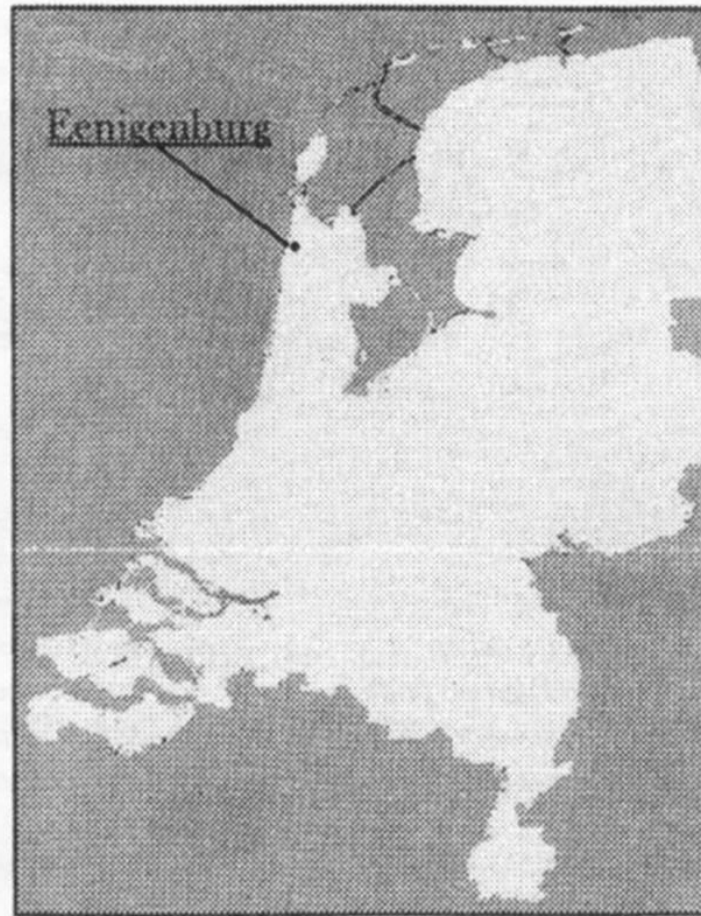


EENIGENBURG

A family history

EENIGENBURG







EENIGENBURG FAMILY

- This family with the name of the village decided in 1849 to emigrate to the United States of America
- Gerrit en Jannetje Eenigenburg and their 4 children were part of a group of 64 emigrants
- They were so called separatists. They followed a different interpretation of the Bible and therefore were denounced

Religion in 19th century Netherlands

- The 19th century witnessed a rising conflict between Catholics, liberal Calvinists and orthodox Calvinists.
- The position of Catholics of the Kingdom of the Netherlands became worse. The Catholic hierarchy became forbidden and Catholics were forbidden to hold religious processions in most provinces.
- The Netherlands was ruled by a liberal Calvinist elite, which dominated the bureaucracy and the Dutch Reformed Church, leading to splits. In 1834, led by Rev. Hendrik de Cock, a group seceded from the Dutch Reformed Church in what was known as the Afscheiding. (Segregation)
- The federation of churches resulting from this split, the Cristian Reformed Church still exists in The Netherlands today.

Jannetje (1818-1883) and Gerrit (1814-1893) Eenigenburg



Departure

On Monday 16th April 1849 Gerrit en Jannetje set out on their big adventure.

They went on board a Frisian tjalk at Krabbendam with their four children and twelve other families.



It was April 24, 1849 when the party of young Dutch families boarded the Massachusetts of Boston in LeHavre, France.

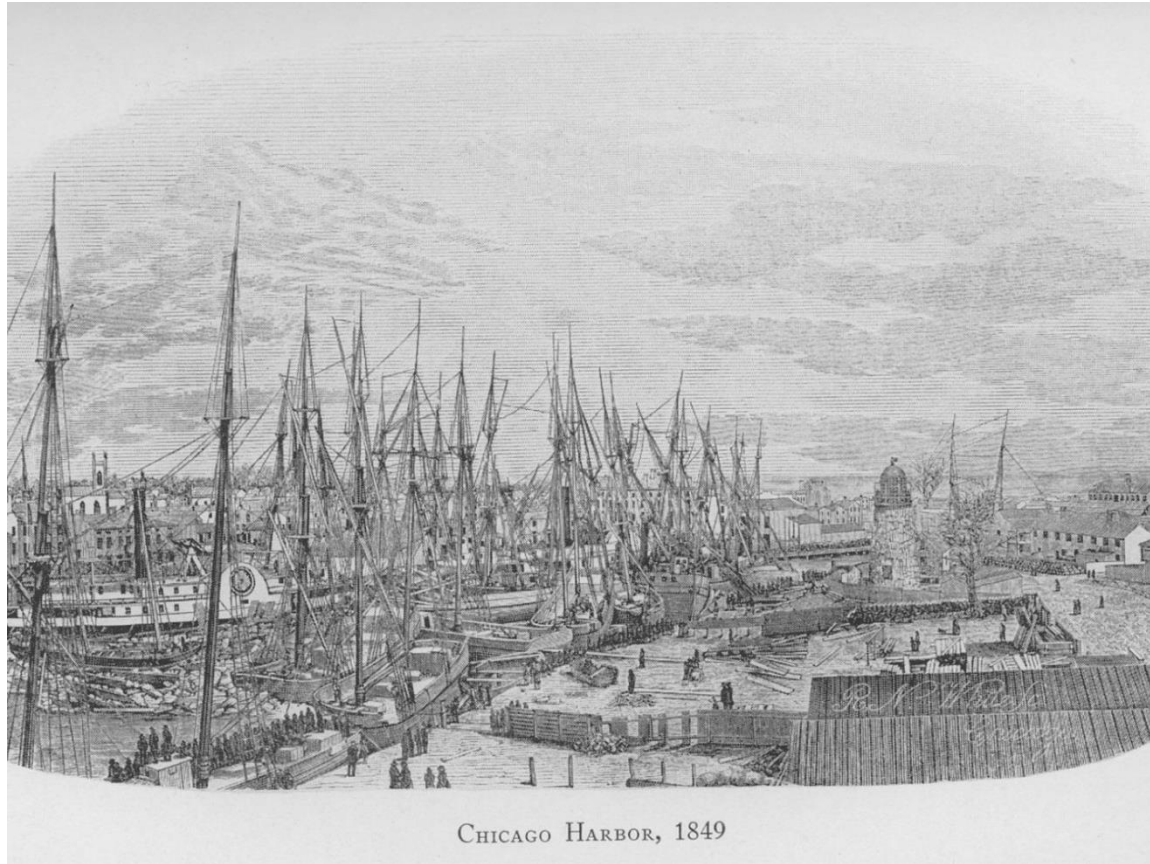


The Journey

- Only the wealthy passengers could go on deck in the fresh air.
- Other passengers, like our families, travelled below decks in the crowded and dark holds.
- The women and children slept on benches and the men slept on the floor
- Conditions were unhygienic and illnesses soon broke out.
- 28 passengers died of Asian cholera, including Gerrit en Jannetje's three youngest children
- On June 8th 1849 the 'Massachusetts' arrived in New York, after 42 days at sea.

The Journey

Mercifully, the group finally landed in New York harbor on June 4, 1849. Two weeks later, after traveling through the Great Lakes, the survivors of the 60-day, tragedy-filled voyage arrived in Chicago. On the dock, they were met by Klaas Pool, an old acquaintance who had traveled to America two years earlier. Klaas led 4 of the men, chosen as the scouting party, on foot the final 20 miles, to the High Prairie (now Roseland).



Arrival!

68 days after their departure from Krabbendam they reached Chicago. At last the families could start their new life in America!

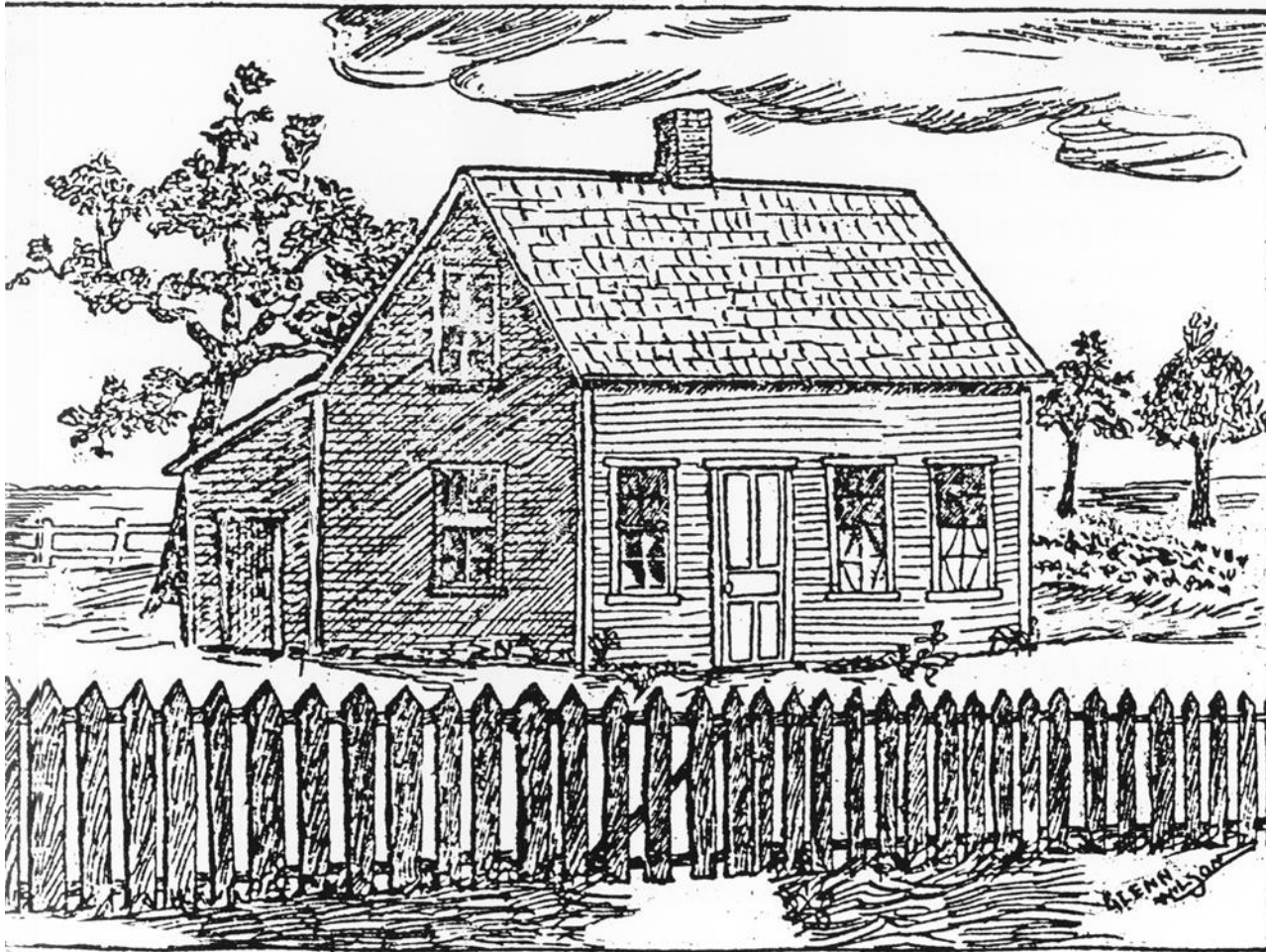
The New Settlement – High Prairie (Roseland)

- On July 3, 1849, the settlers bought 160 acres of prime land for \$5 per acre from 103rd to 111th Streets, and from Indiana Avenue to State Street (as we know the area today). Gerrit & Jannetje purchased 10 acres at 110th Street.
- But the hardships were not over. The country was wild and primitive, the winters were extremely harsh, and the farming was difficult. There were no railroads or wagon roads, only a primitive trail.
- The new settlers were up to the task, and the land was extremely fertile. The pioneers were successful in their new community. In fact, many of them did extremely well in the boom years that followed.

Early Settler Land Purchase

103rd Street—		—Cornelis Kuyper - 15 acres at 103rd Street
		—Jakob De Jong - 40 acres
107th Street—		—Pieter De Jong - 35 acres at 107th Street
		—Klaas Dalenberg - 32 acres
		—Gerrit Eenigenburg - 10 acres
		—Leendert Van der Sijde - 18 acres
111th Street—		—Pieter Dalenberg - 10 acres at 111th Street

Early settlers' home, which still looks very Dutch...



“It is too bad that the next generation will know so little of the real pluck and energy exerted by their parents and forefathers to civilize this region from a natural wilderness to hamlets and thriving cities.”

By Harry Eenigenburg in: “The Calumet Region and its Early Settlers,” 1935.

Gerrit Eenigenburg	&	Jannetje (Ton) Eenigenburg
30 Nov. 1814– 10 Oct. 1893		8 Dec. 1818 (Holland) – 8 Dec. 1883
Age emigrated: 34		Age emigrated: 30

- Gerrit settled at 110th & Michigan. They had 5 more children in America. In 1853, he sold his land to Klaas Madderom (their wives, Jannetje and Trijntje Ton, were sisters).
- He moved to Lansing for more grazing land, and was a founder of the First Reformed Church there. Gerrit did very well, retired in 25 years, and left the farm to sons John & George.
- Son, Harry, joined homesteaders in South Dakota, was a successful builder, and later returned to Roseland.

Eenigenburg Family – Second Generation

George Eenigenburg Family (1908)



Eenigenburg Family – Second Generation

John Eenigenburg – Bee Keeper



Eenigenburg Family – Second Generation

Harry & Louisa Eenigenburg (1884)



Eenigenburg Family – Second Generation

Around 1880... “houses went up like mushrooms in all directions, and the boom kept up for several years. The pioneer of 1849 became rich overnight...”

By Harry Eenigenburg in: “The Calumet Region and its Early Settlers,”
1935

Religion in the new world...

Having emigrated for religious freedom, religion was very important to the settlers. However, growth, theological differences, and language caused various church splits – sometimes even with interchurch rivalries.

Religion in the new world...

There were eight Dutch congregations by the early 1900's. By 1920, Roseland had more churches per capita than any place on earth.

The early settlers were protestant, but by 1935, there were 35 churches in Roseland including Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and others.

Religion in the new world...

“Where two or three Hollanders are gathered together, is there not a tendency to start a second or third church?”

By Marie K. Rowlands in: “Down an Indian Trail in 1849.”

“From little acorns, grow mighty oaks.”

Michigan Avenue in Roseland grew to become Chicago’s third largest commercial district.

In 1935, Harry Eenigenburg wrote in “The Calumet Region and its Early Settlers,” that Roseland included: 35 churches, 16 schools, 2 banks, 2 parks, 2 hospitals, 3 theaters and about 700 stores. Industry already included: The Pullman Company, American Brake Shoe Foundry, American Steel, Chicago Malleable Steel Company, International Harvester, Ingersoll Steel Company, Sherwin Williams, and others.

The Family Today

The 1849 emigrants included 3 Eenigenburg families – with over 2,500 descendents today:

Gerrit and Jannetje (Ton) Eenigenburg

Geertje (Eenigenburg) & Jakob De Jong

Hark & Aaltje (den Toom) Eenigenburg

Several Eenigenburg generations have been born in America. None are left in Holland. The largest concentration remains near Chicago, but family members live all across the U.S.

Eenigenburg Village/Eenigenburg Family Ties

- While it is difficult to know when the first Eenigenburg visited the village, the connection has strengthened in recent years.
- Family members attended the 700 Year Anniversary Celebration in Eenigenburg in 1989, the opening of the first phase of the Eenigenburg Museum in 2002, and individuals have visited at various other times over the years.

Eenigenburg Village/Eenigenburg Family Ties

- Likewise, a delegation from the village attended the 1999 Eenigenburg Family Reunion in America (in Chicago). Truly, it is a small world, and it is our desire that these ties will continue for many years to come.

Eenigenburg Village/Eenigenburg Family Ties



Eenigenburg Village/Eenigenburg Family Ties

