

Lens Genealogy

Clara Adelaide Len's maternal grandparents, Gerard Kerkvliet and Cornelia Van Egmond, were both born in Haarlemmermeer, Netherlands.

They came to America around 1892 with their 16 children, aged six weeks to twenty years old, because they did not wish their eight sons to undergo the compulsory military training in the Netherlands. The Kerkvliet family settled near Hull, Iowa close to a Dutch friend, who had come earlier to the U.S. Their oldest daughter, Johanna, was Clara's mother. Johanna Kerkvliet was born in Haarlemmermeer in 1872 and lived there with her parents until she came with them to Hull, Iowa when she was 20. In Iowa she met Charles Lens, Jr. and married him in 1897. Their children are:

Charles Louis (died at birth)
Clara Adelaide 1/17/1900-2/20/1959
Charles Louis (died at birth)
Francis G. 2/3/1901
Cora 3/10/1905-4/24/1967 (Mrs. Phillip Hirmer)
Dena 5/6/1906 (Mrs. Leo Drickx)
Charles Louis 6/22/1908
Mary 4/6/1911 Mrs. Con. Winther
Alphonse 9/29/
Agnes 1/17/1915 (Mrs. Joseph Kirckx)

Charles Lens Jr. docked in Patterson, New Jersey, where a former friend owned a grocery store. Because Charles could not find employment in this city, he moved to Rock Valley, Iowa where his married sister lived. Here he found employment working as a hired man for farmers of the area. In Rock Valley he met and married Johanna Kerkvliet. They lived on various farms in Iowa, but in 1919 desiring to own a farm of their own they came to Tyler Minn. near friends. During the depression of the 1930's they lost their farm near Tyler, but a few years later bought a farm 20 miles north, near Marshall, where they lived until Johanna's death from a stroke in July 1945. Then Charles Lens lived with his daughter Dena, near Ghent, Minn. until his death in May, 1947.

Clara Adelaide Lens, oldest daughter of Johanna Kerkvliet and Charles Lens Jr. was born 1/17/1900 near Rock Valley, Iowa. While still a child she moved with her parents to a farm near Larchwood, Iowa. On 2/11/1920 Clara Lens married Henry Bakker. Clara Bakker died 2/20/1959 in McKennan Hospital, Sioux Falls, South Dakota from a perforated duo-denal ulcer. She was buried 2/24/1959 at Tyler, Minn.

Henry Bakker's parents, Jacob Bakker and Marie Kuiboer, were both born near Kaarlemmermeer, Netherlands in the 1850's.

Their children: Aleda, William, Hermanus, Henry, Anna, Sister Johanna (Carmelite), Mary, Marie.

Because of low wages Jacob received as a farm laborer, he desired to settle in America. However, his wife, fearing to cross the ocean and to leave her loved ones, discouraged his plans to settle in the new country so neither Jacob nor Marie were ever in the United States.

Henry Bakker was born 11/7/1891 in Aalsmeer Providence, Holland Country, Netherlands. In 1911, at the age of 19, with an uncle (John Bakker) and his family, Henry came to the home of a friend in Rock Rapids, Iowa, who had previously come to this locality. None of Henry's brothers or sisters came to the U.S. Upon his Arrival in Iowa Henry worked as a hired farm laborer until 1915 when he started farming in partnership. In 2/11/1920 Henry Bakker married Clara Lens. Because land was very high priced in Iowa, Henry and Clara hearing of the less expensive, yet fertile soil near Clara's family by Tyler, Minnesota, bought a farm six miles west of Tyler. It was on this farm their 11 children were born and reared. The oldest son, James Joseph, died at the age of two years by drowning in an open water tank while reaching for a gilttering can upon the water.

Henry Bakker died 2/5/1952 from cerebralhemorrhage after a three year paralyzed illness due to a stroke. He was buried 2/9/1952 from the Church of St. Dionysius, Tyler, Minn.