

Letter # 1

Summer 1926

Dear Brother and Sister out there in faraway America, before I write more, I wish you good health in body and soul. We are, thank the Lord, all healthy and well. Among the children here, however, whooping cough rages, with many having died already, but here by us none have died. Our little Peter is also healthy and well.

In Hoffnungstal 110 souls were baptised in a single day. Fourteen days ago, Korneewka celebrated the baptism of 45 souls. Anna, daughter of Mrs. H. Hübert was also baptised, but not Nina. Mrs. H. Hübert and Tielmanns were both here for a visit at Pentecost.

Here we had our first rain in 3 weeks. This year we won't have get 100 Pud (c. 360 pounds) per desjatin (0.1 hectare). We have 2 desjatins with a very poor stand, with spots in which the wheat didn't even come up. But right now it's nice, the strawberries are ripe, as well as the raspberries. Strawberries cost 40 kopecks per pound. This year butter is always priced at 30 to 35 kopecks. The sojus buys butter and the bank buys eggs. They do this every day if we bring butter and eggs to the bazaar. One hour and we're rid of everything. This summer we've bought a lot of wares, and I've sewn a lot already.

Recently Krügers were our guests. We've been there once already. This year we have lots of gooseberries in our garden, and lots of apples, but few raspberries. The Krügers are quite lonely, but they come to church every Sunday. The old Mrs. Pankratz is always sickly these days. She likely won't get to America. No passports at all are available now. Friesen from Alexanderkron wants to go to the Amur to see.

Wilms has brought his wife to Omsk for an operation. Last Friday they cut away one breast and everything under the arm. She had cancer in the breast, a lot of pain. Wilms is with her in Omsk.

The young P. Berg is already building a house in Friederichsruh. Peter Wiebe is building a barn of bricks this year. My Peter made the doors and windows.

We were guests at J. Hüberts on Sunday, they're all healthy. The Stolowaja (?) has burnt down again. And J. Hübert's porch? (literally front house). Hüberts now have no straw for building. The granary was also burned a bit, but then the wind shifted, otherwise the house would have burned too, and Hübert himself was not at home. He had gone to Omsk.

Friesens' Philip is getting married this week, with ? Langeman's daughter. Then the Friesens are leaving for the south, taking the three girls and (Paul?) along, and the three married [children] are staying on the farm. . . .

Now I'll continue writing again. Mrs. J. Hübert was at our place on Sunday. She had bought piglets from us, and she came to get them. Heinrich, Anna, and the three youngest were along. I'm very busy picking raspberries. The buyers from Omsk come and buy the raspberries at 25 kopecks per pound. I've sold 20 rubles worth in 14 days. This year we have a lot.

Today we're celebrating baptism. 7 souls were baptised: K. Deleske, Isaak's 2 daughters, Neufelds' two daughters, Hildebrant's Elizabeth, and Aron Warkentin's sister. Warkentin's parents are building a house in Petrowka. [From Anna Dück]