



March 14, 1881
Belle Meade, Kansas. (1)

Dear Sister Anna,

I wanted to write you a long letter this morning, Uncle John will go to Dodge City tomorrow so I cannot send this before Saturday.

A man has come who wants to sell me a buggy for \$400⁰⁰. It is a good strong buggy as good as new but it is too heavy for our pony. The man was here for dinner so I don't have much time to write but Abie can mail it this afternoon in Dodge City and I can let you know that I am feeling better.

I went to Sunday school yesterday in Belle Meade. On the 1st Sunday in March it stormed very hard with 3" snow and lots of wind so we had no Sunday school. It all melted in 2 days, I also heard a sermon yesterday - The text was John 14-21. We have a good preacher however he is very poor. He built a new church about 12 miles north of here and he thought he could get his money back when the church was finished. He couldn't so he has considerable money tied up and his family has to suffer ~~so~~ for the past year he has been preaching in Belle Meade for us. We have been under Home Missions so we have been able to help him out. We hear about another minister and family named Hetzler we could get but he better not come west. We better get a minister who has no family they can work for less pay.

I see by your letter that immigrants are still coming back there too. There is no room for any more of them out here. Uncle John

does not want to homestead out here any more, The Towns are too far apart, The closest real Town is Dodge City 50 miles north east. but so far things are going well except I have not made any garden yet, it has always been too cold.

It was not my intention to laugh at Katie she had jokingly said "Father has sold all the horses so there is nobody left but me", So one trouble follows another.

You must come out here sometime and see the big herds of cattle and sheep, some here 100's others 1,000's. you can also see the herders and freighters. The herders (cowboys) are at the cattle ranches. The ranches are big too, one has about 5 or 10 miles enclosed and some are even bigger. The herders work on the ranches with the cattle. The freighters drive wagon trains from Dodge City to Iowa and spend many days and nights on the road. They travel one behind the other in a long line up the cattle trails.

Sometimes they chain 3 or 4 wagons one behind the other and pull them with 6 or 8 yoke of oxen or mules or horses. We are about 1/2 mile from one of these trails.

Great herds of cattle and sheep are driven past but so far they have not bothered us.

Carl Altenbrecht has finished building most of the house and I will have it plastered when I can get the materials. Peter has just brought a large stone for a step. Later I want to build a kitchen on the north side. It will be 9 ft. wide by 14 ft. long the width of the house.

I think my health is better but I dont have time to go to Iowa, besides I would rather go south.

I must stop now - Many greetings to all of you big and little.
 your little sister,
 E. Schmaker.

P.S. Your letter pleased me very much. Write me often. I have not heard about the little ones for a long time, Write me again and again. Write me all the news. I have not heard about the Wiedowichs for some time My greetings to father and mother till I write again.

Louisa County Farm Bureau

Wapello, Iowa 52653

German letters to
Aunt Anna Walter

J. V. Wiederrecht
Wapello, Iowa

Mrs Ellen Hoeg

Service—Education—Legislation

~~Prints in the Earth"~~
~~OE Rolsag at Library,~~

Belle meerde. Kenn: March ^{no 22}
1881

Lieber Herr Herr Anna samt Samila.

Es hat Ihnen soviel Leid und weh getan das ich
so frucht mich zu freuen das ich alle so weit
gefunden seit in dem ich noch so weh so
ich kein ganz wieder gindlich stark aber weh
und die gleichen kann ich noch nicht aber
für beweist man mich viel weh so ich
immer so kochen in windig das die drück mit
fast froht ich habe ganz die Hand fleißig
aber das kann ich noch nicht gemacht die
Ungut haben falls noch nicht ganz weil nicht kommt
so bewegen über Wundung, so ich ganz bei die
Krank oder algerman sind für unser gott
gottan oder fast das Lamm der kann
aber für die sind, die Edel fast auf die Land
fast lachend ganz die falls von ganzen Winter
308 Ein Monat gefalt für einen Jahr
zu sitzen das was bald alle was so
zu sein falls so was das sind so und noch
nimm der auch bei W. Jahres bestata

die fallen das Wind und das Wind mit
fallen alle so die Pfund so
kann ich ganz das Wind von jeder Hand
Lied falls für das die 1 April. In
mich so was mich gefunden ganz so
ich falls mein ganz geflüßigt gefalt das
glück ich auch, das all was mich gelitten
fallen was im anfang Winter so mit so
so immerstand kalt werden aber so in ich in
mal die Lamm der auch fastig falls so so
mich so kalt in unsern ganz das was noch
kann auch gleich mit alle: mich falls so ganz
und das muss so was aber ganz falls
ich so bald H für anfallen lassen ganz
die Madent mit dem in fließt in dem fließt
in ein Ring an die nordseit das muss so
das 20 falls mich immer fließen Regen so falls
die mich den ganzen Tag ganz und auch ganz
so ganz fast für die auf ganz was
Küß aber für die ich was ich auch gut
was so fließ für die Lamm so was kalt
was, wenn ganz fast kommt auf so was
zu kochen so zu kalt die muss für

Dear Sister Anna and Family,

I received your welcome letter last week and it pleased me very much that all are so well and able to work. I am pretty strong now but I am still not able to do the washing. But here one does not need to do the washing so often, it is always so dry and windy that the dirt just blows off and does not stick fast.

We have finished plastering the room now but the fireplace has not been built yet, Uncle John has not had time, perhaps he will come tomorrow or Monday. He is at the ranch now where they all are together. Ed works there too, he worked all winter at \$30⁰⁰ a month sitting by the stove because there was nothing else for him to do. He works with Uncle John.

On the 20th we had a fine rain, it rained almost all day. Yesterday it was cool but today it is warmer which is good because the lemons have started to come and it is tough on them when it is cold.

My garden is slow in coming up, it has been too dry and cold but now that we have had rain the ground is moist and things can start to grow.

We have planted our early potatoes but no late ones. We do not have any seed.

We have received a letter from sister Mary. It is so nice to hear from her. Has grandmother Lieberknecht seen her grandchild yet and is Mary able to care for it?

I have not heard anything about the Wiederrechts, and is Geo. King any better? I think he should go to a better climate, that might help him. And what about Charlie? I am asking too many questions, it will tire you out but I would like to hear about everyone and how many babies they have.

You must come out sometime. You don't have to worry about the Cowboys because I have not heard a bit of swearing and they say the most profane of them are careful not to swear before ladies.

I must stop now because we want to make some more garden this afternoon. Out here after the snow is gone we soon can plow and sow.

Love and greetings to all of you,

Your loving sister

A. B. Schmaker.

1 Dec. 78

①

Dear Jim. After much time and considerable difficulty, we finally have deciphered Aunt Lizzie Schmokers two letters to Aunt Anna Walter, written in March 1881, from Meade, Kansas.

They are lovable letters and show a great spirit as well as some loneliness.

Mrs. Ellen Hoeg a German grandmother and good friend showed great patience and kindness in the reading and explaining them to me and Edwin. There were some words and phrases we had to guess.

Ed will write our combined version which may be 90% accurate. I am very sorry now that I did not ^{have} Cousin Abe tell ~~me~~ something about his parents, and his and sister Anna's child hood. As you might guess from my "Memories", I had the impression that Lawyer Abe did not tell all he knew.

It seems strange that the letters do not mention the Schmoker children. Just one little note that Abie would ^{write letter in fall} return the buggy to ~~the~~ Dodge City.

It could be possible that it was some other Abie and the Schmokers left Abe & Anna in Grandview with Grandparents when or if Peter & Eliz. went to Homestead in Kansas as Uncle Chris. did in N. Dak. (Not likely) in P.C.
That they left children

I greatly regret that I never had the
 privilege of knowing my mother's maiden Elizabeth,
 just like you regret never knowing your
 great Aunt Betty. I am thankful and
 amazed at your effort and devotion in
 preserving the father and Anna Bessie
 family history. I trust your genealogical
 genealogies will help others.

Edwin has taken a keen interest in this family
 historical research. He recently went to the Co. Court
 House in Middleboro and learned about a lady who
 is compiling a list of names in surrounding
 communities. She has examined his letter and said
 she has not yet completed the Mt. P. Co. but of good
 helpfull suggestion. Ed has gone to our former County
 Court papers. We have thought the letter and
 will send you copies but don't if you can find
 any better information than Middleboro. I think
 you should have the previous original letters.
 As a matter of historical interest in
 context of what the "Freightmen" were and
 what they traded, it is also known?
 I wonder if my naming through and down
 into my name. I have just learned that you have
 seen copies of a 78 line and my recollections those who
 have the 77 name, and that some have ancestry
 forgotten to Thompson financially. I've had!
 We don't want you lose the papers.

I wonder if you have ever met Anna Schmokey's daughter Lee Bartuff of L.A. I knew her as a little girl Lela Dupes. I have had ^{4/6/73} letter to my sister Iny Campbell telling about Bess Joseph's death - It seems to me she should know something about her mother's & Uncle Abe's child hood. If they ever lived in Kansas? If she still lives in L.A. and? if I knew her address we might write to her. Would she have received a Family Tree?

I have learned thru Mayory & Harold Goddard that Harry Joseph recovered from serious illness to travel extensively, Europe etc.

I feel you will have more difficulty in reading my nervous scribble than I have in reading Aunt Lizzie's fine script.

I was about to ask you to keep a few copies for me but have now learned that Jean Croy left a box of records and material with Margory Jack (See elect) It may contain some unsold copies that I could use. I have recently rec'd complimentary remarks from folks who have heard from you.

I must not tire you further.
 Christmas Greetings to you and Mother.
 Our family will celebrate at Jim & Lucile's with the exception of daughter Helen of Tacoma

over

Jan. 8.

I still have not mailed my material but can add a bit to our search of Abe Schmoker but not what you want most, dates. Ed saw the caretaker of the Mt Pleasant Cemetery yesterday. With and located Abe + Clara Schmoker grave stone. There were no dates but there may be small ^{Foot} ~~Foot~~ stones ^{with dates} under the deep snow. Ed will search farther when the snow melts.

We had a good Christmas at Harlan but Hazel was in the hospital for a week after with what appeared as a heart attack. She home now and able to be about for which we are thankful!

I have been trying to reach Ralph Lieberknecht and sister Harriet Warren to learn if they have ever received the Trees. Ralph and John Warren were both in Hosp. when the Trees were received in 77.

It may be that Jean Crox ordered Copies for them. If not I wish to do so. There is no record of such in the Secy. material that Jean left with Margorie Jack.

I do not know ~~if you can use~~ what use you can make of the German letters but we think they should be in your possession.

So I am sending them along.

Thank you for your patience and devotion.

Sincerely Vernon W.