

# Happily Ever After



## Elizabeth & Nathan July 18, 2015

By Kim Wegener  
Family Living Editor

**WILLIAMSBURG** -- It was a trip to the airport that made former Shelby County resident Nathan Brace realize he wanted to spend the rest of his life with Elizabeth Veldboom by his side.

"The first time I really knew I wanted to marry her was the day I dropped her off at the airport to study abroad in Costa Rica for the summer. I wanted more than anything to go with her, and knew that I would have to ask her to marry me so that I could spend the rest of my life with her," said Nathan.

Elizabeth and Nathan met through a college ministry group at a church in Ames while both were students at Iowa State University. Elizabeth is a native of Williamsburg while Nathan grew up near Harlan.

"We met at CBF (Cyclone Bible Fellowship) in Ames, but really got to know each other on a ski trip with other CBF students. Everybody else quit skiing after lunch, so it was just the two of us on the lifts," said Elizabeth.

### Romantic proposal at favorite lake

After nearly two years of dating, Nathan decided the time was right to ask Elizabeth to be his wife.

"Nathan sent flowers and a note to the school where I student taught that asked me to meet him at our favorite lake in Ames," said Elizabeth. Then he took me out in a canoe for a picnic dinner before popping the question."

**Brace** please see page 2



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HARLAN NEWS-ADVERTISER  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2016



**Brace** from page 1



**Photos top to bottom:** A display table featuring wedding photos from both the bride's and groom's parents and both sets of grandparents' weddings; The Brace brothers from left: Christopher, Caleb, Nathan, Matt and Lucas; and Bride Elizabeth prepares to throw her bouquet. (All photos contributed)



Nathan chose Ada Hayden Lake near Ames as the proposal site.

"Ada Hayden Lake was a significant place in our relationship. We spent a lot of time walking, running and biking there together when we were dating, so it was an obvious place to propose. We had talked about canoeing there several times, but never actually did it," said Nathan.

"I already lived in Dubuque, and wanted to surprise her, so I took a day off from work to rent the canoe, deliver flowers to her school in Ankeny, and pick up a picnic dinner from our favorite restaurant."

## Wedding party consists of family and friends

Elizabeth did go wedding gown shopping with her mom and sisters but the dress she walked down the aisle in was not the dress she first found.

"After finding a dress with my mom and sisters, I found the perfect dress online from a Chinese dressmaker. We were hesitant and kept the first dress as a back-up, but didn't need it because the dress from China arrived within five weeks and was perfect!" said Elizabeth.

The couple selected July 18, 2015 as the day they would wed. They were married in Elizabeth's hometown at the Harvest Baptist Church. Approximately 280 guests witnessed the couple exchanging vows in a late afternoon double ring ceremony.

A beautiful summer day to begin their lives as husband and wife.

"When I married Elizabeth, I made a life-long covenant before God to love her unconditionally and put her needs before my own," said Nathan.

Elizabeth's wedding party consisted of her three sisters and three of her closest friends from high school and college. Maid of honor was Emmaleah Veldboom, sister of bride. Attending as bridesmaids were Naomi Veldboom and Rebekah Veldboom, both sisters of bride; Erin Reger, Liz Meyerholz and Tirzah Beam. The groom's cousin, Annika Van Wyk, served as flower girl.

Nathan asked his four brothers and two of his close friends from college to stand beside him as he married Elizabeth. Best man for his brother was Matthew Brace. Serving as groomsmen were Christopher Brace, Caleb Brace and Lucas Brace, all brothers of groom; Daniel Park and Josh Essary.

Music was provided by violinist Daniel Park, pianist Mary Greiner; and vocalists Matt and Erin Hinrichsen. Seating the guests were the bride's cousins, Sean McDonald and Austin Veldboom, and the groom's cousins, Thomas Christensen and Jon Christensen.

## Lawn party atmosphere created for reception

Guests were welcomed to an outdoor lawn party theme reception complete with a photo booth, lawn games, lights and paper lanterns. Their wedding colors of navy blue and coral were incorporated into the decorations. The reception took place in two tents set up on the lawn behind the church. Hosts and hostesses for the reception were Rick and Heather Beam, and Troy and Lisa Bleeker.

Elizabeth said daily trips to the local thrift store were made searching for reception serving items and most of the other decorations that they used to decorate the wedding and reception venues.

The bride and groom left the reception driving a white 1980 Corvette belonging to the bride's maternal grandfather, Howard Raffety.

"It hasn't been used much since my mom took it to prom her senior year. Nathan and my dad had to convince grandpa to get it out of storage. Nathan helped get it started again and clean it up," said Elizabeth.

The church was also the site of the rehearsal dinner given by the groom's parents.

## Newlyweds give helpful planning advice

Many times planning a wedding can be the center of people's lives for a long period of time. Nathan's advice to future grooms is to take breaks from all the wedding planning.

"Try not to be very picky (about wedding details), and make sure to schedule time that doesn't have anything to do with wedding planning," said Nathan.

Elizabeth's advice to future brides is to focus on spending your wedding day surrounded by family and friends.

"Focus on creating a schedule/atmosphere that allows you to enjoy lots of time



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with your friends and family," said Elizabeth.

The bride said there were no real problems with planning or on their actual wedding day except maybe that the ushers convinced her they had dropped the wedding cake which in fact they had not.

"I had a healthy level of stress. You want everything to be just right and we only had three and a half months from when he proposed. But I really enjoyed the process and working with my parents and Nathan's family to plan the day," she concluded.

#### Surprise honeymoon destination

Nathan surprised his bride with a honeymoon trip to Puerto Vallarta.

Parents of the couple are Lance and Megan Veldboom, Grinnell; and Todd and Beth Ann Brace, Harlan.

The newlyweds reside in Dubuque where Nathan is employed at John Deere Dubuque Works. Elizabeth is employed as a math teacher at Dubuque Wahlert High School.



(front) Dori and Steve  
(back) Trina and Gretchen

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