

The story of *Geurt van de Krol*.

*Geurt van den Brink* was born in 1829 as the son of *Jan Geurtsen* and *Willempje Jans Schut*. He lived with his wife and 7 children on the farm *Big Krol* in *Garderbroek*, municipality *Barneveld*.

Was *Garderbroek* too small for him or did the farm gave no output enough for such a large family? Almost certainly the main reason was the still limited freedom in the Netherlands to experience your belief in a different way than the Dutch Reformed (state) church liked.

In any case *Geurt van den Brink* (1829-1881) decided in March 1866 together with his wife *Willempje van Middendorp* (1828-1866) and 6 children, one was already deceased, to emigrate to *Pella*, *Iowa*, *North America*.

*Pella* was founded in 1847 by pastor *Hendrik Pieter Scholte* (1805 to 1868) due to the separation in 1832. The secessionists were not allowed to have meetings with more than 20 persons.

Pastor *Scholte* departed at that time with a few hundred followers for *America* and established in the current *Pella* at that time.

Many people of Dutch origin live in *Pella*, and there are still Dutch houses and a mill, and still *Pella-Dutch* is spoken, a dialect derived from the *South Gelders*.



The Van den Brink family first traveled to Liverpool, England, and went on board of the steamship, the SS England by shipping company National Line, which was built in 1865. The ship was

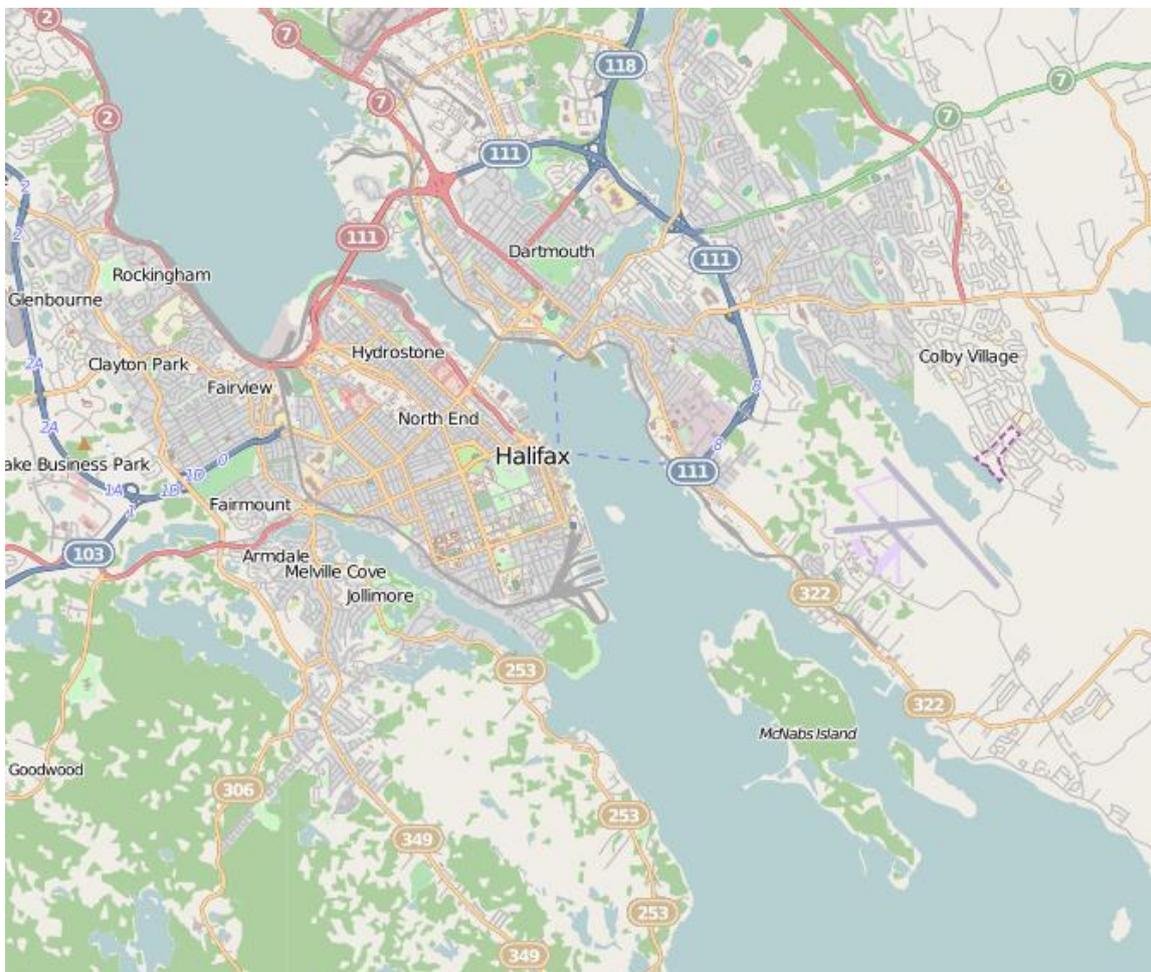
140 meters long and 50 meters wide. The boat also did service as a sailboat.

The ship sailed on Wednesday, March 28, 1866 from Liverpool to Queenstown in Ireland where a large group of Irish boarded. The passengers from Liverpool were most Germans.

On 29 March 1866 the SS left England to New York with 1,202 steerage passengers, 16 cabin passengers and 122 crew members. The captain was R.W. Grace.

The ship was even for broad concepts of crowded at that time and that was irresponsible.

On Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday there was a great storm, and all passengers were so crammed together that the following problem may have worsened.



Four days after departure a 8 year old German boy died. They gave not much attention to it. The next morning, a 35 year old passenger died and the day after 10 passengers died.

The cholera had broken out.

The ship arrived in the night of April 8, 1866 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, where on April 9, the yellow flag was hoisted. On April 11, the ship was sent to the nearby island McNabs, together with another ship, the Virginia, where also cholera had broken out, and both ships were quarantined.

A ship, named the Pyramus, was furnished as a hospital and the healthy passengers had to live on the island in tents. The saloon passengers and crew remained on the SS England.

All the food was destroyed and the ship was disinfected.

On April 16, the Sisters of Charity came to take care of the sick.

The doctor that had to treat the sick people 24 hours a day and had to direct the sisters, the 47-year-old doctor Dr. John Slayter, became ill on April 17 and died within 6 hours, a wife and 5 children leaving behind.

In Halifax and McNabs most passengers died of cholera. 40 out of 46 persons died on the way; in Canada another 267 persons died on the way. The numbers and dates sometimes differ in the various sources.

On April 18, the boat left for New York and arrived in New York on 20 April with a loss of nearly a quarter of its passengers. In New York the boat had to be quarantined as well until probably May 8.

The wife of Geurt Willempje and the three youngest children also died of cholera so the trip to America ended very different than he had imagined.

On the boat (passenger list) and in America (census) Geurt van den Brink called himself, just like a part of his family, Geurt van de Krol to the Great Krol where he came from. All his descendants are therefore called Van de Krol.

In America Geurt re married to Celia Tysseling (1829-1888) and became father again.

Translated by Mirjam de Vries.

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Sources: FamilySearch, wikipedia, history of Pella, Iowa 1847-1987, the SS England page, archive Barneveld, association Veluwe Sexes.