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Journey of the Joh. Fr. Diederichs Family from Elberfeld to Manitowoc in North America

EDITOR'S NOTE: *It was in September 1968 in a Manitowoc County Historical Society newsletter that an article was written which related to the experiences of Mr. Diederichs as he sailed from Germany to New York and his travels from New York to reach Manitowoc County. The diary has been the property of the William O. Hochkammer family, who live at R.F.D. No. 3, Manitowoc, Wisconsin. It is with their kind permission that we are printing the complete diary.*

A trip to any place in the world today hardly is of more than passing interest. Regardless of how people travel the accommodations usually are excellent and our modern ways of travel, be they by ship or by air, it is usually only a matter of hours or perhaps a few days before one gets to his destination. Not so in the mid-1800s as the diary and letters of Mr. Diederichs shows so well. It was an adventure of the highest order.

In 1848, most countries of Europe had much of discontent among people. Norway and Sweden had experienced "a population explosion," and its mountainous land area was hardly sufficient to provide the necessities of life for so large a population, thus, the desire to go to a country which had plenty of land. America seemed to best fill this need. The people were encouraged by ship owners who went about the country signing up people to make the trip across the ocean. The German people had three reasons for becoming immigrants to America; (1) there were German states in which their religious freedom was restricted; (2) social regulations limited the boys in the family from attaining a higher social status than the father; and (3) Germany had ambitions to rule the world, and required boys to serve in the German army. Economic conditions in other European nations were such that people journeyed to America where conditions seemed to be better. Although immigration to America had begun early in the 19th century, from 1825 on, it began to increase and

after 1848 it became almost like an avalanche. This continued through most of the remaining years of the century.

We publish this diary to relate what a trip across the Atlantic Ocean entailed. One wonders why people would consider undertaking a journey that involved so much personal discomfort, danger and often even illness and death. One might think that an overland trip to the American frontier which then was Wisconsin would be less of a problem. We shall see as we read the diary that that had its elements of danger too. And yet the pioneers came.

Beginning a new life in Manitowoc, Wisconsin wasn't easy either. Many of the immigrants left Europe in March, and hoped to arrive in Manitowoc County by June so that they could cut down enough trees so they could plant a garden and some crops to sustain them during the following winter. There was a log cabin which had to be built, and perhaps also other buildings. The diary tells well the experiences of this family during those days.

Most of the immigrants who came to our shores realized that they themselves never could have as good a life as they would have had in Europe. But America promised them so much that they were willing to make the sacrifices necessary so that their children could have a better life. Many people today take the good life which we enjoy very much for granted. This monograph tells well what our ancestors had to forego in order for us to live lives which are the envy of many people of the world. May we ever appreciate what America gives its people. And may we always be ready and willing to assume the responsibilities that we have of preserving the freedoms that are ours so that those who follow can also live as we do. May God continue to bless America as He has through all the years since our ancestors left their native land to come to the land which claims to be "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Bremen, August 16, 1847

After we had at last torn ourselves from your loving embraces, had thrown into our wagon at Barmen by the friendly Helmensteins a pair of shoes, (which fit our Auguste just right), had received a Gemark a hurried and hearty handshake from the Deussens, and then had bid farewell with blessings and good wishes from dear uncle, aunt and family, we had plenty of leisure to reflect, not only upon the days just passed, but also upon the guidance of the faithful and wonderful God. That with these reflections many a tear had to be forcibly restrained by myself and my dear wife, you can easily imagine.

Two bottles of wine and some bread with cheese and sausage from the good aunt Voss came in very handy during the trip and lasted until Minden, where we arrived safely at ten o'clock the following morning. In Werl we met the first emigrants, three Wirtembergians, two of them, husband and wife, though no farmers, yet real charming persons, with whom we would like to have made the whole journey to Milwaukee; the

third was a jovial, frivolous tinsmith whose family was sending him to America to reform. Until Bremen we remained together, but there we lost each other, and will hardly meet again.

Saturday morning, at five-thirty, we saw in Minden the first emigration scenes, several wagons filled with emigrants and baggage standing on the shore, awaiting the departure. On account of low water it was impossible for all to embark and hence the greater part had to remain until the following day. I inquired of the latter whether those on shore did not also want to go to America, and then was told the above. Then, in turn, I was asked, "Are you also going to America, and where are you from" and when I answered yes and that I was from Elberfeld, he instantly said, "Then you must be the Diederichs I have heard about a great deal. I am a poor sin[er] like you and there on the shore are still more; my name is Schnacke, from Luebbecke near Minden; I was servant at Schroers not far from Orsoy, and now I and my bride, who hails from

Orsoy, are going to America, in advance of our friends from Orsoy and Wesel." Unfortunately we were again separated and I have neither seen nor heard of them since.

Here it is also crowded with emigrants, 500 of them are said to have come at random and now must unhappily wait. Our lodging, "im Weserthal", is filled with Prussians, Saxons, Bavarians, Wirtembergians, Hanoverians, Hessians, etc. among them infants of 3 weeks, and old men from 60 to 70 years. We are gradually being led to ever greater privations and are already learning to reconcile ourselves to circumstances. Our hosts are good people and do what they can and have shown us many preferences without increase of cost. Nevertheless Fred and Carl had to sleep on a straw-bed on the floor, and the rest of us had only two single beds, from which we arose in the morning more tired than when we lay down in the evening.

Wink and Vogel were greatly pleased when they met us and we were just as glad. They have a room next to us. This morning

we settled our account at Schroeder's; this afternoon our trunks go by skiff to the harbor, and tomorrow, if the Lord wills, we will follow by steamboat.

Candidate Brauer, a Hanoverian, and Pastor Sievertz will travel with us on the same ship, both devout men; the first a superior mind in learning and talent. Moreover, Schroeder told me that there are devout Wirtembergians and Bavarians among our fellow travellers whom I do not yet know. Bicker, through Schroeder, sends us hearty greetings and we will claim his brother-love in case we are in need. We are invited to dinner at Schroeder's at half past one.

Whoever may follow from yonder, should provide himself with ham and sausage; the former is very dear here, therefore we must do without it. For purchases here, one should supply himself with foreign pistols, and for America with Napoleond'or and 5 franc pieces. On the ship domestic tinware only is used, which is also very cheap here. Spoons, knives, and forks, should not be forgotten.

Our innkeeper, Mr. Blome, "zum Weserthal", I recommend to all travellers, as well also Mr. Schroeder. The poor emigrants here are shamefully treated.

Thus the dear Bavarian brothers, whom the agent had ordered to be here on the 15th and to be transported on the ship Carolina, were told this morning, when they paid, that this ship would not leave until the 1st of September. Of course they at once sued the ship-broker Traube in the Commercial Court, but it is questionable whether they will get on our ship Florian, or on the Emigrant, both of which are now being dispatched to New York. With these are also two devout candidates, Ulrichs and Voller.

August 17th. The friends from Bavaria will not come with us. But Traube must pay them until September 1st, 18 groats daily, about 8½ silbergroschen. We are all well except as to the eyes of our Auguste and Marie, but these too, have improved rather than become worse. Immediately after dinner we will leave.

August 18th. Yes, indeed, immediately after dinner we left Bremen per steamboat and accordingly should have been in Bremerhaven at 7 o'clock yesterday, but — man proposes and God disposes; we only arrived at 6 o'clock this morning and were heartily welcomed by Bicker. Within sight of the city of Bremen, on account of the shallow water, we were grounded in the sand, and after 5 hours incredible trouble and labor, in which all without distinction took part, we were again afloat. At 10 o'clock in the evening we were loaded onto another steamboat where we had the pleasure to again quietly rest in the sand for several hours, until at 3 o'clock the tide came and took us up and safely brought us hither. You see, my dear ones, here we already have material to sing — "No travel without trouble". But do not think that we have lost courage. Oh no, we are of good cheer and going on in God's name.

O, what a view we had this morning, as we perceived the mighty waters, and saw lying before us the Weser, so broad that my eye could hardly recognize objects on the shores. Mr. Schroeder showed us, to the greatest delight of my boys, the first inhabitants of the sea, 2 to 3 seals, which were freely tumbling about in the water. I was absorbed in quiet contemplation of the wonders and omnipotence of God. Great are

the creations of his hand and in this hand we too, are held. He will guide and lead us, and bring us to the place where, according to Mr. Mueller's blessing and farewell, which has become weighty with me, my poor feet, which have thus far found no repose, will find rest.

We have already brought our belongings onto our Florian and on this occasion saw our rooms. My dear wife remained on shore with Marie and Auguste, and then too, I didn't care to ask them, for I thought it's time enough when it has be be. But it's not so bad as I had formerly imagined. I sleep with my wife, Auguste and Marie together, Fred and Carl with Vogel and Wink. And really, it suits me very well that we took no steerage, like the Candidates, since they have less air and light than we, especially since our bedroom is near the large window which can be opened in good weather.

I have not yet seen our young captain, Poppe. Schroeder just now tells me that the same will allow the Candidates and myself to visit him in his cabin, also, that the mate has promised to especially look after us; 175 persons are journeying with us. It is said there are two devout sailors aboard who rejoice at our arrival. Say, my dear ones, have we any reason to be faint-hearted? Of course, we feel that we are following a path that is not easy, but be confident, my soul, await the Lord and despair not, for you will yet thank Him that He is your help and your God.

At this moment we see our stately arrayed ship passing Bicker's house and working its way through the other ships in order to anchor at the mouth of the harbor and there take on the freight. Our dear Carl is acting as the watchman of our baggage. If we must get aboard this afternoon, then we'll leave the harbor and early tomorrow out into the sea. At all events we will have bid our beloved fatherland a farewell from the bottom of our heart. This letter is coming to a close, but not the silent well-wishes for all of you. You can scarcely believe with what love we embrace you all; I can not yet part from you, my heart is too full. Shall we ever again see you or any of you? The Lord knows. What jubilee it would be for us in our American blockhouse!

It is a curious sign that so many of God's children are departing. Henceforth we will no longer see you walking about, dearly beloved father, and the hope, when once the death hour comes, to be permitted to guard and nurse you, is gone; but we are certain that loving hearts and hands of children will then not be wanting, and that you will also be mindful of us with blessing love as you part from here and that you will live united with our deceased glorified mother for all eternity. O glorious, precious certainty, where shall we all see each other again.

I must close. Mr. Schroeder comes running and tells me that the freight has arrived; I must therefore hurry aboard so that the one trunk, which we will daily need, does not get into the lower deck. Farewell, farewell, I can say no more. Amen.

DIARY

On the 19th of August we left our dear Bicker and toward evening went on board, since it was to be expected that we would sail early in the morning. And so it turned out. Friday, the 20th, at 4 o'clock in the morning, we started and with us 8 to 10

other ships, all under full sail, as that our dear fatherland will soon vanish from our sight, but never from our hearts. Meanwhile the wind did not last long and on the 21st we were becalmed and lay to anchor. Sunday the 21st, Pastor Sievers held the first divine service, in full robes and with complete liturgy, and had it been practicable, crucifix and burning candles would not have been wanting. Otherwise he is a lovable man, a true child of God, but so hard and biased Lutheran that he almost pitted us for being genuine Reformed. But enough of this.

23 — Monday. Seasickness is in full swing, and it is amusing to see how big, strong men writhe and choke and roar, in order to pay their tribute, while children and women escape much easier. My dear wife and Auguste were the first, then in turn came Marie, Fred and Carl. I am keeping up bravely, exercise in the open air, bring up the dishes and pottery for my dear sick ones, empty and rinse them; always at it, and have agreed with Candidate Brauer, also a brave man, to oppose this dog-sickness with all our will power, yes, to banish it. We keep on cheerily eating, drinking and smoking, and laughing while one after the other succumbs, who but a few minutes before joined us in laughing at others.

24 — Tuesday. Nearly everyone is still sick, and last evening my fried Brauer had to submit to the common fate, and share the same, nolens volens, with Vogel who had thus far gallantly kept up. And our poor Wink, too, was dreadfully exhausted, and thus I alone am the hero, and a surprise to myself when I consider the sensitive temper I formerly had at operations of that kind; now I stand there and look on this spectacle with wide-open eyes, and combat my nausea, which, however, will probably come up suddenly. This morning at 5 o'clock I rose and went on deck to drink my coffee. We are not sailing through the Channel, but are making a wide detour, around Scotland, which will be so much safer. The sea is somewhat calmer, hence the rolling of the ship has lessened, which is very beneficial to my dear sick ones. The wind is favoring us and we are sailing merrily, but it is very cold and I am freezing in my two summer coats.

25 — Wednesday. This morning there were earnest remonstrations to the captain on account of the extremely bad meals, which are sometimes burnt, then too salty, and again unclean, and the result was that a woman took over the cooking which, I hope, will improve them. The wind is southeast. All my dear ones are again well except the dear mother and poor Wink.

26 — Thursday. Splendid weather. Everybody is active, including my dear wife and children. Today the first lice on the ship were discovered which has filled us with anxiety and fear. There was a crowd of Hanoverian girls, aged from 12 to 20 years, who were afflicted with them, but to our relief a woman was able to relieve them of their uncomfortable guests, and then throw the latter overboard.

Only a few days at sea and how bored we are with life on a ship! Could we but once more drink water to the full in Louise Street, how grateful we would be; how glad we would be to see some fish etc. for a change! But only sea gulls, and nothing but sea gulls present themselves to our view. Today our dear Marie again moved cheerfully about the deck, despite the sunshine, Thank God.

We have a good breeze and are moving

forward. O, how thankful is the heart to every breath of wind that brings us nearer our release. Today it is eight days that we are travelling; these are gone, thank the Lord. How often we rejoice that when we are alone in a crude but clean loghouse it will be a palace compared with our present home. Indeed we have struck it bad in every respect, and Schraeder probably did not know the ship and the captain so well, otherwise he would not have recommended them to us. Last night there was a great voice in the steerage, concerning which the Pastor and I made bitter complaint to the captain; but the captain is a vain, conceited man, and does not care for order nor cleanliness.

27 — Saturday. Wind southwest and stormy. The rolling of the ship is again bringing seasickness to many; our dear mother, too, has again taken to her bed since headache, nausea and cramps are causing her much trouble. I feel real well and keep on deck despite wind and weather, though the former pierces to the very marrow of the bones. We are coming far to the north and ought to reach the point of Scotland by tonight; if this will be the case then tomorrow we will steer westward, and then it will again be warm, I hope. The cook burnt the barley-groats today and hence war again with the captain.

29 — Sunday. Stormy night, everything clinks and clatters, the ship goes up and down, the dishes are striking each other and falling from nails and shelves, and there's confusion everywhere. In addition the weather is very cold and one can not be on deck; the majority are sick in bed; all the women this time and therefore Vogel is chief cook today. Alas, while I write this, my heart is touched; I think of you, dear ones, of the beautiful divine services, which recall so many things to me. Thank the Lord, physically I am well, nothing wanting, but the heart is uneasy. The wind is bringing us still further north, always approaching winter, and I do not yet know where my feet will rest. But the Lord will not forsake me and will guide everything for the best.

30 — Monday. Another stormy night. During the pitching of the ship things had been thrown about and this morning there was plenty of debris. During the night I got up and tied the coffee pot and water bottle to the bedstead and thus in the morning our things were in order. Now we are in the ocean, but have little wind. If the Lord in His mercy would only order His winds to move us forward! Mother feels somewhat better and will soon be about.

31 — Tuesday. Of course the sailors laugh at our idea of a storm but I would gladly refrain from any closer acquaintance. The bow of the ship dives deep into an abyss and the waves meet above our heads; then it rains and it freezes and no one is able to stand without holding on to something. O, if it would only come to pass, as the captain stated today, that we will arrive in New York before the end of September. Some of the passengers claim to have seen a few flying fish and a large shark.

Wednesday, Sept. 1 — Today we have pleasant weather and the pleasure of seeing a lot of dolphins swimming about our ship. But toward 6 o'clock in the evening the scene shifted, the wind blew strong into sails and rigging and the waves roared and foamed in unusual grandeur and splendor.

The sailors, awaiting the orders of the captain who stood at his post, in a great cloak and waterboots, which I had never seen on him before, looked at the sea with serious mien. I can not say that I had any fear, but it was sufficient to commend myself and mine, with quiet sigh, to the faithful protection of our Lord and Savior, for in such hours, when it is not improbable that in the next moment you will stand before the throne of God, there is nothing left but to implore a judgment of right and mercy. To experience the novelty of a genuine and great storm, and to see nature in its full strength and power, kept me on deck, but the probability of a great danger could not long be hidden from the steerage, and I therefore deemed it my duty to go below and encourage my wife and children as best I could. In the meantime it had become dark but nevertheless I had to go on deck once more in order to empty the dishes overboard and since it was impossible to carry anything up the stairs, my Fred had to hand them up to me. It was just about that time, I imagine, when my dear father was taking his meal with brother William and probably talking about us. O, if you had known in what condition we were then in. You would have cried with us to the Lord for mercy. I looked for the stairs in order to go back to mine, but the waves washed overboard and the stairs were wet, and when my feet touched the first step, the ship leaned far over and down I fell into the steerage below. Everybody yelled, for many thought some harm had come to the ship; although the fall was a hard one, the good Lord guarded me, and aside from severe pains in the hips and right knee, which vanished after 10 minutes, I had suffered no more than a mere shock. I begged my wife to let me go up again, I wanted to face the storm, I wanted to see the grandeur and might of our Heavenly Father, I wanted to admire and adore. O, it was terrible, to hear the roaring of the waves, to see them toss our ship on high as if it were a feather, to hurl it down deeper than before, and the next moment to meet and spray high the water and then cover the sea with foam. Every moment you heard the orders of the captain, which were executed with the utmost celerity. Here and there sailors fell on deck, others sprang over them and then lucky he who first reached the rope to hold onto. I too, helped as well as I could, since the crew was insufficient to be everywhere; the captain, a butcher from Hamberg, the cook, and myself hauled in the three bowsprit sails while the waters washed the deck; but when the captain ordered the sails hoisted and the sailors climbed like cats up the rope ladders, and up there, at the top of the masts, began to unroll the sails, and I expected any moment to see one or the other hurled into the sea, then I did feel queer. O, it was dreadful to see these men on high, silhouetted against the clouds, and I thanked the Lord when the work was completed and all were safely down again. The Pastor, the Candidate, and I, were the only passengers still on deck, and, in order not to stand in water up to our knees, we fled to the bench in front of the cabin. Towards 12 o'clock at night the storm seemed to have reached its height and by 6 o'clock in the morning it had abated. Yes, truly, great is God? Who can conceive His power!

2 — Thursday. The morning is clear but cold, the sea still restless, but the wind was

northeast and favorable, so that we are making 10 miles per hour.

3 — Friday. Today it's 14 days that we are on the sea — if we had only reached our goal! In Bremen we had bought some apples and today we exchanged some of them for eggs; a Swiss lady gave us some flour, we added two shipbiscuits, and then 6 pancakes were baked, which furnished us a royal meal. The weather is still cold but with northeast wind we are making fast time. We will forget everything if only the end of our journey be near, and feel much relieved when I see my wife and children happy about me, as was the case today.

4 — Saturday. Weather clear and warmer. Wind northwest, not the best. Saturdays we have barley-groats without meat, the worst meal of the whole week.

5 — Sunday. This is the day of the Lord. We have no lack of sermons on the ship, two daily. Since the Pastor now unsparingly exposes the abominations on the ship, he is no longer the Kaiser's friend, and our meeting consists only of a few men. And then the captain is not a man for divine services, and purposely tries to disturb them, although he does not prohibit them, having once given his consent.

Sundays we have rice and smoked meat but this is generally so salty that one can not eat it. Bacon is still the best meat. On the whole the meals are miserably poor; I would not complain if they were only eatable, but under existing circumstances — well, it will all pass over and we will endure patiently.

6 — Monday. The wind is southwest but too light to profit much. Last night I dreamed that we had arrived in New York in 35 days and 5 hours; accordingly we should land there on the 24th; if it will happen, the Lord knows; we are in His hands! O, how happy I am that my wife is beginning to recover, also that Auguste and Marie are again cheerful, and that for several days her eyes seem to have improved. Thou faithful God and Father! Thou desires to sustain and give us strength, that united we may live and work in Thy fear and do our day's work when called upon.

7 — Tuesday. A restless night, such vexation and wickedness on the ship, and then too, contrary winds, so that captain and sailors were busy the entire night. We are being well practiced in patience; sometimes it is said that we have passed half the journey, then again, not by far.

8 — Wednesday. Light, unfavorable wind, the air warmer and wife and children cheerful. By afternoon the sea became agitated and therefore everybody stayed below in the steerage; it gets dark by 7 o'clock and since the captain furnishes no lights in the steerage, one has plenty of time for reflection. This evening my thoughts were with my dear Droehner and passed each one in review; that moved the heart and moistened the eyes. But —

9 — Thursday. We have again that better northwest wind. The sun is shining gloriously, my dear ones are playing together, and my heart is grateful to God.

10 — Friday. Fairly good wind, splendid weather, but not as warm as yesterday. This morning the steamer Caledonia, Boston to Liverpool, passed near us, and every one who wasn't sick, came on deck to see something new for a change. We are all well and even the worst meals are relished nearly every day, as that we have persuaded ourselves that man can endure much, if he

has to. There's peas on Monday, beans on Tuesday, peas on Wednesday, beans on Thursday, peas on Friday, barley on Saturday, and rice on Sunday, but O, Lord, how the last two dishes are. For a change we received today half a herring and each one some soup. During the first 8 days we occasionally saw potatoes, and if we were fortunate to sometimes find one in the soup, it was honestly divided into 6 parts.

11 — Saturday. Last night mother and the children and I remained on deck until late to observe the phosphorescence of the ocean, extending as far as the eye could see. I believed that this brightness was nothing more than the snow white foam on the dark-blue surface of the sea, and that that caused the beautiful sight. However, my astonishment increased after I had pulled up a pail of the water, and stirring it with my hand, observed results as if I were stirring glowing ashes, and even after I had poured the water on the deck, I noticed the brightness again. I had to admit that my wisdom was at an end, that I would have to leave it to the judgment of the learned and content myself with what I had seen. With this thought we went to sleep and awoke today on a stormy, rainy day, with a strong southeast wind that will bring us off our course. Yesterday it was said that the captain had miscalculated and we had not yet covered the third of our journey; if this is the case it may well be the middle of October ere we arrive in New York. I live in the hope that the Lord, whom the winds must serve, will command them to bring us there by the end of this month.

12 — Sunday. Last night we sailed rapidly and also today with a north wind — we are making five hours in one — we are quickly forging toward our goal. Last night there again appeared a herd of sea-hogs, or better, hog-fish; the helmsman tried to harpoon one, hit it, too, but since the harpoon was not sharp enough, we lost the prize again. We are now 10-12 miles from the Azores but we can see no land.

13 — Monday. How grateful is the heart that we still have the same wind as yesterday, that lets our ship fly over the waves, so that, if this keeps up, my dream may be realized. We are all well, we lack nothing but victuals for strengthening; unfortunately we have not sufficiently provided ourselves.

14 — Tuesday. In the world and on the sea there is nothing stable but instability. Here we are now, with the finest weather, with an immeasurable beautiful view and the clearest sky, on the open ocean with its gently curling waves, but — what is to us most indispensable, without any wind. We try to pass the time with fishing but catch nothing than a few gelatinous animals called Nautilus, which we can not use.

15 — Wednesday. O! What a wonderful and indescribable view we enjoyed last evening, when we saw the sun set in a glory and magnificence never before seen. My God, since the work of thy hands are so beautiful, how glorious must Thou be, and that house wherein our dwellings are to be that Thou has prepared for us! Until late I sat with our Wink and our John (an unwavering pious sailor who has lived in Chicago for 5 years and has been on a visit to his home at Bremen) on deck, conversing as to the millenium and with the Lord near us. Then we retired and awoke this morning with a southeast wind, which will again bring us too far north.

16 — Thursday. Cloudy day with north-northwest wind, not exactly favorable.

17 — Friday. Clear, pleasant day. Wind like yesterday. How dissatisfied I am and how often I ask, why does the Lord not give us good winds? Does he not know that I am on the ship? Does he not know that my means are meager and that I must necessarily have my hut before winter? Illhumored I pace back and forth, in constant conflict, would like to entrust all and surrender myself and mine to my true Lord and Saviour; then, when I am about to submit to his guidance, this will not do, and soon I again call out: Halt, O my dear Lord, this will not do! You do not consider this, nor that. O, do bring about a change. It is easy to hope and trust when our experience accords with our views, easy to hope and trust when things run along a rut and chests and boxes are filled — for then we always have a thing of our own in our hand, but — but — Faith, how heavy you are! and yet how light you are! To whom He gives, has it free, that's certain. Inheriting and acquiring is naught but cobweb.

18 — Saturday. Restless night. No sleep came to my eyes. Poor heart, when it comes to the test, how little can you build on the father-goodness of God! And yet, all things are in His hand, and there is nothing that should and will not serve our best. — The day is fine and the wind fair but light, and my dream will hardly come true.

19 — Sunday. Strong southeast wind, therefore favorable; but rainy the entire day. Liturgical services to weariness. How longingly I reflected today on our pretty, simple services, and wished to mingle once more with the masses toward the house of the Lord. At the morning service we sing not less than 20-25 not small verses, and in addition the singing the Lords Prayer, and at the opening and closing the church's blessing spoken by the minister himself, and with all that, intervening songs by the choir. I do not believe that in my new fatherland I will ever hold to a church that has such ceremonies. This evening heavy rain and stormy.

20 — Monday. Northeast wind and therefore favorable. We are near the coast of Newfoundland. The color of the water has changed from dark blue to light green.

21 — Tuesday. Yesterday noon it was somewhat stormy, continued the whole night and now we have almost contrary wind which brings us more backward than forward. Therewith the pleasant news is passing about the ship that the captain has ordered the rations to be reduced. — That's likely to turn out good!

22 — Wednesday. The wind which started favorable with daybreak today, during the course of the afternoon, turned into a storm, which, violent at first, died down about 7 o'clock in the evening. Then it became very nice on deck and we remained there with beautiful moonlight until 10 o'clock.

23 — Thursday. Splendid wind. About 4 o'clock this morning we saw a sail ahead of us, and it soon appeared that it was following the same courses as we. About 11 o'clock we caught up to it, and, since our captain wanted to know the fellow, he hoisted the flag; and since our friend, as a matter of politeness, had to do likewise, it then appeared that it was an English ship, whereat our captain was not a little pleased and doubly proud as if he were the man who was able to blow our ship along. I would

rather have preferred if he had "blown" earlier, as that our ship would have remained with the Americana Pallas and Perkins, who left the Bremen harbor with us and are now probably already to New York.

24 — Friday. If my dream had been realized, we would be in New York today; but now we are far from it and the Lord only knows how long we still have to sail. Today we had for the second time soup with half a herring per man, without any potatoes, however. But it was at any rate a feast again. Since our own provisions have all been consumed we must content ourselves with the ship's fare; well, we have already learned a great deal. Today a hog was slaughtered but we poor steerage passengers will see nothing of that.

25 — Saturday. Fine weather, but feeble wind. The Lord puts heavy tests upon us; one grows impatient and the evil heart will no longer acquiesce in God's ways. Today there occurred again unpleasant scenes with the captain; due to his rudeness the men are no longer willing to help work, carry water, etc. and to me these wrangles are very disagreeable. I, as well as the Pastor and the Candidate, are very much dissatisfied with the treatment.

26 — Sunday. Today it is 5 weeks that we are at sea and with the little wind we have a good opportunity to meditate on the journey passed. About 7 o'clock we saw at a great distance to the eastward of us, a sailboat, which as the captain noted through the spy-glass, seemed badly damaged. Soon it raised 5 flags, from which our captain concluded that it desired to talk with us and ask for water and food. However, our dear John, as an old experienced seaman, knew better, and told me immediately that the flag signal denoted that the ship wished to compare longitude with us. And so it turned out. About 11 o'clock we were alongside and now soon learned, after the two captains had talked with each other through the speaking trumpets, that we differed only about 3 minutes, in that the Englishman had 47' 15" and we 47' 12". The ship came from San Domingo, loaded with coffee, bound for Liverpool, and several days ago had passed through a severe storm, and as a result the main-mast was broken off, the rear mast had disappeared and was replaced by a jury-mast, and the bulwarks were very much damaged. I looked at the ship with peculiar sensation, it almost seemed to me like an old warrior who, tho heavily wounded, still emerged victorious from the battle. About 5 o'clock the wind changed and that favorably. O, would but the Lord keep this up for 10 to 14 days!

27 — Monday. Our heart is happy in the Lord who has heard our humble prayer. Since 8 o'clock last evening we have had the finest north-northwest wind, which will bring us to New York, our desired goal, by the end of this week, if we keep it, and that is indeed an easy matter for the Lord. Just now we saw the first American bird of Newfoundland flying through the air, about the size of a goose. The meat this noon was not eatable on account of its stench and the passengers threw their portions overboard. Upon my representation to the captain he had the remaining supply inspected, when an entire barrel with contents decayed was found, which was quickly thrown overboard amid loud hurrahs and delivered as a welcome prize to the fish of prey.

28 — Tuesday. Today too the Lord heeds prayers and wishes; the wind, like

yesterday's, is favorable. O, how the heart yearns for the wished-for harbor! Will we too one day, when our sails are spread and we enter the journey into eternity, be anxious with yearning desire to enter the eternal Haven of Rest? O, I hope that our sight will then be clear and we can see the right Pilot at the helm who alone knows how to bring us thru the storms of vexations to the father-heart of God where all sorrow shall have an end. Since last evening I am not well; last night was a long and troublesome one for me and today I have a headache.

29 — Wednesday. Since midnight the wind has left us and with a mild southwester we are moving but slowly forward. Here we are now and all our hopes have come to naught. Seafaring fully resembles spiritual life; in both one is wholly dependent; in the former on the wind, in the latter on compassion and mercy, and only when the face of the Father beams upon us, are we saved.

30 — Thursday. Last night we were on deck until late, 11 o'clock, when we admired the beautiful Northern Lights in rare perfection; and when soon thereafter the moon rose above the ocean we involuntarily exclaimed "what beauty, what splendor." The wind today is mild, and we are coming no farther.

1 October — Friday. Altho today, with rainy weather, the wind is favorable, yet have we postponed our hopes of arrival to the 4-5 inst. Perhaps the anniversary day of my birth will also be the day of our arrival.

2 — Saturday. Again unfavorable wind, and instead of sailing westward we are tacking toward the South. So near our goal and yet we can not reach it. O, may the Lord but lead it to the best!

3 — Sunday. The wind is favoring, but feeble, and we are glad to have it. The weather is pleasant.

4 — Monday. Since last night the wind is most favorable so that we made the last 10 German miles in 4 hours and today covered another 9 miles. It is said that if this continues we will reach port by Wednesday. Would to God that this were so.

5 — Tuesday. Today I celebrated my 43rd birthday on the wide ocean. O, how many recollections throng my bosom. Wonderful God! Wonderful hath been Thy ways with me! Thou leadeth me to America, Thou sendeth me from amidst my own, from fatherland and friendship and leadeth me into a land I know not; — wilt Thou also be with me, bless me and grant me mercy from the inhabitants of the land. — O, then, — but I can no more than appeal. Father look upon me as in Thy Son Jesus Christ! Thou knowest my heart and my innermost soul is manifest to Thee! The desire for the good I have indeed, but am lacking in performance. Until now Thou hast, dear Lord, helped me through hard and heavy days, — will the days of my old age assume a friendlier form? That Thou knowest. Not on the merit of my works, but in mercy and compassion deal with me. Thou dear Lord. Amen.

Since 12 o'clock last night the wind has left us and today we are again tacking, so that the hope to be in New York tomorrow has wholly vanished. Thus is our patience ever and anew put to the test. Towards 5 o'clock a whale-fisher passed us on its way to the South Sea, and it was interesting to watch the boat battle with the waves, now deep down so that we could see but the top of the masts, and then again dancing about on

the crest of the waves.

6 — Wednesday. The sea runs high, the wind is strong and adverse. During the night the sea was very restless. Two ships that passed us today came so near that the captain exchanged degrees with him.

7 — Thursday. We have again favorable winds since last evening, and hope to reach New York this week; we are now so near that a continuous wind could bring us there by tomorrow night; but experience has so often disappointed us in our expectations that we do not hink about it at all. Today we saw 4-6 large grampus, with the body of a large ox, whose length, however, on account of the great distance, could not be clearly noted. We also saw several small landbirds like sparrows — all gladsome signs to us.

8 — Friday. Fine weather and favoring winds. Everybody is happy now and hopeful soon to reach land; but —

9 — Saturday. Doleful awakening or rather doleful waking, for there was no thought of sleep, since the spirit was too agitated over shattered hopes. Stormy southwest winds have met us, the sea is running high, a sail has been torn by the force of the gale, and now we are drifting, the Lord knows how long. I am completely downcast from the long duration of the journey.

10 — Sunday. The wind still has its full force, is still adverse; but the sea is somewhat calmer. About 12 o'clock the sea was swarming with hog-fish and it was interesting to see them swimming about the ship. The mate harpooned two of them and the smallest, after head and entrails had been removed, weighed 100 pounds. Internally they are structured like a hog; and now, after they had been trimmed and carved, the larger one was assigned to the steerage and the smaller to the cabin passengers. We were granted a special distinction in that the captain called my wife and gave her an extra large piece which, if we had had potatoes with it, would have furnished a delicious meal.

11 — Monday. Wind feeble but favorable. This morning the mate caught a vampire which had fastened itself to one of the sails. This is a sort of bat, the size of a small rat, with long bat-like wings, varicolored fur, sharp teeth, and a head which very much resembles that of an English bull dog. How the animal came upon our ship is a mystery and we can only guess that a ship passing us in the night, carried it, and that at the moment of passing it rapidly flew over to us. A cabin passenger bought it to send it to the museum at Berlin. — A whaler from the South Sea, heavily laden, passed us.

12 — Tuesday. The wind is stronger, we are moving rapidly forward and expect the pilot on board tomorrow. Everybody is on the lookout. *Noon.* The wind is growing stronger, nearly stormy, and since no pilot has yet appeared, the captain intends to haul in the sails so that during the night we will remain far enough from land and have no mishap to fear. 4 o'clock P.M. On the far distant horizon a small sail appears and every one is anxious whether it is the pilot boat. I am too fearful to believe it. Yes! it is! Through the spy-glass the captain recognizes it by its shape, it is the pilot boat! It is coming nearer and we see it transfer a pilot to a large three-master, who is ahead of us, will the little boat also have one for us on board? Surely, it is coming toward us — what a joy for all of us! Meanwhile the storm

has increased and the captain has the sails furled so that the little boat may reach us. There we stand, fearing to breathe as we watch the little ship battling with wave and storm, the women and children crying aloud every time it is hidden by the waves. But — O, wonder, each time it comes up again. At last it is a rifle-shot distance from us, a small boat is lowered, — but, my God, will the pilot come over to us in a nutshell in this storm? Indeed, two sailors are going over. The pilot too, and now — oh my God, let these three lives find favor with you! There they leave — a cup upon our ship — and boat and all has disappeared; but no, look, there they are again, now it's all over, they are gone forever, — but again they appear and are nearer, — again to disappear and again to move nearer, until finally, — oh the joy and rejoicing, — they reach us and our sailors pull up a tall lean man who is to guide us into the harbor. The captain welcomes him and asks his commands, whereupon the order "hoist all sails" resounds from one end of our ship to the other. What? In this storm and so near the land? But, he is the pilot. He is the man who knows the way and who now must be obeyed. Soon all sails are spread, the wind bellows them, the masts creak, the waves dash househigh, — it matters not, onward it goes thru storm and waves, and we are no longer able to look upon the sea without getting dizzy. Ever wilder the ship courses thru the high waves — but the pilot stands fast at his post and calmly and firmly faces the storm. Brothers, then I acquired admiration for the American pilot! At 9 o'clock, it was said, we would see the lighthouses, and so it turned out. I was on deck most of the time; everything was new to me and the time seemed long until I could see my new fatherland. The anchors were cast and we lay at the mouth of the Hudson.

13 — Wednesday. With daybreak we were all on deck to see the land and gradually, on both sides, it appeared through the dawn. What a sight! There it lies, the land in which I and mine shall hereafter live, where my remains will rest, and where the call shall come to me: "Fred, thy pilgrimage shall stop and the days of thy knighthood shall end!" All, all, all, is with Thee, Thou true God. — Soon the anchors are lifted and toward 10 o'clock in the morning we at last enter the harbor where soon a crowd of German leeches come on board, the one knowing of a good tavern, the other of good work, the third this, the fourth that, However, it seems to me that these loafers are nearly played out, and that the Germans have in time become too wise to be fooled by them. After our arrival we went on land as soon as possible, since our baggage was not to be delivered until the following day.

14 — Thursday. Now that we have received our baggage and all has been opened for inspection, we have no more to do with our ship. A great distance lies in back of us, much has been overcome and this I have emphatically realized: "Man can do much, if he must."

But the Lord who has helped us until now, will in mercy help us further. To Him alone the honor! Amen.

New York, Oct. 16, 1847

At last, after a long, long journey we reached here on Wednesday, the 13th inst. after having been on the ocean for 54 days, with four storms, frequent calms and often adverse winds. Healthy and happy we arrived although we endured much, very much. And yet we have cause to thank the Lord, for our life on the ship was a most excellent preparatory school for all the hardships and privations and troubles that may yet await us. Schroeder advised us badly and apparently have little consideration to ship and captain, for, as to the latter I must unreservedly admit that he is an inflated, pompous man, altho he was not guilty of any wrong to me and even expressed himself to cabin passengers that he held the Diederichs family in greatest regard; and as to the first, the ship was so small and narrow that we 122 passengers equal 200-300 on the larger ships, were crowded as if in a stable. But it is all over now and the Lord has done all things well. Already on the 2nd day after our embarking, seasickness or, I would rather call dog-sickness, began to manifest itself with a few; I had read in Ranschenbusch's Travels that a strong will power would, if not banish, yet very much lessen it, and Candidate Brauer and I determined to thus meet it. In spite of wind and weather and the rolling of the ship I staid on deck, and really, I was the last to succumb to it, and it left me after I had contributed but once. Believe me, it was a case for tears, and then again, when you really thought it over, also for laughter. Here one saw weak women in all possible situations effect their evacuations, these strong men with horrible strain and wailing tone humbled themselves before the stronger element, while children escaped without much pain and with little trouble. My dear wife became sick first, then followed Auguste and Marie, and then Fred and Carl. Wink suffered much and long; on the other hand, Vogel, possessed of an enormous appetite, remained steadfast as long as possible, and, if I am not mistaken, was ill for only a day. The meals were most miserable; Sunday rice and salt beef, Monday peas and bacon, Tuesday white beans soup and beef, Wednesday peas, Thursday beans, Friday peas and Saturday pearl barley without meat. During the first 14 days some potatoes were mixed with vegetables, but later on we saw them no more, indeed, during the later weeks we often were fed peas 3-4 times, 2 times sauerkraut with a half herring, and evenings coffee or tea, and the former so undrinkable in the real sense of the word that to this hour all coffee still nauseates my wife. If you wanted to partake something in the evening you would save some of the noon meal and eat it cold, or, as the majority did, you took some dry crumbled black bread, put in a little butter and salt, poured some boiling water over it and this passed as bread soup.

The last night on the ship, with the pilot already on board, was an extremely stormy one; during the night, about 2 o'clock, we had run into the Hudson and at once cast anchor; the next morning we saw, not very far from us, some sails extending out of the water belonging to a ship which had sunk but all on board had been saved except 2 sailors. The good Lord and Saviour has guarded us against such misfortune. But, my dear ones, what a splendid sight it was

for us when in the morning we first saw land on either side of us. I had always imagined the coast of America as low and level, but how great was my astonishment when, on both sides of the great river, which is 3 to 4 times as broad as the Rhine at Duesseldorf, I saw the prettiest group of mountains with the most charming villas, when I saw the water coursed by innumerable sail and steamboats, 2 to 3 stories high and at least 3 times as large as our Rhine boats, — O, so picturesquely beautiful I had never expected it. We landed about noon and instantly were swamped by a crowd of German agents and brokers, who insisted upon taking care of us in greatest friendship, but I hope no one from our ship fell into their trap. The next day we received our chests from which I had to remove the iron hoops, on account of the inspection, and then had to put them on again. The inspection is of no consequence but it is best and most convenient to supply the chests with cover and lock, for then one will soon be through with it. We are quartered at the Golden Lion and pay 2 1/2 dollars per day for which we are furnished mornings with coffee, wheat bread, butter, meat and potatoes, and at noon two kinds of meat with appurtenances, so that we are all visibly recovering again. Also the eyes of our Marie have lately been quite well.

When I often wander through the streets of New York it seems like a dream that I am here with wife and children. Wonderful ways Thou lendest me, Thou Lord, my God! In the streets and in the yards, everywhere there is a large crowd, which it is impossible for you to realize; everything surges, carriages and busses innumerable, drivers with small, two-wheeled carts, carrying goods, and each one numbered, I have already seen No. 4017; there's plenty of work at good wages, and German housemaids, concerning whose arrival the ladies personally inquire at the inns, receive 6-7 dollars per month, yes, often more. Ten to twelve of them who came on our ship obtained positions at once. Shoemakers are sought, not by 10 or 20, but by 400, in order to be sent to St. Louis where 12 months steady work is promised them. There are carpenter shops here that employ 130 men and all carpenters who came over with us immediately found work, — in short, every one who can and will work, is offered an opportunity here.

Vogel goes to Philadelphia tomorrow. Yesterday I was in Williamsburg but did not find Schwarz at home, he having gone to the Synod. Jansen, of Neumeitich, lives with him, has associated himself with a dear brother from Lippe and has his own business since 8 weeks. He earns 7-10 dollars weekly, has no desire to return to Europe and greatly praises the conditions here. The other carpenter who came over with him, but whose name has escaped my memory, (his wife and children remained in Europe) is not getting along so well but that Jansen tells me, is his own fault, for he does not like it here and always wishes he were back. With exception of potatoes which in some states are infected with a disease, the harvest has been good.

New York is not broad, but very long, and completely surround by water upon which one sees many ships from all the nations of the earth. The Broadway Street runs lengthwise through the entire city and on it there is one store after another, one palace after another, so that there is no end of

seeing and admiring.

I failed to meet Weiskotten in Williamsburg, for, as Jansen told me, he had been chosen pastor at Westleyden with 300 dollars salary and 40 acres of land. Matters move nowhere so furious as in America, of that I have received many proofs. This evening at 7 o'clock we ride to Albany and will be in Buffalo tomorrow morning, and hope, with the Lord's help, to be in Milwaukee in 10 or 12 days, and then, oh then, the faithful Shepherd will not abandon us! I travel a heavy and troublous course, my anxious heart tells me, but may He grant me but faith, the faith that makes up for wealth.

J.F. Diederichs

Milwaukee, Jan. 3, 1848

In my letter from New York, which I hope is now in your possession, you will have noted, that by God's favor, we arrived there sound and happy, and after a few days rest, at 7 o'clock in the evening of Monday, Oct. 18th, journeyed by steamboat to Albany, where we arrived safely at 3 o'clock in the morning. I had arranged with Wolf and Rischmueller in New York for the journey to Buffalo (I, my wife and Fred for 3, Carl, Auguste and Marie for 1-1/2, total 4-1/2 persons) at 6 dollars per person, baggage free, but furnishing our own meals, which I advise every immigrant to do. Only one must guard against dealing with any others in New York than the gentlemen named, for there are a number of other agents who attempt either to cheat the people brazenly or to deceive them by false promises. When these sharpers say that it is much cheaper to ride on the canal from Albany to Buffalo, they are perfectly right; but that the freight for goods on these canal boats is shamelessly high, of that they say not a word; I have met persons who had to pay 25- to 50 dollars for transporting their goods over this stretch. The foreigner may also be told, "At Albany you'll get on the railroad," and when they present their tickets, printed in English which they can not read, they are told "it's not good," and then the poor defrauded ones must take to the canal boat, ride 10-14 days (with good meals, however) and pay for their baggage whatever may be demanded. By railway one reaches Buffalo in 1-1/2 days, which may serve as a hint to those who follow me. From New York to Albany it is 145 miles and from there to Buffalo 298 miles. (Where I mention miles you must always read them as English miles, of which three equal an hour.) At noon of Tuesday, the 19th of October we started on the train and this was our first real opportunity to view the country. I must admit that at first it did not make a very favorable impression on me for it was hilly and bare; but after having passed Schenectady the whole assumed a different aspect, the finest farms with loghouses in fertile valleys and on hills, and many a pretty country town such as Utica, Syracuse, Auburn, Rochester etc. we passed on our railroad train. When you read of a railroad you must not imagine it a German one. Durability, carefulness and elegance in these matters are unknown to the American and I believe that for the money the Elberfeld-Duesseldorf Railway has cost he would build one from Elberfeld to Berlin. It matters not to him whether the rails are of

iron or wood, not whether they are laid even and accurately, for that is proven by the terrible bumping and shaking we had to endure. America is a land cursed by innumerable streams and rivers and lakes, and one can readily see what it will become when once it is populated and built up. The railway often passes over these but that is to the American no puzzle. All bridges are built of wood, without railing, without planks; heavy piles are rammed into the water, crossbeams placed thereon and then the rails of iron or wood are laid, and the road is ready. Once we rode over such a bridge crossing an inland lake several miles wide. In Syracuse, where an axle had broken in the middle of the night, I stepped out on the vestibule, which is found at every car door, in order to inquire as to the cause of the long stop, and was requested by a passing conductor not to alight because I might easily fall into the water. And the man spoke only too truly. Although the night was pitch dark I found, on more careful investigation, that we were on one of the bridges above described spanning a broad deep stream, and if I had taken only a step forward I would have fallen through the beams of the bridges into the water and been irretrievably lost. Forward on the train where the axle was broken there was hammering and working and soon we were on the way again. But that's the American of it; a human life bothers him little. The next evening we arrived safely at Buffalo, having had the pleasure to note that at the Rochester depot they were selling Baxter's Saints Everlasting Rest, Kummacher's Elias, Bible etc. the Elias for 50 cents or 21-3/4 groshen. At Buffalo we looked for a steamboat to Milwaukee, and again I arranged for the 4-1/2 persons at 4 dollars, furnishing our own meals which, however, are not very expensive, for as a rule they consist of bread and cheese and water from Lake Michigan. On this trip, which is usually made in 5-6 days, we spent 11 days, and I must designate this as the hardest and most dangerous part of our journey from Europe, on the one hand because you feel yourself wholly in the hands of the careless American, and on the other hand because Lake Michigan is in constant unrest and agitation. Several weeks ago a steamboat was destroyed by fire near Sheboygan due to the carelessness of a machinist who had become drunk at Manitowoc, and at which disaster 250 poor immigrants were sacrificed and only 44 were saved. One can imagine the sad fate of these people, suffering this horrible death within sight of Sheboygan, where most of them intended to land and expected to find the end of their hard troublesome journey. In Washington (Port Washington) I met a young man whose father, mother, 2 brothers, 2 sisters and 2 sisters-in-law had lost their lives in the fire, and only he, his wife and child were saved, with nothing but the clothes on their bodies.

The hand of our faithful God brought us safely into Milwaukee at 2 o'clock in the morning but it was noon before we came into possession of all our baggage; we bid a sad farewell to our dear John, the Christian sailor who came with us from Bremen, to Wink who has decided to go to Chicago, and to Candidate Brauer who intends to go to St. Louis by way of Chicago. We had made the great journey together, had come to know each other well, had shared joy and sorrow, and hence the separation was painful, my

wife being unable to restrain her tears. I consoled her as well as I could, told her we would soon meet new friends, would find Kohl and Flertzheim, and promised to look them up as soon as we had had our meal. I did this and first found Flertzheim, whose joy was overflowing when I entered his room, and whose wife, if I had not protested, would at once have gone for my family, altho she had not yet inquired where we were quartered; we should all drink coffee with them, and when I told her that since we left Bremen my wife had drunk none and could not drink the American coffee, she promised to make a genuine German, Elberfelder coffee which we would surely like. I now brought my family and my wife feasted royally. Since the American only half roasts the coffee it takes considerable time to get used to it. After the coffee we went together to Kohl and arrived just while his wife was telling a neighbor that Schrey and Diederichs were expected any moment. How great was the pleasure of our meeting again I need not tell you, and during our entire presence in Milwaukee the two families vied with each other to show us their love and friendship. Both of them are prospering and neither ever cares to return to Europe again.

Since I wanted to go out from here looking for land, I rented a room the next day for one month at 3 dollars (a cheaper one, where we could store our belongings, was not to be had); and since we live with a German butcher my wife can get all the fat she needs and even more, to store up for future use. Usually we have Panas (a pork meatloaf) with our coffee in the morning, our vegetables at noon and our coffee in the evening, we frequently have meat which is very cheap here. Beef is 3-4 cents per pound, pork 4 to 5 cents (a cent equals 5 Pfennige), a barrel of wheat flour, first quality, 196 pounds, 3-3/4 dollars, or 1-1/2 cents per pound, 7-1/2 Pfennige, then potatoes which, by the way, are often very poor, 3 shilling or 5 silver groshen per bushel (about 3/4 Scheffel). I bought a stove for 15-1/2 dollars and must admit that I have seldom seen anything more practical; there are 4 openings in it besides a bake-oven wherein we bake our splendid bread, and in addition we received, included in the stove price, — 2 iron pots, 3 iron pans, 2 tin pans for baking bread, 1 tin kettle holding 4 pails of water, 1 tin teakettle, 1 tin skimmer and 1 dipper.

Thus far we have come with God's help and our first anxiety now is to obtain some land. In order that the poor may find it possible to own land the government allows every American citizen to claim 160 acres, that is, the government grants him a year's time to pay for it. You receive a certificate from the General Land Office that you have claimed 160 acres according to law. Then you must live on the land, build a house, cultivate and sow, and a year later, on the day and hour, pay for it. But if this is not done the land is forfeited with all improvements made thereon. Then too, any one who knows that the land has been claimed, and not bought, may go to the Land Office and cover the land, that is, he deposits 100 or 200 dollars for 80 or 160 acres, with a declaration that he desires the land if the claimant does not pay on the day and the hour; in that case the latter does not receive 1 cent for his labor, improvements or expenses. Congressional land, that is, such as may be bought from the government for 1-1/4 dollars per acre, was not to be had

within 40-60 miles of Milwaukee, and what there was of it, in second and third hands, costs from 10-20 dollars per acre. From this can be seen how one can speculate in lands, especially when they lie near large cities and when wealthy immigrants are arriving daily who buy these lands at the prices named.

I had the pleasure to meet my friend Schnaake and his wife, together with his friend Weihe, who have been here for 3 weeks, (the same with whom we became acquainted on the boat at Minden), whom I was anxious to meet and who informed me that the Wesel friends also arrived here 2 days ago. I at once arranged a meeting and there I met vanden Bruck with wife and 6 daughters of Wesel, Huesch with wife, 2 children and mother-in-law of Hoersten, Pannebecker of Hoersten, Pflieps of Moers, Koopman of Hoersten, Vosholl servant of vanden Bruck, of Ruhrort, Fuete with 3 sons and their wives of Orsey, all brethren in the Lord.

Since all of us intended to buy congressional land and this was to be found at a great distance, we therefore decided to leave the next day for van der Laeke (Fond du Lac?), 60 miles interior where it is said good land is still to be had. We had intended to remain together and for that purpose buy 16 eighties; but as we could not find so large a strip without some poor portions in it, we had to abandon our project and, as I see it now, to our advantage. What is there in the long run to possess the finest land and be 6, 8 or 10 days journey from market, the large cities and seaports, at the farmer's loss of time and money.

We had now travelled 10 days and on our tour had learned to know the American forest and the farm life. After we had rested several days, we started out again, and this time 90 miles to Manitowoc on Lake Michigan where there was said to be some land obtainable. I must admit that I started on the trip in depressed spirits but, regardless thereof, as well as of the fact that we often had to wade through mud up to our knees, we covered 30 miles daily, so that we arrived at Manitowoc on the third day. The next day we marched 3 miles farther, to the Land Office at Rapids where we obtained a chart in order that we could go "into the Busch" the following day. After searching for several days we finally found some suitable land, 9 miles from Manitowoc, 7 miles from Rapids and 20-22 miles from Sheboygan. It was decided to build each house in common on each 160 acres, the same to serve as temporary residence and later to be used as a stable. For the present we quartered ourselves at the nearest neighbor, Hobecker, and started at work immediately, cutting down trees for logs, carried them on our shoulders thru the snow to the building site, and carried on this work from Monday until Saturday, all week long.

If you, my dear ones, could have seen me, how I arose in the morning from my bed of cornstraw with a block of wood for pillow, then partook of half burnt, sour, dry bread and black coffee without sugar, for breakfast; at noon dry bread and black coffee again with turnip soup, and likewise in the evening; then, I am sure, you would have been nearer tears than laughter. But in these days of hard work, hardships and the subduing of all disgust I have found what strength and joyousness is granted us by the knowledge that we are on the way where the Lord leads. A Buschman having

slaughtered a cow, we have for several days had meat twice daily. After mutual consideration it was decided that Huesch, van der Bruck, and I, being married, should return to Milwaukee and bring the women and children, while the others remained in the "Busch" to build the houses.

We arrived in Milwaukee again after an absence of 21 days, and altho my shoes were soaking wet nearly every day and the journey was connected with many disagreeable features, I escaped without a cold, and indeed, without the least indisposition, and humor and courage have remained with me.

At first no driver in Milwaukee was willing to undertake the long journey at this season of the year, but finally one consented on the condition that two conveyances be hired, so that one could aid the other in case of need. At Manitowoc I had taken up 80 acres for Kohl, and since he and his wife were ready to leave, we agreed to each load a wagon. On account of severe frosts we had to delay our departure several days, and because of the bad roads two horses can haul no more than 1800-2000 pounds, we had to hire a third team for 18 dollars, while for the other two we paid 9 shilling per 100 pounds. The most necessary provisions we had to take with us and therefore bought 3 barrels of flour, a hog of 209 pounds, 2 bushel white beans, rice, barley, etc.; all articles we could dispense with for the present we left in Milwaukee until spring when the freight by boat will not cost as many shillings as it now costs dollars.

On January 9th we departed, in such cold weather that Kohl and I could not even keep warm by running, but wives and children were fairly well protected by the mass of bedding in the wagons, and especially since we had attached large wooden hoops to them and spread bedclothes over these. At the start things went smoothly, we reached Washington (Port Washington) in the evening and from there wended our way along Lake Michigan via Sheboygan. After 2 to 3 miles out we had the misfortune that one of the wagons, passing over a log that lay across the road, broke a bolt. There was nothing left to do but take a horse and chase back to Washington to have a new one made; this accident would delay us several hours and therefore the wagon with the women and children went on and luckily reached Sheboygan before nightfall. After the repairs had been made we started forward in God's name and expected to be in Sheboygan by 7 or 8 o'clock when, about 6 o'clock another mishap struck us. We were approaching a creek, and altho it was dark, we determined to try crossing on the ice. Unfortunatley the bank was a foot and a half high, and while the ice was able to hold the horses and the front wheels, when the rear wheels came down suddenly and perpendicularly, it was a greater weight than the ice could bear. The rear part of the wagon fell into the water and despite the efforts of the team and men we could not move the wagon until we had put all four horses on the opposite shore and attached a rope to the wagon, and then not until we had chopped the ice away from the wheels, the second wagon, which of course had to follow the same method, caused us more trouble, since the horses no longer pulled as strong, and this delayed us several hours. And now the road became indistinct in the sand, it was fiercely cold, and with no light but the starlight Kohl had to precede us to find the

road, while I brought up the rear to watch that nothing fell out of the wagons, and because the ropes with which the hogs had been tied, were torn, this happened very often, and at least 20 times we had to put the creatures back on the carts. Notwithstanding that I held fast to the rear, yet, on account of the darkness, I frequently fell over branches and logs, and many an Ebenezer have I there set up in silence when I again stood safely on my legs, and indeed, if the hand of the Lord had not protected me, here in the "Busch" would have been my grave. At last, we reached Sheboygan, at 2 o'clock in the night, and having had nothing to eat all day but a piece of bread, the meal prepared for us was certainly relished. Our dear ones had retired, being very much exhausted and consoled by the statement that we had taken the other road, over the Falls (Sheboygan Falls).

The next day we continued our journey and since the drivers had to arrange it so as to reach an inn each day, we made but 20 miles that day and safely reached quarters in the evening. The following morning we started early and hoped to get into the "Busch" by noon. The wagon with the women and children was first and it was lucky that it was covered with bedclothes because, if they had seen the dangerous places they were to pass over, they certainly would not have remained thereon; as it was there was great fear and clamor whenever the wagon tilted and threatened to topple over.

My boots were badly torn so that I partly walked on my stockings and therefore I took a seat with the driver while Kohl found room in the wagon. No sooner had I taken my seat when we came to a place that seemed dangerous to me; when I told the driver, who was otherwise a competent, careful man, he opined that it would go all right. He urged on the horses, but the right side of the wagon was very low, the left side very high, and the rear was slipping on the hard frozen ground, and suddenly the wagon turned over, to be exact, turned topsy-turvy. Luckily for us the horses, usually lively, powerful animals, stood quiet in their place, and I recognize a proof of God's protection who has so mercifully preserved us to this hour. The driver, myself and Kohl picked ourselves up and exerted all our strength to move the wagon partly on its side in order to make it possible to drag out one or the other. First I took the youngest child of Kohl, then his wife, then my Carl who was hysterical on account of his mother and sisters, then came my dear wife, and thereupon my Marie and Louise Kohl, so that with the exception of my Fred and Auguste, all were now out, whether uninjured, I could not know, altho all stood on their feet and outwardly showed no injury. But my two children were still missing! We did not know where to take hold to raise the wagon fearing to hurt them, and our fear and anxiety were increased to the utmost when to our calls: "Fred! Auguste! Please answer!" not a sound came in response. My sensations no pen can describe. Finally we raised the wagon high enough so that I could hear Auguste cry, whereupon I made my way under the wagon and first pulled out Fred and after that his sister who was repeatedly crying — "Oh, dear father, Jesus wants to get me now."

Now that we were all together again I could ask whether there were any injuries, sprains, etc. No, the Lord be praised, no!

Aside from the fright, and one with a bruised arm, another with a bruised leg, all were sound and unhurt. If you now ask, my dear ones, how as this possible, I answer that according to human sense it was the mass of bedding as well as the hoops on the wagon that eased the fall, but my conviction is that it was God. The ever faithful God, who has stood by me in the innumerable labyrinths of my life, who ordered my guardian to put his strong hand under our wagon that no harm should come to us.

While the wagon was put in as good order as possible, the women and children went on toward the 5-6 miles distant settlement; none of them could be persuaded to ride. Finally we came to our dear friends and most hearty was their welcome and joy when they saw us again. Schnaake and wife, Weihe and Pflieps, forming one household, Kohl and I, all live together in van der Bruck's house, which, 20 feet wide and 24 feet long, is otherwise extremely poor, for the flat roof lets in the rain, while to create a comfortable warmth 2 stoves are required, wood for which is of course not lacking.

In 8-14 days we expect to move into our own house, which, however, shall be neatly furnished, warm and dry, and which would have been ready by this time if it were not that I had to saw part of the boards myself, not having the money to buy them ready-made. This house will be 700 steps from our present residence, and vice-a-verse to Weihe's, which will make it doubly pleasant for us. Huesch bought a farm of 80 acres 18 miles from Milwaukee, with a poor log house, 25 acres cleared, 15 thereof sowed with wheat, also 2 old horses, 10 young hogs and 20 chickens, all for 960 dollars, and van den Bruck bought 20 acres 3 miles from Milwaukee for 400 dollars which, however, is wild land, without a house or other improvements. Our plan, for all of us to stay together, is thus shattered, hence the families of the two gentlemen mentioned could not bring themselves to undertake the long, toilsome journey into the interior, but both of them, when they recently visited us for the settlement of our accounts, expressed their regrets that they were not with us, especially van den Bruck who cannot possibly support his family on the 20 acres he purchased. Of course the value of their lands will double by next year, and by reason of the nearness of Milwaukee they will have a good demand for their products, but for the money they paid out they might have obtained ten times as much land here, which must also be considered.

And now, my dear ones, I am a farmer, have 80 acres of 128 Prussian "Morgens" of land, and live stock consisting of a dog and a cat. Is he not a sturdy peasant? The dog is indispensable on account of the cattle, and the cat on account of the mice, who are numerous in the woods. I have fine, rolling land, sloping toward the morning sun, with trees slender and tall, such as oaks of three varieties, sugar or maple, beech, elm, ash, walnut trees, plum trees, etc. Indeed, if I could as I wished, I would forthwith give you a present of 15-2000 dollars, for Pflieps, who is a carpenter tells me that if any one would pay me 30,000 dollars for my lumber laid down in Elberfeld, he would have a splendid bargain. You may ask, what would I do with it? In the fire with the soundest, finest trees, 3-4 feet in diameter! In the fire with it if we do not happen to need it for fence or some other purpose. Through the

middle of my property there flows a little creek, about the size of the Lohrmuehler Creek near Neviges, giving me a layout for the finest pastures. In short, my land is so pretty and its location is excellent that all my friends insist, and I myself admit, that the best portion fell to me, and altho Pflieps offered me 25 dollars if I would trade with him, I will not do so but will keep what the Lord has allotted to me.

When once I have my land secure, then I will work my way through all right. But how the money goes you may learn from the following. Just now I need a barrel of flour and can not buy one for less than 7 dollars; then I still need 400 feet of boards, which I must buy for I can not afford to saw them myself, since I dare not lose an hour for clearing the land and preparing it for seeding. The more I have for planting and seeding the more will I have at harvest. I must have potatoes to plant, wheat, oats and corn to sow, and must have some to live on until harvest. Whatever, therefore, is not absolutely necessary, must be deferred and missed. Hence I dare not think of cows and oxen, necessary and profitable tho they would be. But I am sure that if I clear and plant 6 to 8 of my 80 acres by summer, I will easily get 4-5000 dollars from the same. Then I could pay for the land and have 300 to 400 dollars left. I am heartily tired of roving about and long for rest. If it is the Lord's will, then I will die here, and I hope that such will be His will.

Farms which are well situated and whereon enough has been cleared and planted to support a family, are very rapidly rising in price, for during the summer immigrants who have money are arriving nearly every day, and would rather buy a farm than settle on Congress land in the midst of woods. The great stream of immigrants looking for cheap land pass by Milwaukee and trend toward here and Sheboygan. This is of advantage to us for it increases the value of our land and makes it easier to sell our produce.

Follow me now, my dear ones, in my daily work, as it has thus far appeared, and let me lead you into our family life, and present to you a picture of our activities and contentment.

Not counting small injuries to our hands, caused by the hard work and rigorous cold, we are all well and happy, for which we can not sufficiently thank our dear Lord. With daybreak in the morning we rise, at about 6 or half past 7, read the Word of God together, and drink coffee, with milk, — no, no! Milk? That a farmer such as I does not yet have, but, as head of the family, I have sugar, which is very cheap here, and probably next year will cost us nothing for then we can tap it ourselves; with the coffee we have splendid bread. With butter perhaps? When there is no milk there can be no butter, and we must be satisfied with dry bread if mother had not saved some fat in which we can dip it.

Right after breakfast we start to work; Kohl is still busy preparing doors and windows for the house; I, with Fred and Carl each with axe on shoulder, go out to clear the land about the house; we chop the branches off the trees and shorten the trunk as much as possible so that it will not be too heavy to carry or roll to the wood-pile. That is no easy work and the higher the pile of blocks and brush and chips is, the better it is and the merrier will it burn.

Towards noon we return to the house and

mother has white beans with bacon, or barley soup with bacon, or flour dumplings with bacon, which last combination usually forms our Sunday meal. Potatoes, vegetables, or beef, are for the present not to be found with us, and just now mother reports that there is no more barley left, hence in the future we will have one course less, and the good housewife will have that much less trouble in cooking.

Then back to work again, accompanied by the good mother and Mrs. Kohl to aid us as well as they can, and after sundown we all repair to the house and treat ourselves again with black coffee, dry bread and sometimes some bacon. Then we read a chapter from the Bible and gather about the warm stove, chat about you and others, put forth guesses that this one will follow us and the other also, and that this one will fit in here, the other will not. Often I am so exhausted from the hard day's work that I am too tired to smoke a pipe, for to begin such work at the age of 44 years, that's some job! But I must acknowledge and praise the faithful assistance of my Fred and Carl, and I hope their obedience and diligence will yet bring us much joy; they, as well as their two sisters, have grown considerable.

Sundays we have church in our house; it is gratifying to see people come from 2-3 miles, depending on the weather, and once we had a meeting of 37 persons. After singing some psalms or hymns from our old Elberfeld Reformed songbook, there is prayer, then a sermon is read, then singing again, and at the close a prayer. May the dear Jesus grant his blessing, for it is but a trifle to Him to enable us soon to build a church. Besides our Rhinelanders the other neighbors are Saxons, from near Erfurt, hence Lutheran, and at some distance from us there lives a Catholic, hailing from near Trier. For a distance of 4 miles there are now living 12 families in these woods, still few, but the land round about us has all been bought up by speculators, and probably money can not be better and with more safety invested than in land.

You will next ask: "Is it really good in America and are you not sorry that you have gone there?" And I can give the answer, from my full conviction and in accordance with the truth: "Yes, it really is good here, as well for people with money as for those that have none, if the latter are capable and industrious workmen or mechanics, wherein I include carpenters, especially joiners, shoemakers, blacksmiths, tailors, tinsmiths, etc." The latter receive, if they have mastered their trade, immediately 12 shilling, 1-1/2 dollars per day, without board, as the owner of a store in Milwaukee informed me, which, by the way, is said to be one of the worst places for mechanics in America. But every one must see to it that he is thoroughly versed in his line, otherwise it will go hard with him if he must work with Americans. If, however, one intends to become a farmer and has money to buy a farm, he will find here a pleasant life and an assured future awaiting him; daily the finest estates, with cattle and all things that belong thereto, are being sold at from 800 to 4 or 5000 dollars, according as the farm is large or small, much or little cleared, near or far from cities or landing places. As to one who has no money, he will do best to first hire out to a farmer when he can easily lay by 50 dollars within half a year and with that he can buy 40 acres Congress, that is, unimproved

land. Of course he must thoroughly exert himself that his land be made arable and, if he begin in the spring, that it be fruitful the same year; but after he has passed this first year he need have no more anxiety as to subsistence, and ere 3-4 years have elapsed he will be able to take part of his harvest to any of the numerous markets and exchange it for money or victuals.

As far as hunting is concerned, let no one entertain any false notions, for while there is plenty of game, the newly arrived farmer has more important things to attend to than to spend his time with hunting, for he must direct all his activities on clearing and building, and only think of other matters when he has attained a secured position. Self-dependence and endurance, especially the latter, must not be wanting. Whoever is fainthearted and can not conform to any condition in life, had better not come. The word "embarrassment" is unknown to the Americans. As far as I am concerned, I can, hand on heart, declare naught else but that I thank the Lord that I am here, and regret that I did not come sooner; and when my memory turns to many among you and I reflect how you could live with your means here, — I am sorry, humanely speaking, not to have you here.

Joh. Frederick Diederichs

Rapids, May 12, 1848

Altho I sent you a letter only a short time there are many things I must add which were forgotten during the hurry and which may be interesting to you.

You know that, after many hardships and difficulties, we finally settled here in Manitowoc Rapids, 90 miles from Milwaukee, and 1355 miles from New York, that our 80 acres of land, as to location and value, leaves nothing to be desired, and that, after our loghouse has been finished, we busy ourselves with cutting down and burning trees, — oaks 3-4 feet in diameter, slender beeches, etc. Now that is certainly no easy work and yet I would not exchange my present situation with my former for any price.

Our loghouse is 25 feet long and 16 feet wide, at present consists only of one room, but I will later on transform that into two my means of a board partition; it is 1-1/2 stories high, giving the first floor 7 feet and the second 2-1/2. We get to our bedroom in the second floor with the help of a ladder, having as yet had not time to build a stairs, but then the former answers the purpose for the present. Instead of the sash windows customary here I have put 3 door-like windows and intend to add a fourth later.

The logs, or tree trunks, of which the house is built, are, on an average a foot in diameter, and are laid over each other. They are of course round and often still covered with bark and therefore the sides where they meet the upper and lower log are chopped away some in order that they may lie firm and have as few open spaces between them as possible. In this manner you place log on log until the house reaches the desired height and then you fill up the spaces between the joints, with wood, moss, lime and clay, so that such a building will certainly be as tight and as warm as any house in the homeland can be. The roof is covered with boards and then with shingles

and becomes so firm and tight that not a drop of rain comes thru. On the westside of my house, where the door is placed, I have built a roof extending out several feet under which we can sit in the shade during warm weather and enjoy the air, and which really, on account of its convenience, should not be missing on any farm house.

The building is on a knoll, with the gable-end toward the creek, only 70 feet distant; on the southside my wife will locate the garden; on the westside, where the door is placed, distant about 60 feet and separated by the 24 feet wide road, lies the house of our friends Weihe, etc; on the north van den Bruck's land joins ours, and the eastside faces the lake, about 40 to 50 minutes distant and whose roaring we sometimes plainly hear, depending on the direction of the wind.

I have now 2 acres cleared part of which I intend to use for a garden and part to plant potatoes, corn and beans, and when we are once so far that we can raise our own subsistence then with God's help affairs will prosper, but until then, altho thus far we have always had enough to eat, we must fight our way through as well as we can. It is claimed that 12-15 bushel seed potatoes to the acre will produce 300-500 bushel, but experience will have to prove this; at any rate the land is very fertile, for garlic grows everywhere and that, as the magistrate in Gold-Hamm always claimed, is the best evidence thereof.

My live-stock, which formerly consisted only of a dog and a cat, has also been considerably enlarged, in that recently there has been added — a chicken, which has already given us 14 eggs, and then — hear! hear! One day it happened that a German, residing in the "Busch" came to us and asked for bread for some hogs which he had brought from Milwaukee and were now lying in the woods and would not be driven any farther because he had run out of feed. The good man did not know how opportune was his coming and how nicely he offered us an opportunity for which we had long and vainly yearned. We, namely Schnaake, Kohl and myself, wives and children, all went into the woods and obtained from him 3 splendid sows for 10 dollars, one of them due to drop in March, the second in April and the third in May. Several days prior Weihe and Pflieps had gone to Green Bay, 30 miles from here, and we had requested them that if they had a chance to buy some good hogs or chickens, to do so, and the next day they returned with 3 hogs, one a boar, and which altogether cost only 9 dollars. Now we each had two (Schnaake, Weihe and Pflieps, you know, only count for one person), and when the sow bore 9 young ones in April, we had 5 each. The first morning I saw the young animals I involuntarily exclaimed in joyful tones: "What pigs, what pigs!" But our joy did not last long, for the old one, a raven mother, refused to suckle the young ones and as a result the latter all died the next day. That was a great loss and it was fortunate that we had agreed to my proposal to hold the hogs in partnership, for, when the second sow, on the 7th of April, bore 5 young ones, 2 of these also died; the other 3, however, are healthy and on the 5th day after their birth were already running about in the woods. After the others have also dropped and we can keep the young ones alive, we will have a whole herd of hogs by fall. They cost nothing for their keep since they look for

their feed in the woods where there is plenty of it; dishwater and other garbage we pour into their trough and then pay no more attention to them, altho they run into the woods as far as 2 miles, returning in the evening. If now I but had a cow and a calf!

We had a mild winter this year and only a few days that the snow could withstand the sun; it rained but little and I do not believe that on the whole we had 14 days when it was not possible to work. As a general rule all natural phenomena in America are on a grand scale. When it does storm, you hear a crashing in the forest as if there were cannons booming, trees are uprooted and fall with thunderous din upon others, taking their branches with them; during such a storm no one ventures into the woods. Altogether there, is an odd strangeness about the "Busch." Of paths there is no thought and it is therefore easy to get lost, and one is not able to find his way again unless he takes as his guide the sun by day and the moon by night, if they be within view. Therefore every one must consider it his duty, before retiring, to step outside and listen whether any one is calling, and that this practice is of benefit was recently proved to us by Aug. Poetz, who was coming from Rapids, had been delayed and lost his way and would have been forced to camp over night in the woods if his call had not reached me. We are the outermost settlers here and how far to the south and west of us there are people living, we do not know. A. Poetz and Grauman, of Iserlohn, are now here to build a log house on their 40 acre tract located about 10 minutes from us; Poetz with wife and children will remain in Milwaukee and intends to come here after the opening of navigation. The family has thus far not prospered since work is scarce in Milwaukee this winter; I believe, however, it will be better next summer in Manitowoc or Rapids where there is much building.

As yet Wisconsin has very few churches and schools for the state is just at the beginning; but Milwaukee, after 11 years existence, already has 15,000 inhabitants, some 20 churches, 7 of them Lutheran, and nearly all differing among themselves. It seems our state will in time preferably trend toward German, for my countrymen already constitute a majority of the population, and in Milwaukee there is more German than English spoken.

A short time ago I was in Milwaukee where I received William's kind letter of March 5th and at once answered it from there. After much trouble I have succeeded, the Lord be praised, to borrow from a German friend, named Fuede, living 38 miles out of Milwaukee, the sum of 25 dollars for 5 months @ 12%. With that I will buy the most necessary provisions, seed potatoes, etc. and after I have paid the freight, I will again be as poor as Job. But courage, poor heart, the Lord will not abandon you. On my return home I found all well, Auguste having recovered from her fever, and I had the added pleasure of greeting 8 young chickens and 21 young pigs but of the latter only 5 could be kept alive.

My dear wife has planted the garden, I have seeded a tract with corn and beans, and so, God will, plant potatoes and sow corn and oats this week, — I am writing this on May 15th. With Fred and Carl I am now busy building a fence around the cleared land which will be finished tomorrow and

whose purpose is to keep swine and other animals off the land. My two boys give me genuine joy and I assure you that if I did not have them I never should get done, for it is in fact no trifling matter, and many a person, if he knew what it means to be a farmer, would consider it 10 times before he left Europe. However, I do not for a moment regret that I am here, because I am convinced that my future will brighten altho my children have the real benefit of it.

The first year is of course the hardest when everything must be purchased; yet, as an example, I am now raising all our provisions and hope to have some for sale next year; every year more land will be cleared and consequently more harvested. To tell the truth I must say that whoever has money and the inclination to be a farmer, can do no better than to come here, and when I think of some of my friends who are daily putting their little money into risky speculations, I am moved to exclaim: Oh, if you but know that, with the smallest capital, you can gain a competence that will assure the safest, simplest, and most quiet life.

He who settles on wild land should have about 500 dollars; but for 2000 dollars one can at any time buy the finest farms, with all livestock and with provisions for 1 year and I would like to know what more can be desired? Likewise in money matters, — the lowest interest is 12%, with the best security — also in trade much money is to be earned, and if I had the means I would import some ribbons, sewing implements and buttons and feel sure of great profits. Otherwise there is necessary for trade a knowledge of the English language and of the best sources of supply. Finally I want to report that since yesterday our woods are full of pigeons, coming in great swarms, covering this entire region; they are very palatable and we could shoot them at our pleasure if we only had the time for it. There is a tradition current here that the region where the pigeons appear will that same year be fully occupied by human beings, which, if that would really occur here, it would be great luck for us for then naturally our property would increase in value. And now, to the faithful God and His love, may you all be committed until we all be united again.

Joh. Fr. Diederichs



Mr. and Mrs. Joh. Fr. Diederichs
Carl



The cabin to the right is the original cabin built by Joh. Fr. Diederichs when he arrived in the Manitowoc area. The house to the left replaced the cabin in later years. Though this house has been remodeled it still stands today.



This is the wedding picture of Edwin and Emilie Diederichs. They were married in 1905. A great-grandson of Joh. Fr. Diederichs.

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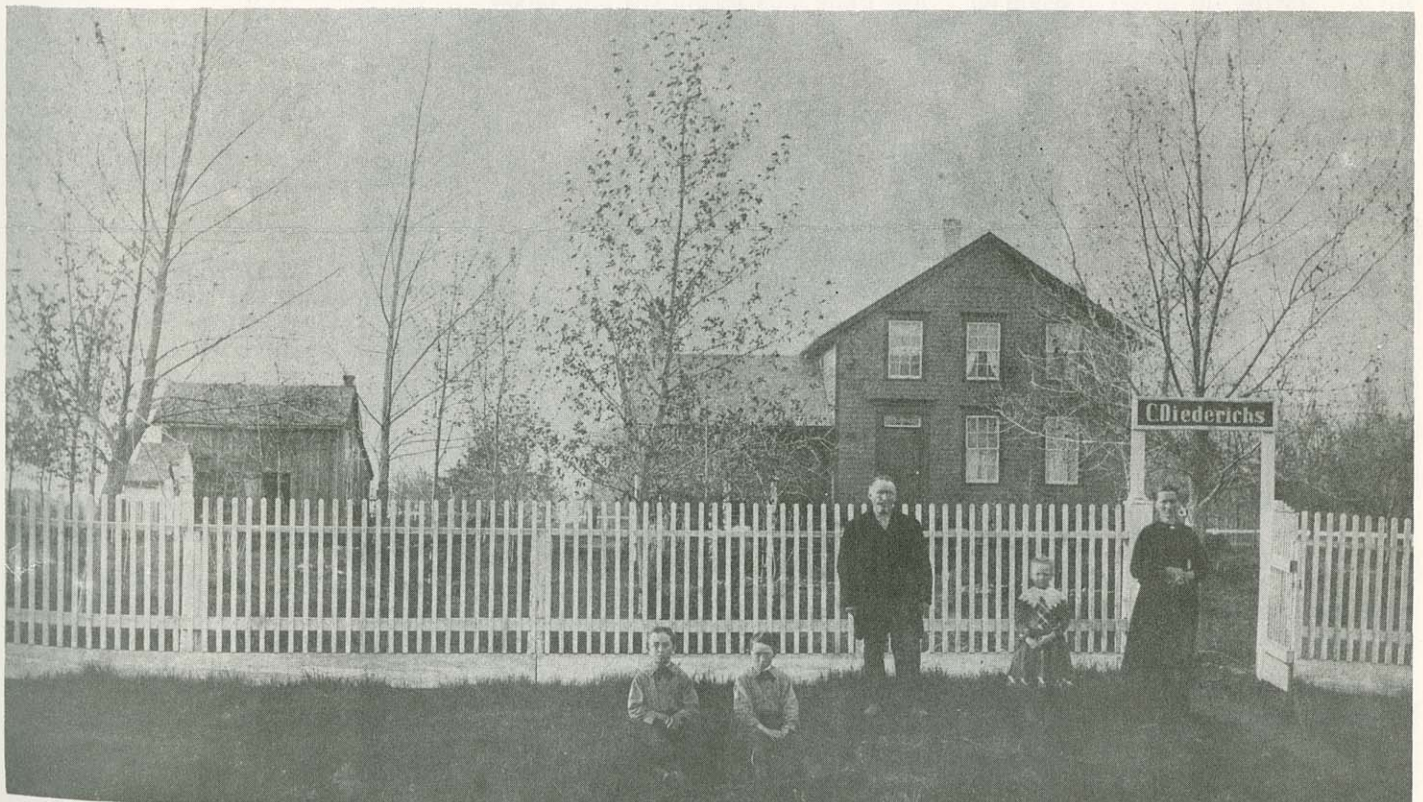
1983 Series

**Journey of the
Joh. Fr. Diederichs Family
from
Elberfeld to Manitowoc
in North America**

Corrections for the Monograph on the Joh. Fr. Diederichs Family



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Diederichs



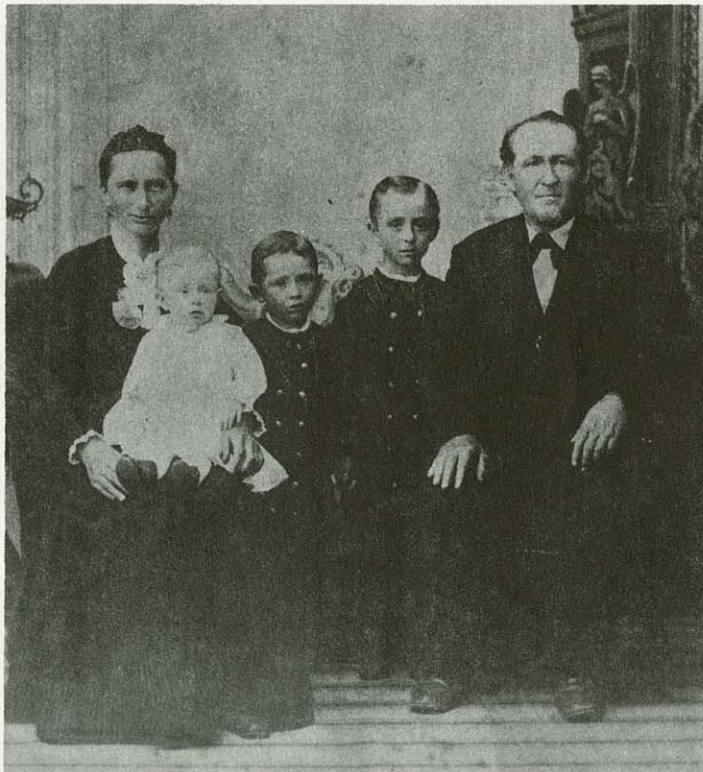
The home to the right is the original one built by Carl Diederichs when he arrived in the Manitowoc area.



This is the wedding picture of Edwin and Emilie Diederichs. They were married in 1905. A great-grandson of Joh. Fr. Diederichs.



Marvin and Anna (Bratz) Diederichs took possession of the farm Nov. 1, 1945. Marvin died Oct. 7, 1982. Anna is still on the farm.



Carl (son of Joh. Fr. Diederichs) and Anna Carstens and family.