Letters from Russia
Louis Russia – December 10, 1921

This letter was written in Louis, Russia and addressed Mr. John Quint, Hays,, Ellis County, Kansas.

December 10, 1921

Dear Brother,

Best wishes from your brother and sister-in-law, John Peter and Anna Maria Quint, to you, our brother and sister-in-law John and Frances Quint. We are still well and hope that this letter will reach you also in the best of health.

In the beginning of my letter I stated that we are all still well, but conditions in Russia, are very poor, especially here at Louis and the other colonies. Last year the government deprived us of nearly all provisions and live stock and this year our harvest was not sufficient to provide a living. I had 46 acres of wheat and 20 acres of corn, but the total yield was only about 15 bushels. We do not know any more how bread tastes, and we eat horseflesh, if we can get it. It is impossible to get beef, mutton, or pork, or any kind of bread, since as stated before the government tool all away from us.

Many people have died of hunger. Only about half of the people of Louis are left. Some families have died out altogether. Many have gone to other cities only to die of starvation there. Lue had a population of 7000, of whom about 3000 are left. The number of deaths is from ten to fifteen daily, and likewise the remaining live-stock dies. We had five horses last summer of which we still have one. The others were either sold or ate. We had three cows, now we have one left. Our other belongings we traded for food to the Russians of Saratov who had a good harvest, but even they have scarcely enough to live.

Dear brother, I cannot fully describe the conditions here. We hear that America wants to help us, but up to this time we have received nothing. If we do not get any outside help we are all doomed to perish with the famine. The revolutionists have taken everything. Our present government is hardly able to help. Now they have provided some food for the children, namely once daily. We hear that America intends to provide food fro both old and young.

Let us knowhow you are getting along. Everything is very high here. Bread costs 9,000 rubles a pound, corn 700,000 rubles a bushel, wheat is still higher, potatoes 2000 rubles a pound. Horses cost from 2,000,000 rubles upward.

Awaiting your prompt reply, I am your brother,

John Peter Quint

Taken from the Ellis County News, Hays, Kansas
February 1922