

Altenwalde
March 26, 1871

Dear Son and Daughter:

We can't get over the fact that we have not received a letter from you since the 6th of June, 1868. Fritz had written you and had included a picture of himself. Here all the young people are being drafted, but Fritz has not had to leave yet. Fritz has been married for a while now, which caused us a great deal of anger and pain, since he got married without our permission. Dear Son, you would give us a great deal of pleasure if you could visit us as soon as possible. We were already rejoicing that Fritz would take care of us in our old age, but will not be the case now since he wants us to help him now when we are in no position to help.

Mother is always sickly since the time that Fritz got married. Before that, Mother was much better, but this wedding caused her so much worry. Son, you will surely remember that today, the 26th, is the anniversary of our wedding. It has been three years since our golden wedding. Father is still working hard, but he is 74 years old and Mother is 72. I am always hoping that one of your daughters will come and take care of us in our old age.

Dear Son, Did you receive Fritz's letter. We would have gladly sent you the Bible and the other things, but we were worried that it might not arrive since we didn't get an answer to our letter. Well how are things by you? Are things as expensive in America as here? Here, a pound of meat costs 5 groschen and butter 11 groschen and wheat 4 marks and 4 schillings. Potatoes cost 10 groschen and the best coffee, 10 groschen and sugar is very dear too. It now costs 6½ groschen.

We will probably get the military now here too as in Ritzebüttel, where in some houses there have been 8 to 10 men and here in Altenwalde, there were some already where they had 18 to 20 men.

Many greetings to your dear wife and to your dear children. How are they all doing? We hope they are all well.

Dear Son, Can't you let us know what your dear brothers Johann and Fritz are doing? We are so worried that they might not be alive anymore. In France there has been a great conflict. Peace has been declared, but when it will end, we don't know. If Mother doesn't soon feel better she won't last long. But God decides, all our days are counted. Dear Son and Daughter, we wish that everything goes well for you, especially with the children. We hope that God will bless all your work. Dear Son, If time permits, it would please us very much if you would visit us as soon as possible.

Many greetings to your dear wife and the dear children.

I must add that Fritz had a son for a year now, whose name is August. His wife is from Altenbrug.

Many greetings from Fritz, Father and Mother.