

Preservation Update

*H*istoric *P*ella

*T*rust, *I*nc.

*Preserving Yesterday with
a Vision for Tomorrow*

A non-profit preservation group
founded in 1994

Historic Pella Trust is a group of responsible men and women who have dedicated their time and talents to the preservation of historic buildings in and around Pella. These visionaries know that once a structure is destroyed, it is gone forever.

The goal of Historic Pella Trust is to protect and preserve Pella's heritage by preserving historic building sites, so that future generations will continue to honor the time and talents of our forefathers.

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Jack Thomassen
Lisa Zylstra

The Historic Pella Trust Office
615 Main Street
Pella, Iowa 50219
(641) 628-8003

A Letter from your President

November, 2007

Dear Members and Friends,

There's been a lot of activity in Historic Pella Trust since our March newsletter! We were notified that the Soul Sleeper's Church has been placed on the National Register of Historic places. We are proud of this distinction and are grateful to William C. Page for his efforts to bring this to completion. The Coal Ridge Church has also been successfully added to the National Register, and a celebration was held on Sunday, September 2 with a large congregation for a morning worship service led by the Rev. Robert DeYoung, a picnic under a tent at noon, and an afternoon unveiling of the plaque in a ceremony complete with music, an address by William C. Page, and a recognition of persons once members of the church, and descendants of past members.

We learned over the summer that the Old City Hall building will also be the subject of the study prerequisite to being nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. We are very excited and pleased to note this plan, and will be supportive of every effort to preserve and find new life for this grand building – an important part of the Pella heritage.

We have also completed a DSL(digital subscriber line) hook-up to serve our computer for e-mail and internet access. We are working on a web site to be up and running in the near future! Previews of what's to come are indeed exciting!

Coming attractions: This year's Garden Club Tour of Homes features the charming Victorian house at the corner of Liberty and East Third Street presently owned by Abe and Phyllis Willems. It was built around 1890 by A. N. Kuyper of the Kuyper Lumber Company and is one of Pella's older, very well preserved treasures. This is a new dimension for the November 29 and 30 Tour of Homes you won't want to miss. If you couldn't attend the Coal Ridge plaque unveiling, another opportunity to see it proudly displayed at the entrance will be at the annual Coal Ridge Carol Sing which will take place on December 9 at 6:30 p.m. Come for the warmest, coziest and friendliest of Christmas celebrations! Then look for announcements of our Annual Meeting coming up in April. Exciting prospects will soon be revealed! Meanwhile, may the coming holidays be filled with joy and many great memories!

Sincerely,
Davis Folkerts, President, Historic Pella Trust

Happy Thanksgiving!

Coal Ridge Community Church and Museum

Celebration on its placement on the National Register of Historic Places
By Ellie Gosselink



HISTORY OF COAL RIDGE CHURCH

A small mining community called Coalport was settled in 1840 bringing in miners from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina to develop strip mines for the "black gold" along the Des Moines River. In 1852 the citizens of Coalport built a small frame building to house a school and to be used as a church. Soon this tiny building became the center for social events. As times changed the children were sent to school in Knoxville and the small building deteriorated from lack of use, until 1860 when the citizens constructed a wooden church this one built on a foundation of hand hewn stone. This small church accommodated the congregation until October 11, 1908 when a fire erupted and the structure burned to the ground. The members decided immediately to rebuild, and a dedication service was held on February 23, 1909, when the doors opened to welcome the parishioners to their new home.

In 1980 the Ladies' Aid group undertook to restore the old building, their goal was to retain the original character while preserving its rich heritage. In May 1991 the restoration was complete and a celebration was held to rededicate the renewed church. The Coal Ridge Church Ladies' Aid was organized on March 22, 1913 and still functions to this day.

Friends of the Coal Ridge Church has been organized to preserve this landmark. Please contact Eunice Folkerts if you wish to become a member.
628-4082 or defolkerts@iowatelecom.net
126 Skyline Drive, Knoxville, Iowa 50138

PLACEMENT OF COAL RIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER CELEBRATION, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2007

William C. Page, public historian from Des Moines was the featured speaker at the dedication service. Known to friends as Will Page, he worked tirelessly tackling the enormous amount of work necessary to place the Coal Ridge Church and Cemetery on the National Register of Historic Places. In-depth research, documentation plus defending the project before a State Panel and finally getting it sent to the National Board are part of the long process that takes years to accomplish. Will Page accomplished all of this in record time and a special thank you was warmly extended to Will by those attending the celebration.

The large congregation attending the service was blessed by a beautiful September day and enjoyed good food and fellowship under a large tent where the guests could comfortably enjoy the delicious fried chicken and potato salad picnic catered by Central College.

A celebration of music by a hand-bell quartet from Second Reformed Church opened the dedication service. Rev. Robert DeYoung gave a welcome and invocation followed by everyone singing the Coal Ridge Church rededication hymn written by Joyce Kuyper, set to the tune, 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling'.

Will Page spoke on the topic "What the National Register of Historic Places Designation Means and how it was accomplished".

Handouts of four old-fashioned hymns were distributed and the crowd lustily belted out these familiar hymns. This was followed by the Central College Chamber Singers with Mark Babcock, director.

Davis Folkerts, accompanied by Kris DeWild, led a celebration choir in the singing of three anthems ending with "For the Beauty of the Earth."

David Franklin, whose family attended Coal Ridge church for many generations, had the honor of unveiling the National Register of Historic Places plaque. Everyone then moved outside where Rev. Robert DeYoung attached the plaque to the left side of the front doors.



Join us at 6:30 p.m. on December 9 for the Annual Carol Sing at the Coal Ridge Church. Favorite carols will be accompanied by the old pump organ, piano and strings.

**Wyatt Earp's Boyhood Home
at Pella's Historical Village
by Ellie Gosselink**



Wyatt Earp's boyhood home, originally known as the Van Spanckeren home, is located in Pella's Historical Village. It is a grand example of the *importance* of saving old structures. In 1966 the Pella Historical Society saw a crucial need to save this historic home and it became the nucleus of a half-block long historical complex that has grown into the Historical Village we know today. For 27 years the Historical Village has put Pella on the map as we display our proud heritage for local residents as well as for visitors who come from around the world to enjoy our unique museum and embrace our 'touch of Holland'.

Wyatt Earp's boyhood home took on new status when a popular 1950's TV series personified the life and times of Wyatt Earp bringing his fame as a gun-slinging western marshal into prominence. Movies, many based on the showdown between cattle rustlers and the Earp brothers, pushed his fame higher into focus as many Americans became enamored with the strength and integrity of this now famous Marshall. Although Wyatt Earp was born in Monmouth, Illinois on March 19, 1848, his family moved to a farm seven miles northeast of Pella in March of 1850 on 160 acres which was a land grant to his father based on his service in the Mexican war. Wyatt was two years old at this time.

In November 1859 the Earp family rented the Van Spanckeren home and lived there until May of 1864 when the family left for California, settling in San

Bernardino. Wyatt Earp was sixteen when his family left Iowa.

Wyatt grew to be a handsome six foot, hard-working man. He was known for his quiet good-natured ways that belied his physical prowess. Throughout his career the stories of his fairness to carry out the law and his gun-fighting expertise had become legend. In 1881 his fame came to a climax when Wyatt and his two brothers, then known as the Fighting Earps arrived in Tombstone, Arizona. They along with Doc Holliday fought the McLaurys and Clantons in the historic gun fight at the O.K. Corral blazing their way into legendary fame.

There are no guns in the gun room of the Wyatt Earp home that were owned or shot by Wyatt Earp, but what is known is that he spent his formative years living in Pella growing up in a community of hard-working, church-going folks who lived by God's laws. Honesty and integrity were the foundation on which the citizens of Pella strived to live their lives, and they took pride in their commitment to be upstanding American citizens, thus setting a good example for the youth of Pella as they grew through their teen-age years.

Christmas Holiday Magic

Pella's **Historical Village** is currently being transformed into a wonderland of Christmas as it is lavishly decorated for the 2007 holiday season by volunteers who delight in decorating each room under the guidance of Patsy Sadler.

During this Holiday season treat your family to a visit to the Pella Historical Village and make it a point to visit the Wyatt Earp boyhood home along with all twenty historic buildings ablaze with glorious decorations. Enjoy a warm drink and cookie at the museum's bakery. Chances are you will meet your friends and neighbors as you wander through the twenty buildings, warmly decorated with lights and garland to delight young and old alike.

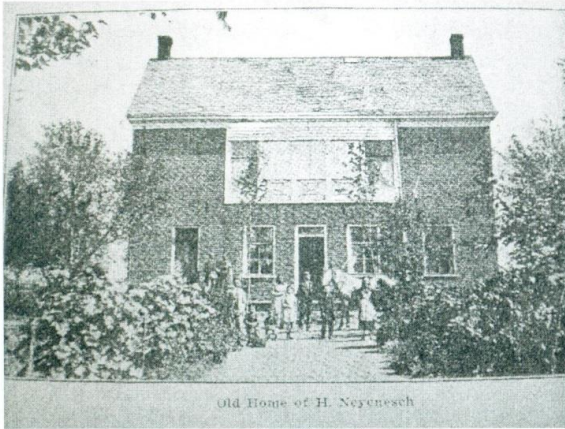
The Christmas Walk is on display from November 17 through December 31 (closed Sundays). There is a small fee for admittance. Call 641-620-9463 for further information.

Historic Pella Trust wishes all its friends and members a Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

'Pella Weekblad'

Newspaper

By Bob Klein



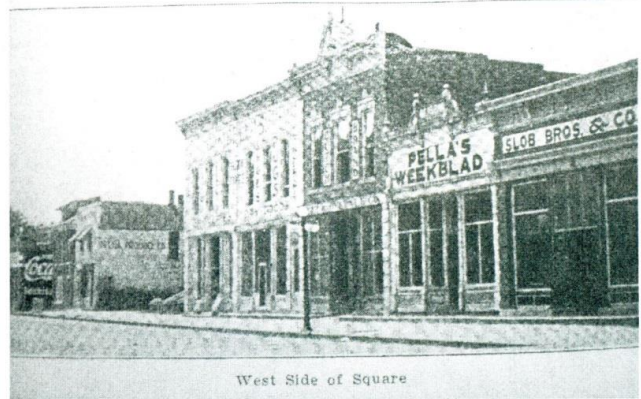
The home of H. Neyenesch

In 1860 Henry Neyenesch started printing the *Pella Weekblad*, a weekly newspaper that was popular for many years and is now an important part of Pella's heritage. It was printed in a workroom of the Neyenesch house on Columbus Street. The printing room was located on the south side of the house, indicated by the second story window in the old photo pictured above. It was printed in the Dutch language and was very popular with the Dutch-speaking citizens. Perhaps I am one of the few people who still use this old paper for accurate research. I find that the use of the Dutch phrasing in the personal ads as well as in the ads placed by Pella businesses are a delight to read. It helps me maintain my current use of the Dutch language that I had learned to read many years ago when the *Weekblad* was spread out on our kitchen table. I, along with my grandfather, Ike Neels (who gave me considerable help) read the *Weekblad* together.

One of the highlights of the *Weekblad* was the publication of all the births and deaths printed in the final issue of the year. I still get a lump in my throat when I read the old December 1918 report. Pella was touched by the deadly 1918 flu epidemic as it lost many citizens, including my grandmother Anna Sterrenberg Neels, at the young age of 44.

The personal news was outstanding as Pella citizens and businesses were called upon for their input each week.

In 1909 Henry Neyenesch sold the *Weekblad* to the Boland family. They moved the newspaper office to 837 Broadway (pictured). Harry 'Tromps' Boland published the paper until the 1930's. Many people I remember sat in the right front window in the 837 Broadway office as they edited the paper. Some that come to mind are Dan Dieleman, Henry Johnson, M. Groendyk, Mr. Van Der Meulen (with this magnifying glass bending over a copy of the printed paper). Marion DeZwarte ran the big linotype machine which cast molten lead type used to set the paper. Tuffy Roelofsen was Tromp Boland's assistant. It was a great and unique Pella newspaper who copies I still treasure today.



The west side of the square, Pella, Iowa

The *Weekblad* ran train schedules (as the one pictured to the right) along with markets, church schedules and many articles that kept the citizens advised of what was happening in Pella.

Tijdtabel van de treinen op de Wash R. R. van het Howell Station.	
Gaande West	5:56 A. M.
Gaande Oost	9:16 A. M.
Gaande West	12:43 P. M.
Gaande Oost	5:28 P. M.
TIDTABELS:	
C. R. I. & P. RAIL ROAD	
PELLA, IOWA.	
Beste Route naar, van en tusschen, Chicago, Kansas City, Colo. Springs, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Fort. Worth, Memphis, Omaha, St. Paul, Peoria, Denver, Minneapolis.	
Naar het Westen	
No. 475	Des Moines, Growrie, Sibley en plaatsen Noord-west van daar
	10:10 A. M.
No. 473	
	4:08 P. M.
No. 831 Freight	
	7:46 A. M.
Naar het Oosten	
No. 472	
	11:59 A. M.
No. 474	Oakhoops, Ottumwa, Eldon en tusschenliggende plaatsen en verbinding te Eldon naar het Zuid westen
	8:59 P. M.
No. 832 Freight	
	11:59 A. M.
Vrachtwagen No. 831 naar het Westen en No. 832 naar het oosten	
maken verbinding te Evans voor Washinton, Dravenport, Rock Island en tusschenliggende plaatsen.	
Alle treinen dagelijks behalve Zondagen	
C. F. Dykstra, Agent Pella, Iowa.	

Exciting Things coming from Historic Pella Trust in 2008

Web Site Coming

We're going to have a Web Site! We have engaged Pella Art and Graphics to construct an attractive site that will be up and running in the next few weeks. It will have news, photographs and much more. We are looking forward to having this new exposure and are grateful to the Pella Community Foundation for funding a grant to get this exciting project started.

Annual Meeting

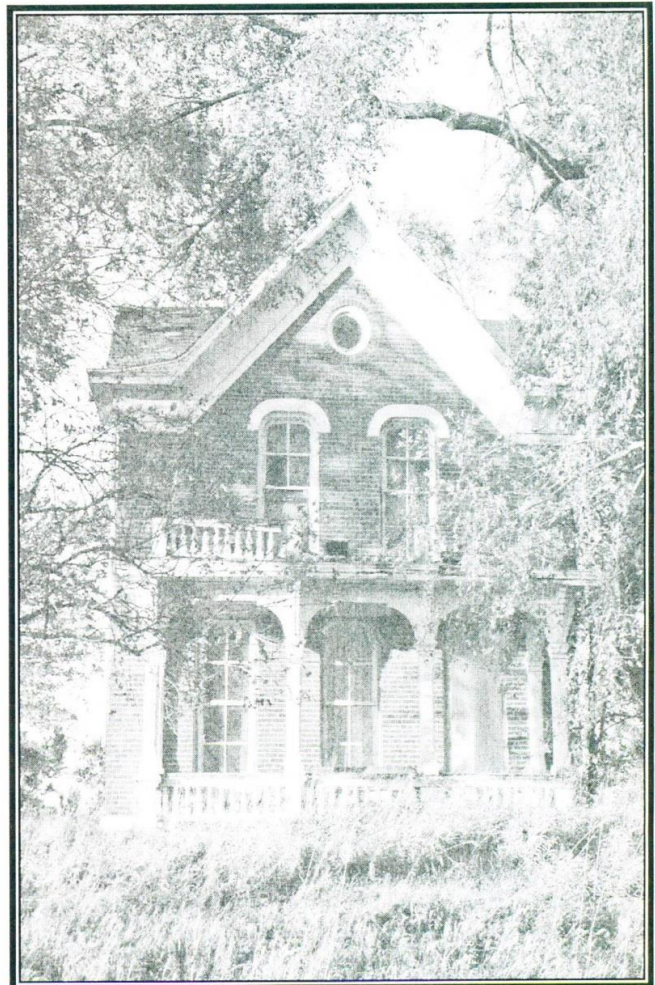
Yes, we've already given thought to our spring Annual Meeting! We are in contact with a speaker we know will bring many valuable insights, interesting experiences regarding preservation, and knowledge of things Dutch for having lived and studied in the Netherlands. We have details to arrange regarding his available dates, and will give you all the details in the spring *UPDATE*.

Renew Your Membership!

Remember that future preservation programs will not have funds to support them without your help! We are eager to put a grant program in place to encourage property owners to think *preservation!*

Historic Property Purchased

The historic brick home pictured below on the east edge of Pella, known as the Van Wyk House, is being purchased by Kyle and Shalene Zylstra. We will follow the arduous restoration efforts the house needs with great interest and run updates as they are available.



Be an important link in preserving Pella's past for future generations. Historic Pella Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization. Our office is located at 615 Main Street, Pella, Iowa Phone 641-628-8003

Why your MEMBERSHIP is Important

Some examples of buildings Historic Pella Trust has preserved:

Saved: Old Soul Sleeper Church - 824 Franklin Street

Saved: 710 W. First Street - Estimated this home was built within ten years of Pella's founding.

Saved: 1110 Washington Street - Estimated this home was built in the 1850's.

Saved: Rock House on University Avenue.

Additional historic properties that have been saved by others include

- Coal Ridge Church, recently put on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Wayne Stienstra has saved:
 - 925 Broadway, 1005 Broadway (former Koelman/VanZante house)
 - 615 Main St - former DX Station,
 - 1305-1/2 Washington (Fox Farm Building)
 - 15560 Main - VerPloeg acreage and apple barn!

Clip this portion and send it with your contribution. Thank you!

Please fill in the following information and mail this with your check to: **Historic Pella Trust
P.O. Box 1
Pella, IA 50219**

Single Membership: \$25.00

Business Membership: \$75.00

Family Membership: \$50.00

Golden circle Membership: \$250.00

Senior Membership: \$10.00

Special Preservation Donation \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail address _____