

Transcript of a letter from Anton Burkart II (son of Johann Burkart *1805)

Green Bay the Oct. 1862

Beloved godfather and godmother, Joseph, friends and acquaintances

H e i l a n d S e g e n !

I received your letter of September 29 today. In health with wife and children and that you are still in good health. We are all in good health, the cousin, my godfather should also write to you himself. He is also in good health, he is doing well. You write me to tell you where Frederick is. He is fresh and healthy. He is also married. His wife is also a good woman as far as I know her. He is a printer and works in a newspaper printing house. He earns good money: 1 dollar 50 cents to 2 dollars a day. That is pretty good. My sister Magdalene and my brother-in-law Mr. Lorenz SCHAUER are also healthy with, Johan children. Also Magdalena is again in blessed condition. He has had a very good harvest. They have threshed 4 days with a threshing machine driven by 8 horses. 350 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of oats, the potatoes have not turned out very well. The wheat has gone up quite a bit in price; it costs \$1 a bushel or the metz. The flour costs 5 1/2 dollars the 200 pounds. Melchior, my brother or the Schmit, as we say, is in good health. He already earns 13 dollars a month. Ana also in good health. She wanted to run away to the convent this summer, but I think she can be good without going to the convent. Base Eva, your godmother, is so far in good health, except that she has to suffer a lot with her leg, which is so bad that she can hardly get out of the house without a cane. But Melchior the big boy is very hardworking and cohesive. It is Joseph's father with body and soul. Michael is not at home; he is a little lazy and a rascal from one place to another. Then there are their boys and girls, Anton & Joseph and Katarina in the house. Very good children, Friedrich's brothers and sisters are also all healthy. Now something else. You write me that Simon SCHWARTZ wants to marry the carpenter Anna his 2nd daughter. But you do not write her name, so that I know better. You mean it is 17 years that I left you, I would like to know her better by name. My wife I know that you do not know yet because she is from Holland in the province of Gelterlant.

You write nothing about yourself, you are the oldest, but in the next letter I will hear something. Here in Green Bay there is a lot of work this fall with all the Krigesrabel and good land. The people are driving the railroad is built up to here with us. until next week it should already be compacted. Also an elifator or house for on storage of grain is being built here. The house will be 125 feet long, 75 feet wide 100 feet high. The 33 storage chambers are 22 feet wide, 24 feet long and 40 deep. They are inclined after an access.

The war here has not ended yet and God knows what else is to come. The country is completely ruined. The north has 16 times 100 thousand men in the field and more are required. They still want to draw lots on the 10th of this month, because they can no longer get volunteers, because it is not a war, but a slaughter of people. One has read of such battles as long as the world stands in history. Let us consider the battles of Waterloo-Leibtzich, Sevastobol, which have always been known as the greatest. But there is no comparison with this one, where an army of 2 times the number of men 100.000 melted down to 75 000 in a period of 4 days. It is ghastly to describe the gruesome way in which the people here are slaughtered and martyred in the south. I myself have letters from prisoners who were caught in the South, that they are treated

mercilessly, if they do not want to join the Southern army, they cut off their hands or feet and let them go. The Indians have also suffered terribly here in the state of Minnesota. No distinction was made in sex or age - they murdered everything they could get their hands on. Women who were in other circumstances had their wombs torn open so that the child was still attached to the navel. Horrible, little children torn and cut.

The small log I am sending you can give you a small idea of this. When my brother Melchior comes to you, he should bring you the history of the war with all the battles in the form of an engraving. He will probably come for a winter visit over a year if we stay healthy. He probably says that he knows no one, help him then find the way to his godfather.

I must close, many greetings from all acquaintances and relatives, father and mother, if I may call you so. To Barbara BAUMANN ask her if she has not received my letter with the portrait of the two: Melchior and Anna, whether they received it undamaged. She would like to write to me soon. Greetings to Simon SCHWARTZ and his mother and father and siblings to cousin Melchior and base to Schneiter's cousin.

Write me an answer soon, for it is so nice to have loving friends far away. We will exchange letters several times before my brother arrives. Then I should report it for enough

Many greetings from your sincerely loving cousin and godfather.

My address is Anton BURKART ju.

Wagonworker Green Bay BROWN & Co Wisconsin.