

## 1: The Hollanders of Iowa (Classic Reprint) - Livros na Amazon Brasil-

*HOLLANDERS OF IOWA. BY JACOB VAN DER ZEE. PUBLISHED AT IOWA CITY IOWA IN THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA. Submitted by Gayle Harper: Contents.*

To estimate the number of Hollanders in Iowa, both foreign-born and native, is largely a matter of speculation; but such an estimate need not for that reason be avoided in all cases. According to all census enumerations previous to and including the year , Marion County was the leading county in Iowa in respect to the number of Holland-born inhabitants. Of Hollanders in the State in that year, Marion had no less than ; Mahaska, its neighbor to the east, had ; and Lee County could point to , most of whom lived at Keokuk, the natural gate through which Hollanders had passed for many years on their way to Pella and vicinity. Muscatine County contained people from The Netherlands; and next in order came Sioux County with its budding colony of , and Dubuque County with Foreign-born Hollanders dwelt in all but thirty-five of the ninety-nine counties in the State. Of the Mississippi River counties Lee has gradually declined from a strong little colony of in to in , in , and in , and nearly all of these lived in the city of Keokuk. A small number of Hollanders have continued to make their homes in Scott County: In Clinton County had 33 Hollanders in Clinton and De Witt, and in Orange Township, but only a negligible number has resided in the county since that year. Dubuque County, with the city of Dubuque as the chief point of settlement, dropped from in to 38 in , 82 in , and 56 in The Hollanders have always found Muscatine an attractive county: A Dutch Reformed Church has been maintained in the city of Muscatine since Many Dutch immigrants settled in the counties. Benton County with 29 in fell to 15 in , and in about the only suggestion of Holland or Hollanders to be found in the county was the name of a town, Van Horne. Tama County had 26, mostly in Columbia Township, in , but lost these within a few years. Hardin County has always contained a small number of Holland-born citizens: The number of Hollanders in Grundy County increased from 56 in to 58 in , and 96 in German Township contained most of them, while the town of Holland had none at all! Butler County has retained a thriving settlement in its southwestern corner, especially at Parkersburg and in Albion Township: It is a noteworthy fact that very many of the counties in this part of the State have congregations of the Dutch Reformed and the Christian Reformed Churches, but the membership consists almost exclusively of people who speak the East Friesian dialect of the Low German. Webster County with 18, mostly at Fort Dodge, in Humboldt County has wavered from 44 in , 22 in , and 54 in to 30 in ; and Pottawattamie County claimed 16 in , 38 in , 56 in , and 42 in , mainly at Council Bluffs. He planned to build up a prosperous colony of German and Dutch Roman Catholics, but the former have always preponderated. The Hollanders in numbered 62, and were almost evenly distributed among Kniest and Roselle townships and the town of Breda; they were still 62 strong in , but dropped to 52 in Immigrants from Holland have, during the last four decades, passed by Marion and located almost entirely in adjacent counties. Polk County has gained consistently, going from 21 in to 51 in , 77 in , and 97 in , the city of Des Moines attracting the majority of them. In Wapello County to the southeast dwelt 55 Hollanders in , principally at Eddyville, but the number had decreased from 57 in to 39 and 33 in the years and , respectively. In Jefferson County there lived 38 in , but there were none to speak of in , and only the name Batavia remains to remind one of Holland. The number has slowly risen in Jasper County from 33 in to in , in , and in ; likewise in Mahaska County from in and in , to in , and in Since Marion County has dropped from first to second place for the number of its Holland-born inhabitants: In Lake Prairie Township, where the Hollanders first settled in , and in Pella the Americans form only a small minority of farmers and business men. Although the stream of Dutch immigration to Pella and surrounding country has diminished greatly in recent years, it continues to be steady. In Marion County itself the Hollanders have slowly spread out as land-owners, buying up the country situated between the Des Moines and the Skunk rivers and also land north of the latter river. During the past two years the Hollanders have bought considerable land in the vicinity of Harvey and Bussey in Liberty Township. In Polk Township perhaps three-fourths of the people north of the river are Hollanders, while a few dwell south of the river. Summit Township to the west of Lake Prairie, is almost entirely in the hands of Hollanders, as is perhaps one-tenth of Red Rock Township. The Dutch have gradually brought into

their possession certain townships of Mahaska County, east of Pella, so that they own about three-fourths of Black Oak Township, one-fifth of Scott Township, and one-third of Richland Township. South and west of these townships there are numerous Hollanders in Prairie Township, where they have lately bought much land in the vicinity of Taintor and New Sharon, and in Madison Township where they own about one-tenth of the land. At Oskaloosa they are increasing year by year for the reason that they can find plenty of work in that city. In the other townships farther east, families of Hollanders are few and widely scattered. South of Oskaloosa they have been buying land in the neighborhood of Eddyville in Monroe County. But few American farmers live on the twenty-mile road between Pella and New Sharon or occupy farms on the highway between Pella and Oskaloosa, a distance of eighteen miles. There is at least a grain of truth in the following interesting bit of American journalism: They buy several thousand acres every year, and it is an accepted axiom that when a Dutchman gets a farm he never sells it. Their specialty also is to buy the less expensive land and make it blossom like the rose. He knows from experience in his own country that if he can keep the water out, this land will produce enormous crops. And there is where he is beginning to shine here. The first thing a Hollander does after taking possession of the land is to tile it and then begin the erection of dykes. Skunk River for miles is being walled up, and it will only be a few years until high water in this section will have no terrors for the owners of low lands. The Hollander also is an intensive farmer, and it is no unusual thing for one of them to make a crop pay for the land. With an increase of wealth and prosperity came an expansion of the land area owned by the Hollanders in the vicinity of Pella. As their sons grew up new farms were needed and purchased, very often at high prices. Indeed, the market of that part of Iowa was not flooded with cheap or abundant land, and this fact forced hundreds of Hollanders to seek their fortunes elsewhere in America. Thus, at about the time when Henry Hospers led a band of settlers to Sioux County, other Pella people went southward to Kansas where they founded Rotterdam and Prairie View, two communities which were never a match for their northern neighbors. Another group established a village named Pella in Lancaster County, Nebraska, a small agricultural community. Still other associations hopefully founded towns of the same name in Texas and in Colorado, but both towns were extinct. Southwestern Iowa was also considered, but land could not be secured. As they grew in numbers and found it increasingly difficult to obtain additional farm lands at home, the Hollanders inspected lands in other localities. In the Dutch colony at Winnie, Texas, offered special inducements. Many emigrated to Oklahoma. And wherever they went they bore their church affiliations, established churches or allied themselves with those already formed. The proverbial Dutch clannishness is well illustrated in the fact that emigrants from the Dutch colony around Pella have either established communities of their own or they have found homes in other Dutch settlements: Feelings of nationality and kin have prompted Hollanders to dwell together in America, just as emigrants of most European lands have always been induced to live among their friends and relatives in certain sections of the country. This clannishness appears to be merely one means of self-preservation. The stream of Dutch immigration has continued toward that part of the State more strongly than to any other part since Osceola County with its poorly drained lands claimed but 22 in 1847 and 83 in 1850, chiefly at Sibley. Woodbury County, with Sioux City as the center, had 12 in 1847, in 1850, and in 1853. Sioux County has made the most remarkable gains. From a small group, in 1847, the number of foreign-born Hollanders increased to 100 in 1850, in 1853, and in 1856. The entire Dutch element in the State, exclusive of descendants of foreign-born parents, consisted of 1,000 in 1847, in 1850. Other Hollanders were distributed, in most cases widely scattered, among all but fourteen counties in the State in 1847 and among all but six counties in 1850. In Holland Township the Dutch own all but one section of the land and, with a few American families, they number 100 people at Orange City. In Capel Township, with its village of Middelburg, the Hollanders own all but five sections, and nine-tenths of the land of West Branch Township is Dutch-owned, while Sioux Center has only four or five non-Dutch families in a population of 1,000. There, as at Orange City, Hollanders own and carry on nearly all business enterprises. All but one section of the land in Welcome Township belongs to the Dutch. In Lynn Township more than one-half of the land is farmed by Hollanders; Germans and Americans own the rest. In Floyd Township Dutch and Germans share the land about equally. The town of Hospers and the village of Newkirk are, however, mainly Dutch. In this part of Sioux County the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad practically separates the areas occupied by the two

nationalities - the former owning land to the north and the latter to the south of the railroad. East Orange Township, therefore, is almost entirely in the hands of Germans; and Nassau Township, with its town of Alton, is perhaps predominantly Dutch. The Germans are equally prosperous as farmers in that district, and have owned their lands as long as their Dutch neighbors so that the proportion of nationalities has not changed for many years. The Hollanders prefer to rent out their farms to Dutchmen, while German owners just as strongly insist upon German renters. Americans are in a majority in Grant Township, with their neighbors about evenly divided between Dutch and Germans, the former owning about ten sections of land. The same is true of Sheridan Township where the Hollanders own thirteen sections of land and are also firmly entrenched in the town of Boyden. Lincoln Township has for many years been passing into the hands of the Dutch until they hold about one-half of the land, while Americans and Germans own the rest. The town of Hull, once strongly American, is now largely Dutch, and the village of Perkins is entirely so. Sherman Township and the town of Maurice are one-half Dutch, with some Germans and a good many Irish. About one-half of Center Township, three-sevenths of Plato Township, two-fifths of Rock Township, including the town of Rock Valley, and one-fifth of Sioux Township have fallen into the hands of Hollanders, although their neighbors, Germans and Americans, predominate. These people, with some Norwegians, occupy the greater part of Settlers and Garfield townships, but the Dutch own one-tenth and one-fourth of the land, respectively. Americans and Germans are still firm in the southwestern townships with only a mere sprinkling of Dutch. They have spread east of Sheldon and have established a church at Sanborn. Plymouth County has not as many Dutch as formerly. It is true that with the rapid expansion of the Dutch in Sioux and neighboring counties, many have been forced to buy land in other States: Other families invested their money in cotton plantations in Mississippi. In late years many have gone to Crawford and Denver, Colorado; and not a few have helped swell the tide of emigration from Iowa to the cheap lands of the Canadian northwest. The existence of these settlements with their thriving little churches where Dutch is preached shows better than anything else how partial the Hollanders are to people of their own nation and to ancestral institutions. The Hollanders who have visited their people in Europe have been the means of carrying American enthusiasm with them and they have frequently conducted Dutch families to Iowa. Some years ago a Sioux County visitor in Holland returned home with six families of from five to eight children each. Dutch immigration to Iowa has not yet ceased.

### 2: Full text of "The Hollanders of Iowa"

*Northwestern Iowa, however, contains more than one-half the foreign-born Hollanders in the State. The stream of Dutch immigration has continued toward that part of the State more strongly than to any other part since*

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### 4: Hollanders of Iowa

*Excerpt. The author of this volume on The Hollanders of Iowa was admirably fitted for the task. Born of Dutch parents in The Netherlands and reared among kinsfolk in Iowa, he has been a part of the life which is portrayed in these pages.*

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