



### **Dominie H.P. Scholte**

Dominie Hendrik Pieter (later Henry Peter) Scholte was the founder of Pella. "Dominie" is Dutch for "pastor" or "reverend." After studying art for a period of time, Scholte switched to studying theology, which led to his life as a pastor and leader. In 1847, Scholte led a group of 800 Dutch immigrants to Iowa, searching for freedom from the religious oppression they faced in the Netherlands. (Scholte and his followers did not want to preach the state mandated material and therefore were not allowed to gather in groups larger than 30 people.) Once settled in Iowa, Scholte held many positions, including pastor, banker, writer, land officer, newspaper owner, and philanthropist.



### **Maria Scholte**

Maria Scholte was the wife of H.P. Scholte, Pella's founder. She lived a life of luxury and culture in the Netherlands and did not want to move to a strange land. However, she chose to follow her husband and make a life for herself in Pella. She brought the latest fashions and décor to Pella and enjoyed hosting people at her home, painting or playing piano for guests. This photo shows Maria in 1847 when she immigrated to the United States at age 27.





### Scholte House – Bedroom

This photo shows H.P. and Maria's bedroom in the Scholte House. This was their actual bed as well, the one Dominie Scholte died in in 1868. The exposed walnut is original, made out of walnut trees that filled the area that is now Scholte Gardens and beyond. Notice the piece of wallpaper still on the wall – it is the original wallpaper chosen by Maria in 1848. We know the date because of the newspaper which lined the walls; a piece of it still hangs above the remaining wallpaper swatch.

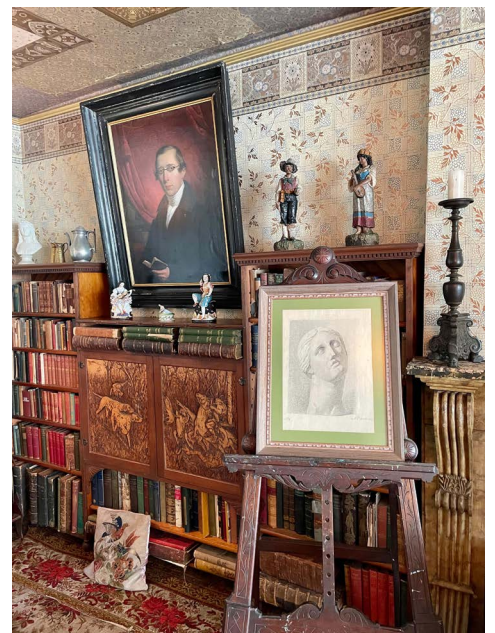
### Scholte House – Broken Delft

[Transcript of the pictured signage] One of Maria's prized possessions in the Netherlands was her blue Delft china set. Upon leaving Europe, she had wrapped the pieces in drapery materials and packed them in barrels, but the fourteen-day trip by steamship across the ocean, train from the east coast, barge down the Ohio River to St. Louis, up the Mississippi River to Keokuk, Iowa, then by horse drawn carriage to Pella, wasn't a gentle trip for the beautiful china. When it was unpacked after they moved into the house, the Delft was all broken except for a few dinner plates. Maria was devastated, so the gardeners said they would make a pathway of the china pieces from their log cabin to this new house, so that she would at least be able to see the beautiful patterns. Although this was long thought to be just a story, pieces of the Delft path were found when construction was done on the street in front of the house in 1937.



### Scholte House – Dominie's Library

The library inside the Scholte House Museum is one of the most closely preserved to how it looked when Dominie and Maria lived there. The carpet, wallpaper (now a reproduction), and ceiling paper were chosen by Maria, and the portrait on the wall shows a young Dominie Scholte. The pencil sketch on the easel is one by Scholte, a remnant of his time spent in art school. He would have spent many hours in this room studying law, foreign languages, politics, and much more.







### Scholte House - Iron Chest (left)

This iron chest came along with the Dutch immigrants from the Netherlands to Pella in 1847. The already heavy chest was filled with gold and valuables, and it took four men to carry. Additionally, the chest features a false lock to fool any potential thieves; the actual lock is hidden. Once the Dutch were settled in Pella, the chest became the safe of the town's first bank.

### Scholte House - Maria Items (center)

Pictured here are several items that may have belonged to Maria, including a mirror, a powder jar, and other toiletry items. We know for sure that the glove and handkerchief boxes belonged to Maria. They may have been carried across the ocean when Maria moved here, or she may have purchased them once settled in Pella.

### Scholte House - Rocking Chair (right)

This rocking chair belonged to Dominie Scholte and now sits in his study. It was built soon after the family arrived in Pella in 1847 and is said to be one of the first pieces of furniture built once the immigrants settled the town. Behind the rocking chair, you can see Scholte's desk, as well as one of his pens and a few pipes from his large collection.

### Scholte House Exterior

This photo shows the exterior of the Scholte House Museum as it looks today. The house has been added onto and changed throughout its 173-year history, but the original structure is still intact in its original location.



### Victorian Dress

These three dresses are part of our collections and belonged to early Pella residents. They show what fashions were possible in the Victorian era. Although none of these dresses belonged to Maria, they are similar to ones she may have worn.

### Hattie Bousquet Dresses (left, center)

The gold and red dresses belonged to Henriette Marthe Bousquet (Hattie). Hattie was the daughter of Jean (John) Joseph and Anna Vander Linden Bousquet, and the granddaughter of A. E. Dudok and Henriette Chabot Bousquet. A. E. Dudok Bousquet and his family, including John J. who was 12, were among the early settlers of Pella, arriving in 1849. Hattie married Ed Egan and these two dresses were part of her trousseau in 1898. The dresses were donated by Hattie's granddaughters, Gail Egan Duggan and Anne Egan Bachar.

### Jennie Rhynsburger Baron Dress (right)

This is a two piece mourning dress made of satin twill, lined with black and blue print cotton sateen. The black corduroy trim at hem of the dress helps the skirt hang straight. The blouse is made of the same fabric, but it is not lined. The collar is adorned with black lace lined with beige fabric which fastens in the back. The dress has 11 metal stays covered in fabric.

Note included with dress: This black dress and bonnet belonged to Jennie Rhynsburger Baron (1866-1932). It was her mourning dress as her husband died soon after their marriage and the birth of their only child. She was married to Gerhardus Baron (1860-1886). Their son was S. Bert Baron. Given to the Pella Historical Society by a great-granddaughter.

