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In This Issue

PATRICIA L. BRYAN, professor of law at the University of North Carolina, tells the story of John Wesley Elkins. In 1890, the 12-year-old Elkins was convicted of murdering his parents and sentenced to life in prison at the State Penitentiary at Anamosa. Bryan relates his years of struggle for pardon in the context of changing attitudes about crime and punishment in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

ROBERT SCHOONE-JONGEN, who teaches history at Calvin College, offers a portrait of the Dutch language newspaper, *De Volksvriend*, published in Orange City from 1874 to 1951. He focuses particularly on the published correspondence that came to the paper from all over the country, creating an “imagined community” of Dutch Americans that eased their passage from the Old World to the New.

Front Cover

Providing educational opportunities for inmates was an important part of prison reform in the late nineteenth century, a reform that benefited John Wesley Elkins, the subject of Patricia Bryan’s article in this issue. This photo from the early 1900s of a classroom at the State Penitentiary at Anamosa comes from the Anamosa State Penitentiary Museum, Anamosa.

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