

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Rensink, Wilmer Senator Rensink, Wilmer  
Lived at Sioux Center, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 22 Mars 1933 near Sioux Center, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place  
Marilyn Kuyper 15 April 1954

3. Significant events for example:  
A. Business Director and president of the Sioux Center Methodist Telephone Company; director and president of Sioux City Livestock Producers and past president of Farmers Co-Operative  
B. Civic responsibilities Farm Bureau; American Legion; Kiwanis; Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce  
C. Profession Farmer; livestock feeder

4. Church membership Central Reformed

5. Sessions served 70<sup>th</sup> 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly 1983-1984 1985-1986 House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 72<sup>nd</sup> 73<sup>rd</sup> 74<sup>th</sup> 75<sup>th</sup> 76<sup>th</sup> 77<sup>th</sup> Iowa Legislature 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, 1993-1994, 1995-1996, 1997-1998 - Senator

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_  
B. State \_\_\_\_\_  
C. National Past director of National Livestock Producers

7. Death \_\_\_\_\_

8. Children Linda (Mrs. Chris Perciasepe); Gary; Kim (Mrs. Harlan Koenig); Donald; Cindy; Jason

9. Names of parents Herritt and Cynthia (Sandblat) Rensink

Rensick, Wilmer

10. Education He attended a rural school near the Rensick farm here

11. Degrees \_\_\_\_\_

12. Other applicable information

Republican

- Military service - U.S. Army 1954-1956, all duties were stateside in an army hospital unit at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri



# A People With Convictions: A History of Sioux Center, Iowa 1870-1991



Compiled by the  
Sioux Center Centennial Publication Committee  
Sioux Center, Iowa  
1991

works together stays together."

Feb. 25, 1974 we were deeply saddened by Dad's death. I was eighteen at the time of Dad's passing and farmed with my mother until 1983 when Deb and I were married.

At that time Mom moved to Sioux Center and I remained to live with my new bride on the home place.

In tracing my family heritage back to 1871 I'm amazed at the many changes that have taken place since my great-grandfather, A.T. Rensink moved from Greenleaf, Minnesota and homesteaded on the farm where we live.

A.T. Rensink built a sod hut in 1871 when he staked his homestead claim. Three generations of the Rensink family lived in the T-Shaped house that was built in 1880. In the summer of 1987 the T-Shaped house was replaced by a modern Ranch Style home.

Deb and I feel privileged to be the fourth generation of Rensinks to make our livelihood here. We too will strive to teach our children as they did, to trust in the Lord and work together as a family.

by Mark A. Rensink

## RENSINK, WILLIAM AND GERDENA (VOORTMAN)

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H.W. Rensink family.



Mr. and Mrs. H.W. Rensink

On January 17, 1880 Gerrit Rensink (known as G.H. Rensink) and Gazena Heunink Rensink welcomed a baby boy and they named him Henry William. He was known as H.W. Rensink.

In the Netherlands Gerdena Voortman, daughter of Manus and Reintje Voortman was born on June 5, 1877. She came with her widowed mother and three brothers and two sisters to the United States when she was sixteen years. One of her brothers, Marinus,



H.W. Rensink

died from a kick from a horse when a young man. Gerdena worked in different homes as a hired girl, and also worked at the Rensink home where the mother had died.

On December 6, 1906, H.W. Rensink and Gerdena Voortman were married. They continued to live on the farm that G.H. Rensink bought in 1883 from Jacob Borgman for \$1600., plus \$400. indebtedness. This was for a 120 acre track of land. They lived there their entire married life.

H.W. and Gerdena Rensink were members of the First Reformed Church in Sioux Center. H.W. Rensink died February 19, 1967 and Gerdena died November 9, 1939. They are buried in the Sioux Center cemetery.

Their son Gerrit was born on September 29, 1907. He went to the country school, Welcome number 7, and worked at home until he married Cynthia Sandbulte on January 28, 1931. They farmed nearby and had five sons including twins. One of the twins died from a fractured leg at the age of three and a half years. Gerrit died October 9, 1976, and Cynthia lives in Sioux Center. Gerrit and son are buried in the Sioux Center cemetery.

A daughter Reintje "Rena" was born October 21, 1910. She also graduated from the country school, as did her brothers and sister. She worked at home and married Ben Sandbulte on February 17, 1932. They farmed for fifteen years. Ben then bought the John Deere Implement Shop along with Jake Huisman. Later he managed the Co-op Produce. Ben died on April 27, 1963, and is buried in the Sioux Center cemetery. They had six children, two sons and four daughters. Rena married Robert Remmerde on May 6, 1968. They continue to live in Sioux Center.

A daughter Geziena "Sena" was born October 3, 1912. She also went to the country school and worked at home until she married William Vreeman on June 13, 1933. They farmed at Sioux Center, Hawaren, and Sheldon, where they are now retired. They had six children, three sons and three daughters. They lost two sons that had cancer at the ages of 24 and 39. They are buried in the Sheldon cemetery.

A son Marinus was born on November 26, 1914. He worked for his father until he married Bertha Vreeman on February 6, 1935. He was a farmer and worked for Supreme Pack and is now retired. They live in Sioux Center. They had four children, two sons and two daughters. One son was still born.

A son William Henry was born March 26, 1918. He also lived and worked at home until he married Magdalena Moerman on January 31, 1940. They farmed their entire married life and had seven children, four sons and three daughters. One daughter was still born and a son 32 years of age died from cancer. They are buried in the Sioux Center cemetery. On May 21, 1976 Magalena married Dick Fedders and they lived on his farm some years but are now

retired in Sioux Center.

The G.H. Rensink farm is a century farm having continuously been lived on by one family. These were G.H. Rensink, H.W. Rensink, Gerrit Rensink, and Wilmer Rensink.

by Mrs. Rena Sandbulte Remmerde

## RENSINK, WILMER AND MARILYN (KUYPER)

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The Rensink "home place" northeast of Sioux Center is now the home of the Wilmer and Marilyn Rensink family. The original 120 acres were purchased by G.H. Rensink, Wilmer's great grandfather on Nov. 6, 1883 for \$1625.00 plus assuming a \$400.00 mortgage of indebtedness which existed against the land. This land has been farmed by Rensinks ever since. Wilmer's and Marilyn's children are the fifth generation of Rensinks living on this century farm.

Wilmer was born March 22, 1933, to Gerrit and Cynthia (Sandbulte) Rensink on a farm across the section from where he presently lives. He attended a rural school that was located in that same section. On Jan. 15, 1954, he married Marilyn (Kuyper). Shortly thereafter he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for 2 years. His duties were all state side with his basic training at Fort Carson in Colorado, medic training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas and the remainder of his time was spent with an army hospital unit at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri.

In addition to farming Wilmer has been involved with the activities of the Sioux County Farm Bureau serving as its president for 3 years, the National Livestock Producers, Sioux City Livestock Producers serving as its board president, Farmers Coop Society, Northwest Iowa Farm Business Association and Mutual Telephone serving as its board president at the present time. He also served in various capacities on the Consistory of the First Reformed Church in Sioux Center. In 1982 Wilmer was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives and served 2 terms, presently he is serving his first term in the Iowa Senate.

Marilyn was also born and raised on a Sioux County farm just 3 miles north of Sioux Center. She was born June 20, 1935 to Marion and Marie (Remmerde) Kuyper and after attending a rural school she attended and graduated from the Sioux Center High School in 1952. After the first 4 of their children were in school Marilyn attended Northwestern College and graduated in 1972 with a degree in elementary education. Marilyn has been involved with Sioux County Farm Bureau Women serving as its president for 2 years, Federated Women's Club, Homemakers, Legislative Ladies League, Church Circle and teaching various classes at the First Reformed Church. She is also employed as Wilmer's secretary and assistant during the legislative sessions.

Wilmer and Marilyn have six children. Linda was born Oct. 14, 1954. After graduating from Sioux Center High School she attended Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill. graduating in 1977. Her husband, Chris Perciante, is Product Marketing Manager at Group Publishing in Loveland, Colo. They have 3 daughters:

