

Popkje “Paulina” Paauw De Boer



Lifespan: 70 years, 1890-1960. Born in the Hindeloopen, Nijefurd, Friesland, Netherlands, 02/16/1890. Died in Stickney, 08/19/1960. Buried in Silver Ridge Cemetery, Stickney.

Locations: Netherlands (1890), Douglas County (1911), Center Twp (1912), Crystal Lake Twp (by 1930), Truro Twp, Pleasant Lake Twp (dates unknown), Stickney (1948).

Spouse: Dewey (Douwe) Henri De Boer, 1891-1964. Born in the Netherlands. Married 05/27/1911 in Friesland, Netherlands. Worked as a farmer and hired hand, milked cows.

Paulina De Boer Profile: She was very likely a determined woman, who overcame the loss of her parents while young, emigrated to South Dakota as a young bride, and learned to read and write English quite well. Paulina's mother died when she was only two months old. Her father remarried the next year, and, in the next few years, three more children were born into the family. Then her father died, in 1898. Three years later, her stepmother remarried and emigrated to America, but she could only bring her biological children on the voyage. Popkje, then age 11, was sent to live with another woman who raised her to adulthood. Later, when she married Dewey De Boer at age 21, they immediately boarded a ship for America, arriving June 13, 1911, two weeks after their wedding. They settled in Joubert, Douglas County, South Dakota, near her stepmother, now named Visser. Popkje, Americanized her name to Paulina, and was naturalized sometime between 1920-1925. The family called her Paulina.

Paulina and Dewey moved to Aurora County soon after arriving, and this is where they raised their seven children. Even though she had only an eighth-grade education, she developed excellent English writing skills, such that she wrote a weekly column called 'News from Aurora Center and Crystal Lake' for the local newspaper. She also subscribed to a Sunday School program through a radio program in Nebraska, completing worksheets sent via mail. She like to travel, even when her husband chose to stay home.

Starting about 1948, she and her husband lived in separate homes, but continued to live in or near Stickney. Paulina lived long enough to enjoy spending time with her many grandchildren.

Roles/Talent: Wife, mother, grandmother, writer.

Parents (Ethnicity): Dauwe Paauw and Tjitske (Jessi) Van der Zee, Dutch.

Children: 7 children, born 1913-1935. **Henry** (Stella Czarnomas), **Dewey Jr.** (Lena Van Den Hoek), **Edward** (Marge Brissey), **Raymond** (Mabel Slykuis), **Jessie** (Jacke Mathey, Lawrence Backes), **Emma** (Roy Kehoe), **Donald** (Wanda Pacencka).

Sisters: Step-sister Kate Van Zanten, Colton, SD.

Brothers: Nanne (died in his 20's), Raymond, Netherlands. Half-brothers Jacob, CA; Sierk, Platte, SD;

Education: 8th grade education

Work Experience:

Church, Clubs and Organizations: Aurora Reformed Church in Aurora Center, Evangelical United Brethren Church in Stickney, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Rebekah Lodge.

Family Connections/Occupations: Her stepmother and her new family were living in Douglas County when Paulina arrived. Two of her half-siblings continued to live in South Dakota. Her grandchildren, Dewey Jr.'s children, Dwight De Boer and Diane Bartelt still live in Aurora County, as do some of their children and grandchildren. Some of her son Raymond's grandchildren also live in the county. Other grandchildren live in other areas of South Dakota.

Time in Aurora County:

Physical Appearance: Her immigration description describes her as blonde, blue-eyed, 5'4".

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Submitter: Diane Bartelt, granddaughter



Picture 1: Paulina and Dewey with Henry, Dewey, Jr. and Edward

Picture 2: The family in 1934, Dewey & Paulina, Henry, Dewey, ed, Ray, Jessie, and Emma (age 8)

Picture 3: Wedding picture 1911