

Letter 2, Neville 2

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Note by the translator Alfred Rütthlein (Jan 2025: Sütterlin - German - English):

This letter is certainly not complete, as the usual greeting and salutation and a date and place are missing. A greeting at the end is also missing. By comparison with other sources (History of New Franken by Rev Conrad Ripp) Mr. Peter Schauer could be identified as the writer in 1848. Conrad Ripp, who brought these letters back to the USA, referred to this letter and quoted some events from it. He also ensured that these and other letters were preserved for posterity by archiving them at the Neville Museum in Green Bay.

Secondly, you have to consider whether you are not doing too much harm to people with regard to your mother-in-law, and consider how much your property pledge amounts to in order to cover the travel expenses, to live entirely on money for a year, and what remains to be able to intervene through the economy with the necessary means, or, in the event that the first go can not clear enough, you have bought 2 or 3 acres of land so that you do not have to worry about the forces. What you need here to live comfortably is excellent here. You will see the travel expenses in other letters, especially in the letter from Elisabeth Loßmann from Röttingen. You need 50 dollars to live, 2 cows 36 dollars. If you can't find a wagon, you can have an oxcart, which costs 27 dollars. A stove 20 dollars, 2 to 3 dollars for a plug, 12 dollars 2 to 3 sugar tests, 10 dollars to build the Hans with wood.

Boards, shingle 40 to 50 dollars, 80 acer land for 100 dollars, 1 dollar.

Take good flour 10 barrels, the barrel averages 5 dollars that makes 50 dollars and meat please and sugar at will.

For example, I cannot yet calculate the consumption and also the seeds. That makes a total of 50 fl. (presumably German currency). If you have more money, you better stock up on livestock, for example a horse, breeding pigs, poultry and try to provide your house with more other equipment. It will then be easier to clear some fields. As far as the land is concerned, I can let the soldiers help.

The two 80 acres of land that I had left over, 80 acres were needed by my father's husband (= friend), and 80 acres for the house. I could not keep the land without making it very inconvenient and better for these people.

Siegfried, the stove maker, also wrote to me to save the land. I would have gladly done so if I could have, if he had made his journey to America as planned.

Now my half land which I have to the full

But if you and Siegfried want to come, land will be provided for you again. In the near future, my father and I will buy a piece of land for you so that you don't have to take care of it. Between the teacher and my father lies a fertile 50 acres of beautiful land suitable for making sugar. He is a smith and now thinks he has 60 mills here at *Gedienere*, and his land is divided, but he insists on a little more than the official price. I have now submitted a proposal to him as to the price at which the same will be relinquished. If it is not too high, it will be bought and can be given to one of you.

To make things quite clear to you, so that you can see how our place is inhabited and how close or far apart you or we are, I have enclosed a small map of our area. The number on it is the section number and the name on it is the owner. The land of the French is labeled with Te, the land which we also consider small is labeled with a tax. The planned paths or roads are marked as a line with dots. Anything else you have not bought for your journey, you can take here at the farm. Most of all, take care of your faithful traveling companion, which is necessary because you must also take care of each other on the journey and what else you have to take with you. For me you still have to take with you. If you do not arrive yourself, write to me.

If your courage and the time of day do not prevent you, it would certainly be better for you and the children here that the food here would be quite suitable for you, I have no doubt about that, but I do not advise you to persuade anyone else to travel here,

I have dared to take the step and I have not regretted it, and I am even more satisfied every day. The hardships all disappear and are no longer remembered. All those who are here have found what they were looking for and have not regretted it. They are all happy that they no longer feel the misery of Germany. There is something else I have to tell him as news. My father and his traveling companions met in Ruther von Strauch, who pretended he was going back to Germany - there was nothing in America. Another said that he had also been, that I had a bad pair of oxen and that I had bought my land from an Englishman, that the teacher Barbaar was in prison and that his friends were splitting wood. He knows him, went to and I found out from letters exactly how he got around in America. He was lying on his leg, looking for a roast pig and the biggest bowl of sauerkraut, but since he couldn't ask for them, he went back out the same way, where he could say the English word, and told such outrageous lies on the way. If neither I nor Ruther von Strauch have seen each other, and know nothing at all about him, he said so much and told his friends who had arrived that he had a notantlicher Dickkopf, in hinebike mowed, would have. Likewise, he will again say of teacher Bürgnot, then he has not entered our place, and the teacher has never left his place here, and has not yet been charged with anything.

Your wives brother. G. Peter Schauer. N.3. The rest is in the other sheet.

In Tauberrettersheim (*place of homeland*), however, Coburg (noble house) has reoccupied its one hastily vacated seat through my, for which I wish you all health and happiness. Another piece of news is that the cursing of the *Schirtzbermachung* has been approved and

will begin next spring. It will be connected to the *Wiehloehin* River by a canal and a navigable waterway will be created from *Rey joot* to the whole of *Chineriha*. All goods and emigrants who emigrate to Wisconsin-*Euebl* and *Miswe* come here to the *Gönnbey*, and no longer to Milwaukee, as was previously the case. Because there they have to travel by land, and need more than 14 days longer than traveling here.

Vabérine will become one of the most excellent staple places, and it is to be hoped that many immigrants, and especially many professionals, will settle here, whereby the city, which is as large as the, and up to now it was, so to speak, in the cradle, will receive a very rapid upswing.

On September 13, our most distinguished bishop, Heinrich, was confirmed here. A public school has also been established half an hour from here, where English and French and all elementary subjects are taught. Next spring a Catholic church will be built just 1 ½ hours away from us on foot and we will also have a clergyman nearby; in addition, my friends are building a chapel themselves, probably this winter, for which I will give the land, along with other places of worship, and we will then have church services here until the local settlers are able to build a church themselves and can maintain a clergyman, which is not as expensive here as in German K. Twice already, the pastor held solemn services in my house with Prussian teachers. Teacher Haus that opened its school still has only 16 all-day pupils, but this will change quite a bit in the near future, because in the *Ver* and *raschlein* will be occupied. Some relatives laughed my envy as it is called in Germany, that we sit us *Stalde*, it only more, and yet count already houses here of this my this first me. And there is no doubt at all that one son from an elimination will be responsible, and are no now *leuern* *cathalliebereitswenden* days only buy two or land with us, leave their land an hour and a half away from us, and move to us this winter. At the beginning of November I took my companions, my James and another German from the city, on a trip to a tribe of somewhat civilized Indians. It is a settlement 12 miles away, and more than 1200 souls there, mostly belonging to the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. There was also a school here. They have created the most beautiful country wines with sense and good facilities.

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From this journey, my father did not agree about the immeasurable lands that lie out here, on which so many thousands of winters from the most which village so poorly seek no one, here would one day ensure his exodus. That you, dear brother, also want to come here from your homeland makes me very happy and those at home thank you that my heart is filled with such brotherly love for such dear brothers and sisters, just as it is for those who do not find it, but I am obliged to present the matter to you before Kahl, but through each *Verkug*

So that you can consider the matter, I am not inclined to prepare a drunken relationship for you, and for the sake of these things, consider where you sleep in the inn. The journey to America is no small matter, especially for families with small children. For such a journey is

connected with all kinds of hardships, costs and expenses, which one has not reckoned with in advance.

It goes without saying that it is easier for large (rich) people to travel. This circumstance, as it goes without saying, is different every year, and one person is better off. One person has fewer problems and fewer expenses, another has more, as fate guides everyone. Above all, think about whether your health is good enough for you to be able to hold down a job in good health, to be able to work and to provide for your children. As I said last year, I must say again that the beginning is hard and arduous, but it pays off quickly and sufficiently, but I must also say again that if you were here, you would no longer have to bear half the discomfort that I had to bear before. It is no small matter to settle down in an uninhabited place with so few people and to enter into contact with so many strangers and natives without understanding the slightest bit of their language, and it requires great presence of mind and perseverance in patience. To procure an interpreter for every little thing is an impossibility: to fight one's way through on one's own, so that no ear suffers damage, is not possible for everyone. - This year, or more I say now, it is already easy for me to make myself clear in English for buying and selling and also in other circumstances.

I leave it to your imagination to discover the level that developed here and the feeling that emerged between me and the new arrivals. I am being showered with as many kisses of joy as I received at my sad farewell, and was also showered with kisses of pain by many faithful people who love me. Yes, I tell you dear brothers and sisters, such an unexpected reunion is only bliss, which surpasses everything and one is overwhelmed by such feelings, which I have never experienced in the world. Night fell until I left the ship with my right hand and returned to the night city. The next day, I took with me a boat spacious enough to hold all my belongings. My big boy, who in the meantime had come to the pier with the boat, helped to unload and take everything to the Semper mill, which I had already described the previous year. But I myself loaded up wives, children and all the women and brought them to my house on my land, where we all ate together at my table in the joy of our hearts, and my house was filled with emotion, for I still had a family in my house from *Keinpreußung* who had settled with me three weeks before. Two of these families have bought land next to me, they are Catholics and very good people.

My companion and Heim live with them and my Hans and his people sleep in my house at night and by day they live in one half of the hut in which we lived last year. Their house is ready to move into and Hans' house will be ready before winter. My companion will probably stay with me this winter, as he has yet to finish a house and can therefore build his own.

What notes I should give you, dear brother, about my assets and especially about the dear mayor are enclosed in the enclosed note. Help yourself to this at the royal district court if you still need it.

As for me and mine, know that we are all quite healthy and content, and we are far better off this year than in previous years, for we can already see the blessing of our diligence- although it was a lot of hard work at the beginning, the prospect here is that it will get better

in every respect from year to year and we have chosen an excellent place because the soil is excellent and there is no land like this in the whole of Tauberetters. Although we had a very dry and hot summer this year, I still harvested 360 bunches of potatoes, 80 bunches of wheat grain, 50 bunches of oats, 26 bunches of buckwheat and many other crops, for example 5 wagons of pumpkins, many calumers and melons, quite a lot of sugar and syrup, all the work of a single year.

Welsch grain reached a height of 11 feet, was too fat, otherwise there would have been half the grains more. I had none, however, the potatoes are as good as wheat, which I can sell in town at 2 to 3 shillings. Welsch costs 4 shillings, oats 3, and buckwheat also 4 shillings. My sowing for winter wheat is 10 tufts for summer wheat 3 tufts - I have made 13-27 scales. My livestock amounts to 2 horses, 4 large oxen, 4 cows 4 calves 23 pigs. I have a lot of chickens.

News about America are the following: Wisconsin will be admitted to the United States as the 30th state (May 29, 1848), and in the month of September we elected our representatives, whom I am taking to Madison, the capital of *Nischenhau*, in the spring to make the known laws for this state. In this election I was also and had to cast my vote for 2 individuals from our county who are necessary to this business. The election was almost the same as in Germany as in Bavaria in a miserable runoff election, in that the same drives took place as there, only with the difference that those from over there have to be open here and secret there, and those from the men here, good laws for the state and the welfare of the state in general depends on theirs, and there only a *Jedivi* (stud) is elected as a donkey, who has to bear all the burdens, and in the end from every close and impudent lout, such as. e.g. *Tbok* thief, who gets a beating as a reward for what he has done. Although there is freedom and equality in America, there are 2 parties in all elections. One is called Whig and the other Democrat, as in Jbrtte. Coburg and Matzenbach (German cities), and they are very similar in their actions. The democrats in America demand liberty and equality in every respect, as the free states offer, and what Wigh demands, that the supremacy should belong only to the great and rich, and the lesser and immigrant should stand back. The latter should make the donkey and the former want to ride on it. But they do all this so that their own interests are pursued. This is also the case in *Tbok*. - This is again a difference in America, i.e. in Wisconsin the Democrats won the last election and remained victorious, just as they remained victorious in the presidential election. And they again have little hope of taking the helm this year, since all of them are Democrats, and their numbers are growing by the day

Explanations:

The **Whig Party** was a political party in the United States of America. The party was founded in opposition to the policies of Andrew Jackson (Jacksonian Democracy) and his populist Democratic Party and called itself the Whig Party in analogy to the Scottish Whigs, who had opposed the royal quest for power in the Restoration period.

Gefattermann: Old German term for a close friend or relative

Words in *Cursive* writing are names or terms that are maybe wrong as the transcribtor is not able to read the without eventual error. Therefore they are cited in the original German