

Jacob Feenstra  
Dutch Immigrant  
Tabinta  
August 25, 1948



Two single men -  
brothers - immigrated on  
August 16, 1948, because they had to go in the army. We arrived with a  
lot of sea sick people - but not us! - on August 25, 1948, in Quebec city.  
The boat was the Tabinta, a very old ship. We were born in a village near  
Bolswarel. My brother's name is Hidde or Henry Feenstra (then 21 years  
old) and my name is Jacob Feenstra (then 24 years old). Our work in the  
Netherlands was crewing another ship, the Nova Cura - 250 Tons.

We both worked on farms near Trenton Ontario; Henry worked for dairy  
farmers Mr. and Mrs. Morris Stickle, and I for Earl and Vera Stickle (also  
dairy farmers, but they had pigs too) at Glen Miller on the Trent Canal.  
We had very good homes. We worked for 7 months for \$45.00 per month  
and asked for more money. We wanted \$75.00 a month, but they could  
not afford that.

We moved to Woodstock, where we worked that summer for the C.P.R.  
Railroad. But after 7 months, there was no more work. That same week  
we got work again in the York Knitting Mills, here at Woodstock. Nylon  
stockings: that was a gold mine, as every woman wanted nylons. That  
same year, I met a girl Jansje Deivit. She was here for a visit, but was a  
house maid for Mrs. Cross. My wife to be went back to Holland in Aug  
1949 to Valkenburg Z.H. The next year, in the first week of July, I went  
back on the Nieuw Amsterdam to marry her and we took marriage vows  
on Aug 30, 1950 in Valkenburg. We arrived back in Canada in the first  
week in October, after a rough time on the Edam. We endured 15 long  
days at sea and a very big storm - but we were headed to a house on  
highway 2 with an outhouse so we were happy. After that, back to the  
nylons at York knitting.

My brother Henry met his wife from an immigrant family. They had a  
son, Johan, and two daughters, Betty and Marie. He took Marie as his  
wife in 1952. They have 5 boys. My wife and I were blessed with two  
boys and two girls. The boys are still single but the girls are married  
with 6 children. We were members of the First Christian Reformed  
Church in Woodstock for 25 years. After that, in 1974, we moved to the  
Emmanuel Reformed Church. I served four terms as elder in the  
Christian Reformed Church, and also 4 years with the school system.

We had a Janitor Business for 30 years. We looked after Hillview Cemetery for 12 years. My brother and I got our Real Estate Licenses in 1968. I lasted 2 years in it but Henry until his retirement. He sold hotels and motels all over Ontario.

We are both happily married in this promised land and no real hardship, we made a good living and we have been going to Florida for the past 25 years, during the winter months. We are very hearty, so we visit the sick and older people - they love it.