

MY GERMAN LETTERS

As found in the possession of Laura C. Sack Brewer

Dear Cousins:

Until the death of my Aunt Laura our German connection was somewhat sketchy. But their tucked away in the corner of her desk lay an envelop marked "My German Letters". To those long forgotten contents do I address this work.

Once while participating in a Church College class on Family Relationship the College President stated (1960), "If you can live with what you do and it doesn't bother you, - then, there is nothing wrong with your doing it". However, the message contained herein seems to bear out just the opposite to be true. And after those letters had been translated into English I could see the need in sharing so that all descendants might benefit.

Even though parts were missing, words and phrases lost, due to the passage of time, it was certainly made clear that the activities of the Karl Gottlob Sack family most certainly did affect the lives of each and every member. You are free to digest their contents in whatever manner you desire but it has not been my intent to census that which some might frown on today.

How my Aunt came into their possession shall remain forever a secret. However, it was apparent that she did try to translate them as a German alphabet was found among those many folded, crumbled and faded pages. Had not my mother been there at that moment this bit of heritage most certainly could have been lost to us all.

But here, somewhat in order, are the ventures and trials as met by the four children as they left their homeland to make their way to this new land when it was still considered frontier and firearms were necessary because the Indians were still something to be feared.

Yes, within every family there seems to be some event which leads to the breakup of that family unit. Within the Karl Sack family it was the death of the mother, Christiane. It couldn't have happened at a worst time as Pauline was just 21 and soon to be married. However, that mother made her promise to care for her younger brothers and sisters (with the aid of their grandmother) until those children were able to care for themselves. This she did and her Fritz faithfully waited until she had fulfilled that death-bed promise.

Franz Louis, the sixth child and third son was the first to go the American way. He most certainly did influence Julius, Carl Franz and later on Antonie in their coming to America. These letters primarily concern these four but you can see how those remaining in the old country continued to affect their lives.

Raymond J. VanSkiver
the son of Lucy M. Sack VanSkiver
the daughter of Julius B. Sack
the son of Karl G. Sack

U.S.A.
New Orleans, La.
September 26, 1867

Dear Papa:

To your joy I write. Concerning my voyage to America there is much to tell. Only this day did we dock. Three weeks we were on the ocean. For first few days I got sick. When sailors tell me to get top-side I learn fresh air make me feel much better.

Many from our fatherland travel to this new country. Still more board ship before we sail from England. Most passengers like me. Come from large families. Want to make place for themselves.

Already I learn to speak English. I meet bricklayer like me on ship. Only he is Englishman. He speak some German. Now I able to speak English enough to call for more brick and mud.

There is time before next steamer leave for up Mississippi. The West Wind Weighed anchor while we waited to make port. So, first thing I do I arrange passage on next boat up river to Omaha. That's in brand new state they call Nebraska.

To my brothers I must speak. It would be good you come to America. I learn there is much opportunity here. Much land. While still on board the sailors say, "first come - first serve". Maybe dollar an acre you pay when you file. Only you must build home and work land. They say some file using names of brothers in order to get more than the allotted 80 acres. I say I could become very wealthy. I got 5 brothers.

Now I close. Things I need before sailing. May this letter find you in good spirits.

Franz Louis

U.S.A.
Omaha, Nebr.
October 23, 1867

Dear Papa:

For you there is much to tell. My boat, the Hesperian, she sail up the Mississippi. Only 3 days do I wait. Then I learn we must stop ever so often to lay off supplies and passengers at the many villages along the river.

At St. Louis there is time to maybe look around. Already I see things cost more. Like you say it was wise to buy all I need in New Orleans. Only there a man got shot for cheating at cards. I think I understand what you mean that maybe I could only watch such games.

Once we entered the Missouri river there were fewer stops. Most passengers now head for the new frontier. Many got off at Nebraska City. I thought it to be a good place for me also. They need chimneys I say only they knew not when or where. So I stay on board till we reach Omaha. Maybe look for work on big buildings. Only once I see that city most buildings built of wood. Tomorrow may bring new hope.

To my brothers and sisters I send my greetings.

Franz Louis

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U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
November 5, 1867

Dear Papa:

Much I have to tell you. Best I begin when I talk with Mr. Ward. He is contractor from Chicago who is to build the New Capital Building for the state of Nebraska. Most fortunate I was to secure employment with him.

Now that I am his employee he provide way to Lincoln where we are to work. But from Omaha we must cross the Missouri river and begin our trip by traveling back down the river to Nebraska City. . There we have day and night to rest. They hire two teams to bring our tool chests and trunks from depot on Iowa side of river. Only by ferry this time. For me there is little to carry.

At Nebraska City they say we need guns and revolvers to protect ourselves from the Indians. Also they tell us to get moccasins and extra blankets. They say it look like maybe a storm coming.

Moccasins! I think to myself this is November. Boots my brother Julius make for me and he do fine job oiling. Only they say you walk and walk. That oil does not last in the wet grass. All day the drizzle fall. Wagons not for stone mason. Only for tools and supplies. First, I walk along side wagon with others. By noon all 13 of us hold fast some part of wagon. Even rope they tie to the axle to help pull us along. One could see that many wagons had gone this way before. Their tracks were filled with water and mud. And to my brother Julius I must say, the boots you gave me became quite wet. We must now run behind those wagons to keep ourselves from freezing. Had not one of the men bought extra moccasins I should never have lived to arrive.

At first days end we had come as far as place where there was one shanty on each side of creek. Owners they were scared until we told them where we were going. Then they show us much kindness and divide us between them. For us there is much happiness for they share their bread, coffee and bacon. We slept in the loft in the peak of the shanty on loose boards. Such a night. The men thought they lucky to have extra blankets. And for breakfast the food was the same as the night before. After we pay our bill and thank the owners for their kind treatment we set out for Lincoln. We arrived at the Pioneer Hotel at 9 o'clock that night.

Next morning men go to see where job to be. To our surprise there was nothing. No stones to work with. Only open trenches for foundation. All were very badly discouraged. Mr. Ward was 3 days behind us. So nothing can we do till he arrives. Those men became desperate at the thought of their lost pay. And they meant to do something. Had the contractor been there they might have hung him on the spot.

To all may this find you well.

Franz Louis

U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
February 10, 1968

Dear Papa:

For my work I have only joy. Once our Mr. Ward arrive in Lincoln he assure all would get pay, "stone or no stone. Work or no work", he say. Now men no longer afraid their trip west was for nothing. \$4.50 a day hard to lose.

Carpenters they built boarding house for all workers of capital. We have place to stay and it is good board there. Only \$5.00 for the week. Should we have things we require, a man and team are hired to haul them from Nebraska City.

We managed to lay up basement walls to the height of four feet eight inches and a portion of foundation for a part of the north end during the month of November. Since then stone cutting and quarrying and delivery of rubble stone is only progress we make. For Mr. Ward we are sorry. Much time and money they waste in search of quality stone. We quarry in three different sites. Only bluestone too soft. Because it breaks away so easy we say among ourselves it won't last.

But then we go 40 miles south to Beatrice. There the rock brings pleasure to everyone. The supply is excellent and seems unlimited. This we can adapt to the nature of the work proposed for a state house. But the hauling mean the cost is so much greater.

My sister, my in-laws and to all others I send my love.

Franz Louis

U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
March 3, 1868

Dear Papa:

To you I must speak of Julius. Only last month he arrive. Already he has position on farm east of Lincoln. He is learning to be first class farmer. Not like when he was apprentice in the old country. What he know as taylor, miller and cobbler help to make him better farmer.

First I tell you what your Julius do. Man from Omaha made deal with Mr. Ward to run our Boarding house. When he go back to Omaha to bring back his family he also bring two big barrels of whiskey. We all know what he was up to. Only we held meeting and resolved to boycott that whiskey of his. We all were saving our pay to preempt land in the spring. He invited some to have drink but they refused. He was greatly surprised. "Such a large number of men working on that big building and all being sober. Who believe that!" he say.

But one wet day about a month later some of the masons grew tired of being shut in day after day and broke our boycott. For a week this continue. It also was too wet for Julius to work in the field so he come visit me. He say he want to be able to say he helped build State Capital for Nebraska. When he see how men are not working and how sad I am he lay plans what to do concerning that Mr. Carr and all that whiskey of his.

"Louis you watch, I'll crawl over to where those barrels set. Should anyone come, you make noise or something to distract them away from me. I'll do the rest," he say.

After the men all go to sleep, your Julius, so small he is, he slip up and open the spout on both barrels. All night they pour down through boards of floor. By morning whiskey smell all over our boarding house. That man Carr became tearing mad. He carried a brace of revolvers to our table that morning and threatened the man or men who committed crime of emptying his whiskey barrels of their contents. Only Julius he did not know to shoot.

A few days later all stone-cutters they leave his boarding house and go to Mr. Lanes our carpenter. He had built a new boarding house close by. Mr. Carr loose everything. Only he leave taking all Mr. Wards Boarding house equipment with him, even the cook stove. I tell you only what your Julius do so you know how he help to build the first capital building for the state of Nebraska.

From your Julius and I we send you our love.

Franz Louis

U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
May 5, 1868

Dear Papa:

To my brothers I should complain. They should be here to preempt land. Prairie now covered with wagons, mule teams, horse teams and more still, bull teams. Everywhere people come to seek out section stones to take up homesteads in county of capital.

Julius is too young and I have no time to go to Nebraska City to file. Soon only land available will be in next county. We have talked this matter over. We plan to preempt several 80's using the names of each our brothers. Maybe we not get to keep them all, but should any of you come we will have that much done.

Everybody want stone mason. Hardly have I time for rest. Every day is new house starting which need new chimmey. Now they have brick factory right here in Lincoln. Many us masons help builders of houses on days off. Mean work on Sunday and no time off to look for homestead.

Most of all need girl to visit. Not many women here but they come once houses get finished. I have my eye for one. Not sure if she have eye for me.

Some stone masons which come west now go back to their families in Chicago. This mean more work for us who stay. Only now men want more pay. This demanding new to me, Papa. But I too get raise in pay. \$6.00 each day I work. Now highest paid stone mason ever in Nebraska.

Hope this find all in good spirits.

Franz Louis

Post Script: To Carl Herrmann I wish a happy birthday. May Antonie also enjoy her birthday.

U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
June 9, 1868

Dear Papa:

We have much rain here. Maybe work 4 or 5 days in field. On such days, should I have time, I ride in to town to visit with Louis. Takes several hours with a buggy.

Some crops we have in the ground and soon we'll be readying the ground for wheat to plant in the fall. This new idea here, they think. Only we know better back home. Ya, Papa?

I have a good man to learn from. He not expect me to do everything his way. "Just get the work done", he say. He is helping me to locate the kind of land for me to homestead. This he say, "Be sure there is water a plenty. With out water, you got nothing". Sometimes a creek is good for farming, "less work to water your animals", he say.

Soon I will be able to go to Nebraska City to preempt land for myself. Louis thinks we should file on several 80's using the names of all our brothers should they decide to come to America. If not, we try to preempt them ourselves. Right now we have our eye on ground just north of the small town of Eagle. It lies just inside the next county from Lincoln.

We are excited and pray this finds you excited for us.

Julius

U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
September 5, 1868

Dear Papa:

I think this politics I will watch. Here they have two sides. Both say they are best. Both say the other is wrong. One man they almost hang.

I don't know why but each side raised up this countrys flag. Only one tied two poles together to raise theirs twice as high. During the night some one threw rope over it and broke it down. Come morning they got terribly mad.

They ask if anyone see what happen and one man said he saw a black man on the street that night. Old Joe work for my boss, Mr. Ward. He have no cause to tear down the flay of any one,

Once they find him they took him to a store and began to hold a trail right then and there on the stores porch. Only when their judge asked if there be one among them who would tesify that they saw old Joe tear down their flag, not one came forward.

The Judge could do nothing but rule that he could find no fault with the man and sit Joe free to go.

I thought maybe there would be some get mad, but no, men of both sides went off arm in arm to celebrate the outcome of the trail. I'm not too sure I understand this kind of politics.

Julius and I are looking forward to having brother Charles here with us in this new land. There will be plenty of room in the dug out we are planning to dig as soon as we get to Nebraska City to file.

My work on the Capital will soon be finished. I'm one of the last masons to remain on the job since I have of the letters to etch. Mr. Ward has contracted more work in Lincoln and has asked that I remain in his employee.

To each of you I pray God will bless.

Franz Louis

U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
October 13, 1868

Dear Papa:

Today we preempted land in Nebraska City. 80 acres each now have for Albert, Carl and myself. Next week we plan to do same for Carl Gustave and your son-in-law, Fredrick.

Already we are living in a dugout on land right next to the county line of the Capital. Camp Creek flows through it and it is not more than 2 miles from the little settlement of Eagle. Lincoln is 20 miles to the west.

Mr. Ward has contracted to do more work in Lincoln and I am to work for him. Now there are many new homes starting and some are most interesting. We are to build a house for the Secretary of the State of Nebraska. Had it not been for him, Mr. Kennard, and Governor Bulter bidding on the lots to pay for the construction of the Capital building there is talk it may have been located elsewhere.

My part of the Capital building is now almost complete. Some letters is still to be etched which only take a few days more.

Julius is already talking of Charles helping in proving up his land once he gets here.

May you all rejoice in our good fortune.

Franz Louis

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
March 18, 1872

Dear Papa:

I think maybe I have gotten more than I have bargined for. The implement dealer with whom I do business in Lincoln has introduced me to his house maid. Carolina is her name. She is not yet 16 years old. Her father was in the German army before bringing his family to America. She has been doing house work so she can learn the American ways.

There should be time to get to know her better. There is always parts to be needed for my machinery and Mr. Petersen seems to want to play Match-Maker.

The work on the farm is always there to be done. Since Charles has married he has things to do of his own. Louis is more than busy in Lincoln. Should I want to see him I have to go into Lincoln. I think he also has a girl he is seeing but he not tell.

Four rows of grape vines do I plant. Soon there will be wine of my own making. Maybe as good as yours, papa. But not better.

Julius

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U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
April 23, 1872

Dear Papa:

There is something I should have told you. I have taken a woman to wife and she has bore a son. You can see from the picture I am sending you the fine woman that she is. For over a year now she has been my wife and we have not had a disagreement. We are very happy together.

Little Louis is a fine healthy boy and should grow big and strong to be my joy. Soon he will be a year old already.

I should tell you about Lotte. She is such a brave woman. We were married the day we met. Julius and I were working on the fence down by the road leading into town. Along came this buggy and the driver asked if we had grain that he might grain his horse.

He had with him his wife and her sister. I could see right away the fine woman she was. Before we had gotten the grain for their horse I learned that Lotte to be an expecting woman without a husband.

Well Papa once that brother-in-law learned that I be a man without a wife right away he began being a Match-Maker. Woman on this frontier are hard to find and a fine lady such as Lotte seemed a blessing to this 30 year old son of yours. With a son already on the way made it all the more the proper thing to do.

Had no time to court. Her brother-in-law and sister were wanting to be on their way to Missouri. After a bite at our dug-out we all climbed into that buggy and went looking for the justus-of-the-peace. Come night time your Julius had to make his bed out in the Barn.

Julius was a good brother too. Come morning he joined me as we went over to my farm to put the finishing touches to the dug-out of my own. Course he's been seeing a girl in Lincoln. I'm sure he has told you about her.

May you bless our union.

Charles

Roglitz, Germany
June 9, 1874

Dear Children: (Charles)

You will be unhappy with me since you haven't heard from us. Do not think I have forgotten you. You are more in my heart then the ones close around me.

From those I never see or hear how they are feeling. My anger is only when I get a letter from you and there is so little in there. What brothers say among each other, say little to other. I am so sad to think that there is no brotherly friendship among you.

About half a year ago I had a letter from Louis and a week before - one from Julius. You could have easily discussed how much Julius got from Albert.

The Photography from you - your wife and child we recieved and we were very happy. By appearance she seems to be strong nature. She appears serious enterjetic. If I am mistaken I don't know.

You wrote me that you as yet have not had a disagreement and live quite happy. If it stays and in the future like this than I will be very happy.

Carry on anothers burdens with patience, work hard together and enjoy together what you have. Even tho it is not always delious or perious. Only in this you will find the spice of life.

Your brother Julius probably is still single - so that's why it is your duty as the Elder to help him without being greedy. And together think how it will be best.

I read in the paper that the Mississippi was very distructive. I have thought often of you but since you are probably far away I hope that it didn't bother you.

Since a few years ago my (position) has changed here. Last year bricklayer and carpenters per day received one -----, And the common laborer one Guilden and above. One farm hand 60 to 70 and up to 80. This year it kind of slowed down. Stone masons and carpenters still recieve daily 25 and above and the common laborer one guilden.

The harvest looks good. Rye, wheat and Barley looks very good. --- has been hurt by frost but helped itsself very much. So that a good --- so that we can expect quite a bit. Fruit is not very much. A few plums, pears and apples - because the frost had done much damage. The wine is excellant and the present weather is doing its best. With all expectation of a good harvest.

Because wheat is costing 168 or 1000 kilo for present measurement 2000 pounds 92 to 94 ---. Rye also 100 pounds for 73 to 74 -----, Barley 150 pounds sack the same like Rye, 72 to 73 -----, Oats is 100 pounds 43 -----.

Last year --- cost 150 pounds, this year they haven't established prices. This year it will be a little different. The oil for which the American Oil Company has brought the oil price down.

In the village little has change. Mr. Schutz a friend of ours passed and several other old people too. The preachers wife is going to be 86 years old this year and very much alive - she is getting quite fat.

I am coming to our family business now. I wish very much that I could tell you only pleasant things. But there is nothing perfect in the world. One has to take it as it comes.

Next, Amalie (Emiliea), the widow Reice Wilhelm (cousin) are still here. The children are grown and working. Emma is going to be 20 years. and soon Jothan, the youngest. Albert came graduated from school. Their farming is going excellant. She is making almost every year 1000 profit. Of course, she is always kind of ill. But it is to no surprise if you think what she had to go through. One can always be glad that it is going like that.

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Concerning Pauline and her Fritz. I can tell the same even tho they have no cash on hand it will not be long til they are out of debt. Their 3 children grow up to their happiness. They're healthy and in good spirits.

With Franzchen and Robert are doing fairly well. They are now having Bakk which is located by the mill which provide them of 1000 --- by the year. She has two boys and it doesn't look like she is going to have many children.

So one is living with them daily in Rebenisch - and it is close to Markraadstang. They work hard and have no other than the boy they took with from Roglitz. Much happiness for them. When I come there, I will stay a few days there. They are making my stay very pleasant.

Concerning Antoniea. It looks like it is getting better there too. It looks like she is going to marry again soon. A young man of 25 years. He works in a book store. She has now at least a little Restraunt and it is doing fairly well. Of course, she needs more caustomers and he can help her. For I can support her but the 5 --- which I gave to her children she can only use the interest. She just has to see how she makes out.

So far I have only joy on my children. At last I am coming to Albert. With him I want to live out my life if it is possible. So far I am not say yes. Albert married last year in August. He married a girl from Morl. Its 2 hours from Halle. She brought 4000 --- dowry and used it very much because from that money he paid Pauline and Franzchen. The bank in Schkenditz - it was to be paid in then. But I don't know where every thing went because he is not trusting me with such secert.

Last fall his in-laws moved here. He should have 300 ---. It was her mothers and mother-in-law. A quarter of a year ago a little girl arrived. The mother had an infected breast so only a few days ago she is up and around. She is kind of sickly any how. So both need help.

As long as I was tending the business I managed the pennies for the children but it is not possible in our house any more. The farm or business is giving it. Albert wants to do everything himself. And wants to be every where at one time, the livestock, the garden, the fields and also in the house. But it is his own fault - he is too good and I don't count any more. I'm just glad that I had precaution with my moving for if it doesn't work out - I will go. I have told Albert that he is to send you after the harvest. He promised to do it so be patient and little while longer.

You went the American way.

Your sisters, your in-laws and all others send their love.

Your Papa

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U.S.A.
Lincoln, Nebraska
July 22, 1874

Dear Papa:

Today there is good news to share with you Papa. Your son Julius and Carolina Drees were married here in Lincoln. To Honeymoon your Julius took his bride to his farm and the house he has been working on. He wouldn't even think of sleeping in it just so she could be the first.

I laid up their chimneys for a wedding present to them. Your Julius seems most happy with Carolina. But Papa, she is one strong willed woman. Only he pay her little mind. He tell me what you say to him, "Wagging tonque plant few seeds".

She say, "we are Americans now. We speak English only". Papa, you know how it is for us high Germans to understand the low German tonque.

They were married in the Petersen home. He has been most kind to the both of them. Her family, came from Gretna, Nebraska and Mr. Drees, so tall and straight he was, gave the bride away. And your Julius he ask me to be the best man.

Charlie now have son of his own blood. With two now he must help in holding young Louis. They are doing well but that Lotte, she one cow-sick woman. Charlie only say, "but she bring me much happiness". I not sure I understand.

Your Louis only grows older. I have girl in mind but for her I must be better than another. She also see a bankers son and I not sure it's a bricklayers wife she is wanting to be. Of her I will speak no more.

Much work is to be had in Lincoln now. Mr. Ward continues to build and for him I continue to work. From that Capital building one can see structures of all sort and in every direction. To the North is the State University where I also work.

My joy be yours as our family number increases.

Franz Louis

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
August 30, 1876

Dear Papa:

Today I become land owner. I recieve the final papers on my land only 3 months after I make the final filing payment. First I must become American citizen. Then I can become land owner. Brother Charlie still not have his citizenship. Once he see me with land deed he start studing again.

Also I must tell you that little Julius Barnhardt arrived our house August 4, 1876. Both he and mother doing well. So you see Papa our family grows.

To you and my brothers and sister I send love.

Julius

Post Script: Much saddness in my home Papa. Little Albert Julius departed this world September 1, 1876. So soon after little Julius arrived. The sickness came and he is gone so quick.

August 5, 1875 ✓
Sebenisch - Haikrandstadt

(to Julius)

Dear Children, Daughter-in-law, Grandchildren

Received your letter last Monday and was so glad to hear that all of your are fine. We can say the same now but for about 4 weeks I was very ill. Right now, I feel like I am going to live. I am still quite bothered with coughing and shortness of breath. But there the Doctor can not help. I guess that is something I have to take to grave with me.

You are probably surprised that I do not write from Roglitz. It was a place to live but I could not stay there. Now I am living with your sister, Emma and son-in-law in Jebenisch. You can address your letters there. I do wish you write more often than I do. It is now most difficult for me to write.

(Here part of the paper is gone)

(He is talking about his illness and that he just got out in time otherwise he would be dead by now. He mentions that he has not been back to Roglitz since.)

I wanted to send you so much 200 (Money value) dear Julius but Albert simply refused to give me any of the money I have coming. That is why I filed suit. He would do the same with you and cheat you out of what should be rightfully yours. I just was a step ahead of him and you will have to be patient for a while. I sold Albert the property for 9000 (money value) complete with everything. That was it. The present Market value is 20,000. There was Shusters Garden included but now I consider my property again. Albert and Farn is so upset over it he calls me a Swindler.

(Here part of the paper is gone)

(He is accused of having stolen 3 dozen of something that belonged to Alberts wife.)

If you could see the lady you would not believe what devil she could be. You think perhaps I am harsh but I do not exaggerate. She is wealthy herself. But I am not to blame when the farm cost so much to operate. Every day Alberts wife and her mother want to play fine Ladys and Albert wants to play a Gentleman.

I now have care and attention. I do find it hard to turn my back on land that I worked with love for 30 years. But I had to get out of the way of that devilish daughter-in-law and her mother if I wanted to stay alive. Albert is afraid of those two women too. He has no more a Childs love for me. I can not and will not describe to you how I was treated there. I assure you a Dog had a better life. To him, food was brought. For me, everything was locked up as soon as I arrived. I lived like a Hermit. To divert my mind I spend much time with friends and in the restaurant.

Not only did I file suit, Emma did too. I recommended it so she can get her inheritance too. If I had died you would have been cheated out of yours too. Soon it will be apparent how it turns out. He will be a lot worse than I expected. What he promised verbally when he took over the farm he does not want to keep. I will insist that he swears an oath. He will not make much profit on that deal. From my retirement I can live comfortable. And Emma is doing good too. As to contract he has to furnish service and care for me in sick and in health at a cost of 100 (money value) to me plus rent. I figured it come to 125 for a year. Then I have the income from the new house and my Pension of 23 (Money value).

You see, you do not have to worry about me. Yes, you could wish me a long life and good health. I could write a book about my experiences but I get disgusted when I think about it and I am angry at my self that I did not move out two years ago. In the first week of her being there she showed her true character and acted if my life depended on her charity. Consideration for Albert made me keep quiet until he showed his hidden thinking.

As a whole I have little to say about the family. Emma just married 2 weeks ago. She did well. His name is Nietzsche. He come from Rodden. There he has 20 acre and a full farm. Robert Bernhard was the Match-maker.

Antonia moved with her lover to Dresden. We have to wait and see how it is developing further.

In Leipzig not much was going on. Fritz Ude was very ill and Pauline worried much. Although he is better now. He can not do a thing. The harvest was good in general, only Rye was thin and will not give much straw. Summer and fall fruits look excellent.

This should be enough. I close this letter with wishes for good health and well being. Your brother and sister send greetings, so do I.

Papa

Post Script: If you are to know what he gave me on furniture, here it is:

1 broken Chair
1 broken Table with 2 legs
1 broken sofa
1 old Wardrobe with a broken lock
(It is kept in Rodden. If he is not picking it up again I consider sending it to the poor.)

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
March 1, 1877

Dear Papa:

With you I must share news. Charlie and I together preempted 3 80 acre tracts of land. Two tracts Charlie took out in his name. He say we divide the middle 80 since it lie between the other two. This we agree before he get married.

Now it time to divide and I got to give Lotte a new calico dress before she agree to sign the papers. My Caroline not say much. I know she think plenty. But Charlie tell his Lotte, "We agree this way from start - otherwise why Julius farm the land".

It is good to have 120 acres. I can see that farmers here will need more land than in old country. But it is still good to be citizen of this new country. It is good Papa.

Julius

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
18 -

Dear Papa

With you I must share our sad news. Your son Louis no longer is he with us. When he last visit our house he say he maybe coming down with a cold. Only next day he is gone.

Like always he fix his own remedy only we think maybe he make it too strong this time.

He is laid to rest not far from here. We pray that he is now with our mother.

To my brothers and sisters we can say no more.

Julius

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
August 3, 1883

Dear Papa:

Good news I have to share with you Papa. Now I have 3 sons. The latest, Walter we call him, arrived June 25. He look like he grow to be one tall young man.

Little Julius is getting to be a big help to his mother and Stephen is much help to me. Before long he will be bigger then his own father.

Charlie now have 4 boys. Their youngest Joseph is not more than a year older than our Walter. By our house those boys must go when they go to school. This is first year our Stephen attend school. I think he like his father and become farmer. He not like that school very good.

Julius

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U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
March 13, 1880

Roglitz, Germany

Dear Papa:

To you Papa I must tell of our trip to America. Baby Gretchen was born while we were at sea. The boat got to rolling in the high January sea and she arrived much earlier than I had expected. She is not as strong as she should be but she is now beginning to put on weight.

While coming up the Mississippi we encountered much ice. From time to time the boat had to lay over after we started to move up the Missouri river. The Captain told us we were fortunate to make it all the way to Omaha this time of year. Had it been any warmer we'd had ice all the way.

Somehow Charlie knew when we would arrive. It was good to see him waiting with his team and wagon. All the way back to his farm he couldn't get over the way our Adolph had grown, "Why he was just so big when I left home to come to America".

Ernest and Adolph have made us a Dug-out on Charlies farm. Now they both have hired out till we can find a place of our own.

Julius has another boy. They call him Stephen. It is sad the way they lost their first two boys. He has a young wife. I think she is somewhat strong willed. Only Julius he does what he thinks best in spite of her advice.

Charlies wife, Lotte he calls her, is most kind to us. They now have 3 sons. Louis, the oldest is such a young man. The way he follows Charlie around you'd never know him not to be his own child. Lotte could be a better worker. Doesn't always get things done up. But with only boys, no girls to help, how could one expect otherwise.

Papa Handrock and his boys are not far from here. Already their Herman has taken a job and have place to live. Their Max is going to school. The English he is speaking well.

Thank you Papa for your many kindnesses. You should be here in America also to see how your children are doing.

Antonie

Germany
1880

Dear Children and especially Julius:

I have a complaint against Albert concening the inheritance from Julius Mother. I would like a receipt from your own signature. - Julius Barnhardt Sack.

Here some of the letter is missing

The lawyer is of the opinion that I should file suit in your name.

Papa

To Julius Barnhart Sack:

Your letter recieved. We were glad that you had written to us. We take it that you are in good health like it is with us. Only my wife is a little, doesn't feel good.

Dear Brother you have written us much. You also tore me down because we want to file suit with father. That I know. I get all the blame since he but the way he was earlier he knew and you knew it later on too.

I did not start it. Only Father in the beginning was away visiting and did not come back.

With Emma and Franzchen - with two complaints in one. I went to father and said, "We have worked together for 30 years and now you start to complain." I talked for 10 minutes and he said. "I'll tell you wife about my wife and the son turned away and cried.

(talked about a basket of money.)

Albert

Roglitz, Germany

Dear Brother:

When I took over the Property of Father you had coming from your mother part 125 ----. I took over the debt 25 ----. So I still owe you 100 ----. After I got married I have sent you 200 ---- instead of the 125 ----. I had before hand talked with Father because he knew before that you needed money.

Father had according to the sales contract 608 ---- to get from me. When later on I try to clear up the matter with him I wanted to send you 100 ---- according to the wishes and approval.

(Fathers will made in 1876)

Albert

Eagle, Nebraska
July 20, 1888

Dear Papa:

With Louis gone we could always look at our State Capital Building and say that he helped to build it. Only now they want to tear it down. They say the stone they used was of poor quality and is breaking down. (Louis warned them about that stone)

Again this year with our crops they are a lost. The grass-hoppers come - eat every thing. Only this year worst than last.

We cannot go to town and buy what we need. All around our community the farmer has no grain. We are lucky to plant our potatoes early this year. With them we get half a crop.

The people from back east they send us seed and food and clothes to help. Only those swindlers around here get control and charge big prices and high interest. Not enough we got grass-hoppers. We got crooks also.

Julius

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Germany
July 15, 1893 ✓

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
October 6, 1896

Dear Brother (Charlie)

To your 50th Birthday and sending heart filled good wishes and health to your whole family.

What I can tell about us to satisfy the family consists of a Son, a mailman which learn to be a mailman. In the fall is his last exaimation. We would wish that my son and your children have a future without worry and the two of us can live out our lives in peace.

How is Julius and Antonia? Give them my best regards.

The harvest here in Germany was very bad. Too dry. I very seldom come to Roglitz but everything goes good. Martha Chaniz she has only one daughter.

Emma W. Tucluch has sold and they moved to Breisa by Oschatz. They have purchased something again in Sachsen.

Now I will close in the hopes that this letter will find you in good spirits.

Your loving sister
Franziska Barnhart

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
March 3, 1896

Dear Papa:

To you I must bear sad news. No longer is our Antonia to be with us. Only the day before she came to our house to see how our little Laura was getting along. Cutting teeth she was.

By morning her boy Adolph he come to tell us that she is dead. How this could be possible I say to him. She never had a sick day in her life. He only shake his head.

She is laid to rest by our two baby boys in the Camp Creek Cemetary where we can look after her.

Papa, she was only 56 years old.

Could that I could be there to bring comfort to you.

Julius

Dear Papa:

Charlie is most angry with that Ernest Handrock. Already he takes himself a wife. Much younger than he. Hardly 20 years old she is. Charlie thinks she's with child.

He say we are to have nothing to do with that Ernest. He got idea that maybe Antonia didn't just die.

I tell him maybe we should wait and see before being so rash with our suspicions. But he is sure. He's seen enough. "Don't need no pitch-fork for him to get the point".

Such are sad thoughts Papa. We can do little. Antonia is gone. Now we must do what we can for Adolph and the others. His Elsie and Freda will learn of this soon enough. Mary Ann she is now young lady. She can marry and leave this sorrow behind. Such things as this is sure to touch us all - one way or another.

For you I would like to bring joy. But you can see how it is here with us.

Julius

U.S.A.
Eagle, Nebraska
August 4, 1906

Dear Sister Franzisha

Only this day did I learn that Papa is no longer with us. I met brother Charlie in town and he had just recieved your letter telling us of our fathers passing.

Even though I have not seen him in almost 40 years I have long treasured his strength. He has long held this family together. In each of my children I can see a bit of him. I am sorry that I could not be with you at this time.

When I go home I tell my Carolina of his passing and we add up the years of his life and she say, "My! he was almost a hundred years old".

To my brothers and sisters I send my gegrets and my love.

Julius