

OPPAU, November 4th, 1857.

Dearly beloved Foster Son:

With the greatest of joy I rush to answer your good letter of September 26th. The letter caused great joy and happiness because from it I learned of your life and family situation and I know now that you and your wife as well as your four children are well and that you have no complaints.

However above all I was touched and extremely happy that you ~~xxx~~ still remember me with love, that you have not forgotten me, your godfather and your cousin in Frankenthal, in spite of all the bustle and turmoil in the big world. It did my heart so good and I shed tears of joy over the thankful expressions ~~and~~ and remembrances which you mention in your letter.

How I wish I could see you once more or could press your dear children to my motherly heart. What a delight what a wonderful joy that would be for me. However this wish will probably not be fulfilled on this earth. However if I cannot see you and your beloved ones in person, I shall at least see you in pictures. You have promised that you will send a picture of you, your wife and the children for Christmas. How I look forward to receiving it and will it ever be a holiday when I receive it, because you can't ever imagine with how much affection and love I am attached to you and how happy I am when you are well off. I pray to the good Lord for you and yours.

As far as I am concerned, at the present time I feel pretty good. I am not as springy as before, because old age is definitely here. Your godfather too is still quite alright, but unfortunately his matrimony is not very happy and he has to carry a heavy load of troubles and disagreeable things and quite often he can hardly stand it. I have to stand by with a broken heart, but cannot change it, cannot advise and cannot help, have to leave him to his misfortune. May the good Lord change things for the better and let him live some happy days.

The cousin in Frankenthal is healthy and alive. She is fine and she is happy. Your cousin as well as your godfather thank you very much for your greetings which they return with the wish that you and yours enjoy life in the best of health.

The widow of schoolmaster Ziegler is also in America, in California, and I understand that she re-married. He is a Brewmaster born in Switzerland.

Cabinetmaker Carl Befuhs wrote from America and says that this coming spring he will return to Germany.

Otherwise nothing new to report and I shall close this letter with the sincere wish that it reached you and your family while in the best of health.

over

CPBAU, November 4th, 1857.

And now goodbye, live well, remember with love as I always remember you, and go with God. Be honest in all your dealings, a good citizen and an example to your children and you will and must do well. And now a thousand greetings to you, your wife and children from all of us but especially from your sincerely and truly loving foster mother

Katharina Riede.

This 2011 copy is provided courtesy of Elaine (Hauch) Raines, who in 2000 obtained a copy from Ida Valentine Patterson, daughter of Ida May (Hauch) Patterson.