

Letter O

1932, September 5

¹My dear ones far away. Yes, my dear children, to be so far apart from each other is especially heavy on my heart today. My dear Johannes and Renate Dyck and my dear nine grandchildren (you are) particularly heavy on my heart today, so I take up the pen and want to empty my oppressed heart. Before I do that, I want to wish all of you in the far distant reaches God's rich blessings in body and soul and a good well-being so that these lines find you all healthy and alive, as you left us, for which we cannot thank our dear heavenly Father enough, that he has kept us healthy until now, despite all the heavy suffering and hardships we have had to go through. First, I want to report that I received the Poszilki, my dear children, from you on July 5, through the sender Hermann Tietz Hamburg, with a shirt, trousers and rice 2,500, No. 224144. My loved ones, I am very sorry that I put you through this, because things are also in such short supply for you. As I can see this from the last letter from daughter Renate² and Lieschen³, which was sent on July 27 and received August 25 to my great joy and such a long interesting letter. I will probably not be able to answer all your questions sufficiently, but I will try to do it if I can. But first I want to express my heartfelt thanks, dear children, for the sacrifice you have made for (old) me. With what shall I repay it? A heartfelt thanks is good, but it doesn't help you dear ones and sending it in Bar⁴ also does not work for poor me. If I have not done it (thanked you properly) I will be admonished⁵ here by the children. It would really be best for me, an old man, if I needed nothing more and could wander to the homeland above, where everything stops at once. I will not be able to come to you dear ones. I often think about that your groceries are much cheaper and I could make myself useful⁶, for example, as Renate writes, Johannes and his son broke⁷, so I immediately thought, you could earn your bread there, maybe even a piece of meat, which one must do without here. One is glad if there is still bread. A 12-pound loaf of bread currently costs 12 to 15 rubles, and that doesn't last long. A bucket of potatoes, not a milk bucket, a small one, from 5 to 6 rubles. Turnips⁸ 7 pieces, 1 ruble. Eggs from 7 to 8 rubles desaki⁹. Milk liter 2 rubles, skimmed milk 1 ruble. Butter pound 12 rubles. We cannot buy the butter.



Footnote 8

¹ Willi Frese. Peter Mathies (1851-1934) (GRANDMA #109037) writes this letter to his daughter's Renate Mathies (1885-1963) (GRANDMA #168775) family and to her husband Johannes Dyck (1885-1948) (GRANDMA #168774)

² Willi Frese. Renate Mathies (1885-1963) (GRANDMA #168775)

³ Willi Frese. Eliese Dyck (1909-2002) (GRANDMA #386634)

⁴ Willi Risto. Bar = cash

⁵ Willi Risto. vermahnt=zurechtgewiesen = scolded / set right

⁶ Willi Risto. mich etwas nützlich machen=euch helfen = make myself useful / help you all

⁷ Willi Risto. brachen=Land brach, nicht besät lassen und von Unkraut sauber halten = tilled, but allowed to stay fallow

⁸ Willi Risto. Gelrüben= Pena (Russian), <https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D0%B0> This was the main nutrition for poor Russians until the Pena gave way to the potato in the 18th century.

⁹ Willi Frese. 10 Stück = 10 pieces

We have to buy bread, dip it in Prips¹⁰ and salt, that's what goes on the bread. Actually I can't complain yet, I still put on your lard. Still from what we brought along, but when it is all gone, I'll eat it like the children. I always count on it, if there is only brown bread left, I cannot go hungry. To me it tastes good, (I) have absolutely a ¹¹strong appetite for expensive bread; do not know how that can be.

It is probably because of the lard. We need much more of the lean food and it is like never getting full. Will it ever be better again? God knows. For me as an old man probably not. It's not possible to move to where you are and here, how will it be? I can't get a horse or a cow anymore. Sheep and pigs, are out of the question. As you write dear Renate, we will probably not see each other again in this life, but we are all on a pilgrimage to our home above, here we are only guests and strangers. Yes, if only all of us, all of us will find each other again up there, the many dear relatives. Also the many loved ones, such as Johannes¹², Mama, Helene¹³, there are many who already rest in their graves. Parents, children, in one word already many. The song of which you write: "Time is short, O man be wise and grow in the moment. You make this journey only once, leave a good trail behind," is not in our hymn books. Not far from you is a strong Mennonite farm with 8 adult children, all at home and being fed. How do you want to ever pay them? We can't, it will be distributed to the country (or land or government ?). *Ruth Scott: This literal translation needs to be tweaked!* That's how such people live.

Carefree, I don't understand? They don't need anything to live on, since food is so cheap. Yes, to pay the taxes, the farmer will not have enough, that goes without saying. If he can't sell anything, or like Joh.? Isaak only gets, 4 dollars for a cow which only had her 2nd calf, that is ridiculous and here with us this would have cost 400 to 500 rubles. About the cheap prices - with you and also in Germany, - Heinrich Wall writes to me, from Beiershorst. For your dear Johannes, I thought, you could make yourself¹⁴ useful and earn the money to give him¹⁵ a break. It cannot be done. And that dear Anna¹⁶ has to serve (work as a servant) is hard for you dear ones, she knows how we are doing, (she) gives me every Sunday evening, even if it is hard, and for me too. Now we have come so far, with all our thrift and work, that our children and grandchildren must serve and if it were only for Germans, (I) think they are Jews and Russians. So the gentlemen were not to be disrespected, in that the girls stayed serving until midnight, even longer, to accommodate them.

And when we used to have a servant and a maid, the Bröder¹⁷ was like a real fool, no work longer than 8 hours allowed. And here with our girls, I think, it came to 16 hours and more. I just want to tell you briefly that our girls took a vacation and left here on August 17 for Am Trakt, for a good month. I did not quite want to agree to this. The expenses, we could live for a time from this¹⁸, but

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¹⁰ Ruth Scott. Prips is an ersatz "coffee" made with roasted grain

¹¹ Ruth Scott. Could this be "kein" and not "ein" in the original? Then it would mean: I have absolutely no strong appetite for expensive bread.

¹² Willi Risto. Johannes Mathies (1893-1922) (GRANDMA #1196408)

¹³ Willi Frese. Helene Mathies (1897-1931) (GRANDMA #347043)

¹⁴ Willi Risto. Peter Mathies means himself

¹⁵ Willi Frese. ihn= Johannes Dyck (1885-1948) (GRANDMA #168774)

¹⁶ Willi Frese. Anna Dyck (1911-1966) (GRANDMA #440877)

¹⁷ Willi Risto. Bröder= we assume he means the servant

¹⁸ Willi Frese. For that money, what the trip will cost, they could have lived for a time.

gave my consent for dear Mary¹⁹, but what could I do. Heinrich²⁰ and Tina²¹ were quite full of it (enthused). The girls should and want to still rescue (he doesn't say what, possibly things left there.) (I) hardly believe (that) and Maria had been 10 months at a place of employment, got a pair of new shoes for the journey, which cost on the market 50 to 55 rubles given to her by the Kosein²² and from the Kosajki²³ bread for the trip, also earlier a Zeug²⁴ for the dress. The trip from Kontor to Perm costs 5 rubles. From Perm to Saratov, 23 rubles. Received a telegram from Cossack City 26 August, 6:30, (that) they were there. Yesterday, August 29 received a postcard from Käthe²⁵ from Samara. Bread was already eaten, had been bought for 5 and 6 rubles, drove further. One machine on the ship broke down and consequently it's slow sailing. A certain Müller²⁶ from here Solikamsk, formerly a rich farmer in the area of Cossack City, had also been banished here and now released. (This) man of 70 years, first wanted to go to Saratov and joined with our girls. Käthe mentioned nothing about him. Must have been very rich people and also so broken down that he stood there (now)very poor. What Russia has annihilated, destroyed, who has regulated²⁷, that cannot be described. If they should ever atone for all this, it would be very difficult (for) the scoundrels.

You, dear Renate²⁸ write, you will not get enough food for all your livestock. That, I believe, you have never lacked before. You often have the cattle out in the field in winter. I can't understand it, with that cold! Rye is not sown in your fields, only wheat. Winter wheat? Barley and oats and rapeseed not either. Rye is a crop that always quickly turns out best, even here in this region. Previously, I have not seen this kind of a rye and a lot fell out²⁹, was left standing too long, but it produced well over a hundred pud³⁰ a` desjatine, the best stood 180 centimeter high. Ears were 15 centimeters long, with 50 to 75 kernels in it, have hardly ever had rye that long at home. I'm also amazed at the potatoes, were put in from the beginning of June to 16 June and grow so abruptly fast and high potato foliage up to your hip. Also already beautiful potatoes and very tasty. Better than at home, just a pity that we do not have our own. In autumn the farmers from the collective had sown Holunder Klee³¹ in the stubble, became an Arschin³² high and dense, bloomed such a pretty red. At its height the village mowed it down and made it into hay, has brought a lot of yield (actual amount or monetary?). The barley and oats, flax³³ also turned out quite well. They live here, and even if in a collective, better than those at home can live for now. Everyone has a cow, a few pigs, horses, together in a stable and 5 Wirte³⁴ not in the village, what is wonderful here in the village and in the next village all families have the same family name, if there is wonderful wheat in the neighboring village none is sown here in our village. You say, my dear, I Renate also do not want to complain, Dad. I³⁵ don't want to either, but it is very hard here and remember the words of Elder Töws in his letter. It is like this here with hard work, that daily bread and

¹⁹ Willi Frese. Maria Mathies (1909-1993) (GRANDMA #1196425)

²⁰ Willi Frese. Heinrich Isaak (1877-1934) (GRANDMA #1196412)

²¹ Willi Frese. Katharina Mathies (1883-1953) (GRANDMA #1196403)

²² Willi Risto. Kosein=хозяин - boss

²³ Willi Risto. Kosajki=хозяйка – female boss

²⁴ Willi Risto. Stuff = cloth

²⁵ Willi Risto. Käthe Isaak (1910-1985) (GRANDMA #1196414)

²⁶ Ruth Scott. Müller – this could either be his name or his profession could be a miller

²⁷ Willi Risto. Reguliert=Requiriert – expropriated

²⁸ Willi Frese. Renate Mathies (1885-1963) (GRANDMA #168775)

²⁹ Willi Risto. ausgefallen= fell out - the kernels had fallen out of the ears because it had been mowed down too late.

³⁰ Willi Frese. Pud [Пуд]=Pud. 1 Pud = 16,38 kg

³¹ Ruth Scott. Holunder Klee – literal translation is elderberry clover

³² Willi Frese. Arschin – old Russian measure of length (71,1 cm)

³³ Willi Risto. Flachs. <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flachsfaser> - fiber from flax

³⁴ Ruth Scott. Wirte – he could mean farmers, but the word is also landlords

³⁵ Willi Risto. I=Peter Mathies (1851-1934) (GRANDMA #109037)

Letter O 4

a car, that is luxury in my eyes. Well, my dear daughter, every region has its peculiarities, (with) the long distances, it is very appropriate to have a car. Oh, if only the dear heavenly Father would direct and guide it, so that it would change and prices for food would come (down), what the farmer can sell and you, my dear ones, would be preserved, so that one family of my dear children would remain, because the rest of us here in Russia are all perishing. Do not lose hope, the One who brought you here, dear ones, cannot and will not let you fall, and confidently we will call upon Him and He will help, because the need in our distress is not greater than our Helper. Be comforted dear children, it is very difficult, but put yourselves in my place, here one is plagued by vermin, trichcans³⁶ and bedbugs at night, no bedframe, no table, no bench, no bread of our own. Sometimes I feel completely despondent. Cornelius Froese's wife³⁷ was taken along to the conference, where was the conference? Not in Tiefengrund, was it? I cannot remember anything about Arthur Regehr. Of the Regehr family otherwise well known Elder Peter Regehr³⁸, who founded Tiefengrund, was a friend from my youth, also his brother Cornelius³⁹ a friend and in the Patre⁴⁰ in the album also their father Peter Regehr⁴¹ very well known elder in our church in Fürstenwerder, also old Peter's brothers Abraham⁴², Cornelius⁴³ and Gerhard⁴⁴ Regehr, all preachers in Tiegenhagen church and old Cornelius Regehr⁴⁵, also elder in Heubuden congregation was sent as plenipotentiary (authorized) with a preacher Warkentin to the Molotschna⁴⁶, to regulate the confusions that were there in church matters, but the good man could not carry out his task, must have been a very Christian elder.

[Willi Frese. Glenn Penner (Canada), to whom I had sent the diary of my great-great-great grandfather Johann Wall, writes: "Johann Wall describes the gravestone of Cornelius Regier, the West Prussian church elder who died in 1794 as he was helping the Mennonites of Chortitza. This gravestone no longer exists, so Wall's description is the only information we have about Regier's gravestone."]

(He) became ill, put his friend Warkentin in the office of the elder, who had to finish the job and (he) did. He received a golden medal⁴⁷ from the Russian government, which I believe can still be seen in the church in Heubuden. At that time this was a difficult journey with wagons and horses, there was no railroad, there and back, so the Russian government was grateful for this and sent the gold medal, that was at that time

³⁶ Willi Risto. Trichkanen=Tarakanan Kakerlaken, Küchenschabe = cockroaches

³⁷ Alex Wiens. Presumably Katharina Fröse, nee Neufeld (1881-1966) (GRANDMA #126981)

³⁸ Willi Frese. Peter Regier (1851-1925) (GRANDMA #64061)

³⁹ Willi Frese. Cornelius Regier (1853-1915) (GRANDMA #168566)

⁴⁰ Willi Frese. Patre=Porträt=Photo= Photograph

⁴¹ Willi Frese. Peter Regier (1825-1897) (GRANDMA #64060)

⁴² Willi Frese. Abraham Regier (1831-1908) (GRANDMA #168555)

⁴³ Willi Frese. Cornelius Regier (1835-1919) (GRANDMA #168558)

⁴⁴ Willi Frese. Gerhard Regier (1837-1902) (GRANDMA #168559)

⁴⁵ Willi Frese. In my diary Johann Wall Johann Wall mentions a Cornelius Regier GRANDMA #19815, 17.11.1743-30.05.1794, this could possibly be this one: Married for the second time (the writer of the diary) to Margaretha nee Regier on 9. November 1824. This person was born in Tralau on 9. April 1799. Her father himself was Gerhard Regier, son of the deceased elder Cornelius Regier from Chortitz in southern Russia.

⁴⁶ Willi Risto. Cornelius Regier, the great grandpa of Peter Regier, was not in Molotschna in 1794 that didn't exist at that time yet, but was rather in Chortitza.

⁴⁷ Willi Frese. Medal=Медаль=Medaille = a medal

another time. At that time the Mennonites still counted for something here in Russia and now they are the most dolsten⁴⁸ bitten, which one hears allerwertz⁴⁹.

And about Kriefkohl, where I was born, what shall I report. In 1849, on July 31, my parents⁵⁰ had a wedding in Langfelde and after that they leased a beautiful farm in Kriefkohl for five years, I think there were five Hufen⁵¹. Later (they) often told (about this), must have been quite happy on it as young beginners and there in Kriefkohl lies in the Danziger Werder, I, sister Anna⁵² and brother Johann⁵³ were born, (Johann) got to be only

Letter O 5

9 weeks old, died in Kriefkohl and was buried in Langenfelde in the grandfather's churchyard, where our dear relatives all sleep, where in 1849 the Kolera⁵⁴ swept through, was also a difficult time. The dear grandmother Anna Wall⁵⁵, née Klassen, was 55 years 7 months 15 days old.

⁴⁸ Willi Risto. am dolsten=am heftigsten (Plattdeutsch) = the most

⁴⁹ Willi Risto. allerwertz=überall, plautdietsch aulawejen = everywhere

⁵⁰ Willi Frese. Gerhard Mathies (GRANDMA #1196400) and Katharina Wall (GRANDMA #1196402)

⁵¹ Willi Risto. Hufen. 1 Hufe=30 Morgen=7,659 ha =

⁵² Willi Frese. Sister of Peter Mathies (1851-1934) (GRANDMA #109037), not in GRANDMA

⁵³ Willi Frese. Brother of Peter Mathies (1851-1934) (GRANDMA #109037), not in GRANDMA

⁵⁴ Willi Frese. Cholera <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cholera>

⁵⁵ Willi Frese. Possibly Anna Klassen (GRANDMA #661616 and #481694), Grandmother of Peter Mathies (1851-1934) (GRANDMA #109037). Anna would have been born 30 January 1794 (calculated by the date of death in a table)

[Willi Frese. Renate Wall #11 GM 107970 was the mother of Franz Wall GM #109011. Married to Helene Dyck GM '109012, the daughter of the diarist Johannes Dietrich Dyck (1826-1898). He starved to death in prison with Cornelius Andres in 1933]

Uncle Philipp Wall⁵⁶ had turned 28 years, 6 months and 21 days old and his wife Maria Wall⁵⁷, née Klassen was 21 years old, were newly married 1848, 29 February entered into marriage. Aunt Helene Wall, née Mathies⁵⁸, 37 years, 2 months, was Aunt Horn's mother. When the parents' 5 years (rental) was up, they bought a small farm in Vierzenhuben, the house had collapsed from the Bruchwasser⁵⁹. Overall, the father rebuilt the stable and the barn and built a completely new house. In 1855 the great Muntau dam burst, flooding the whole of the Great Werder and destroying much of it. Many cows drowned. My Ohm (uncle) Johann Mathies' 12 cows and so on many places. The parents were with grandfather Peter Wall, until they moved to Vierzehnhuben, there our brother Gerhard⁶⁰ was born. Friend Heinrich Wall (from) Beiershorst writes`` that there in our house live Engbrecht and are very thrifty people and yet does not want to



orderly Yours? to [that? before?] I do believe, the farm needs - not was - only a witness and did not please me, whereas the Heinrich Wall's farm and that of grandfather from Vogtei, was something else, which pleased me. 1866, on September 11 my dear father Gerhard Mathies⁶¹ died and 1868 my mother sold our farm and wanted to go to Russia. Because we, I and Anna did not want to go, she wanted to wait until grandfather had sold his farm and wanted to go together, and we also had to clear out the large living room of what was left from the sale. We moved to the grandfather's residence. Sister Anna and I helped completely on the farm and earned for all four [4] the (necessary) food. Then the war broke out, Germany with France. And Ohm Franz Wall⁶² was already (there) in 1869, as all moved: Ohm Peter Wiens⁶³, Ohm Cornelius Froese⁶⁴ Johannes'⁶⁵ grandparents and came back to Germany in 1870 to get us and his father, and siblings, who had not yet sold and consequently did not go along. The old people were of the wrong opinion that the Occident is going under and over while in Russia, there lies the place of safety. And how did it turn out? Man thinks and directs, the dear heavenly Father according to his will. We will find out here, if what they tell will be (become) good or bad. Are these serious questions for us?

Letter O 6

[something is missing here?]

place of safety is, are driven from one place to another like sheep, which have no shepherd. Well, we don't have one either. How we will fare once again is all in God's hands. For us quite dark. Exiles are sent here, like

⁵⁶ Willi Frese. Philipp Wall (1821-1849) (GRANDMA #107964)

⁵⁷ Willi Frese. Maria Klassen (GRANDMA #1362665), nee about 1827 (calculated)

⁵⁸ Alex Wiens. possibly, **not sure**, that she was the first wife of Franz Wall (GRANDMA #1429299), because she was the mother of Aunt Horn (GRANDMA #1467943).

⁵⁹ Willi Frese. Bruchwasser=Dambruchwasser = swamp or bog water when a dam broke

⁶⁰ Willi Frese. Gerhard Mathies nee. 19.07.1855 no GRANDMA number.

⁶¹ Willi Frese. Gerhard Mathies (? – 11.09.1866) (GRANDMA #1196400)

⁶² Willi Risto. Franz Wall (1824-1887) (GRANDMA #109035)

⁶³ Alex Wiens. Peter Wiens (1823-1877) (GRANDMA #1253819)

⁶⁴ Willi Risto. Cornelius Fröse (1817-1885) (GRANDMA ##991232)

⁶⁵ Willi Risto. Johannes Dyck (1885-1948) (GRANDMA #168774)

Heinrich, (some) already released, Heinrich not yet. They will have to leave Solikamsk in Zuckte⁶⁶, when they are free, and they are not allowed to go home, because there is nothing to live for there, not even like this, where else to go? From a postcard of Helene Wall, Ja. Schmidt 10 horses (died) and at Johannes Philipsen on another place in the collective 17 horses died and now still 4 horses have been stolen from the collective. Are they working well? Backwards (from) yesterday, September 3, received a letter from Peter⁶⁷, writes, harvest at home à Desjatine 20 pud rye and wheat was even less. Some fields not mowed at all, these are the consequences of last year. Cannot plow deeper black than 2 Werschock⁶⁸ and we used to like to plow 4 and more Werschock. From Gusav Töw's⁶⁹ letter: Ohm Lepp in Chiwa has a Riester tree⁷⁰, is 371 centimeters in circumference, 26 ½ Werschock⁷¹ diameter. Heinrich thought, in the Postergraben⁷², on the left side, there was also one like this that was hollow.

⁶⁶ Willi Risto. Zuckte= presumably prisons? Trains? Groups?

⁶⁷ Willi Risto. Peter Mathies (1902-1943) (GRANDMA #1196411)

⁶⁸ Willi Risto. Werschock (Russisch)=1 вершок = 4,445 [CM](#)

⁶⁹ Willi Risto. Could be Gustav Töws (1904-?) (GRANDMA #1310367)

⁷⁰ Willi Risto. Riesterbaum=Ulmen. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ulmen#Holz_der_Ulme

⁷¹ Willi Risto. Umfang, 26 ½ Werschock Durchmesser. Rechnung: 26,5x4,445=117,8x3,14= 370, eine Punktlandung (Peter Mathies calculated this correctly)!!!

⁷² Ruth Scott. Postergraben = not sure, could be a ditch where a tree like the one in Chiva stood

No, it was not so thick. Töws sent me the whole plan from Chiva, it is interesting to me to see who is there in addition to Peter at home. Oh God, how hard it is for this old man, Lord take me home, give me a gentle death and blessed end by grace. Also news from home in Valuyevka. The rich families we used to be with, the one that held devotions, had borrowed 6 Pud of kernels from the ears of grain, militia [police] took everything away, including from the people in Lysanderhöh. Gustav Töw's children had knocked out ears of corn in the field, the militia saw this - (they went) there and one of Andresen's daughters was also there, often two. The children and Andres still had many things and at this place and (the militia) found a lot, so that they lost everything⁷³ they owned. The dear, good people. Last year, when we had to go to Valuyevka, Heinrich lent (borrowed?) him a big basket full, and now a lot cannot be exactly claimed. Tina writes that there are 20 petticoats, 40 blouses, 30 shirts, his best suit and many other things. It is not ours and nevertheless it hurts me, (they) are such good people to live together with. About Peter Mathies in Samara, that he has 14 married children is a lot, something rare, that you have learned from H. Riesen. I don't know anything further than Ohm David Hamm⁷⁴ and Dietrich Hamm⁷⁵, both elders and brothers, a Peter Mathies came from Samara, let himself be accepted in Köppenthal in the community together with his wife, because Dit. Hamm did not take him in, I think he had gone over to the Brüdergemeinde and now wanted to go back to ours. Now, my dears, I want to finish and wish you from my heart God's rich blessing in your profession and send you the heartfelt greetings of Heinrich⁷⁶, Katharine⁷⁷ which I join and remain your faithfully loving father and you my dear grandchildren all. Your dearly loving grandfather Peter Mathies. All of you, my dear ones, God be with you. What a pity it is that your Patre⁷⁸ has been lost to us.

Letter O 7

Last night I finished writing. It rained all night, also in the morning. As a result, Heinrich did not go to the city, so I will make a small continuation. You dear Renate⁷⁹ write, whether Peter Mathies Samara is still related, I can not say, I have nothing in writing. If I could have spoken to him verbally. When his father died, I was still too young to ask. Our Ohm (uncle) Peter Mathies, who worked with us in the sheet metal, said to me that some of our relatives had moved to Russia earlier. I think, however, after Molotschna, he may have gone later to Samara, just as now everything is flying apart. The families never ever manage to straighten themselves out (get back to like it was before), also not ours. The Gerhard Mathiessen⁸⁰ children in Barnaul, who knows where we will be? Cousin Claas Mathies, whom you mean, lives in the same area, nice farm, was a son Paul and Johann Mathies with wife in America you wrote me, both dead, do not think (they had) children. You learn from teacher Joh[ann] Reimer's son Abraham von Köppenthal and whether Helene Mathies is still alive, unmarried⁸¹ and Franz Klassen's wife Anna Mathies already dead, whether he is still alive? Through Peter's letter, Otto Töws writes from there⁸² that Russia has to get grain from you, otherwise we will starve. Inquire please whether in Tiefengrund the eldest Peter Regier⁸³ and his brother

⁷³ Willi Frese. um ihr alles gekommen sind=ihnen wurde alles weggenommen = all their possessions were taken from them

⁷⁴ Willi Frese. David Hamm (1822-1894) (GRANDMA #4685)

⁷⁵ Willi Frese. David Dietrich (1814-1894) (GRANDMA #4678)

⁷⁶ Willi Frese. Heinrich Isaak (1877-1934) (GRANDMA #1196412)

⁷⁷ Willi Frese. Katharina Mathies (1883-1953) (GRANDMA #1196403)

⁷⁸ Willi Frese. Patre=Porträt, Photo

⁷⁹ Willi Frese. Renate Mathies (1885-1963) (GRANDMA #168775)

⁸⁰ Willi Frese. Gerhard Mathies nee. 19.07.1855 no GRANDMA number

⁸¹ Willi Risto. ohnverheiratet=unverheiratet = unmarried

⁸² Willi Risto. There = America

⁸³ Willi Frese. Peter Regier (1851-1925) (GRANDMA #64061)

Cornelius⁸⁴ are still alive? As old as I am. Abraham Friesen⁸⁵ is still living? He who bought from grandfather, his first wife a? Family? The second Regehr daughter⁸⁶ Altbabki⁸⁷ his family must also live in Tiefengrund. Is it better to live there than in your area? In general maybe more Mennonites? Willer of Altbabki must also live there. September 1 here a beautiful rain and one believed, it could help the potatoes still in the growth and unfortunately, the very next night it immediately froze so hard that all the long potato green plant is frozen off, is long

⁸⁸ If the letter arrives happily into your hands, send an early answer. Oh please, please soon. Goodbye, goodbye

⁸⁹ Is elder Joh. Regehr's father Elder Peter Regehr already dead? His father as old as I am.

⁹⁰ Again, a heartfelt wonderful thank you for the gifts. May our dear heavenly Father repay you and you forgive me with love. The pants too big, think Aron Esau could wear.

⁹¹ please do not let the letter go too sharply through censorship scribe⁹² old [sheet scanned crooked] with him.

⁹³ Joh. Regehr's mother, Anna Ens, born Peter Regehr blessed (deceased) wife of Bern[?] Bartsch[?] (Ruth Scott cannot make sense of this sentence/phrases)

I think quite often about our girls, how it may be going there. Good - is hard to believe, who knows?

⁹⁴ I can't say hello from our girls, have not gotten any writing, they are too far away from us.

⁸⁴ Willi Frese. Cornelius Regier (1853-1915) (GRANDMA #168566)

⁸⁵ Willi Frese. Abraham Friesen (1849-1901) (GRANDMA #64053)

⁸⁶ Willi Frese. Margaretha Regier (1859-1912) (GRANDMA #64055)

⁸⁷ Willi Frese. Altbabki=Preußen = Prussia

⁸⁸ Willi Frese. Briefergänzung. Seitlich Seite 1

⁸⁹ Willi Frese. Briefergänzung. Seitlich Seite 2

⁹⁰ Willi Frese. Briefergänzung. Seitlich Seite 3 und unten

⁹¹ Willi Frese. Briefergänzung. Seitlich Seite 4

⁹² Willi Risto. wegen Fehler und schlechter Handschrift = because of mistakes and bad handwriting

⁹³ Willi Frese. Briefergänzung. Seitlich Seite 5

⁹⁴ Willi Frese. Briefergänzung. Seitlich Seite 6