

This is a letter that I received from a distant member of the family. The letter was sent from Johannes (John) Groff and his family to his uncle Joseph who was living in Victoria, Kansas at the time.

May 16, 1907

Now a nice letter from Johannes and Katharina Graf(*) and our two children, to you Uncle Joseph and Aunt, and my cousin Peter, his wife and eight children. We would be pleased if our letter finds you in good health. We thank the dear Lord that we are all still wonderfully healthy and this health we also wish from you from our hearts as we do for ourselves.

We want you to know that we saafely received your letter and saw from it that you are all still in good health and that pleases us.

You wanted to know wheather or not you still had brothers and sisters in Russia. Maria ? and Katharina and Joseph and Nicholas Bollig and his wife, Anton Paul and his wife Margaretha Neif, Paulin, Barbara, Margaretha and their husbands are all still in good health.

I want you to know that there is nothing more here in Russia to live for, nothing more then poverty, strife and greed and I think that here in the south it is especially bad. There is always some controversy going on and when the Vorsteher cannot solve it he calls a short recesss to keep from pulling his hair out. Everyone says that everthing that poverty has brought us will be put behind us. You will certainly be happy to hear who our Vorsteher is. He is Joseph Frank. His 'beiname' is Hirsen Mueller and your Joseph knows him.

And now another nice greeting from Johannes Graf to you, my dear cousin. I felt very bad about not having received any letters from you fro so long a time and when your letter arrived I was very happy that you had remembered us. Live well until that joyous reunion with all our loved ones. Please write soon.

Now a greeting from Jakob and Susanne (Daut?) and their children and children's children to you Uncle Joseph and Aunt. We will be pleased if this leetter finds you in good health. We have the dear Lord to thank because we ate still in good leather and wish the same for you. We want to inform you that our mother is still living but still remains ill and Peter and his people are also still healthy. We received your letter and saw from it that you were all wonderfully healthy and that things were going well for you. I wnat to write more. As an Unle and nieces and nephews you should do this and tell us if we are still able to come over there or not. Here the discussions have begun again about finding a new area to live and if it is so good over there be so good as to grant my wish that you write about it.

Now you would probably like some bits of news about how things are going for us. Things are going poorly. For two years now the Steppe has yielded little

seed or bread. It is bad and we still receive a lot from Red Cross donations. Last fall in Louis four cooked cows were distributed. ANother minisgters came to us and because he said he would take care of us we lent him two Kopeks from our "Selle Geld" (Soul Money) and he took the money and left. We had lent him the money until spring and when he returned he had brought us nothing and we were also unable to get our money back.

Now a greeting from my cousin Joseph and his wife and children. I am pleased that you are still well. I thank God that we are still healthy and wish the same form you. Now be again greeted and kissed until our happy reunion, please write soon.

Letter was translated May

6, 2011

Johannes, age 42, Katharina, age 32 Maria, age 3 years, Jacob, age 3 years and Rosa, age 9 months left Louis (Ostrakovka), Russia. Boarding the S.S. Prinzess Alice in Bremen, Germany departed on May 8th 1909 and arrived at Ellis Island on May 18, 1909.

These are the Great-grandparents of Kevin Rupp who had a copy of the letter translated in 2011.