of the Science Hall were opened. The following bids were read by Secretary Hawley:....*

**(Item 2) ...W. J. Zittereli, Webster City, \$12,400...(Note: this firm received the contract to build Jordan Hall).**

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In the December 21, 1905 issue of the Pella Chronicle was the following item on page 5:

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY NOTES:**

*Jordan Hall is almost completed. Carpenters are putting in the stairways this week and they are fine ones. The building is finished in oak and makes a fine appearance.*



Jordan Science Hall  
– built in 1905

Renovated in 1985

## Win a Prize

### Identify Hitching Posts and Carriage Blocks in Pella

Have you spotted these unique items around Pella. They have all but disappeared and yet at one time there were hundreds and were used daily by the folks who lived in and around Pella.

For those who are not familiar with these items; Hitching Posts were used to tie up your horse, and Carriage Blocks were used by women and children to step up into a horse drawn carriage or wagon.

HPT has found four, (1) Boat's at 915 Elm; (2) Wichhart's at 1006 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St; (3) at 915 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St; and (4) at 405 E. Independence.

HPT is on the hunt and need yours help in identifying others. A 'Surprise' reward will be given to anyone who sends in the most photos and a detailed history of those you spotted.

Once you locate either a post or carriage block, photo your find and send an email to Historic Pella Trust at our web-site, [www.historicpellatrust@yahoo.com](mailto:www.historicpellatrust@yahoo.com). Or mail your information with a photo to Historic Pella Trust, PO Box 1, Pella, Iowa 50219



Hitching Post



Carriage Block

**Lustron House:** From 1945 to 1951 Lustron prefabricated homes were popular in America. Made from all factory parts which were assembled on site, these unique (almost) all steel homes were inexpensive and durable for the potential homeowner. Today the Lustron home is one of the most striking examples of postwar (WWII) prefabrication. Mostly sold in the Midwest, these homes not only had the prefab walls, ceilings and floors but a built-in kitchen. The importance of preservation of these homes has been written by a prominent architecture who wrote about the Lustron home in his book, '*Preservation of Modern Architecture*' by Theodore H. M. Prudon, FAIA published in 2008.

Today there are less than 2000 identified in the United States, and Pella is proud to acknowledge a Lustron home at 1346 N. Main Street.. It is on the market for sale. Trent Brackin is the owner and if you want to contact him his number is 641-780-5390



**BECOME A MEMBER OF HISTORIC PELLA TRUST 2012!**

Renew your annual membership now!

General Membership: \$35.00

Family Membership: \$50.00

Senior Membership: \$10.00

Business membership: \$100.00

Sustaining Membership: \$100.00

Patron Membership: \$250.00

Benefactor membership: \$500.00

Your special individual contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

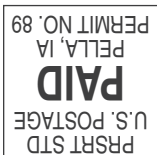
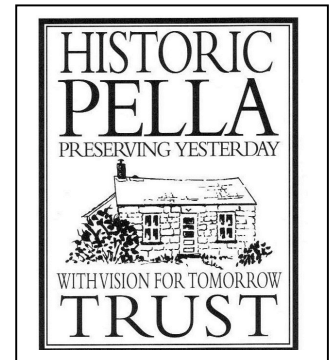
**Thank You!**

**Historic Pella Trust**  
is a non-profit preservation group founded in 1994

The goal of Historic Pella Trust is to protect and preserve Pella's heritage by preserving historic structures. Once a historic structure is destroyed, it is gone forever and thus changes Pella's historic landscape of the past.

Our goal is to assist owner's who undertake restoration of their older structures by answering their questions, or advising who they can consult in regards to their restoration project. HPT also offers meetings and seminars to the general public on historic restoration.

Historic Pella Trust is made up of volunteers who value saving the historic architecture of structures built by our forefathers since 1847.



Historic Pella Trust  
P. O. Box 1  
Pella, IA 50219