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Brandt, Gerard
[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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Subfolder I Letter 1

January 21, 1850. Gerard Brandt, Sheboygan County, to Catherine and Janet Brandt,
Milwaukee.

This letter possibly not sent by post but carried by a friend (met Vriend).

Touwn Holland January 21 1850

Dear children

when I looked into your letter yesterday at R Traas', I felt there was veri 1
fied what we read in Solomon's Book of Proverbs that good 2
tidings from far lands are as cold water to a weary soul, 3
I was privileged to rejoice in this that you are both well, although 4
Katie does not make mention of it, but we may believe this much then be- 5
cause we find nothing said to the contrary; we too have all 6
during the time of your absence been in health up to the present, we thank 7
you for wishing us a blessed [New Year] and hope the Lord will grant it, 8
to us and you, is the wish of all of us, Katie asks 9
about my trip home, this was as follows on that same Friday I was 10
still in the city in Milwaukee at noon at half after twelve, and in the evening 11
at six I was back at Amburg again in the old lodging and that having 12
walked all the time, and on Saturday I set out in the morning at half past seven, 13
and in the evening at six I was home all tired out at [Port] Washington 14
I was so tired that I had to take a rest, that day I 15
thought much about you, on the one hand I was happy that you had struck it 16
so much better and could now rest, and on the other hand downhearted 17
on arriving home, frequently I was thinking Would they now really 18
be thinking of me, I don't know of a time that I had such a journey 19
I was mistaken regarding what Katie wrote looking into the letter now I find 20
in the last line that she is very well we are glad that you 21
are happy in your service the english language will perhaps from time to 22
time become familiar and then you have the privilege too 23
of being able to attend divine services, do make use if you can of the catechism, 24
what you have learned heretofore will come back to you the more, and in your 25
later life you will be glad about it the cloths that you 26
write about we cannot make out which you mean we have put eight 27
in the pack and a piece of Janet's dress hope to find good 28
opportunity to send them, that for the present you can send nothing [no money] 29
I understood when I received the letter from DeJong, the fifth 30
inst., in which I read that you had been only a short time in your service yet, and that 31
of course you had up to that time been at said DeJong's, my 32
wish would be that before you send anything you make things right 33
with those folks, for it might prove to be disappointing to them, 34
and too you might be able to help Janet, for she might 35
perhaps feel bad that she is not earning now, and possibly 36
she might need something do come to each other's assistance in whatever way you can, 37

take counsel together where it is needed, 1
Janet, dear, you ask my advice in this, I should think 2
it good to be with those folks in such a way as 3
is most advantageous for you, and that you be free every day if at least you 4
have nothing more than your board but could you get more 5
people say sometimes better half an egg than empty shell 6
and in the meantime look about for something better, be it by looking yourself or by 7
another person, home you cannot now come at least, that is 8
for your health, I hope that when this comes to hand 9
your outlook will already be better, you write that it ^{is} granted you indeed 10
to pray ah yes that is the best way you can enter, with him is 11
strength and readiness to help if one asks in faith, what I 12
have written Katie I am writing you too, in regard to church and catechism, then 13
you get to see each other betimes, I hope you two will not be too anxious about us 14
If anything serious happens we will write and send by post, 15
We are living on still in the same old way the buckwheat is threshed and partly 16
cleaned, we eat many pancakes we have the flour fresh daily from the 17
mill, the new mill grinds better than the old one, our potatoes are all 18
spoilt, except the heads, and so it goes too with our 19
pork, that is spoiling too day by day, the cow that we brought home last 20
is still as she was when you left, in the matter of giving milk, although we know 21
she is with calf, the cattle are keeping fair^y well, James asks 22
to tell you that ~~that~~ our black hen is dead, we believe from the cold, it has 23
been so cold that we found it good to lay five blankets on each bed, 24
and to that the boys did not object, we hope that with you too there has 25
been no lack, even if it was a case of one or two fewer, 26
We have received a letter from William deJong from Goes, we must 27
conclude from it that such a rumor about me is in circulation in Goes 28
as Traas has told me, for he writes of bringing his mother to them 29
and reports that cousin Sluiter's also was willing to contribute to it, 30
and the letter bears the direction, to G. Brandt and further to the Widow 31
Lauwerisse, he reports the death of their smallest child fourteen days after our 32
departure, also the death of the Widow C deJong former bookbinder, and that 33
William Vleugel's wife drowned herself in the well, and that 34
Lauweris that tailor was in the east, outside of this [the letter] is quite insipid 35
near us a man was found dead in the woods, on the Sheboygan road, 36
he had been shot in the chest, it is presumed by his 37
father-in-law, they are norwegians, he had been married only three weeks 38

they say the inhabitants here are busy wanting to build a pier or bridge
at the lake, for that purpose a directorate has already been named to
promote the enterprise if this goes through it will become easy to
come from Milwaukee here and return now special news from here
I know no more of also nothing special about our family we are still chopping daily
this the boys enjoy doing to my delight
do the people where Katie lives have children if yes are they large or small
Greet from me Smit and from us all J de Jonge and wife and the whole
family I am not promising to write you so much each time I write
greetings from us all and ^{we} are your loving

parents and brothers

G Brandt

L VendeVijle

Izaak Brandt

Jacobus Brandt

p s you make no mention of what you sent along with Traas
now it is true that they are reliable people but on
another occasion you must send writing along then I can at once
see I had not expected that I do not understand how you
managed that it suits me fine my sincere thanks
that watch and that ring of ^{your} mother I left with pieters that
watchmaker I could not get more
than a dollar for it and eighty ^{one} cents I made believe it
was for some one else then he said if then it was too little [cheap]
that in two months it could still be gotten back
the ring he valued at 52 cents so that the watch then
comes to a dollar and 29 cents if now you could get that
you could keep the ring for yourself if you wish see
what you can do my name was not demanded
if you do that merely ask whether some man
did not bring that there and that you would like it back
of interest he did not make mention
you will be able to recognize both pieces

(O V E R
for
page 4)

Letter 1, page 4, address
No envelope used

(Holland)

Aan J DeJonge

op den Berg

te

Milwaukee

en Verder Aan Katarina

of

Jannetje Brandt

Met Vriend

(English)

To J DeJonge

On the Hill

at

Milwaukee

and Further To Catharine

or

Janet Brandt

By a Friend

Subfolder II, Letter 2,

January 8, 1851. Gerard Brandt, Sheboygan County, to relatives in the Netherlands.

His signature on page 3, margin. This letter was perhaps ~~not~~ mailed until March 30, 1853
or later.

Town Holland Jan 8 1851

Dear Brothers and Sisters

I assume that he Jan had the same trouble that Mr. van balen had

namely an unendurable pain in the left shoulder and that settled on his chest

and there it
festered
when the
doctor
cut it
Open
fully a
jar of
matter
flowed ou
out
then we
hoped for
improve-
ment
and that
was not so
enough
I am
of him
bereft

Never had I thought while still in Zeeland that I would wait so long about
writing to you since being here I have often had the intention but am sometimes
hind^ered by work and then again I had no desire I often think of you
and am curious to know whether you are still all living
and at the same time I am convinced that I must write to you first to make
it possible to hear from you it is this then that urges me to take up my pen some-
times I think that some of you too may have longed for a letter yet
when I recall the heartless farewell of some of you I cannot assume the longing
as exactly true of all of you yes Brothers one finds
that temporal matters can break the bonds of the heart while here I certainly
have thought of some of you as I was reading God's word in the Proverbs of Solomon chap
27 the 10th verse middle portion## that with an Alas! I said to myself
could I have taken this lesson to heart perhaps love would not have cooled
now that matter is closed even though we wished to be of such service to one another
now that matter is very likely closed on this
side and in Eternity we shall not need each other's help for
there blood relatives will be a nuisance to one another as the tree in the chilly
north falls separated from the Lord forever and if it fall in the warm
south of God's loving presence it will prove to be an eternal plenty of
joy according to His own testimony in His Holy Word
now in this connection I cannot avoid asking you in writing how are these
matters with you as each of you individually comes before the Lord with this question
in his heart what has the upperhand I am not writing this be-
cause I think you are obliged to reveal that to me o no but may the glory of His
grace have become manifest to some of you since our departure from
Zeeland since it was then still hidden it would be a joy to my soul
for in this matter I can certainly confess feeling that albeit
we are separated far from one another I still feel bound to you
to that my wife and my two sons are sometimes ear witnesses
and this is something we are still ever owing to one another to
carry your and our needs to the throne of grace for we are
dealing with an omnipresent God who can grant us our prayer
here [can grant] you what is asked and also likewise the contrary may He
grant this to us exactly as if we were in each others' presence
this I may manifest that you are sometimes the objects of
my attention in our public services when I pray with the
congregation that the kingdom of Christ may flourish in our
land of birth and among our kindred and all that are dear to us

[## "neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity"] - - -

Brothers and Sisters I have written this separately because of mention of things that do not concern other people and every body is curious

perhaps the last lines on the previous page will arouse your attention be
cause I write 'when I pray in public' for surely the report must be current among you
that there is a minister in our midst and that is true that is one by name
Peter Zonne although he does not radiate the meaning [sun] of his family name
but is on the contrary an example of unfruitful works more I shall
now not mention at this point but in 1849 in the month of July D Budding
was among us and a congregation was then organized and I was then
elected elder along with two others from gelderland however these
dropped out and in their place two Zeelanders were chosen originally
from kazant likewise from that same island two deacons and one from
groningen we live far apart one week I have to go 3 miles
east from my house and the next week 3 miles south
the place where we meet are the school buildings likewise
also for the catechising of the learners with which I have been charged
that I do Saturday afternoons the Lord grants me I may testify
grace to do this work with joy the attendance at divine services
is quite encouraging the congregation has about sixty members in this I have
given you a short account of our public worship I hope you will understand it
I have heard that there is a rumor current among you
that I am heir to the estate of Nephew G Kopmels of this I shall
tell you something from which you can conclude who Rev. Zonne
is on the 23rd of May 1849 Kopmels came into the region with J kastel
and C bliek nephew's maid and A van boven and J kleinepiet and wife
On the 29th ditto nephew bought 80 acres forest land from Zonne of which 8
acres were chopped off and cleared and [on which] a house stood for
a sum of S 1700 guilders nephew paid this and on this all
persons named above went to live in said house and in June
nephew became ill which day I do not know for I was living three miles away
on the 23rd of June he died although I had no tidings of his death
Now I must have you notice that during the time of nephew's illness Zonne
had gone on a trip of 200 miles or 67 hours and
arrived home about two hours after nephew's death all this I
learned later on now there were people in my
neighborhood whom I had told that nephew still had a son in holland
these people knew more about the law than I did and urged me
to make work of this then on the 27th ditto I went to the
justice of the peace with some one who knew English there I had to make
declaration that it was true about there being a son and then I got from
said justice of the peace authority to
administer then with this instrument and the mayor [burgemeester]

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you will find mistakes here and there of course but I hope you will get my meaning
having clasped you in thought to my heart your loving brother G Brandt

with me I was at the house on the 29th to make a list of the chattels 1
and then I was referred by said parties to the said Zonne when he 2
had looked at it [the instrument] he laughed at it and said that he had another instrument 3
he then read that to us and that was a will written by him 4
the 27th of June hence four days after nephew's death the content of that 5
testament was that said C Bliet and J Kastel were to have lifelong 6
use of the goods and that Zonne was to be executor 7
and that the rest of that estate after the death of those two peo- 8
ple Zonne was to turn over to the son at this point I answered 9
that if he would procure for me a legal discharge I would give up the whole matter 10
then J kleinepiet showed the above document to the judge and 11
that was declared null because it was written in the holland language and not 12
by a mayor [burgemeester] as it should be according to this law and 13
be witnessed by two uninterested persons the thought at once occurred to me that it 14
was false because A vanboven said that he would not swear to it and he 15
was just the one who understood the whole matter then Zonne kept holding back the deed 16
and unfortunately it had not yet been recorded otherwise he 17
could have done no harm with it but now he has tried [hunted through] everything he 18
later wrote a contract of purchase saying that he did sell the land for 19
the above mentioned sum but to three people G kopmels C Bliet and J kastel 20
and then for that amount only the usufruct during their life and 21
that after their death it was to become his land again without needing to 22
turn over anything to any one else this [information] again I wrested from him and now 23
he has given a deed to another 80 acres of forest land that certainly is 24
worth less than half as much what is now to become of this I do not know the laws are 25
peculiar here and trying if one does not know the language I have a lot of running to do 26
with the matter I have already made eight trips to the chief town of our district about 27
it and that is as far from us as fortbats is from Goes 28
I have written three letters to Frederick in Vriesland I have one answer 29
from him in reply with a summons or authorization to do his business 30
he writes that he thought his father was still in Zeeland 31
Hence Nephew kopmels [must have] left without his son's knowledge 32
he writes too that his father did indeed have that purpose shortly after his mother's 33
but that he had advised against it and promised that he death 34
would let his father keep his mother's goods until his [the father's] death that seems 35
however to have been of no avail and now he [must have] left secretly at this I stood 36
amazed the more because Zonne told me that the son was so 37
bad that he was not worthy of having anything from his father 38
if I had to write you all the crooked tricks of that man 39
I would certainly have to use four sheets of paper 40

Dear neighbor cordial greetings from us; our greetings to all your children

married and unmarried and be so kind as to greet from me the brethren serving the church

many times did I think of them especially during the suffering of my son

this I must tell you about it yet that I fear that frederic will not have much 1
of his mother's estate I have also been told that there is a rumor 2
in circulation among you that I am living in adultery or in other words in divorce 3
at any rate such information has reached here whether this is true [or not] about this 4
I could again write a great deal to establish its untruth yet will not 5
but ⁺ advise you to inform yourselves about this through cornelis pot and his 6
wife former shoeing-smith at kloetinge they get news from her 7
brother Traas who also lives in this place and then my wife will 8
also put her name in the letter as well as my two sons but 9
[as for] the girls that will not be possible for they both live at milwauke 10
and that is 45 miles from us the last word we have had from them 11
that was 8 days ago they were then still both well katie 12
earns two guilders and 50 cents holland a week above her board and 13
janet one guilder and a half janet in the last summer had 14
like wages with katie but she is suffering some now and there- 15
fore has to favor herself some should they enter your house now you would 16
not know them withal I have no peace but what shall I say 17
my prayer is often that the Lord may protect them in the month 18
of August they were home 14 days they already speak fairly good 19
english they would be in a position now to direct us 20
should we now have to travel through America in this they are far ahead of the boys 21
although they are also at present getting lessⁿ every evening in 22
english from pieter lavrouw of oosburg from kazant be so 23
good as to let our former neighbor in Goes tailor Gⁿ deherder 24
in wijngaard street read this letter and then I request him 25
that he give ten kater smith in the scheerhenrikkindersche gateway the compliments 26
from that lavrouw and all his family those people's 27
friendship I enjoy especially much he and his mother 28
and his brother live near us and his three sisters live 29
15 miles from us in Sheboygan one is married to 30
Qintus who publishes the holland paper and the other two 31
with german gentlemen these last lines will not interest you much 32
but I do that to accommodate lavrouw the slander 33
I mentioned at the top of this page no doubt originates 34
with that good rogue [keesenjans] that I made the voyage with my 35
above mentioned neighbor has told me only a little dot about 36
those good people from him you could find out whom I mean 37

Subfolder III Letters 3 and 6. Original contains letter 3 on pages 1, 2, and 3;
letter 6 on pages 3(f00t) and 4.

January 10, 1851. Gerard Brandt, Sheboygan County, to relatives in the Netherlands.

March 30, 1853. " " " " " " " "

These letters with perhaps letter 2 not mailed until March 30, 1853 or later, and sent
doubtless in one envelope. No signature in them. Signature in letter 2, page 3, margin.

town Holland January 10 1851

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Good tidings from far lands are as cold water to a weary soul says 1
 Salomon in his book of Proverbs chap 25 v 25 I hope now to tell a thing or two 2
 about myself and my family and also in general but I wish to write truth 3
 and then you yourselves can judge when we had put to sea from ellevoet August 12 1848 4
 we had gone 9 days then in the night a violent wind arose so that the chests 5
 began to fly about pell-mell and some people were crying others were very busy 6
 gathering their stuff together others were praying and others singing of whom our 7
 minister was one but he was the only one and was having a blessed experience he told 8
 me later I on the contrary was very anxious [fearing] that we would perish 9
 the second night following I was lying in bed quietly thinking and then my mind 10
 became fixed on the words to be read in the prophesy of Isaiah chap 63 v 9## from this 11
 I gained a special strength for my heart yet I could not recall 12
 where the words are found in the morning when the minister had finished the devotions as he 13
 had done during the whole voyage morning and evening I asked him where 14
 these words were found he told me at once and that chapter he then from day to day 15
 explained which I regarded as one of the greatest benefits 16
 I was enjoying and as I had previously been in the grip of fears that we would all perish 17
 so now and later I might believe that we would complete the journey and so 18
 that fear left me throughout the 45 days of our voyage I was 19
 unusually weak my wife on the contrary strong as also our two 20
 smallest sons the others were better than I was but not much after the 45th day 21
 having arrived at New York we stayed there 3 days 22
 with A benjaminse if I should have to tell you what we saw and heard there 23
 I would fill the letter more than full with it yet some of it I want to 24
 tell about first of all it [New York] is surrounded by a river and this along its banks 25
 is entirely filled with ships and steamboats which is an unusually pretty sight 26
 and on the opposite side of the river are hills and valleys everywhere inhabited 27
 the streets in the city are 5 rods wide and on the sides in front of the houses on 28
 both sides for walking are 9 or 10 feet [reserved] in many stores one finds a faucet on 29
 the bench and if one turns the faucet clear water gushes out one finds these also 30
 at many street corners from which water flows all the time on one side of the 31
 city we saw a playing fountain that was in an earthen stone basin 32
 3 rods in circumference there the water constantly boils up understand of course not hot 33
 as we were going about the city I said to Benjaminse that in rotterdam 34
 I had not seen such large stores he told me and his wife [did] too that 35
 there were some indeed many that were as long as the 36
 promenade church in Goes I said I did not believe it and then he took me to them 37
 then I was convinced the butchers hall in the west part of the city is 38
 4 acres in extent I close about New York after our stay we 39

##"In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the Angel of his presence saved them:
 in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all
 the days of old"

travelled by steamboat to albanie there we arrived the next morning 1
 and there we were then at once transferred to a canal boat on this boat 2
 a Zeeland doctor came to us he told us that our children 3
 had the American itch he gave us medicine yet not 4
 as a friendly gesture however it was good on this boat we had many fellow 5
 travellers from ireland now I must tell you in passing ~~that~~ that we had also 6
 a family of Amsterdammers I had made their acquaintance at sea 7
 and this man could speak a little english they were of great 8
 service to us they were respectable people we travelled with them all the way here 9
 our lands adjoin this is a little digression now those 10
 irish then on that canal boat from them we got thick into lice [meggelse mieren] 11
 we travelled 11 days with this boat and were towed day and 12
 night by two horses there are 4 horses with such a boat 2 in the boat 13
 and 2 towing and then from time to time they change spans that canal is 500 miles 14
 or 167 hours long this goes on day and night in summer there are 15
 as many as four thousand horses in daily use those boats are 16
 all numbered and we even saw some bearing numbers higher than fifteen hundred 17
 of a hundred horses there are as many as 70 with blue [grey] hair and of 100 cows 18
 there are 99 with red hair this in passing all is down stream 19
 from buffalo to Albanie we were raised by locks possibly as many as 60 times and at times 20
 as much as 8 feet at Buffalo we were again transferred to a steamboat 21
 on that we travelled 10 days over the lake again all down stream 22
 to buffalo so we were all the time travelling up stream then we are at 23
 Sheboygan which is now our chief town [county seat] of the province [county] not of the state 24
 and we live 5 hours [fifteen miles] from there 5 minut^{es} off the main road that 25
 runs from milwauke to said city on the left as you come from Sheboygan 26
 and there we have 40 acres forest land in July it was 2 years that 27
 we have lived on our land the 8 months preceding we 28
 lived in a house of that Amsterdammer he had two houses on his land 29
 in that house jan contracted that rheumatism in his shoulder and the 30
 14th of desember following he very unexpectedly entered Eternity 31
 o dreadful time of which I can never think 32
 without perturbation then with my two other boys the 33
 whole winter I chopped wood and then the snow from the 14th of November until April 34
 lay 2½ feet thick so that it was troublesome work that winter we 35
 chopped and burnt six acres if foot/measures are the same 36
 then according to my calculation an acre is two rods larger than a Dutch acre [gemet] judge 37
 yourselves an acre is 160 American square rods and a rod is 2 rods and 32 feet 38
 272 square feet or in other words 16½ feet long and wide 39

Letter 3, page 3, translation

brush wood is cut off next to the ground that one does first and then 1
one throws that on a pile and then one cuts the little trees of the thickness of 2
a 'ponger' tree and thicker a little above the ground and then the branches 3
trimmed (???) off and these in turn put on piles and then next the heavy ones 2 and 2½ feet 4
the ground cut off and the topwood put with the preceding and the logs are chopped through 5
so often that they can be dragged by two oxen and these are 6
then brought together sometimes 10 12 to 20 or more and then 7
set on fire and then when all has been burned the ashes are collected if one 8
wants to sell them and one can get six cents a bushel for them and 2⅔ 9
bushel is a netherlands hectolitre [mud] and a cent is 2½ cents netherlands so that one 10
has 40 cents holland for a hectolitre of ashes to chop that log 11
you would think is hard work but I believe that two men would have to work hard 12
to saw as much as two chop one stands on the log 13
and then on each side a cut is made to the middle short handles to the axes 14
and short axe blades it is fascinating to watch how handily it 15
goes forward then when the wood has been burnt off the ground one proceeds to fence it 16
about with split oak rails usually made 10 to 12 feet 17
long and then one lays these up to 7 and 8 above each other and the lowest cracks are 18
so narrow that no little pigs can get through and that is necessary for 19
they all run in the woods and where they want to one accustoms them to come home 20
with a little feed that is the case too with the oxen and cattle 21
these one accustoms to come home with salt of that they are especially fond that 22
is not as it is in Zeeland cattle run at large as well in the winter as in the summer 23
when one chops wood they come to us and eat all the tops of the branches now I 24
have gotten a little off the track that way then the first winter we got six acres 25
ready and on that we then had summer wheat and oats and indian 26
corn or nicknamed Spanish wheat that crop grows well here also all other 27
crops of the climate for tickbeans [paardeboonen] it is too hot the summer is short here 28
and hot when crops are growing growth is vigorous of potatoes 29
we did not have enough the first year for our use but now 30
we have many left over they have not been entirely free from 31
disease so that some were also spoilt in the cellar the house we have 32
is 30 feet long and 20 feet wide built of 48 logs very 33
solid against storm here too we learn that all beginnings are difficult 34
yet we have endured these and have by this time retrieved still more ground 35

LETTER 6

to this point then I wrote at the time and now then we have 36
1853 the 30th of March so that since that time we have come to know still more about 37
and are also more at home than then the atmospheric America 38

Letter 6, page 4 of letter 3, translation

conditions we are becoming more accustomed to however it is very healthy here
a thing to wonder at because the range of cold and heat fluctuates here
sharply this is most striking in spring and fall it has even happened
while living here that we had a pleasant rain during the day with
heavy thunder and next night heavy frost and snow the following day
especially so in late April or early May sometimes we still have
night frosts in early July and then again in late August
yet that does not occur every year but yet one must sow wheat quite early
from the 5th to the 12th of September is considered by Americans to be the best time
for rye it matters less and in spring one cannot
sow or plant much with good results before May and still
in July and August it is harvest time we are quite at home here now and would
not be eager to go back we now have 16 acres of land cleared of
which 4 are sown to wheat and 2 to 3 to rye and the rest is
partly meadow and on the rest we shall put peas, white beans barley oats
buckwheat indian corn potatoes and carrots yes everything one
desires we have two oxen to do our work two cows to calve
one young steer and one bull 16 ducks and 6 hogs that we
feed a little during the summer nights and during the day they
go into the woods where they fare fine and if then in September we
shut them up and feed them indian corn they are big and fat by November
in things temporal we here have good living because everything
one makes here is for one's self what [tax] on our 40 acres here
we have had to raise so far has been at most \$ 5 guilders 40 cents
a year and for that the children go to school till their 20th
year during the 4 winter months if one wishes it to get our grain ground
is indeed somewhat difficult because we live 2½ hours from where
it has to be ground yet on the average one takes to the mill not less than
three or four hectolitres [mud] at a time and then one gets that ground and at
the same time bolted into three kinds first flour then shorts then bran whether
it is due to that or not I do not know but I believe it is due to
the way it is separated that it does not become mouldy for we do not find this
to be the case even after it is six months old the potatoes are good we
still have 8 or 10 hectolitres to sell they are now very
cheap one cannot get more than thirty three or four pennies [holland]
for a hectolitre wheat is 16 shillings rye 11 barley 9 buckwheat 9
oats 7 butter 1 eggs 10½ pennies per 25 pork a pound 3½ meat 2½ pennies [holland]
coffee beans 8 pennies the sugar syrup and vinegar we make
ourselves if we wish clothing prices differ little from yours
our children are now all home the girls have
learned sewing so that they are now working for themselves
and are done with being maids last summer they
became members of church with Rev. Klein in Milwaukee
and have brought their certificates with them the boys have all the time
been at home they have grown quite a great deal

we are all still very well and are especially curious
whether you are still alive write back at once

Subfolder IV, Letter 4

August 30, 1852. Gerard Brandt, Sheboygan County, to his daughters Catherine and Janet in Milwaukee

Touwn Holland August 30 1852

Dear Children

1 experience teaches that to postpone a matter seldom comes out right just
2 as now is the case again about writing you we have
3 received your letter dated the 17th of July on time at any rate inside 4 days it
4 came to me by M H Muller he had advanced 5 cents on it which
5 seemed strange to me and upon inquiry at the post office they told me it had been wrongly sent
6 and therefore the 5 cents additional but I think it was because that paper
7 was in it so I advise you not to send me paper in such a way any more and
8 a clear address on the letter and that you tell me whether you received the former letters
9 franco for I regularly paid 3 cents your letter was a joy
10 to us still on reading it it proved distressing and that because Janet
11 continues to ail we all long for you to be home and in the hope that you
12 might be healthier I would advise you not to postpone this too long for the nearer to
13 winter the less pleasant travelling is and especially if you are weak we are longingly looking
14 forward to your coming and are ready to welcome you yet would naturally
15 long for word beforehand how you are thinking to make the journey whether with bag and baggage as
16 people say you are expecting to come if you should come by boat you must at any rate find out
17 whether it touches at the pier of our town for if we must go to [Port] Washington
18 it ought to be at full moon since parts of the
19 night will have to be added to the day or if you wish that I should come for you
20 to milwaukee and we should board the boat there together I will do that
21 if you will set the time beforehand all that is in your choice
22 we are curious what result your new doctoring is having I don't
23 expect much from it still I hope the outcome will be otherwise yet you must experience
24 what we read Mark 5 verse 26 and Luke 8 verse 43 second part I hope that you
25 both may have found that chief physician or may find
26 for your souls and that your membership and bond to his church may
27 lead you to what you write us about and that the symbols
28 in remembrance of his suffering partaken of by you may have enabled you to look
29 upon the significant reality namely to have discovered through faith that your
30 sins too have cost him that suffering and at the same time that out of love for you he was
31 to do that it is at times my prayer when I think of you 'I hope it will be [willing
32 answered' I think of you often yet not always in prayer for that is a work
33 of the spirit if rightly understood but in this respect that we are becoming so far apart
34 and estranged while in the netherlands I had not imagined anything of the kind if this
35 is the will of the Lord and we are reconciled to it in faith all goes well but
36 otherwise I cannot always feel at rest about it although I must surrender to it
37 you write of bringing store goods but that again is difficult although we are becoming
38 interested in wearing apparel I haven't bought anything for myself yet but I will have to
39 shed the Zeeland farmer costume your mother has need of chemises but
40 what on the whole is scarce is woollens for the feet still such things
41 I cannot expect from you for I must pity you when I think how
42 much they take from you for a piece of goods when I consider what those coats of the boys
43 cost the most important other need in the family is snuff and tobacco

Letter 4, page 2, translation

1 for your mother and the boys coffee and tea and soap possibly in these there may be some
2 advantage to be had but the distance is too great I can give little
3 advice in this and we are under the impression that you may be need your own
4 you ask about our crops and cattle in regard to the former we may
5 be thankful and have abundant reason to be so because they are reasonably good
6 for the amount we have but we cannot count many acres as
7 some can as for the cattle we still have the same oxen and two milk
8 cows one fat cow one pregnant heifer two calves of
9 each gender one four big hogs we believe for they do not come home and
10 four smaller sized now one year old and then also a sow with 7
11 pigs so 16 in all ducks 8 growing up 9 cats 2 dogs 2
12 no pork so that without trouble we can live from the eggs of our chickens
13 we are hoping for something better and have a hog in the pen
14 we are all well now Isaac has suffered for six weeks
15 from rheumatism he was so stiff at times that only with great effort could he
16 bend over for three or four weeks he wore that rope warped flag cloth
17 about his abdomen and under it his abdomen developed little sores
18 and now he is better he sometimes didn't know what he was ailing from
19 sometimes he thought it was because he had no pork James has grown less
20 than Isaac he is becoming right engaging he says he is beginning to think of girls
21 this summer on a Sunday evening he [approached] a daughter of
22 Wolfer and offered to see her home from Lafrouw's
23 but she became ashamed [to accept] because [she thought] he is such a small boy
24 sometimes we get a great deal of news from the paper from the island
25 Goes there they are very busy digging a canal
26 from Amszwest to Wemeldingen so that it [the island] will now be in halves
27 of uncles and aunts we know nothing
28 things are going here quite their old way I know of no special
29 news except that Traas has fented his farm so that he
30 is giving up farming and two weeks from next Monday
31 I have to appear again in court in Sheboygan for
32 Mr. Zonne that case is not yet disposed of what now
33 is to happen is dark to me Janet, I was
34 in the beginning of my letter somewhat brusque of expression
35 but I am really convinced that you did it with the best of intentions
36 you will notice no doubt that my sentences
37 are beginning to be broken we hope this
38 may find you in good health Greet from
39 us all good friends

Your loving father

G : Brandt

Subfolder V Letter 5

November 29, 1852. Gerard Brandt, Sheboygan County, to Catherine and Janet Brandt,
Milwaukee.

Touwn Holland November the 29th 1852

Dear children

1 We did not strike it on our way back as regards
2 the weather lucky we did not need to walk on Monday
3 at noon we rode off and I got home Wednesday noon
4 my legs pained me a great deal so that last week I
5 did not walk far any more now to day I have been to the falls
6 according to my promise and spoke with that tailor
7 about your work he said that he had work for you right away if
8 you come provided you work well but if it had to be such
9 as he had an instance of only last [week] in the case of a woman who
10 had made a vest and had put the collar on wrong and such
11 he cannot employ but he is anxious to have help for he
12 says that there is a sort of competition between him and another
13 and that in six months he had won around twenty cliants
14 from the other [tailor] he does not work for himself
15 but for a store and is busy most of the time cutting still
16 not for selling but everything from orders he said he would
17 give you a pair of vests to make and then he would of course know
18 he let me see a vest that had also been made by a woman
19 he said that she was even one of the most noted in the Falls I
20 said that I thought your work not second to hers much
21 I didn't want to say about it but the work didn't seem to me
22 like the work I have seen of you I believe sewing
23 is well paid there at least in the ^{same} store is a holland
24 clerk with whom I first spoke about it and he spoke of vests
25 costing ten shillings to make he said too that during the past
26 summer they had had a girl there to help a few days
27 and her they had given six shillings a day how it would
28 have to be arranged for you to do the work [sewing] at home about that
29 we spoke too possibly that could be done
30 if you should wish it this we would arrange then as
31 you most wished now another matter regarding the trip [home]
32 we had agreed that I should come for you but that
33 trip will have to cost 4 dollars if I can make it in 2 days
34 and that will be impossible so that it will cost all of 6 dollars
35 and then would be away three days at that

1 I asked denooijer's wife what she
2 had to give this spring she said two dollars
3 I think you will have to pay that too make an agreement first
4 and if you then leave in the morning you are in the afternoon
5 at 4 or $4\frac{1}{2}$ with us and need not wait about snow
6 should you be prevented so that you don't come then write
7 as soon as you have this letter otherwise we shall be expecting you
8 our compliments to Rev. Klein and in case you come
9 ask for your church letter tell him that Rev. Verschuure
10 wishes to pay him a visit although I really believe
11 nothing will come of it greet J H Hyink and
12 his wife for his father and mother tell him that they
13 moved to day into their new house and that John
14 William is coming next week thank them for their trouble
15 they went to for me Greet J DeJong and family and Smit and
16 tell them that I still well know wherwith they said
17 I should go to the woods

now I hope that you
will understand me in everything
we are still all well and
hope that for you too
your loving Father

G Brandt

Subfolder VI letters 7 and 8 (page 6 of original)

June 12, 1859. Catherine Johanna Brandt, Milwaukee County, to relatives in the
" " " Gerard Brandt, Milwaukee County, to relatives in the Netherlands.
Netherlands.

Town of Milwaukee the 12th of June 1859

the meaning
with joy I greet you
##

of this is

Much loved Uncles and Aunts Nephews and Nieces

Since I have felt for a long time like writing you a letter it seems 1
to me that I cannot postpone any longer, I have begged father many times 2
to write to you but it seems that he cannot get to it, so I wish so far as it 3
is in my power to get a letter on to you, since I am as we all are 4
desirous to hear from you, I would perhaps have written earlier had my health 5
permitted, and hope that you will accept it with love, 6
since father last wrote we have received three letters from you, two from uncle 7
Jan Schipper and one from Cousin Jan lindenberg, which were very welcome and a joy to us, 8
(pity enough that they were not answered sooner,) from your letters 9
we learned that uncle Jacobus and Aunt sara have passed from time to Eternity, 10
may it be that they have entered the land of Eternal rest 11
then is their happiness great and they are freed from all misery, the loss is 12
always painful, but there is still a sweet recollection remaining, and if then the hope 13
may be lively of seeing them again, we also learned from them that 14
aunt Martina has been ailing considerable time, but yet became better, and that all 15
others were well, from Cousin Jan's letter we learned 16
that things were going with them as before, his mother once said when we were going to Amer- 17
that even if she could get to America in her slippers she would not want to be there, ica 18
but it seems to me they would nevertheless be better off if they were here, at any rate he 19
and his sisters, but they will perhaps see no opportunity for that, we have 20
often longed that we might sometime see one of our relatives here, it is possible too 21
for one who is diligent and is willing to work to make headway here, although this year 22
and last year times have not been so good here, as a few years ago, but 23
still wages are none the less always high compared with holland, it would have to be they 24
I expect ~~no~~ one here, and would not dare nor wish to recommend it to any one else! ^{outside of them} 25
As for our situation that has changed somewhat, in the year 1854 we 26
moved from town holland [Sheboygan County] where we formerly lived, about forty miles south- 27
8 miles from Milwaukee, this is a large city, father had been called here for Reli- ^{ward} 28
to work as leader here, for which a yearly salary ^{gious work,} 29
of one hundred dollars was given him and free housing, so it was but a small piece of ground 30
that he worked, (there are almost thirty holland families here,) but this 31
##

In this space is a sticker in the original, evidently having a motto reading (perhaps in English) "joyous greeting". The circle indicates its size only. The colors and print have utterly faded.

leadership lasted but three years, in the year 56 the 18th of May mother died she 1
had had a stroke, and was bedfast only seven days, she had otherwise been 2
fairly well, we then found ourselves in trying circumstances, for Janet had 3
married, and I had become ill the last of March, then we had no one who 4
could do our work, and we tottered on thus until June then willemina meeuwsen 5
from town holland came to live with us, you have perhaps learned things from her sister 6
she lived with us almost five months, and was then married, we were very glad 7
to have her with us, it was through her that we heard some things about you, 8
then father married again on the 29th of May 57 with a woman living here a widow 9
she is a native of Gelderland, she has no children, and is seventeen years younger than 10
father and has 20 acres of land here, when father married this woman trouble arose 11
in the church, for reasons they could not themselves prove, but many think 12
that it was to get out of paying him, now this is the way this matter came to an end, 13
there is among the hollanders in america quite some division, mostly in regard to religion, 14
and the holland ministers want to sort of rule here, but here it is 15
free america, so father is now farmer again, in the beginning he bought a hundred acres of 16
for 1500 dollars but sold a part of that again, so that he now still has almost land here, 17
40 acres left, of which a large part is hay land, which in winter most 18
of the time is under water, the past winter he had quite a busy time of it, he had 19
eight animals to take care of, one horse, four cows, and three calves, and then for two stoves 20
make wood, and now he has to work hard again, in town holland he had the boys 21
at home but that is not the case now, but mother too helps quite a lot, she did this for- 22
and rather likes to do it now too, she is quite a robust woman, sometimes she has merly too 23
some headache but otherwise she is always well, father too is so well in america 24
that I often wonder at it, he has never yet been ill here, once a while 25
a cold and the fever but really sick not yet, a few years ago he was so fleshy I think 26
you would hardly have known him now as far as my condition is concerned, that is not so good, 27
told you I became sick in 1856 and that from nervousness and serious colds as I 28
so that I was entirely bedfast, during this illness I have now already had four doctors, 29
to whom we have paid a great amount of money, to one we have had to pay a matter of 81 dollars 30
and yet no cure, some doctors here charge shameful fees, and in the case of this one I just 31
spoke of the main object was money, and a holland doctor at that, but that 32
one cannot rely on, the first time I had those nervous attacks, was 33
at a time when three persons died so suddenly of the cholera, the husband was 34

within the space of five hours in good health and dead, and his wife lay from Sunday noon until ^{Monday} 1
 evening, now ¹ and another girl of my age had watched all night over this woman 2
 a thing indeed I wish had not happened, but many ^ewere so frightened that they 3
 ran away, it is usually the case that people think of themselves most, then this girl 4
 also died two days later, which shocked me deeply, ^{people have} now the custom here 5
 that women also go to the grave, and americans have the custom of 6
 bringing the corpse into the church to a place in front of the pulpit (if it is not a contagious 7
 disease), now there the casket is opened and every one that wishes to view the remains 8
 can do so, then the minister preaches a funeral sermon and addresses the relatives, this 9
 done burial follows, also when our dear brother died 10
 some americans came to see him, now I was at the grave too of this girl, and 11
 was in great distress, but could not weep, on arriving home this became still worse, 12
 then I suddenly gave way to crying and some thought that I too was getting the cholera, 13
 but a man who understood it said that it was my nerves, and since that time whenever 14
 but the least thing happened, this would recur again and ^aagain, last summer I was a time or two 15
 at Janet's, I had not been there in more than two years, and she lives 16
 within shouting distance from us, at present I am still 17
 weak, and have to spend a part of the day in bed, but can nevertheless 18
 get about better than previously, I am discouraged of course at times, but at other times 19
 I keep surrendering everything to the Lord, and say 'may it then only be to his Honor, and 20
 for binding me closer to his service' Janet as I told you earlier was married the 8th of May 21
 1855, 22
 with a young man from the land of kazand, his name is Jacob De Swarte, 23
 they have two children, but the first a girl died, being seven months 24
 old, now they have a dear little boy twenty months old, who makes a lot of his grandfather, 25
 and is also named after him, they have a fair livelihood, they bought four 26
 acres of land from father, and then he works some too for others, they also have a 27
 cow, Janet too is not strong, and not free entirely from my trouble either, her husband 28
 and child 29
 are both well, Isaac and James both live in Michigan, they have been there 30
 three years already, they work there in sawmills, and earn about twelve 31
 to twenty dollars a month, beside board, James was home only four weeks ago, 32
 we see him about every year, Isaac was home last fall, we had 33
 not seen him for two years, Isaac was married too the first of March this year, with a girl 34
 from northholland, her name is Trijntje Wagenaar, Isaac thinks he will yet be a farmer sometime 35
 in town holland, they together bought that forty acres of land from father and then he wants
 to take over James' share, for they worked quite hard there, and too it is quite

good land, the past year has been an unfortunate one for the harvest, there was 1
 straw indeed but no grain, in some places there was nothing in it at all, one could simply blow 2
 it away, we had had much rain in the spring, and in the summer black rust made a heavy 3
 attack on it, potatoes beans and peas were fairly good, up to the present crops 4
 are doing very nicely this year, provisions are quite high here at present, there is here 5
 at present considerable talk about the war that is impending in Europe, which so 6
 people think is the cause of this, flour or sifted meal, for unsifted meal one does not know of 7
 that is the best from winter wheat here, is 9 dollars for two hundred pounds, which is four dollars more than last winter, but where 8
 Isaac and James live it is twelve dollars, and oats and potatoes a dollar a 9
 bushel, father says 2½ bushel make a hectolitre, you are no doubt familiar with the fact that 10
 coffee is 15 to 18 cts a pound, sugar 10 to 16, butter 12 to 20 a dollar is 2½ guilders, 11
 groceries too are quite high, compared with holland, also 12
 cloth goods, one cannot count a dollar here as more than a guilder in holland, but 13
 we have as yet no regrets that we are in america, one has to work hard here too 14
 but freedom is quite a pleasure, too it is here a healthy region, father thinks 15
 of course once in a while of his friends, but for the rest he is in his element, 16
 Isaac and James too thought that they would never have gotten on so far in holland, this 17
 land of which I spoke they bought from father for 500 dollars, and they have reached the point 18
 that it is their possession, they have now rented it for five years for 40 dollars a year now 19
 I wanted to tell this too that they are both taller than their father, James sometimes 20
 imagines that he is going to see holland once more, he is a strange young man with a very 21
 inquisitive spirit, I don't believe either he will become a farmer! but Dears now I have 22
 just a word more, which I hope will not offend you, when uncle Jan Schipper sent us 23
 his first letter he made mention of the many changes that had taken place there, 24
 but he says should we ever be able to report a change of heart, namely 25
 repentance, that would be something greater, and that was for him too a thing to be desired, 26
 he says the Lord has decreed any way who is to be saved and who not, this is indeed truly but 27
 so, but in Deut 29 v 29 we read that the secret things belong unto the Lord, but those things which 28
 revealed are for us, that is the intent of his decree, but his decreeing will we may are 29
 in no case argue with, he commands you to sow your acre, that you may 30
 be satisfied with bread, now you would not say would you I am not sowing and will therefore 31
 still have, this would be against reason, now the Lord offers you his Gospel, 32
 and He calls sinners, in Eze. 33 v:11 we find, that he has no pleasure in the death 33
 of sinners, but therein that he repent and live, oh I certainly would wish it too that 34
 you could sometime tell us this one and that one has been born in sion, ah what a glad message 35
 this would be, oh do not postpone the time, but work while it is day that 36
 night may not overtake you so that you cannot work, neither let the enemy make you believe 37
 as I have heard it here too, the Lord Jesus died for all mankind, 38
 or, it will not be so bad as many think, this will lead you to be unconcerned, then 39
 it was of no use that the Lord Jesus said to Nicodemus, as we read john 3, or is it different 40
 God is merciful O yes that he is too in the face of his son, but He is 41
 also righteous and He created us right and after His image, but we have 42
 lost his image through sin, so there is then no other way than through Jesus Christ his 43
 son, he himself says no one comes to the father than through me, Oh seek life in him 44
 where alone it is to be found, for He himself says my yoke is easy and my burden is light

do not think that I have written this to boast, O no this is not my purpose, but the Lord stay under the bushel is certainly worthy to be glorified for his blessings, and does not wish that the light

As concerns us, I believe I may say that we are treading the path of our father, 1
so far as I know, although it is accompanied with many a lament, and utterance, O that 2
it might be really true, but indwelling sin and not living close to the Lord 3
so often makes for anxiety and darkness, but we must say nevertheless that sin 4
is a burden to us, at times it indeed has the upperhand but then in turn there emerges 5
a sense of guilt, that it has sinned against that holy and good God, who is so worthy to be 6
worshipped, Oh the service of the Lord is not hard, the world says and thinks of it that 7
it is a melancholy life, Ah but of the fruits of which one has not tasted one can 8
hardly judge, and should one perchance once taste how sweet it is to serve the Lord 9
then he finds in this what he cannot find in the world, Isaac and James 10
since a year ago, have also indicated that they could no longer 11
hold out in sin, before that whenever we spoke to them of it they merely kept silent, and 12
speak of something else, but now they have to testify that it is their joy and life, James 13
very earnest in inquiry, and in rebuking sin, yes he is outdistancing us all, is even 14
he has now for a long time also had the desire to preach the word of God, even though it 15
among the heathen, but should the opportunity not present itself he does not wish to force 16
if the Lord wishes to use him for it He himself will open the way, so father is to his way in 17
his great joy privileged to see that the imperfect prayers he so often offered in secret 18
and in public have been answered, O what a great privilege it must be to be able 19
to say, behold Lord here me and the children Thou hast given me, Oh how great this would 20
be too for our dear grandmother who as we may believe has with her eldest 21
son entered into the land of rest, to have been able to say this too, the Lord alone knows 22
how many prayers she offered, both for you, and for us, Oh that Eternity 23
to which there never is an end, is a dreadful word for the wicked but a word of comfort 24
for God's people, to be privileged to be eternally with the Lord, I must say that during this 25
sickness I have had the desire at times to be released, sometimes even to 26
be rid of my miserable body, but also indeed from a desire to be with the Lord, 27
and I know the time when I could say that nothing in the world looked desirable to me, but 28
only more often so this would be to the honor of the Lord, but Oh would that were 29
could expatiate far here, but O consider before it is too late, is 30
my wish and my prayer, if we shall see each other no more on this side of the grave then 31
may it be on the other, / now I have a request to make of you, should you sometime have the 32
to have some information come to us sometime, about mother's family, who of them is still opportunity 33
alive, her oldest sister lived at Ellewoudsdijk, her husband's name was Jan ten velde 34
we have also learned that uncle William is schoolmaster in the land of Hulst, this would 35
give us great satisfaction if you could do this, here is a little flower seed of pretty 36

little flowers, it is not so much the peculiarity of the flower but it grows so many little 1
 and each flower blooms but for a day, ^{accept it then as a remembrance} whether you are lovers of them I don't know, ^{flowers,} if you 2
 could send me some little seed it would give me delight, for with that I keep myself busy 3
 much of the time, now cordial greetings from us to you all, from me, Janet and husband, Isaac 4
 and James and greet also aunt willemijntje ^{us} mina had told that they still 5
 thought of coming to America, I would surely like to see them here sometime, again cordial 6
 greetings, in my thoughts I am still often with you, so I sign myself your loving niece 7
 if you can write back soon Catharina J Brandt

LETTER 8, translation

Dear Prothers and Sisters

as I read what Katie has written I find I have nothing 9
 to add because her wishes for you pertaining to your salvation 10
 are also mine Nevertheless she is determined that I should do [write] something 11
 So I hope then that when we receive reply from you you will come with 12
 the message that one and that one in our relationship is born at Zion for this 13
 is sure that the allhighest will confirm such and that those who 14
 are still strangers to this may get pangs toward this birth I mean 15
 a vision of God's Righteousness and Self-condemnation and thus 16
 as one doomed in himself will in secret before the Lord 17
 cast himself to his knees and at the foot of the throne of grace 18
 make confession of all sins such conduct will not 19
 leave such a soul void of the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ 20
 namely what he is and will be for one so minded it would be impossible for me 21
 to list all the bible texts that establish that yet read 22
 only Isaiah 55 and Matthew 11 v 28 to 30 and on the other hand the threats 23
 in the same chapter from v 16 to 24 now possibly you might seek 24
 an excuse in v 25 yet to refute this for you I would 25
 have to be able to converse with you Much news from Zeeland what 26
 is going on in the world at large we learn from the paper 27
 digging across the island laying of telegraph and railroads and 28
 dyking in of Schorren as too the running away of C Filius' horses 29
 but write us sometime who are already dead of those I have known 30
 and how things go with you awaiting this your loving 31

Sister and Brother G Brandt your Sister Maria Brandt

Subfolder VIII, Letter 10

May 9, 1860. Catherine Johanna Brandt, Milwaukee County, to relatives in the
Netherlands.

Town of Milwaukee May 9 1860

Much loved Uncles and Aunts Nephews and Nieces

Since we have up to the present been disappointed in our expectation of
receiving an answer from you to my letter written to you
last year in the month of May, thinking that you have not received it,
it is our desire to take pen in hand a second time
to write you, the more because the events which have taken place here
urge us to do so, and so it is our desire that you
will accept this in love. In my previous letter I told you that
in the year 1854 we moved from Town Holland [Sheboygan County], where we formerly lived,
40/miles south of there, and now we live eight miles from Milwaukee, this
is a large city, the reason why we moved was that Father was then
called here for religious service, to be a leader here and carry on catechetical
work, yet this lasted but three years because then trouble arose
between him and the congregation, partly also because of the domineering and partisan
spirit of the Holland ministers here, to tell it all would easily make my story
too long drawn out, and it would do you little good, I also told you in my
former letter about the death of mother, it astonished us to receive a note from
you from the hands of Mina Meeuwsen who told you nothing
of our situation, since mother had died in the month of May 56, and I
had been ill the whole summer, yes was ill still when she [Mina Meeuwsen] left us, she
lived with us five months and that would not have been necessary if I had been well,
then too we did not receive the note from you until February this year,
what the reason was for that we do not know, father too would
have been gladdened to have seen it since he was frequently desirous of
hearing from you, and yet so negligent about writing, what the reasons were I can
not say we often requested him to, but it seems he could not
get to it, we still have a portion of a letter which he began

At noon the law came to view father, three officers of the law with two doctors, the doctors said that
 he had not lived long, and even if we had found him soon he would have died any way, there was perhaps in this
 God's wise providence to cause him no greater pain

but did not complete, the two previous letters of Uncle Jan schipper 1
 we received, one from Uncle Aadriaan, and one from Cousin Jan Lindeberg, and 2
 from it learned about the death of Uncle Jacobus and Aunt Sara, do pardon 3
 their not being answered sooner, we are very sorry that you did not receive our letter 4
 year since we were frequently desirous of a word from of last 5
 you, father too, who had written a portion of it, 6
 Now you will perhaps notice from my story what sad tidings we have to 7
 tell you (Or you may have been apprised of it from rumor or from some one else) it is then 8
 this that our beloved Father too is no more among the living, but on the 29th of 9
 December in an unfortunate and heart moving manner exchanged time for Eternity, 10
 by the running away of the horse he had driven to the city that morning 11
 and it was quite often his wont to ride away late, and so it was too that day, 12
 (because our horse is quite lively for it was only seven years old, a big 13
 brown white-face) so it was bound to be late too before he was back, then too it would 14
 become so late had he not had to visit some of his friends that he had to see, not have 15
 the horse must have frequently tried to dash away, as others say, and since it was a good 16
 sleighroad and there was no load in the sleigh he made good time, then too our horse 17
 stand anything at his heels or he starts to run, so we think that this was the case here 18
 now not far from our house there is a ditch or low place through which water washes and 19
 the horse must have started to run away, for from there on the sleigh had left the tracks 20
 now father has written you that trees here are chopped two feet more or less above the 21
 and the stumps are left standing, so it was here too along the road through ground 22
 which Father must go and right between two big stumps, as big perhaps as there are no- 23
 to be found, on each side of the road, now the sleigh had run up against the one and 24
 Father seems to have struck his head, he must have been there in the evening around 25
 seven o'clock already, and strange it was that just that evening not a person 26
 came that road, Mother and I were indeed restless that evening, still all the time 27
 had the idea Father had stayed with one of his friends, so that no one 28
 went out to look for him, too Mother and I were alone in the house, at 29
 eleven o'clock I had gone to bed but very restless, but Mother not at all the whole 30
 night long and in the morning at daybreak she went outdoors, not expecting 31
 to see anything there, but not far from the house she saw a horse standing yet did not 32
 think

father had been frightfully maimed, his skull behind his left ear was split open more than a finger's length, and fully so wide that one could lay a finger in it, his left ear/cut through the middle, his nose between the eyes partly beaten in, and a blue spot

that this could be ours, but still she was not easy then went there and 1
 named the horse by name and when it turned its head she saw that it was ours, then went 2
 a bit farther and saw there our dear father lying in the middle of the road partly 3
 frozen too, O my Dear what a circumstance, this you can somewhat comprehend but yet 4
 not exactly as it was, left home sound and well and carried in dead, Oh how I 5
 was affected I cannot express to you, sick as I was I ran from my bed in a skirt 6
 when my father was being carried into the house, and look my dear Father who 7
 had in this my condition in which I had lingered four years carried me to and from 8
 bed hundreds of times was dead, Oh what a circumstance, cry I could not, everybody was 9
 amazed at me, less than fifteen minutes after he was in the house I sat down and 10
 wrote a letter to James, alas what I must do without with my Father gone you can- 11
 not comprehend, no one has lost so much as I, Oh how my heart bled, and so many tears 12
 as I shed in my loneliness, for I am an object of misery and cannot do without the help 13
 of others, but at times I can surrender it all to the Lord and say He 14
 who has provided for me so long will still provide for me but for me it is 15
 nevertheless a hard matter and a time of testing, for it is by brothers and a sister that 16
 supported now, sometimes I say if I had to crawl on my bare knees and so I have to be 17
 get my father back I would gladly do it, but the Lord who according to his decreeing 18
 will carries everything into effect renders no account of his deeds, 19
 but a great comfort and a pleasant recollection remains for us nevertheless, 20
 For to his God and the Lord Jesus rich in love who is the only way of salvation 21
 he always kept clinging, howbeit with frequent lamenting over his sins yet 22
 carrying on a continual struggle against sin and having as his sole desire to be 23
 the Lord's, O happy entrance into that land of Eternal rest where all 24
 trouble and pain ceases, and to have the privilege of meeting, (as we may believe) those 25
 preceded him, as her whose womb bore him, and his eldest brother, and that 26
 her who carried us, he has now been freed from all trouble and is now serving his God 27
 in perfect joy, For to him were confirmed the words we read in John 16 28
 verse 33, last portion, which once came with marked force to his mind when we were still 29
 living in kapelle, yes to the very last of his life even for in me he had to witness 30
 but now it has ceased, Oh that you might continually many troubles, 31
 betake yourselves into his presence, and that with a desire to arrive there too 32
 On his forehead, and his nose full of clotted blood, and his right arm out of joint, I
 certainly examined him 3 or 4 times

for it was you see my dear father

Our Greetings to Aunt Willemina too we have heard that she is again a widow

O what a privilege it would be for our dear Grandmother
to be able to say Behold here me and the children Thou hast given me, Oh do seek
after it, one may have satisfaction here of course in the worls, but when death comes
we can take nothing with us and then as a naked soul to appear before the great judge
can bring nothing but Eternal misery, how Father too did
long at times to hear this some time from you, Uncle Adrian wrote
in his letter that you no longer had a brother now to pray for you, but even though
you were far away he made you now and then the object of his prayer at the throne of grace,
feeling the burden of your souls, Oh it is occasionally my prayer too that through God's grace
be made seekers while there yet is time to find, Oh when once one may experience you may
the sweetness, joy, and refreshing there is in the service of the Lord
then one is constantly desirous of it, Oh it is certainly a sweet service
that gives afterwards an Eternal Peace, since the service of sin brings naught but Eternal
sorrow, but possibly some of you have learned to pray the prayer of the publican,
O blessed and happy is he then who for Jesus' sake has found grace in God's
sight, that this may not offend you is then my wish for it is being done in love
What else now concerns our situation I wrote you in my last that Father
married again in 57 with a widow who was living here, a native of Gelderland
seventeen years younger than he, with whom I am now living still, until when
I do not know, possibly until fall when I think I shall go live with Janet,
my condition is desperate, as I told you above I
became ill in the year 56 from nervous attacks and frequent distresses, the two first
years I spent for the most part in bed, and frequently had to be carried to and from bed,
I have had as many as four doctors and have wasted much money but made little progress,
the first time I had these attacks was on occasion when three people died so suddenly
of the cholera, and from that time this became continually worse, but still I was always able
to do my work until the time I told you of, even when I had taken bad colds, For the present
I am using no medicines and am still very sickly, and did not mend either after Father's
not a day that I am free from nervous spasms and convulsions, sometimes I am of course dis-
All I can do is stay at home when it is summer I can occasionally go to Janet's, but no far-
doesn't even live as far from us as we did from the little orchard at Kapelle, ther, she
in bed, what is yet to become of me I have no idea, also I must
that the Lord will in his own time give deliverance, at times however I have a lively faith
when I see what I am by nature and how

many blessings I have the privilege of enjoying and what the Lord Jesus suffered, and that 1
I have nothing to say, I have as yet lacked nothing and our allotted portion of bread has 2
yet been granted us, mother too is very good to me I enjoy much friendship from her and 3
much patience with me, at times too my desire has been that I might be released she has 4
times indeed to be quit of my ^utroubles, but sometimes also from a desire to be with the Lord, 5
since I might in faith take for granted that the Lord was charging me to his account, my 6
sin were forgiven me, and since I had learned to know myself as a poor unworthy sinner, 7
is accompanied with continual conflict and continual fear, that I have not surrendered fully 8
yet with a continual adherence and a continual desire to be the possession of the Lord, 9
In my former letter I told you that Janet and Isaac are both married, the former in May 10
55, and Isaac in March 59, Janet has had three children, the first died when seven months 11
old, now she still has two one Gerard who will be three in September, and one Susan- 12
na who will be a year in July both dear children, that little boy Father made a lot of and 13
he of him, they have a fairly good living, they have two cows and a piece of 14
land, which they have bought from Father, her husband's name is Jacob de Swarte a native 15
of kadzand, 5 years older than she is, Janet too is weak but still she can most 16
always do her work, her husband and children are fairly well, Isaac lives 17
in Michigan and works in a sawmill he has already lived there four years, he has a 18
a wife from Northholland, her name is Trijntje Wagenaar, they have one child Cornelia 19
by name, but he thinks nevertheless of becoming a farmer too later on, he and James had 20
bought those forty acres of Father when we moved here, which is now their possession 21
they rented it when they were in Michigan and are doing that now still, 22
but this winter James sold his 20 to Isaac for 350 dollars, so it is then 23
his [Isaac's] intention after he has earned more to settle there, it is good land 24
better than we have here 27 acres of it is being cultivated and the rest is timber still, 25
and his wife and child are also enjoying good health, his wife we have Isaac 26
never seen yet, James too used to work in the sawmills until last 27
fall in October, at that time he entered the High school [Academy] at which he still is 28
that is in the city of Holland Michigan, he is there to be educated for the ministry, 29
for which he has had a desire for a long time already, but frequently 30
with the fear that he himself did not possess what he wished to present to others 31
[he] thought that if the Lord wished to use him in his service He himself would open the way, 32
it is then his constant desire to be engaged in the Lord's service, yes, even 33
should it be among the heathen, he has unusual gifts which we cannot help being jealous of, 34
and the spirit that has been in him since he was still a child is 35
not yet extinguished, that is eager to inquire, if he pursues the entire course 36
to learn English latin greek Hebrew and what more besides I don't know then he must 37
be there 5 years where he is now and 5 years at another Highschool [College] in 38

New Jersey, O how happy Father was about this, and desirous that he might yet be an eye-
 and ear-witness of this, but that has not pleased the Lord, but
 this he was privileged to see offspring of his offspring, but what is more that the
 prayers offered for us in secret and in public have been heard,
 for so far as I may believe we are all treading the way he has trodden,
 we do occasionally think over our lot here that we four who are still living
 should be enjoying this privilege of having been bought and freed with Jesus's blood,
 but with the Lord this is to be sure not wonderful, and he certainly wishes to reveal the
 of his free grace in redeeming sinners, the depraved heart does indeed
 at times well up, so that Amalek prevails, just as the Apostle Paul himself
 laments Rom. 7 but then there is however sorrow and prayer from the heart
 for forgiveness, I have not written this to plume myself with it, I hope the
 Lord may guard us against this, that about what the Lord Jesus bought at such cost
 we should be proud, but Oh may it serve to stir some of you to
 jealousy, and should we see each other no more this side of the
 grave then may it be on the other side,
 As for financial conditions here in general that is not so good as
 a few years ago, wages are lower, and trade as well in lands
 as in products is not so flourishing, nor are provisions^{as} cheap
 as when we came here, crops this year up to the present are in general
 quite fine, it was unusually dry this spring, so that people who
 had lived here thirty years had not known it so, in the beginning when we first came here
 Father bought a hundred acres of land, but had sold it all
 except 31 acres which are still partly encumbered, but next summer when James
 comes home we shall probably sell it, land is priced higher here than in
 Town Holland [Sheboygan County] but we will nevertheless lose some on it at that, because
 valuable than a few years ago, mother also has twenty acres which she had
 when she married Father on which she thinks she will go to live, she has no children,
 she is a strong healthy woman used to working in the field, now we have
 a request to make of you, to make inquiry if it is possible about Mother's relatives,
 who of them is still alive, whether Uncle Jan of Dortrecht is still
 living, we have learned that Uncle William lives in the land of Hulst, and aunt Mie's
 husband of Ellewoudsdijk has died, inquire about it sometime if you can, and write about
 then, now we hope that you will not allow this letter to go unanswered but
 will reply to it soon, even though Father is no longer living, realize then that his
 blood flows in our veins, O Aunt Martina if you are still alive, you certainly
 have not forgotten us, methinks it still comes vividly to my mind how you clung weeping
 that last day, herewith I now close and hope also to receive one from you soon

Cordial greetings from us all, Mother also though unknown to you greets you,
 Janet and her husband, Isaac and James, greet all nephews and nieces, we sign ourselves your loving blood relations
 and I your loved Niece Catharine J Brandt