

now, being the second Christmas day that I write this letter. We are all in good health. Do write me a letter in return as soon as possible, and I hope that I may hear the same from my relatives.

I remain in friendship,

Your Brother,

(Signed) T. van Veenschooten

(Translated by T. Van Hoogstraten, former burgomeester of Henselo, Gelderland, August 1959.)

(The following is a copy of a letter from Aalbert van Schothorst (1814-1899), Elderman of Ede, Gelderland, living in Lunteren, to his friend Veenschoten (T. van Veenschoten) Pella, Iowa, A^o 1856.)

(1856)

Dear friend Veenschoten,

By the kindness of your family I received into my hands your letter of 26 December (1855), which I and my people have read with the greatest pleasure and interest; yes, with such interest that I chose to make a copy of it to keep in my records. I feel very thankful for it. We were happy to see from it that you are happy and well and arrived there safely, and succeeded so soon in obtaining a house and farm, and that it pleases you to be there and that the soil is satisfactory even without manuring. It all aroused, with some of the people here, the desire formerly still slumbering, also to try their luck in that far away America. The topics of the day were, for some time after the arrival of your letter, about North America. But though you wrote a lot about America, my curiosity was not yet quite satisfied. We wondered how it can be possible that a state can be ruled without police, as always ill weeds grow among the rye. We also wonder if there are any beasts of prey or poisonous animals in that state or in the vicinity. I should like to know what the town Pella looks like. What about elementary instruction and religious teaching? What language do they particularly speak in Iowa? What are the prices of corn and cereals? And where must they be brought to market? And what are the roads like? And do they cultivate the same kind of garden fruits or vegetables as in Gelderland? How does a mowing machine work? We cannot form any idea of it. Does it mow the sides all right? Are there any American tribes and do they mingle among the Europeans or do they withdraw before them or melt away? In case you might write again, and it would not cause too much trouble, I would like to hear some answers to these questions, and whether you live in a sheltered house. I'll count on the further

kindness of your family to hear more about your letters. I only can remember very little news of any importance, i. e., Roelofseer* bought the Lunteren flour mill (this mill is still running, 1959) for his daughter, who is to be married to a miller's son from Elst (two hours from Lunteren). They think that Ros is going to build another in de Valk near the school in Wekerom. The minister, Rev. Heerens, will preach his farewell sermon next Sunday as he is leaving for Baarn (near Utrecht). In Barneveld, Rev. Toornenberg came instead of Rev. _____ (?). We always think of you and speak about you at 8 o'clock breakfast when you are still in deep slumber. In Ede they have broken down the clergyman's residence to build a new one. In Bennekom (?) they will probably enlarge the church. Brand Vermeer (probably a minister) will exchange Egypt for Canaan (Israel); and Kolenbrander also desires to go to America to find his luck there. Slotboom is also willing to go, but his wife not, and P. van Peursem is tired of everything here. And Bieshaar would like to get away, etc.

I hope that you won't forget us; further I hope that you will prosper. Farewell! Greetings from all of us, but especially from your servant and friend,

(Signed) A. van Schothorst

* Probably a brother of A. van Schothorst's wife, Alida Roelofsen (1826-1916)

(Aalbert van Schothorst (1814-1899) Elderman of Ede, Gelderland, father of Hendrika van Schothorst born 1868 (96 years now) mother of my wife. She, the old lady, is fully willing to permit you to copy her father's letter.

Translated by T. van Hoogstraten.