

Altenwalde
March 18, 1866

Dear August:

We received your nice letter of December 7, 1865 for New Years Day and we were overjoyed to read that you, your wife and your children are in good health and spirits. As far as we are concerned, we too are still doing well and we wait daily for letters. We were also pleased to read that you have a good energetic wife, who helps you a lot and that your dear children who greet us in the letter are well. We want to keep the children in our thoughts and hearts. August, we are glad that you have a good farm with lots of good land and that you have started to butcher so that you can use your own cattle. In Germany, here, cattle are very dear. Meat and butter are here nearly the dearest things. In England, they have hoof and mouth disease to a serious degree and it is present in some places in Germany, largely in Ostrabrück. The butcher can hardly get any animals this winter. They have had to get them from _____.

We haven't received a letter from Fritz and Johann yet. We don't know what kind of idea they have that they don't write to their parents or children.

Dear August, you wrote as that you have forty acres of land with salt and oil on it and that you wouldn't sell it for \$50,000. If you were in Germany with \$50,000, you would be a rich man and you could live a quieter life here. We also wish that you would do it and also you promised when you left that you would return in ten years. The time has long passed and you are still in America. Dear August, this summer many people from here are going to North America, young and old people, even whole families. There is a young man here whose name is Harry Von Der Heide, born in Ritzbüttel who also wants to go to America too. He is a good man who wants to go to the area that you are living in. Dear August, he is leaving on April 15 and will take along a letter from us.

Dear August, we are all upset and we would like your opinion. Johann wrote us in the last letter that he was the sole heir to all our small estate, since his brothers were dead. He also wrote that we still owe him 200 thaler. You know as well as us that father doesn't want him to have anything and mother wants that he should have 100 thaler. When Fritz went to America, Johann's wife was here and when she left she was given a nice bed to take along, and in the next year Johann wanted to come and get the 200 thaler.

Then we told his wife that he would stay in America, upon which he wrote that God and everyone knew that he didn't owe his parents any 200 thaler. If you have nothing against it, we will give it to the Little Fritz and give Johann 100 thaler, since we are old and could die any day. Many regards to you and your dear wife and to the Little Adelaide and Christina and Johann Fr derick and to Little Otto from their grandparents. (1)

Signed,

F.N. Wittkopf

(1) - This is contradictory, but is the way it translates.