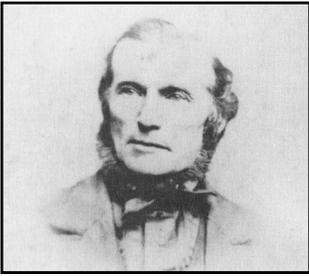


Excerpt from “When the Wind Blows” by Anna Wienke
(great granddaughter of Hinrich (Henry) Reemts Emminga)

HINRICH (Henry) REEMTS EMMINGA was born in Ostfriesland in the Holtrop-Wiesens area in 1829. He can trace his ancestry back through many generations. His forefathers seem to have largely connected with the so-called learned classes of olden times and made themselves prominent in church, school, and other matters of public interest, signing themselves Emmius, which is the Latin form of Emminga. Ubbo Emmius, who lived from 1547 to 1625, was a renowned historian, whose publications are taken as authority on the history of Ostfriesland, whose people never mixed with the other Germans and absolutely held their identity for way over a thousand years. They were never successfully subjugated by other powers but governed themselves and did not pay any taxes until later times.



Mr. Emminga was trained in Germany to be a millwright by occupation, reaching perfection in his chosen calling by study and close application. In his native land he married Miss Margaretha H. Franzen, who was born in 1824. To this union five children were born. Two died in infancy. The three that grew to maturity are Harm H., Volkea, and Anna. Mrs. Emminga’s father, Harm H. Franzen, fought in the Franco-Prussian war as a cavalryman and was in the battle of Waterloo, June 18, 1815, where Napoleon I was finally defeated.

Mr. and Mrs. Emminga and children crossed the Atlantic and landed at New Orleans, from where they made their way up the Mississippi to Quincy. They arrived in Golden in February 1852, at which time this region was all wild prairie. On reaching his destination, Mr. Emminga has only one piece of money left—a gold coin worth seven dollars and eighty cents—but through industry and economy he soon became independent. He never desired to be rich for he did not believe that wealth and happiness would harmonize. Mr. Emminga became an American citizen in 1860, receiving his final citizenship papers in Quincy on April 10, 1860.

Mr. Emminga was expert in building the type of mill for which the lowlands of Northern Europe are famous, the mills operated by wind power, the “Dutch Windmills.” During his lifetime, he built three windmills—one east of Golden in 1854, one in Germany in 1866, and one in Golden in 1854. He sold the first windmill which he had built to Hohn Franzen Sr. in 1863 and returned to Ostfriesland with his children where his wife died in 1868. She was laid to rest at Holtrop, Ostfriesland. While in Germany he built a windmill at Felde in 1866. In 1869 he was married to Peterje, whose maiden name was Bengen, born November 22, 1831 at Weene, Ostfriesland, kingdom of Hanover, Germany. Two children were born in this union but died in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Emminga and family came back to this country early in 1872. He started building the “Prairie Mill” in Golden the same year. This mill started operating in 1873. In 1879 they returned to Germany where Mr. Emminga died in 1888 and was buried by the side of his wife at Holtrop, Ostfriesland. The son, H. H. Emminga went to Germany and brought his step-mother back to Golden in 1889. She was cared for by her husband’s relatives in and near Golden until her death February 20, 1907. She is buried in Trinity Cemetery.

Hinrich H. Franzen was born in Holtrop, Ostfriesland, on the 18th of October 1821. His wife Antje H. Flesner was born in Westersander, Ostfriesland, August 6 1828. She was a daughter of Hinrich G. Flesner, who was also born in Westersander, August 23 1784, and died in Adams County, Illinois on May 20 1866. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Jubihelene Wietjes, was a native of Holtrop and died in Adams County, Illinois on the 30th of November 1862 at the age of sixty-eight years.

The marriage of Hinrich H. Franzen and Antje H. Flesner took place on July 24 1846, and on the 28th of October 1849, they left Ostfriesland in the company with her parents.

This trip is well described in a letter which Hinrich H. Franzen wrote from New Orleans and sent back home to their folks in Germany as soon as he set foot on the shores of America. The letter reads as follows:

at blog post “A WINDOW TO THE PAST, part 2”