

De Bruin, Willemien

Acquoy, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

W. De Bruin to Maria Van Doorne De Bruin

May 7, 1883

Dear Aunt,

I put myself to the task to write you a letter and like to inform you that by God's goodness we are healthy and well and hope to hear the same from you. If it were different, we would surely regret it, as you will understand.

But Aunt, we cannot help you in the matter, you wrote about: for we have done so much already.

First Dad raised us faithfully and with honor and then he took in another two (children) from Uncle Gerrit Jan, one of which could not even walk yet. But now, by God's goodness they begin to work along with us.

And now, something else again. Our Marienus has been ill all summer, and he also has a wife and four children, so you know what that means. Dad is over 60 now and has to work hard all day. One is at home yet, Nicholaas, who is grown up now.

Aunt, we are sorry that we cannot help him. For, let's face it, we have to commit it to the Lord, we can't do anything about it. We have enough on our hands to get by in this world honestly believe you me. For it takes a long time before all is paid for when you have to make it with your bare hands. It is not pleasant for us either, to hear this about those children, and about him.

But he married so secretly, we knew nothing about it. If we had not heard it from someone else, we still would not know it but that is his own business. He could have written, we regret, dear Aunt, that we have no solution. It is very difficult for Mother, as you well know.

Dear Aunt, I have to inform you how Uncle John is now adays. His legs are so infirmed he can hardly walk. And he is getting so old and has no joy in life anymore. He never visits here anymore. Dad goes to see him every so often, he is really happy then, for he is very fond of Dad. He's all he has left, for Uncle Gerrit Jan does not bother with him, you probably know that.

Dear Aunt, I like to inform you that old Mr. Kieviet drowned himself. He was 82 years old. He did himself wrong on account of his boys. They treated him so poorly. He drowned himself in "De Lange Dyk" if you remember still. But you flew the coop so long ago, you have forgotten perhaps.

I can't tell you anything about Aunt Mary. We never hear from her, never get a letter from her.

Dear Aunt please write back some time. Let us know how Uncle Arie and his family are doing. We never hear anything from them. And tell Kees that he writes some time. I don't know what to write anymore but to greet you a thousand times. Our regards to Kees and his children and also to Uncle Arie and his family.

Written by,

Willemien De Bruin

Albani de july 1883

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