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A Letter from the Volga Colony of Huck

In the following, we bring to our reader a letter from the Volga Colony of Huck, Russia. This letter was sent to Mr. Alexander Kindsvater from one of his relatives in Huck. Mr. Kindsvater is the brother-in-law of Pastor Maul in Lincoln, from whom we received the letter this day so that we might publish it in order that all the latest information about the Russian colonies on the Volga is known. Here are both letters:

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Berlin, 26 May 1921.

My Dear D. F. Maul!

I received a letter by regular mail that I am forwarding to you with my blessing and the hope that it brings you good fortune and joy. I am in correspondence with Mr. Philip Kindsvater of Nisland, South Dakota, Box 153, and have already sent letters from him to Russia. Also from John Kindsvater, Belle Fousche, S.D. Box 384, and Mr. John for whom, only a few days ago I sent off a letter to Russia. You will understand who I am from the letter that we both received from your brother-in-law. I am Alexander Kindsvater son of Alexander Egorovitch. I don't know whether or not you knew my father. Anyway, I am happy that I can bring you joy by sending you this letter. I fled Russia in 1918, as the Bolshevik terror began and now from day to day things are getting worse. Those of my folk who remained behind are poorer and have lost everything due to the Bolsheviks handiwork. A Pud of wheat flour already costs 170,000 Rubles, etc. but you have probably already seen the prices in the papers. It is also not going all that well for me here in Germany. Times are hard and It's difficult to find work, everyone is in need. At least one is lucky to be in a land where order and regulation rule. My friends Philipp and Johann Kindsvater and Mr. Petre Brack have helped me to fight my way through and to them I am very, very thankful.

Whenever you wish, you can send an answer to your brother-in-law through me.

My address is: Alexander Kindsvater, Berlin, Dorotheenstr. 24.

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Huck, on the 23rd of April 1921.

Dear brother-in-law David and sister Elisabetha, and your children!

After a long wait we finally received your letter written 29 April 1920 on the 22nd of March, this year. Although this letter is nearly a year old, it gave us indescribable pleasure and interest to hear of people from three years ago, about your Schw. David's death, though it took place in the passage of this year, our joy is so great that the grief is nothing. You cannot imagine how much joy this death messenger, your letter, brought to me. As the order from Br. Georg came from the aforementioned letter, it moved us to tears. Our expressions we wrote to you (at least, for my part, I wrote a picture of military service) throughout the entire time, apparently you didn't receive a single letter?

I served two years and 2 months in military service. At the beginning in Shsan with a reserve Battalion and later on the Turkish front. I suffered a lot of misery and distress, but

I made it through with God's grace and fortunate assistance, healthy and unhurt and returned to our homeland. The revolution has brought many difficulties and to this day without a glimmer of hope as to a method or way...3 Mos. 26, B, 16,17,26,31,34; 5 Mos. 28, B. 20,26,27,(Kr.) 29,30,31,32,33,41,43,44,48,50,51,52,67; Jur. 15,2; Klagl. 5, B. 2,3,5,8,9,10,12,14,15,18; Mich.2, B. 12 and so on and so forth. (*Ed. Note: believed to be Bible verses such as Moses chap 3, Moses chap 5, "B" & "Jur" & "Klagl" are unknown but Kr is probably Corinthians, and Mich = Micah*)

My existing family consists of myself and wife and 8 children; 1, Eugenie 19 yrs.; 2, Bertha, 16 yrs.; 3, Viktor 13 yrs., 4, Maria 11 yrs.; 5, Lydia 9 yrs.; 6, Amalia, 6 yrs.; 7, Emilie, 3 yrs. and 8, Immanuel, 1 yr. Also living with us is Heinrich Scheibel, 16 yrs, the son of my sister Evak. I am teaching him to be a cabinet maker and now he is no longer needy, but where does he go from here?

All of our children are healthy and strong, but it's deplorable--no school, no building. I myself have been mobilized as manager of the Feuer-Assekuranz (*fire-safety*) (Ph. Jos. Eckardt is an agent of the same business, we oversee over 16 villages), There's little time left for the children unless one does not return from the earth in ones corporeal body.

In general, there have been large changes here that I won't detail in this letter, only so much: The dead: Wes Kath., Kreicks Wes Lisbeth, her eldest son Johs., also her brother Joh. (schoolmaster in Armawir), my mother-in-law, Koehlers Bes. Ernst, Schw. Eckerdts Johs., Schw. Evlis's daughter Elis. Eurig, Fat Jacob's wife Murrick, Schwaehr Lorenzchen's (*possibly esteemed brother-in-law*) oldest son Georg. These are only in the neighborhood, otherwise many others have passed on. -- We are all -- Praise God, healthy. We are happy we survived, but it does not yet lie within our power to see a way around: As God wishes! With heartfelt greetings, yours,

Philipp and Cath. Kindsvater.

P.S. This time we're attempting to forward this letter through our friend Alexander Kindsvater, through whom letters come to us from afar sooner than from your post office.

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My Dear Mr. Kindsvater!

Through my friend Ph. Kindsvater from America, your address has come to my hand. I ask you to act as a middleman and send the enclosed letter to my brother-in-law David Maul in America according to the following address: Rev. D.F. Maul, Lincoln, Nebr., 935 New Hampshire, U.S.A. My heart is full of joy and I wish to first convey my happiness in writing, and God also will later reward you in public. I knew your father well, and your mother I have known since 1919. I was once near her in Saratov and spoke with her many times. u.a. also has read letters from you and Edchen (*Ed. Note: Little Ed*) even lives here in Huck near me since the summer of 1919 and has become an intimate friend of mine. I, Philipp Kindsvater, 43 years of age, am the youngest of the Kindsvater brothers who started the weaving mill and millinery equipment company under the name Brothers Kindsvater. In your warehouse, in your time in S. were also our machines. An old cousin, Andres, from the Latrick, used to visit our old folk often. During the lifetime of our elders much was spoken about the old kinship with the Dietler Kindsvater. Here, there are still many Huckers after all, who stem from there. I even have a book on the life of Andreas Kindsvater, "Lebensbeschreibung des Andreas Kindsvater." Besides everything else, it is only important that we are blood friends and wish the young would refresh old friendships, isn't that right?

Please, my brother-in-law would like to have your address so that answers can be received directly, and he can write to me. Perhaps, with the receipt of this letter? -- There

will be a German Returnee Commission in Moscow, but such discussions will only stem from solid groundwork produced in Germany. How do I know this? Certainly, I know that we are from the Rheinpfalz, but though I have nothing in writing, as I believe everyone has after 160 years. Perhaps we should form a council? Enough for now.

With heartfelt regards, and high esteem, your friend

Philipp Kindsvater