

Platte, Charles Mix County,

3 Dec 1893

Esteemed brother-in-law and Sister,

We certainly hope that you will receive this letter in good health. We received your postcard; it has been quite a while already, but better a late reply than none at all. It may be late but we send you our sincere best wishes on your birthday and we wish you many happy returns in good health together with your wife and children. Congratulations to you too Jans with Karel's birthday. We also congratulate Jo and Anna, Wim and Mien with Pa's birthday and hope that you may celebrate this day for many years to come¹ in good health.

We also congratulate all of you sincerely with Father and Mother's golden anniversary and we hope that Father and Mother may be spared for many years to come so that they may reach a ripe, old age.

Karel, you wrote that we all should come over, and if that did not work that the two of us should come over. What do you think, Karel, that we are that rich? Well, if you think so you are greatly mistaken. It happens more often than not that we do not have enough money instead of having too much, for it takes an awful lot before a person has paid for their machines and horses. So we were not able to do that, but even if we could we sooner would have sent the money to Father and Mother, because a trip like that easily costs 100 dollars return trip per person. So, we'll wait with that for the time being, because right now we are often more short of money than that we have enough, you see, machinery costs quite a lot, and you cannot work here without machines.

We had snow here this week, and it is cold since it freezes hard. I sure hope we will get some nice days yet and that the snow goes away, for we have not harvested our corn yet; we have about a week's work left picking corn, and we cannot do that now because many ears that have been mowed are on the ground covered by snow. I have no more news except to send you sincere greetings from all of us. You loving sister and brother, Louisa and Govert. Be happy, and write us soon so that we hear some news, because I don't have anything more to write. I will add this letter to a letter I am writing to

¹ In the Netherlands it is customary that not only the person whose birthday it is is congratulated, but also that the members of the family congratulate each other. "Mother, I congratulate you with Dad's birthday; Sis, I congratulate you with Dad's birthday," etc. etc.

Father and Mother, so that it can go in one envelope otherwise it would cost double. Once again, heartfelt greetings from us, Louisa and Govert and children.

Father, be so good and take this to Karel and Jans.

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres

Grand Rapids, MI

Winter 2011

Postcard showing Dyk & VanderBoom children

Addressed to Mr. K.F. VanBylevelt

Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D. , Box 411, March 10, 1914

Dear Aunt & Uncle,

Our hearty congratulations on your birthday. Everything well here, hope the same for all of you. More news later. Now dear Aunt, many heartfelt greetings from all of us to all of you, Your loving nephew and niece, Andries, Louise, Tonnie, Grete.

Postcard 1913 Platte, S.D. shows:

Gerrit Dijk oldest boy of Jetje

Anton VanderBoom

Gerrit Dijk, youngest of Jetje

Grete VanderBoom.

Postcard showing Andries & Louise's house

Addressed to Misses A & Mien Van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 11 December 1908

Esteemed vBijlevelt Family,

I trust you received my letter by now. We thank you sincerely for those really beautiful pictures of A and Mien. We have given them a good place. Also our sincere thanks for those beautiful picture books; the boys love to look at them and understand every figure. The game of goose is not going over too well yet, but they do like the homemade dice and chips. I am sure that'll come later.

Left sidebar: It is possible that I showed you this side of our house already. It gives you an idea of what the entire house looks like.

Right sidebar: Best wishes. We are all healthy. Your cousins And, Louise & children.

Platte, Charles Mix County, 13 Nov 1890

Esteemed brother-in-law, sister and children,

Our hearty congratulations on the increase of your years and we hope that you may be spared for all those you love and who are dear to you and that may enjoy good health. Dear Jans, I have not been feeling well for a long time, always fever; I feel very weak and tired; I cannot forget my Holland and all the people I left behind there, my heart is always back home; oh, I sigh so often about home, it is a good thing that I am always busy; the neighbors want me to get out more often and visit them, but I sooner stay in my little house. Fortunately, Gover is healthy and well and likes it here, which is great; he has been gone from home three weeks already, night and day, and I think he will come home next week; he is 14 miles away from home and earns 1 ½ dollars a day, a dollar is 100 cents; it is a good thing that we have the most necessary things in the house such as potatoes, flour to make bread; we don't have any vegetables, the harvest was a total disaster, we have 281 lbs of beef in the house, or, I should say it is sitting outside salted in a barrel, it cost us 2 ½ cents per lb., but it has no fat in it; butter is expensive right now, it costs 10 cents per lb., oats are 5 cents, rice 10, coffee 28, barley 5, cakes of yeast for baking bread 7 for 5 cents, I grind my own rye in the coffee grinder and then I use half rye and half wheat-flower for baking - which makes for such delicious bread and which is nutritious (pancakes made from rye and flower are also delicious). Monday I took 12 eggs from our own chickens to the store for which I received 15 cents, add 10 cents to that amount and you have 3 lbs of white sugar. Our children went to school on the third of November; that's when the school opened up again until 1 April. Education here is not worth a cent which I think is sad and which bothers me quite a bit, but Govert says, they'll learn what they need, well, I hope so; sometimes I have the children write out their lessons so they retain their Dutch; oh well, someday things may improve.

It snowed all day Saturday, up to a foot, which is quite something especially when you have to get water from a cistern which is quite a ways from the house and then you have to trudge through the snow which is not very pleasant; it is not like in Holland where they remove the snow; you sink down into it constantly; the paths are untravelled especially where we live, we are a mile away from the road, it is up the hill, down the hill, and hardly anybody uses the path: how different from city life ! there you see light, but after the sun has set here you see nothing except the dark prairie. I certainly hope to see streets again someday! But I don't think so. Perhaps you say, you sure write funny, but you see I am always alone with the children, Govert is far from home day and night, and then I live here in such a

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

strange land which is not home to me; I am often sad. I am happiest when I sleep because then I am with Father and Mother and with all of you, but then when I wake up I am so disappointed again. Goofi said this week, I wish I had wings then I would fly to Holland, and Jetje too, and Bertus keeps saying that he would like to visit grandmother and grandfather. Dear Karel and Jans, when you write me please let me know that the whole family is well, yes or no, for sometimes I have such horrible dreams, then I think, maybe somebody is ill and you decided to keep it from me; ah, I also lost my sister Maria and I am so far away, it is so depressing! Will you write soon, please? Best wishes from all the children and especially from Cornelus. I remain your loving sister Louise v d Boom; give our best to your relatives as well, Karel.

Platte, Charles Mix County,
South Dakota, 16 November 1882

Esteemed brother-in-law, sister and nieces and nephews,

Finally I have some time to write. In the sure hope that all of you are healthy, I can report that up till now all of us are in good health. Dear Karel, sincere good wishes on you birthday; we hope that you may be spared for many years in good health for the sake of your dear wife and children. And you, sister Jansje, congratulations to you as well on this joyful day, and also to the children, that all of you may experience many happy years together. We thank you especially for the beautiful portraits, what a beautiful likeness, all of you look so smart. Now we hope that uncle Cornelis will have a portrait made of Mientje; we are so happy that uncle Cornelis keeps sending us portraits. Oh, and father and mother look so fine which makes all of us very happy; we also congratulate all of you with father's birthday, how festively you celebrated that day, what a wonderful old age; you surely would not say that father is that old already. By the way, when is the golden anniversary? Isn't it on the 16th of October 1893? Be so kind, dear Karel and Jansje, to let us know.

Govert is far from home among the Americans, first he was about 12 ½ miles from here, then Goof came on a stout, black horse of James Andersen's for whom he built a house, and now he is 16 miles from home. It is not nice for Goof and me to live separately, but we are quite fortunate and it surely helps our family out, for the harvest this year was not very good. Cornelis probably told you that we had two pair of oxen, but that one of them broke a leg, and we had to buy another one for 35 dollars, of course, on payments, and the second pair for 75 dollars and the harnesses for 5 dollars; the grain had to be threshed, in fact just this evening the threshers were here to collect their pay which amounted to \$11.90. Sewing machines cost \$150 which you can pay in three installments of \$50. Cornelis made good money on that, and the money for the oxen is also available; we exchanged our oxen for two beautiful horses, one brown and the other one a beautiful grey color. We call the brown one Prins, and the grey one Frank; the seller offered us 50 dollars the next day to buy them back, but, of course, those horses are a god-send for us, for now Cornelis can use those horses (as long as Goof is gone) to take our grain to the railroad, and to hire himself out for a few more days, then Cornelis earns \$2.00 a day with the horses: in that way Cornelis has made almost 4 ½ shy of 35 dollars for the one ox; we still owe on our stove, but we hope to be able to pay that off as well. Once we have everything paid

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

off here, we hope to be able – provided we stay healthy – to pay the family off next year. That would make us truly happy.

The 10th of November someone came to get Jetje, those people wanted her for 3 ½ weeks for 1 ½ dollars a week; she is 10 ½ miles from home. A Mr. Eerkens came to get her in a buggy which is a sort of carriage with two grey horses pulling it. She is good with people, she is good at baking bread, doing the wash, ironing shirts with starch, she does a really beautiful job; both of them are grown up girls, you would not recognize them; doing the wash here is an easy job, every family owns a washing machine which you buy for about 7 ½ dollars, complete with wringer. Oh, it is very handy, if you had one like that you would never have to pay a single penny anymore to anyone else to do your wash. If you had them in Holland all professional bleachers would be out of a job. Stoves here are very practical too; if you want to do the wash you take a great oval copper kettle which you fill with four pails of water and one spoonful of washing powder, and a piece of white soap (for 5 cents, it which weighs a lb), you boil the water, pour it into the washing machine which is a big square box with the bottom and sides lined like a washboard, you close it by putting the lid on it, then at the top of the lid you have two iron wheels attached to a wooden round disk inside with four wooden arms that catch the clothes, then you move it back and forth two hundred times and you are done with the first batch of fine linen; while somebody hangs up the wash to dry, someone else is busy washing or pumping.

Yesterday I baked three big loaves of white bread, and today 4 big wheat loaves, I churned delicious butter; we have 2 cows now, 1 ox calf, Goof also bought a pony and a foal on a sale for 26 ½ dollars, to be paid next year. Oh, it is a beautiful foal, it alone is worth the money; we have 13 pigs, big and small, and 40 chickens that are not laying at the moment, so no eggs. We have 1 dog whose name is Crusoe, and a pitch-black cat. Well, this shows you how rich we are.

Cornelis, Wilhelm and Goof are busily harvesting corn right now which will keep them busy for a good week yet; the weather right now is good, the sun shines every day, but at night it freezes; we have had some really cold days already. Nelia, Bertus and Louis are looking for corn cobs which are the pieces left over once the pigs and horses have eaten the corn, they are excellent for fuel in the stove. Jansje helps me with the housekeeping and the sewing; there is plenty to fix, but I don't mind doing it here, in fact I like it; we sew our own dresses and the suits for the boys and whatever else is needed. If we can afford it we might get us a sewing machine yet, but that will have to wait till last.

Now I have to tell you something else. I assisted in the delivery of two babies. I was all by myself; at first I was somewhat apprehensive, but it went well; The first one was on the 28th of May at Mrs. Vander Voort's, and the second on the 1st of July at Mrs. Nies'. They were so thankful for my help.

Nies gave me 10 yards of beautiful brown fabric worth 40 cents/yard, and from Mrs. Van der Voort I received fabric for a beautiful black bodice. So that was easily earned. And now dear brother-in-law and sister receive our best wishes, also from Govert and all the children and from me who calls herself your ever loving sister and aunt

Louise van der Boom Rosenthal.

Be sure to say hello to father and mother and all the brothers and sisters and nephews and nieces, and also to all our acquaintances. Would you please thank brother-in-law Cornelis for all the portraits; we also received our portraits and those of Wouter and Alida and the children; well, dear Karel and sister Jansje and children: our best wishes. If I could only see all of you.

Christmas card from H. de Jong, Box 123, Platte, S.D.

Addressed to Mr. & Mrs. H. Berckenkamp & family
Koninginnelaan 44
Rijswijk, the Netherlands.

Nov 22, 1947

Dear Joh. and family,

We are having beautiful weather today; we did have a few weeks of rain and snow. We hope to keep this good weather for a while. Well, dear Joh. and Henri, first of all we wish you a pleasant Christmas and a happy and blessed New Year. Next week we'll have our Thanksgiving Day here. My, time flies. We are getting old without being aware of it. Our youngest daughter gave birth to a boy on Nov. 13, he weighed 9 lbs and 2 oz., and his name is David Ray. Mother and baby are fine. They came home from the hospital in Mitchell on Thursday. These days everybody who is going to have a baby goes to the hospital. We never thought of that in the olden days. But, I think it is a good thing for then they get the care they need. Louise works every day in the store, where she has been for years already. Now I have to end. I hope that you will receive this card in good health, which I can also report from here. Many good wishes to all of you from all of us, Your loving Jans.

Post Card with picture of Zus & Tonnie

Addressed to Van Bijlevelt Family
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 26 June 1910

Dear All,

Zus & Tonnie as well as pappa & mamma send you their best regards. Do you have any spare *Haagsche* or other Dutch newspapers? All of us are in the pink. Much rain and summer heat!! Regards.

Andries, Louise, Grete & Teun.

Sidebar: Mamma was at aunt Louise' place [when this picture as taken]

VI. PHOTOGRAPHS SENT FROM THE U.S.A. TO THE NETHERLANDS.

Remark: No copies enclosed.

Topographical

High School Platte, S.D.

1. front: High School, Platte, S.D.

2. back: This is the school our children attend. Govert is in the eleventh class or "grade"

as they are called here. Florence is in the 9th – Marie in the 7th and Jane in the fifth. There are 12 grades. This school is located just a block from our house.

Churches, Platte, S.D.

3. Front: Catholic Church

back: This is the view we have when from our front door we look to the right across the street. First you see the house of one of our bankers; then the R.C. parsonage and church, and behind it our school. This picture was taken in the spring because otherwise you could not see much because of the foliage.

4. front: the Reformed Church of Platte.

back: Our church viewed from the north-west.

5. front: First Reformed Church

back: "This is the church we usually attend. This picture is taken on a summer afternoon when the sun came through the rain clouds and gave a special effect."

6. front: Interior of the First Reformed Church.

back: "A view of the interior of our church with the Christmas tree and ornaments. (Christmas 1920)."

7. front: Catholic Church of Platte, S.D.

back: The Roman Catholic Church sits at a small distance north of the school; the roof caught fire once, but the fire dept. was able to save the building.

Grain Elevators, Platte, S.D.

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

8 front: "A busy day at the grain elevators. Vander Boom & Brink Real Estate, Platte, S.D."

9, 10, 11, 12 the same text

Main Street, Platte, S.D.

13. front: "East Side Main Street, Platte, S.D."

back: "This is the central block on the east side of the street. The fourth building is our office (X). Arrow no. 1 points to the roof of the railroad station and no. 2 to the main hotel. There are 3 hotels here and a few restaurants. Our streets have not been paved as yet, but people are thinking hard to do so next year."

14. front: "Main Street North, Platte, S.D."

back: "This is Main street viewed from south to north. On the right side the theater. There are three blocks of businesses and offices on each side of the street. We are in the middle block on the east side of the street, as is shown better in another picture (see no. 13)."

15. front: " Main Street South, Platte, S.D."

back: "The railroad station is just left of where the camera stood. This is the Main street in Platte taken from the north looking south. Automobiles are always parked in the middle of the street so that people can drive on the right side of the street as indicated by the markers in the foreground. The Platte Hotel on the right hand side – see arrow – belongs right now to Vanderboom & Brink but we do not know for how long yet (at this writing it has been sold again).

Near the Missouri River

16. front: The Platte-Winner bridge.

back: ---

17. front: The Platte-Winner bridge

back: ---

The trip to Bonesteel, Gregory, Colome, Winner etc. and possibly further to Okaton (all in S.D.) These photographs make a series.

18. front: Cars on the shore of the Missouri River.

back: "This is taken near the landing of the Wheeler ferry when we had to wait so long because of a strong wind. We were on our way to a place called Bonesteel and beyond to Gregory, Colome, Winner etc. to attend meetings to discuss big plans to dam the Missouri; the name of the project is "Mulehead Dam." A similar plan is being designed for the northern part of the State at Mobridge. The winner will probably be decided by way of an election, but we believe we stand a good chance."

19. front: Moored ferry.

back: The ferry near Wheeler, 17 miles south of Platte. Because of a strong wind, as indicated by the waves, we had to wait here from 2 in the afternoon until 5:30 to be ferried across since they were afraid that otherwise they might be driven toward a sandbank as is the case in this picture. A company of businessmen from various towns were on a booster-trip to advertise a big plan, namely the construction of a large dam in the Missouri for obtaining electrical power.

20. front: Missouri ferryboat (Wheeler).

back: The ferry that came on our signal to take us across. In most places the Missouri is almost a mile wide but unnavigable for any vessel except a flat-bottomed boat and even they get stuck at times on sandbanks."

21. front: Three cars on the Missouri ferryboat (Snake Creek landing).

back: "A ferry like this can take three automobiles across at a time. This is the ferry that sails 16 miles west of Platte near the Snake Creek landing. In the distance the east bank of the Missouri River is visible. The thin line is also a sandbank."

22. front: Car on dirt road.

back: "When you are 75 miles west of the Missouri River you will come across prairies where you won't see a house for miles and miles around. This is the road between "White River" (a town you'll be able to find on the map of S.D. which you received earlier) and "Wood," also a hamlet visible on the map – they are 30 miles apart. At the little X are the bare hills. The road was covered with a thick layer of white stuff for it is a natural road – there are no paved streets here."

23. front: Car on dirt road, Rosebud Agency.

back: "This is a view of a place called "Rosebud Indian Agency" which is 140 to the west of us; it is on the Sioux Indian reservation. Most of these buildings are administration offices. The land here is quite hilly. When you come from the east and go to the top of a large hill you can see this place situated on the side of another hill."

24. front: C.J.H.L. van der Boom on the prairie with hills in the background.
back: "In my letter to Uncle Cornelis of 1 October I sent this picture and a few others of our trip by car to Okaton, S.D. showing a few bare hills which you see so often on the other side of the big Missouri River. I am in this picture that Govert took."
25. front: Govert VanderBoom and Nick Buurma on the prairie with hills in the background.
back: "The same view of those bare hills with Govert and Nick Buurma, our clerk and bookkeeper."
26. front: Govert VanderBoom (left) and Nick Buurma (right) beside a Ford car, near Okaton, S.D.
back: " This is a picture of the 160 acres (about 64 HA) of prairie land that we looked at last summer. Nick Buurma in front of our Ford and Govert at the back. It is all prairie grass, of course, and in that small valley in the distance to the right and back of Nick sits a lonely tree. Nick and I bought this land together for \$18.75 per acre or \$3000 for the whole piece, of which \$1000 cash and \$2000 for a mortgage at 6 % to be paid in 5 years. We believe that in time we can sell it for a good profit."
27. front: Hills on the western shore of the Missouri.
back: "The hills on the Westside of the Missouri through which the road runs that leads to the ferry."
28. front: Govert VanderBoom and Nick Buurma on the side of the road, Ford car with license plate 12281 on the left.
back: "Taken on our way back from Okaton just on the other side of the Missouri (about three miles away from the river where the flat prairie changes into hills which we have here on both sides of the river). That white line in the distance is the steep side of the hills which you find at some places along the river; they resemble the palisades somewhat as if they were cut off with a big knife."

Rosebud Indian Agency (these photographs make a series)

- 29 front: Car with three men and a girl in it.
back: "Near the Rosebud Agency."
30. front: "Rosebud Indian Agency with a car, four persons and a creek in the foreground.
back: "Rosebud Agency seen from the other side; the surrounding area is very hilly and covered with cedar, pine and oak trees. The three other pictures were taken in the same area when I had to go with land purchasers to Todd County. The girl is the daughter of one of the men."
31. front: Car with two men and a girl on a dirt road.

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

back: "Near Rosebud Agency."

32. same as 31.

33. front: A buggy drawn by two horses with three persons in it on a dirt road, Rosebud Indian Agency in the background.

back: "Another 'Rosebud Agency' picture, but taken on another occasion from the same location as the other picture, but now Indians meet us in their spring wagon."

Lake Andes, S.D.

34. front: Lake Andes with mooring place and two boats.

back: "Lake Andes at sunset. July 5, 1931."

Yankton, S.D.

35. front: "The E.M. Coates' Block, Yankton, S.D. 1912."

back: "This is a building in Yankton that I got in Yankton in exchange. It still has a mortgage on it of \$10,000.00 which is due April 10, 1930, but it can always be renewed."

Mitchell, S.D.

36. front: "Corn Palace at night, Mitchell, S.D."

back: "The Corn Palace in some sort of Egyptian-Grecian style."

no commentary on the rest of the pictures.

Platte, Charles Mix County,
South Dakota, U.S.A.
18 February 1897

Esteemed Brother-in-law and Sister!
Nieces & Nephews,

Thank you very much for your letter which we received in the best of health; we hope that all of you are enjoying good health as well.

Oh, dear Karel and Jansje, I had in mind to write you a lot sooner, but it seemed like I just could not get around to it. And then tomorrow never comes. I kept saying to the children, I must write uncle Karel and aunt Jansje, but nothing came of it.

Yesterday, the 17th of February, Cornelis received a letter from Andries who wrote that Father was doing so much better; oh, how good it was to receive good tidings about our beloved father; how is mother doing? Is she staying healthy? We sure hope so.

It may be late, but it is well-meant when I wish you a happy new year, may both of you be spared in good health for many years to come for each other, your children and all who are dear to you. It is too early for your birthday, the 15th for you and the 25th for Willem, but since I am at it now, sincere congratulations to you, dear sister Jansje on your birthday; we also congratulate Willem. Karel, Jo, Annie and Mien, congratulations to all of you too with your dear wife and son and mother and brother; it is the wish of all of us that they may be spared for all of you in the best of health.

How is Cato doing and her children? Andries and Cor are doing well, I believe, they seem to be making good progress; did something happen to the Spaarndam? Did you hear from George already? Are Marie and Catoetje better again, and how is Jan doing, and do her children make Cato happy? Does she still work in the store, and how is her health? I never hear from her. Neeltje and Henri have not written me at all either. Would you ask them please that they write me a letter? How many children do they have and are they well? Be so kind to give our best to father and we hope he'll get better, and also to mother, Cornelis and Cor, Cato and Koos, and to everybody who asks about us. How is Marie Blommers doing, does she ever visit you? Isn't cousin Jans married yet, or does she still work out, or is she at home with her mother? Greet dear Karel and Jansje from us. Write back soon; and thanks Karel for your warm letters, and when either of you have time, oh please do write me. Do you ever hear

anything from Wouter and Alida, when is their 25th anniversary? Cornelis Zieck also got engaged, is she a sweet girl? Well, that's all I know. Best wishes from all of us, but especially from me, your loving sister, Louise.

Postcard showing Omaha, Neb. Kountze

Addressed to Mrs. K. F. van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 3 March 1911

Dear Aunt and Family,

Receive our heartfelt congratulations on your birthday. We hope that our wish will arrive on time. May you have many years yet, dear Aunt, and we hope to be able to congratulate you in person some day soon. The weather is good here and so is our business. And now, dear aunt, best wishes from Andries, Louise, Grete and Tonnie.

Postcard showing locomotive

Addressed to Fraulein W. Van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 4 Aug 1910

Dear cousin Mien,

Our heartfelt congratulations on your birthday. We received your letter and card with lots of news for which our thanks. Will respond in great detail. Here everything is perfect. Hope the same for all of you. Life has returned to normal.

Best wishes.

Left sidebar: Bets wishes form all of us. A.

Right sidebar: ??? 6 A.M.

??? Engine.

Postcard showing Mail Train Platte - New York

Addressed to W. VanBijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 5 September 1909

Esteemed cousins A & M,

Received your postcard of Rijswijk with thanks; it brought us back to the beautiful ??? We thank you very much for the attention you paid to Louise's birthday. However, it falls on September 13. The Christmas celebration here in that boring Dutch Church isn't worth a toot. Finally on our initiative they dragged a Christmas tree in there, otherwise we would not have seen a single "*tannenbaum*!! That's life

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

on the prairie for you!!! We received your postcard from London in good order. The unbearable tropical heat which is part of life here, is past, thank God, [continued in left sidebar] and we don't miss it. It is a good thing that I work nights, although sleeping during the day is almost impossible. We are all healthy here, and we hope Willem [right sidebar] received my letter [next two lines illegible] top line: ...of uncle from Princenhage. Beautiful area, isn't it uncle with that beautiful obelisk in the middle of the village square! Goodbye. Andrew.

Postcard showing lady (Louise?)

Addressed to K.F. van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte S.D., 6 Nov 1910

Esteemed Uncle, Aunt and everybody,

Receive, alas a little too late, our sincere congratulations on your birthday. May you commemorate this day for many years, in health, with your house companions. We received your nice letter with thanks. I intend to write you back as soon as possible, after Robert's arrival here, possibly on Nov 11 or 12. He is coming with the S.S. Noordam. I am sure there will be plenty of news. We are all healthy and hope the same of you. We received the postcard with Grete and ??? with thanks. Well, esteemed Uncle & Aunt and everybody, Goodbye. Best wishes to all of you, your loving cousins, Andries & Louise, Grete & Tonnie.

Postcard showing a farm implement with people

Addressed to Miss M. v. Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, 7 June 1908

Dear cousin Mien and family,

We appreciated receiving your and Wim's letters. It's always a great feast for us [to receive mail from you]! Two days later we received your second letter with those excellent pictures of Joh and the children. Thank you so much.

I trust that the E.H. matter has been settled now. It was simply a stupid move on the part of his secretary to send the receipt to Platte. I certainly hope that Uncle is satisfied with it, it really was not my fault but rather the Board's. I sent you two newspapers so you can see what's been happening here of late. All my young plants have died, except my potatoes. [Left sidebar of picture: Sincere thanks for the nice picture postcard. We thoroughly enjoyed it. Right sidebar: letter follows!]

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Picture postcard showing eight children

Addressed to K.A. Van Bijlevelt, Esq.
Rijswijk, the Netherlands.

Platte, S.D., 8 September 1908

We truly appreciated receiving the illustrated magazine *Het Leven*; what we liked especially were the pictures, they were so beautifully clear. The children [in the picture] happened to be in our garden near the chicken coop and they kept begging uncle Andries to take their picture. Interesting faces, wouldn't you say? Our boy just moved his head. And now, dear uncle, aunt and other relatives best wishes. Everybody here is healthy, hope you are too. Greetings, goodbye.

Front of card: Teun Jans' oldest boy, Jet's oldest boy, youngest of Mr. v.d.. Voort, Jansjes' oldest girls with baby trimmings?, Kees v.d. Boom's Govert, locomotive shed of the Railroad Company, unknown child?

Postcard showing accident scene uncle Govert

Addressed to William Van Bijlevelt, Esq.
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 8 November 1908

Dear Bill,

Received both of your postcards with thanks. A few moments ago the undersigned returned from a 20 mile trip to Aurora County with a team [of horses] pulling a load of lumber under a beautiful clear moon!! Oh, oh,oh, talk about the lonesome prairie!!! This picture shows you the exact spot where uncle Govert, sorry to say, was killed. The small wreath indicates the exact spot. I happened to take this picture, but unfortunately it is not too clear due to stormy weather at the time. I trust that the letter I sent to you and Uncle has arrived. Monday back to the country for a whole week!

Left sidebar: Received with thanks *Het Leven* and *Fliegende Blätter* [[magazines]; Very nice, Mien. Bye!

Right sidebar: Receive our best wishes, your cousins Andries, Louise, Grete, Tonnie.

Postcard with picture of Long Platte Creek

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Addressed to William van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 9 August 1909

With this same mail I sent you a letter and hope that everything will arrive in good order. It is blazing hot here today and I am glad I work nights. The Haagsche newspapers continue to arrive in good order. Very much obliged. Sincere greetings from Andries, Louise, Grete and Tonny.

Postcard showing a house and Jetje's Gerrit on horseback

Addressed to Mrs. K. Van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S. D., 13 May 1908

Dear Aunt,

I thought I'd send you a picture of our house. This was taken when it was winter; the black you see is tar paper that is attached all around the house; the white spots is where the paper is torn. But all of that is gone now. The little boy is Jetje's Gerrit on his horse. The other building is our stable. We are all healthy and well, and hope you are too. Best wishes from all of us to all of you and most of all from your nephew Wilhelm Van der Boom. Greetings to the rest of the family. Goodbye.

Postcard showing the Chicago Stockyards

Addressed to Mr. & Mrs. K.F. VanBijlevelt
Rijswijk, Holland

Chicago, Ill., 16 May 1915

Dear Uncle & Aunt,

Louise and I have been traveling for a couple of days already on the way to New York. We stopped here and visited the huge slaughterhouses. Also the biggest department store in the world, namely, Sears,

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Roebuck & Co. Tomorrow we continue to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. Our children are with aunt Louise – because of school.
1000 greetings, Andries.

Post card showing Main St. Wessington Springs, S.D.

Addressed to Anny v. Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Wessington Springs, S.D. , 17 Aug 1909

My dear cousin Annie,

I thought I would write you a few lines to let you now that we are both doing well. yet and hope the same of you. We are not at Platte anymore, but are only 55 miles away from it. We drove to ... with horse and buggy. It is a real ... that I did not write you sooner but I hope you will forgive me as I have been very busy right along. But I will try to write you a little letter as soon as I can find the time. I see by your card that you was in London again. You are certainly feasting right along; would it not be nice if we could come over once and see all you people again. But I have a feeling within me that it is going to happen in some future day and then we will have a ... old time, won't we? The last letter we had from mother stated that she was well yet; we cannot go home as often as we did before. We are here all among strangers, not a Hollander in the whole town or surrounding country. But if a need to be an American wa.. of doing ... will naturally certainly enjoy it. Many thanks for your nice card Mien; excuse my scribbling but I'm in haste. Give the most sincere regards to all the folks at home and further relatives at home. Will tell you and ... as that I will write... too and receive the best regard and wishes from your loving cousin,
Will and Gertie. Goodbye. [the above was written in English by Will]

Postcard showing Andries, Louise & their two children

Addressed to H. Berckenkamp
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S. D., 19 May 1908

Dear Joh, Henri & children,

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Here is a picture taken Sunday in my garden. Too bad I damaged the negative, but I hope you like it. The weather is hot here and all the young vegetable plants around the house have already come up. It all looks nice! How are you doing? We are doing fairly well. Receive a firm handshake from all of us. Your loving niece & nephew, Andries, Louise, Grete & Tonnie.

Postcard showing store front in Platte

Addressed to M & A v Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 19 May 1908

Dear cousins Mien & Annie,

This is the "big store" of PlatteMr. CookI charge him 75 cents for twelve cards, a nice little extra for me. I suppose you must have received our fat letter with a number of picture postcards. All is well here. Tonnie has that bad cough again and little sis is not feeling all that great either. But I am sure it will pass. Greetings to the entire family, your loving cousins, Andries, Louise, Tonnie & Grete.

Postcard showing Louise on snow bank

Addressed to Miss Anny VanBijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 20 April 1909

We just received via parcel post your tin box with seeds and ...the chocolate! we thank you very much for the effort and hope to show you the harvest later. The lettuce and radish are in the ground already!! The chocolate certainly was a nice surprise. We sampled it like Dutchmen will, and also brought a sample to aunt Louise!!!

Left sidebar: Many greetings to all from your loving cousins Andries, Louise, Grete and Tonnie.

Post card showing children of Gerrit/Jet, Cornelia & Govert

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Addressed to Miss M. Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 20 September 1908

Dear Cousin Mien,

The thought occurred to me to write you a few lines to let you now that we are all doing well and hope all of you are well too. I suppose that you and Annie must have had lots of fun going to London. I am sure you must speak the English language quite well by now. And you must have a fairly good idea how the language is being used there. On the other side of this card you will see the front of Cornelis' house. On the left is little Gerrit of Jet, then Florence the oldest daughter of Cornelia, and Govert the oldest boy of Cornelis. Best wishes to all of you from all of us and also to you from your loving cousin Wilhelm.

Write back soon when you have the time. I received – rest illegible.

Picture postcard showing four Indians

Addressed to Miss Annie Van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 20 September 1908

Dear Cousin Annie,

I thought we might have heard from you by now, but maybe you have been too busy with those trips to London. I hope you had a good time there. I am sure it must be a very big city. All of us are in good health and we hope the same of all of you. Of the flower seeds that you sent me only the Pompon Aster and Devil in the bush Phlox survived after the storm we had this spring, as I wrote you. The Phlox Drummonde and the Pompon Aster are still in full bloom. Well, Annie, let us hear from you if you have time, the opportunity, and when you feel like it. Best wishes to Uncle, Aunt and Willem from all of us and best wishes from your loving cousin

Wilhelm v.d. Boom

Sidebar: What do you think of the Indians on the reverse side of this card?

Postcard showing Andries' home

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Addressed to W.L. Van Bijlevelt, Esq.
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 21 Aug 1908

Esteemed cousin Willem,

We received your letter with appreciation and will respond later. This postcard will give you an idea of our vegetable garden. We bought this house on installments; it has at least one hectare of ground with it. Soon I will take a picture of the front of the house and send it to you. I trust you can find Louise and also Tonnie who did not want to look at the camera. The window upstairs is my darkroom. Goodbye! Warm greetings to all of you. Your loving cousins Andries, Louise, Tonnie & Grete.

Notations on picture:

is nog tuin: is still part of the garden
kippenhok and diverse bergplaatsen: chicken coop & other storage spaces
richting tante Louise 3 minuten: direction aunt Louise – 3 minutes
keuken: kitchen.
foto kamer: dark room
Ingang: entrance
richting town 6 minutes: direction of town 6 minutes

Postcard showing a house and children

Addressed to Mr. K.F. v Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 21 May 1908

[card written in English by Andries]

Dear family,

Yesterday before, we received your kind letter. Many heartily thanks. We received too the fine Easter cards. We all were very happy to see them. In a short time we'll write you as soon as possible, it is only the case, we don't 've much time over now. How you like this card. I made it a few days ago. We don't live now at Cornelis', we moved already two weeks in another one for the present. [left side bar: Have

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

you read my typed letter to uncle Cornelis? Goodbye, A. / right side bar: Receive our heartily greetings, Andries, Louise, Tonnie, Grete and the whole family.]

Postcard showing a house and children

Addressed to Mr. K.F. v Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 21 May 1908

[card written in English by Andries]

Dear family,

Yesterday before, we received your kind letter. Many heartily thanks. We received too the fine Easter cards. We all were very happy to see them. In a short time we'll write you as soon as possible, it is only the case, we don't 've much time over now. How you like this card. I made it a few days ago. We don't live now at Cornelis', we moved already two weeks in another one for the present. [left side bar: Have you read my typed letter to uncle Cornelis? Goodbye, A. / right side bar: Receive our heartily greetings, Andries, Louise, Tonnie, Grete and the whole family.]

Postcard showing horse & buggies on Main street Platte, S.D.

Addressed to Mr. K.F. v. Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands.

Platte, S.D. 24 April 1908

Dear relatives,

I am sure you will like this picture postcard. Well, dear uncle, with rapt attention I enjoyed the history of the Indians. It was true to fact. Last Saturday a few Indians came to town here. I could kick myself that I did not have my camera with me. But perhaps the next time. Today it rained buckets accompanied by loud thunder and lightning. Everything is in full bloom here with a lot of flowers. This is Platte's main street, called Main Street. Interesting, eh?
Note in right hand corner: Shortly a violin pupil is coming. I will write a letter later. Goodbye. A.
Note in left hand corner: All is well here. Received a letter from Kees. Bye dear all. Andries, Louise and children.

Postcard showing Roundhouse, Platte, S.D.

Addressed to Miss A. VanBijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 27 May 1909

Dear cousins Annie, Mien and family,

I trust you have received my letter. We have a friendly request to make: would you be so kind to send us, twice a week, the *Haagsche Courant* which you still read I assume. We will reimburse you for the postage, and will enclose a money order in the next letter. You would do us a great pleasure. The [unintelligible word] and the Sunday papers you do not need to send. Hoping that you will grant our friendly request, your loving cousins Andries, Louise, Grete and Tonnie.

Right sidebar: Roundhouse (inside) Platte, S. D.

Postcard showing 6 children

Addressed to Miss Anny Van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 30 August 1910

Dear cousin Annie,

Heartfelt congratulations from us. Although we are a bit late with your birthday many happy returns of the day in good health. How are all of you doing? Here everything is great! Nice, cool, rainy weather after terribly warm summer days. We received the postcard from Uncle & [continued in left sidebar]

Comments on picture:

Left sidebar: from Mien just this morning for which we thank you. Also yours from Germany. Best wishes to everybody, you loving Andries, Louise, Grete and Tonnie.

Right sidebar: I had a tough time getting our boy in the picture hence his –indecipherable – expression !!
A.

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Top: x children of the mailman * from the country

Other top comment illegible.

Postcard of the H.T. Oldham Farm of Platte, S.D.

Addressed to Miss Annie v. Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, 30 June 1908

Dear Annie: I learned from Andries that all the picture postcards got lost. I am sorry. But I will see to it that you and Mien get new ones. Best wishes from your loving cousin Wilhelm.

Postcard showing three cowboys – Stockyards round

Addressed to K.F. Van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D., 20 September 1908

Esteemed Uncle, Aunt and family,

This is a typical prairie scene!! Nothing else but the cowboys whom I have immortalized on a postcard!! They are people whose lives revolve around driving cattle, gambling, drinking, etc. Good fellows! But they pay little attention to their work. We are all healthy, and business is good, and unusual steady weather. Dear Aunt, Uncle receive our best wishes. Andries, Louise, Tonnie, Grete.

Postcard showing a locomotive

Addressed to Miss Anny Van Bijlevelt
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI

Platte, S.D., 23 August 1909

Dear cousin Annie,

Our most sincere congratulations on your birthday. We hope you may enjoy the day in the midst of your entire family. A few days ago I sent Willem a typewritten[end of copy]

Note from Louise on front of card:

Dear Anny, Sincere congratulations on your birthday; I will write you a longer letter soon. Today I am just too busy. Adieu. Greetings, Louise.

Postcard showing Farm round ?

Addressed to K.F. Van Bijlevelt, Esq.
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte 5 Nov 1911

Esteemed Uncle, Aunt & family,

Our heartfelt congratulations. We hope that you may commemorate the day many years in good health. If possible we will send you a letter. The boys have recuperated, and the business is slow here. Goodbye. Best wishes from Louise, Grete, Tonnie & Robert, your cousin/nephew. Andries

Postcard showing four individuals

Addressed to H.F.C. Berckenkamp, Esq.
Rijswijk, the Netherlands

Platte, S.D. 27 July 1908

Dear Jo, Henry and family,

Received Annie's picture postcard just now, and read about your little newcomer. Congratulations! May she grow and blossom until length of days. Here we are all in excellent health and hope all of you are too. The weather here is terribly hot. You should see both of our children, you would not recognize them, their faces are tanned like those of Indians !! Plenty photo business here, I hope to lay my hands on those lovely dollars in a short time!! Goodbye. Best wishes to all from your loving cousins Andries & Louise.

Translated from the Dutch by Gerrit W. Sheeres
2011, Grand Rapids, MI