

#1 [Galater Cap. 6.V.7.] [Confirmation certificate]

Galatians, Chapter 6, verse 7:

**Do not be deceived, God is not mocked. Because whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

With this scriptural maxim and with the warmest blessings, it is hereby certified that, on Palm Sunday 1852, at the evangelical [i.e., Lutheran] church in Röglitz, **Carl Gustav Sack** was received, through confirmation, into the community of adult Christians of the evangelical faith.

Parish Office in Röglitz  
4 April 1852

[Pastor] Philipp

#2 [Lieber Schwager! No date]

Dear Brother-in-Law!

Here in Germany the harvest has not turned out well. The winter crop good. The summer harvest poor. Feed commodities altogether poor. [In the Meiningen-Weimar-Rhine Province?] the State has even granted a cash loan if [illegible text] hay comes from America. [missing text]

The same that [missing text]

Page written [missing text]

Only for us [missing text]

Greetings to all of you

Your brother-in-law

Ro[bert]

Address:

R. Barnhardt

Rodden by Kötschau

P[russia]

#3 [Röglitz, den 9ten Juni 1874]

Röglitz, 9 June 1874

[Written vertically on the first page of the letter:  
My address in the future: Cantor emer[itus] CG Sack  
Röglitz by Schkeuditz in the Province of Saxony]

Dear Children!

You will be angry with me that you have heard nothing at all from us. Don't think that I have forgotten you. All of you lie more on my heart than those whom I have all around me. I can see and hear how things are with them, but not with you. My anger comes only when I receive a letter from you and there is so little news in it; that a brother says nothing at all about another brother, all of which brings me to the depressing thought that you do not even practice brotherly friendship with one another. About a half year ago I received a letter from Louis [missing text] and another a week later from Julius—which you could easily have discussed with one another. You have not even written to me about how much Julius has received from Albert. I have received the photographs of you, your wife, and child; they pleased me very much. By outward appearance she seems to have a strong constitution, and her manner is serious and energetic. If I am mistaken, I don't know. You wrote to me that you have not quarreled and live quite happily. And if it stays that way today and in the future, it will please me very much. Carry the burdens of one another with patience, work diligently together, enjoy what you have with cheerfulness, even if it is not always the best, for only in this way does the spice of life endure. Your brother Julius is probably still single, so much the more is it your duty as the older one to assist him without selfishness and mutually consider how best to proceed.

I read in the newspaper that the Mississippi has caused terrible devastation, and I have thought about you often [missing text]. You were probably far away so that it has not affected you. In the past few years, much has changed with us with regard to laborers; last year bricklayers and carpenters received wages of one *rx* [*rx* = Rixthaler, or Reichsthaler, equivalent at the time to 3 Marks] and above per day and the day-laborer one guilder and above. A farmhand received wages of 60, 70, up to 80 *rx*. This year it has declined somewhat. Bricklayers and carpenters, however, receive 25 silver groschen and above per day and the day-laborer one guilder.

The prospects for the harvest are very good. Corn, wheat, oats, and barley are good up to now; the rape [a forage crop] suffered from the frost at its blossoming time, but has now improved quite a bit so that a good [recovery?] is to be expected. There is not much fruit—there may be a few plums, pears and apples—because the frost has done quite a bit of damage. The wine is also good, and the current weather leaves nothing to be desired. In light of the prospects for a good harvest, prices are rather high; wheat per Wispel [an obsolete measure equal to 24 bushels] costs 92-94 *rx* (160 pounds duty or 1000 kilos

according to the current measure = 2000 pounds). Rye likewise—160 pounds per sack—for 73-74 *rx*. Barley—150 pounds per sack—just as much as corn: 72-73 *rx*. Oats—100 pounds—cost 43 *rx*. Last year, on the other hand, rape—150 pounds—cost barely 6 *rx*. This year there is still no price; however, it will rise very little. The price of oil, because of American petroleum, has gone down further. In the village itself little has changed. [Mister?] Schatz, a friend of ours, has died as well as several old people. The pastor's wife will be 86 years old and is quite lively this year, and she is becoming really fat.

I come now to our family matters, and I wish, of course, that I could tell you only pleasant news, but there is nothing perfect in the world. On the contrary, one must take things as fate ordains. To begin with, Emilie, the widow [Reiche of cousin Wilhelm?], is still here. The children are growing up and are working; Emma [daughter of Emilie, not Clara Emma, the daughter of Carl Gottlob Sack] will soon be 20 years old and will soon be able to marry. The youngest, Albert [son of Emilie, not Ernst Albert, the son of Carl Gottlob Sack], was already out of school at Easter. Her [Emilie's] farming is going extremely well; she makes almost 1000 *rx* profit every year. She is, of course, always rather sickly, but this is no surprise. When you remember what she has gone through, then you can be glad that it is like this. With regard to Pauline and her Fritz, the situation is the same—even though they have no ready cash, it will not be long until they are free of debt. Their three children are growing up to their satisfaction; together with their parents, they are all healthy and happy. Things are going fairly well with Fränzchen [Otilie Franziska Sack Barnhardt] and Robert. They now have an oven near the mill that brings in more than 100 *rx* annually for them. She now has two boys, and it appears that she will not have more children. Emma lives with her family in Sebenisch [Seebenisch] near Markrandstädt; they are both working hard. They have no child other than the boy they took with them from Röglitz. It gives me much happiness when I visit; I usually stay several days because I receive a very warm welcome. Emma does everything in a loving and good way for me.

With respect to Antonie, it now appears that things are going somewhat better. In any case, she will soon get married again—to a young man 25 years old who works in a bookstore. She has now leased a small restaurant, and so far things are going fairly well; of course, she needs more publicity, and I can also support her a little. But, of the 500 *rx* that I gave to her children, she can use only the interest. She may then see how she comes out.

I am coming finally to Albert—where I would like to end my days, if that is possible. Up to now, however, I have not said Yes. Albert has been married since August of last year—a girl from Morl, two hours beyond Halle. She is said to have had a dowry of 4000 *rx*, has also [illegible text], and paid Pauline and Fränzchen. The savings bank in Schkeuditz was supposed to pay you 2500 *rx*, but I don't know where everything went, because I am not acquainted with these secrets. Last fall his parents-in-law moved here. They are said to have 3000 *rx* to spend for themselves. It is her mother and stepfather. Three months ago a little girl arrived. The mother has had a bad breast, however, so she is up and around only in the last few days. She is, in general, very sickly, and her mother has taken ill, so that both are in need of help, but nonetheless splendid. As long as I

managed the farm, I was able to save pennies for my children; but that is no longer so in our house. It is good management that provides for us. Albert wants to do everything himself and be everywhere—with the livestock, in the garden, in the fields, and also in the house. It is his fault, because he is too good and I don't matter any more. I am just happy that I was careful in my move here, for if it doesn't work out, I will leave. —I told Albert that he is supposed to send you something after the harvest. That he will certainly do, so be patient a little while. You write that a horse overturned on the road; you must have ridden in the American way [i.e., fast?]. In addition to many greetings to all of you from your brothers and sisters and in-laws,

Your Father sends his love CGSack

#4 [Sebenisch, den 5ten August 1875]

Sebenisch [Seebenisch] by Markrandstädt  
5 August 1875

Dear Children, Daughters-in-Law, and Grandchildren!

I received your letters from last month and was pleased that all of you are still well. With us the case is the same just now, but I have been quite ill for four weeks. But now I am so much restored to health that I think [I will have more?] time to live if God wills it. I am so tormented by coughing and shortness of breath that I will go to my grave, for no doctor is able to help me.

You will be surprised that I am not writing from Röglitz. It is for me merely a place to live, but I cannot stay there any more. I am now living with your sister Emma and my son-in-law in Sebenisch [Seebenisch] in Saxony, where you must address your letters to me in the future. And I wish that you would write more often than I do, for I do not enjoy writing any more now because it is difficult for me.

With very good care and tending, I am preparing for my retirement. It has happened that I had to turn my back on the land that I had worked, with pain and sorrow, for almost 30 years. I had to do this. If I did not wish to see my own death before my eyes [because of?] my devilish daughter-in-law and her mother, I had to get out of the way. Albert fears these women too, and no longer has a son's love for me because I can no longer work, and yet I eat his bread—the little that I need. I cannot and will not at all describe to you how I was treated in recent times—worse than a dog, to which food was carried in, but I had to see where I [could] find something. Everything was locked up before my nose [i.e., right in front of me]. I would have lived like a recluse if I had not sought amusement at the inn and with Pauline [daughter].

I have sold the property to Albert for 9000 *rx* [*rx* = Rixthaler, or Reichsthaler, equivalent at the time to 3 Marks], with [missing text] and implements and all belongings, all of which is now worth 20,000 *rx*. In addition, there was Schuster's garden, which I now consider my own property. This has irritated the whole crowd so much that Albert has called me a swindler. It is also said that I have stolen shirts from his wife. She doesn't have a dozen, much less three dozen [illegible text]. If you should see the wife, you would not believe what a devil inhabits her, and you would think that I have disparaged her too much, but I am not exaggerating. She also has a considerable fortune, but it is not my fault if the household costs so much. She and her mother play like fine ladies every day—this costs money—and Albert also wants to play the gentleman.

It was really Divine Providence that I came away from Röglitz so quickly, the Tuesday before Johannes [St. John's Day, 24 June?]. I came the same day to Leipzig—to Emma—and remained there a week [missing text], and was able to travel daily to Rodden up through August. I became ill there and had to stay three entire weeks [with?] good

care and nursing. And if I had come to Röglitz on the next day, I would perhaps have been dead and buried already. No one came after me, but it was rather a festival when they got rid of the old man. But God wanted it otherwise. Up to this day I have not seen Röglitz again; because, after I could be moved, I set out for Sebenisch [Seebenisch] every day. I would have liked to send you 200 *rx*, dear Julius, but Albert refused me any payment, so I have brought suit against him because he would prefer to send only a small portion of what you will receive from me; but I forestalled him [illegible text] and you must, of course, wait patiently a bit more.

Not only have I brought suit against him, Emma has had to bring suit as well, at my request, on behalf of her own family; and if I had died, you would have been cheated. It will soon be apparent, however, how things will turn out. He is really much worse than I had expected. He will not carry out what he verbally promised when he took over the farm, and matters will now be determined by an oath that I will put to him. He will not make a profit from this. I am able to live quite comfortably in my retirement, and Emma is also standing by. He [Albert] must provide for maintenance and care in sickness and in health in return for 100 *rx* [and 16 thalers rent?]. And I have estimated my retirement income at 125 *rx* annually. In addition, there is the income from my new house and my pension of 25 *rx* as a retired teacher, so that you need not worry any more about me—except to wish me a long and healthy life. I could write an entire book for you as to how things have gone for me, but it is of no use to you and it disgusts me. When I think of it, I am annoyed with myself that I did not move out two years ago, because, even in the first weeks of her [i.e., Albert's wife] presence, she showed her true character—as if I had to live there dependent on her good will. I kept quiet until his hidden sentiments became clear.

With regard to our family circumstances, on the whole I have little to report. Emma [illegible text] was married two weeks ago and appears to have done quite well. She married a certain Nietzsche from Rodden who has 120 acres of property and a complete farm. Robert Barnhardt was the matchmaker. Antonie has moved to Dresden with her lover (not yet her husband). How it will go with her there we will wait to see. There wasn't much happening in Leipzig. Fritz Ude has also been very ill, so that poor Pauline had—and still has—a lot of worry and distress. He is certainly better, but still can do nothing. The harvest turned out well in general, except that grain [i.e., wheat or rye] was very thin and produced very little straw; on the other hand, summer and fall fruits appear to be very good. I cannot write any more and close with the wish that this letter finds all of you healthy and happy. Hearty greetings from your brothers and sisters and from me. Best wishes from

Your Father  
CG Sack

NB: If you want to know what furniture he gave me on leaving, here is the answer:

1 broken chair

These things are still in Rodden.

1 broken table

[If not picked up, they will be given to the poor]

And 1 broken sofa

I have kept an old wardrobe without a lock.

#5 [Sebenisch b. Markrandstädt, den 19. Juli 1880]

Sebenisch [Seebenisch] by Markrandstädt  
19 July 1880

Dear Children and especially Julius:

I have filed a suit against Albert on account of Julius' inheritance from his mother. To that end, I need to have a full receipt from you immediately, along with a signature in legal form in your own handwriting—Julius Bernhard Sack—which can also be certified by the [Prussian?] official; namely, that you received from me the inheritance of 5[00] *rx* = 1500 Marks from your mother [*rx* = Rixthaler, equivalent to 3 Marks at the time], in part cash, in part promissory note, and thereby through power of attorney you authorized me to be the acknowledged owner of the money; otherwise I would not have been able to [transfer?] the capital to the Schkeuditz savings-bank. The attorney is of the opinion that I will bring the complaint in your name, and thereby the lawsuit could be lost. But if I have a legal and full receipt from you that you have renounced all claims, then the case is settled. Each one of you will receive from me over 100 *rx* = 300 Marks [illegible text] so that the case moves forward quickly, for I have become more sickly since Antonie went away, and I probably will not return to Röglitz alive. I received the letter from Ernst, and I am happy that all of you arrived safely. Just stand with one another and keep busy, and you will prosper. I cannot write any more because my strength does not hold out any more. I would be much happier if you would write more to me. Everything is still moving smoothly for us in the old way. Hearty greetings to all of you. Be sure to take care of this matter very exactly—and soon. You can also make a note on the address: "document enclosed," so that it comes into my hands more securely.

Your Father

CGSack



#6 [Lieber Bruder u Schwägerin. No date]

Dear Brother and Sister-in-Law:

To Mister Julius Sack. We have received your letters and are happy that you have written to us and that all of you are healthy, as we are as well—except for my wife, who is somewhat ill.

Dear brother, you have written a lot to us, and you have also dragged me down because of my suit with Father. I know well that I get all the blame now that he is dead. But you knew earlier how he was, and you knew this later as well. I did not start it—he did. At the beginning, he went away on a visit to Emma and Fränzchen, and he did not come back. The first response was two lawsuits combined. I went to him and said: Father, we have worked together for 30 years and have not quarreled, and now you begin to complain. We spoke for 10 minutes. Then he said: Tell your wife, must I now [illegible text] . . . and I went away crying.

[This letter is not dated. The reference to the Father's death, however, suggests that it must have been written after 1906 when, according the Van Skiver transcripts, C.G. Sack died.]

#7 [Lieber Bruder! Als ich: no date]

[This letter is on the reverse side of document #6 but in a different hand.]

Dear Brother!

When I took over the property from Father, your inheritance from Mother—as Father told me—was 125 *rx* [*rx* = Rixthaler, or Reichsthaler]. I assumed this indebtedness on my word of honor. Father gave me credit for 25 *rx*; consequently, I still owed you 100 *rx*. After I got married, I sent you 200 *rx*, instead of the 125 *rx*. I had, of course, spoken with Father beforehand, and since we knew that you needed money, I sent you the extra amount. According to the contract with me, Father still had a claim for 608 *rx*. When I settled accounts with him later, I wanted to deduct the 100 *rx*, which, at his request and with his consent, I had remitted to you; he, however, denied it. And this was the first occasion to bring suit against me. He denied this to me under oath, however; as a consequence, I had to pay this 100 *rx*, and, in addition, about 50 *rx* in costs. You know that on our property there was a quit-rent [a hereditary duty on agricultural land] of 1000 *rx*. When I took over the land, the quit-rent had already been paid 23 years previously. But I did not have the receipt; Father had it. I was therefore compelled to bring suit against him—which unfortunately cost him about 100 *rx*. I believed I had purchased Schuster's garden as well, because Father indicated to me that it was his possession, and he had ceded his entire property to me. Later, however, it appeared that this garden was still his own property; he had a separate bill of sale for it. I came into possession of the garden through a false suit brought against me by Emma and the miller. In Father's bill of sale with me, 500 *rx* were due to you. On the basis of a power of attorney sent to him by you, Father later [illegible text] the 500 *rx* to the Schkeuditz savings bank, and on the strength of this received the money. After this, as you will no doubt understand, I no longer owe you anything. As far as I know, Emma and Father and the miller have shared this money, although the miller maintains that he has not received very much.

Dear Julius: In consideration of our brotherly affection and the fact that you still need a small amount, I am ready to give you—voluntarily—100 *rx* as compensation. If it is at all possible, you will receive this 100 *rx* at the end of this year or, at the latest, by the middle of next year. If I should have a good harvest, I will also send you a few more dollars. If, however, against all expectation, claims on Father's legacy are made against me by my brothers and sisters, I will not be able to pay you the 100 *rx* as promised; and my promise mentioned above has validity only under this stipulation and provision. In any case, you will have received a copy of the will drawn up by Father in 1876. In this will, he disposes of matters on which he had already made decisions in my bill of sale. In this will, he says I believe I have a claim of 1500 Marks on my son. If he had a legitimate claim on me, he would certainly have said so in his will. In my bill of sale, he determined that I should get the burial fund money in the amount of 200 *rx* from Merseburg, and should pay the burial costs from this, and then divide the cost equally. Täglichs [illegible text, possibly a family name?], however, want to have the money only. They have gotten 30 *rx* already and they want to get the rest—if they have not already gotten it. So far as I am concerned, I will have no part of this 200 *rx*, but will give it to

you and the others. I myself will not begin a quarrel. As I have heard, my wife and I have been badly slandered by you. We two have not wronged you with a single word; on the contrary, we have mentioned you always only in favorable terms. Since we wish that this letter might find you both healthy and happy, I ask that we might hear something from you again very soon.

I greet you most kindly as your brother  
Albert

When I write again,  
I will send along our photographs.

#8 [Rodden, den 15.7.93 Lieber Bruder]

Rodden  
15 July 1893

Dear Brother,

On your 50<sup>th</sup> birthday [1 August in margin], I offer, above all, my most heartfelt good wishes, above all for health, happiness, and prosperity for you, your wife, and the entire family.

With regard to our own family situation, it is quite satisfactory. The family consists of a son who is learning to be a postman and who has his last examination in the fall. Let us wish that your children and my son will face a future without worries and that both of us will live the rest of our lives in peace. Otherwise, how are Julius and Antonie. Greet them heartily from us.

The harvest here in Germany has not turned out well—too dry. I come very seldom so far as Röglitz, but things go well for everyone—including Martha [illegible text]. She has [until now?] only one daughter. Emma [Täglich?] has sold again; they have moved to Kreina by Oschatz and have purchased again in Saxony.

Herewith I will close in the hope that this letter finds all of you healthy and happy.

Your loving sister and sister-in-law,

Franziska Barnhardt

My husband and I send cordial greetings.

---