

RESUME

of an article in the

HOLLAND NEWS

for November 11, 1876

"DOMINIE VAN RAALTE IS DEAD"

Born in Overisel, the Netherlands, October 17, 1811. Classical education at University of Leyden - theological study.

His energy of character and fiery eloquence made him one of the leaders of the Secession movement of 1834 for evangelical reforms in the National church. Governmental persecution followed.

Married Lady Christina Johann de Moen on March 15, 1836 (she died on June 30, 1871). After considering several locations, America was chosen. His foundations were secure. Some 20,000 came over by 1876. Hundreds of schools were established, scores of churches, and Hope College.

A devoted husband, kind, warm, congenial. Was 5' 3 1/2 inches tall!

Came in late November, 1846, to Detroit, intending to go to Milwaukee. Weather prevented a boat trip around the straits. Instead, he went to western Michigan (once considered Ada!) On January 1, 1847, he went with Judge Kellogg of Kalamazoo, walking through snow to the Black Lake area. By the end of January, 1847, he bought 3000 acres from the State of Michigan for \$7000. By the end of the year, he had immense holdings. He chose a name and a site before a settler had arrived.

Born October 17, 1811, in Wanneperveen, near Zwartsluis (Overisel). His father was a minister in the State Reformed Church. His mother, of wealthy Frisian stock, was Christina Caterina Harking. No record of her childhood. Of 17 in the family, only 5 reached maturity. 2 brothers died suddenly as students. A third, Peter, a doctor, died of Cholera in 1832. "Looking back at my youth, it was aimless, only directed by the respect I had for my father, the desire to be a joy to him." Aim and seriousness came after the first cholera period in 1832. In that year, at Leyden University, he switched from medicine to theology, his first important decision. Gradually he joined 5 students who were true Christians with whom he worked out plans for stabilizing the religious situation in which they found themselves.