

Altenwalde, November 6, 1869

Dear August,

We received with great pleasure your dear letter of August 16. We read there that you all are still well and in good spirits. As to ourselves, we too are still well and in good spirits. After all, the most noble gift a person can have in this world is good health. Every day we are glad that you, dear August, your wife and children all live well and happy in America. We also learn from your letter that on February 2 you got a little Sophie. May dear God keep the little girl happy and healthy. And may He bless her that she grows just as strong as your eldest daughter Adelheit. And, in short, (may He bless) all your dear children. Furthermore we were glad about your dear wife, that she is from a respected family, a fact not known to us before. But, dear August, we don't have any news yet from Johann and Fritz; we do want to know whether they are alive or dead. We implore you: wouldn't it be possible for you to let us know something about it? For Johann was in New York, as you know, and is perhaps still alive; but Fritz is probably dead. Dear



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August, this summer we here had a very good harvest. Grain is very good here; and so far, its price seems to go down. Potatoes, too, are good and have decreased in price. We also received very good potatoes this year, better than the past several years. Beef, however, is still very expensive. It is all sent to Hamburg; for meat and butter are the most expensive items here. But, dear August, we have a wet fall here: always rain and always rain; for we have had as much as three weeks of rain and even snow. In some places, the fields haven't been tilled yet. The seeds cannot sprout any more this fall; for the water runs over the fields in some places. We have also had many storms.

Dear August, here in Cuxhaven, near the Kugelbake a large battery is being constructed. Many people work there but it is rumored that it will take three years to complete. For it extends over four Hamburg acres.

Dear August, we don't know anything else to write. You asked us for the Bible and the Waterloo book. You are welcome to them. And then also to a dollar (Taler), another souvenir of Waterloo, that shall also be kept for you. When you have received this letter, write us again as soon as possible to tell us how to proceed sending these things over to



you.

Dear August! We have some more news for you: from Neuhaus on the ~~Ö~~ste to Bülkau, they are now building a beautiful road. From Neuhaus it runs to Kehdingbruch and from there straight to the Spreng River; then straight through Bülkau.

We also write to you that Jacob Glawatz' in Bülkau, near the church, burnt down on October 20. The animals and all else that was in the buildings was lost.

Dear Uncle, In this letter I am sending to you a picture of myself. I had long promised it to you, but not kept this promise till now. According to our parents, they will follow you soon.

We have to close now. Write as soon as you can. Also tell us how business is going in America.

Regards from all of us to you, dear August, your dear wife, and your dear children: Adelheit, Christian, John, Otto, Willy, and little Sophie. We hope all of you are still well and in good spirits.

We remain,

your loving parents,

Fried. Wittkopf.

