

## FAMILY HISTORY

### Robert K. Hoffman Ancestry:

Hendrikje Van Noord married Kope Hofman and they came to America on their honeymoon. Hendrikje's father and four brothers came on the same boat and they all arrived in Grand Rapids. Hendrikje and Kope stayed with friends in Grandville until they found a place to buy. A man in Vriesland lost his wife and four children because of diphtheria and could no longer bear to stay where he had suffered sorrow. This nice farm became the home of the Hofmans. Here they raised six children. Jennie was born with a congenital hip problem. In those days corrections could not be made so she was a cripple all of her life. John, Lena, Tim, Jessie and Rob were the names of their children.

Grandma was a hard worker. She helped with the farm work pitching hay, gardening, etc. She never was sick. However, a traveling dentist came through the area and convinced her to have her teeth pulled. He did the job in the kitchen...no anesthetic. This caused her to have to be sick in bed and her children fearful tipped-toed through the house...and were thankful when she recovered.

A fire destroyed their house. The children were taken into different neighbors' homes. Rob, the youngest slept with his parents in a borrowed, shacky house. Snow had fallen through the cracks on their bed. The next day wagons of lumber came rolling in from Zeeland. The neighbors rallied to help build the new house. Today, the expressway has been built over the site of the old homestead.

When the bride and groom first settled in Vriesland, Grandpa would go to the village store for news. The assassination of Lincoln was the startling news at the time they settled there.

They passed the Vriesland Reformed Church to drive to Drenth to attend the Christian Reformed Church.

When they retired they moved to Jamestown with Aunt Jenny. They never had in-door plumbing or refrigerator or electricity. They always spoke the Dutch language. Their graves are in the Vriesland Cemetary. They lived long lives...close to 90.

Hendrikje and Kope had many grandchildren named after them. All of their children followed the custom of naming children after grandparents. So there was a Harriet and a Karl in all the families except Rob's. He defied tradition by adding an "f" to Hofman (so it wouldn't look so Dutchy) and he chose names he liked for his children. He also added a middle name of Karl.

### Pauline DeYoung Hoffman Ancestry:

William Pell and Gertje Jonker were married in the Netherlands and had seven children. William raised cattle and sold to a buyer in England. One time when his cattle were being taken to London by boat across the North Sea a bad storm up and to save the lives of the passengers, all cargo had to be thrown overboard, which included his load of cattle. Others he had become diseased and died. He could not face bankruptcy so left for the U.S. His wife had relatives in the Grand Rapids area and this is where he settled. When he was able to get a job and save enough to provide shelter and food for his family, he sent for his wife to come here. She is said to have tied