Letters from the Past

By

Compiled and Edited

Frank Verdurene
and documentation are included.

Background for the collection or for individual letters, explanatory notes

The letter tells their own story. Wherever it is helpful to serve as

sent from cities to the Indian Traders.

In contrast, there are almost no letters still in existence which were

from Utrecht.

many activities of All Verduurze-Van der Vliet, a niece of Martha and Cornelis

making the collection, but special appreciation must be expressed for the

they were found and made available. Many indentures were involved in

It is remarkable that so many letters were saved in Utrecht and that

always attempting to share in the life of others.

were written during her year of tragedy. March is outgoing and sympathetic,

introspective, probably a reflection of the fact that most of her letters

shown, contains is optimistic and practical, a man of action. Jane is

is a philosopher-historian, who does not often allow his emotions to be

The letters exhibit a remarkable variety of style and content. Jacobus

Der Vliet, Cornelis Van der Vliet and Janeze Van der Vliet - busier.

years. The four indentures were Jacobus Verduurze, Martha Verduurze - Van

United States, and Canada. These letters cover a period of about sixty

from Holland, who sought a better life in new lands: South Africa, the

Most of the letters in the collection were written by our emigrants

Introduction
The Dutch grammar has undergone many changes during the hundred years or so since Jacobus, Maria, Cornelis and Jantje went to school. In the main, the letters are reproduced as they were written. The omission of a portion is indicated by the symbol "..."

Many of the letters were not separated into sentences and paragraphs. To make it easier for the reader these separations have been added. Parentheses ( ) and brackets [ ] are also used. Parentheses are used by the writers of the letters. Brackets enclose sentences which the editor has added.

August, 1981

Frank Verbrugge

Jan Van Der Louw and Grietje Van Der Louw-Roozenboom moved in 1870 from Harmelen to Wilnis with their daughter, nine months of age. They moved to a farm east of Wilnis and south of the Oudhézermolen and called it Op de Laan. Jan died on January 3, 1875. The following year, on September 21, 1876, Grietje married Klaas Van Der Vliet. Between 1877 and 1887 they had six children who all grew up into adulthood at Op de Laan. Their eldest daughter Maria and their eldest son Cornelis are important participants in letters from the past. The entire family were involved in the events surrounding Maria and Cornelis.

Jan Coert Rylaarsdam and his wife Grietje Rylaarsdam-Ram moved to the Veengyde, in Wilnis, in April 1876 from Sevenhoven, a few kilometers in the south westerly direction from Wilnis. They came with the five children of
Independent. So there was probably little discussion between Cornettis and
fert OBikeled to stay with the family until the youngest boys were
probably 11 or 12 years old. Janice was an affectionate young woman who
by the name of Janette, the other eight were sons of which the youngest was
Benesrting was a widow with nine children. The oldest was a daughter.

on the farm of Benesrting in Beede.
agreement was made through Martius, that Cornettis would spend a few
months abroad, who was from Zurich, in Rotterdam, who worked in Oudnyzeremonen. An
South Africa. Now there was a young man in Wittis, by the name of Martius
Holland, where farming was somewhat similar to what he would encounter in
in a dairy. The people agreed that he should have experience in an area in
was on the whole an agricultural country. Cornettis had had experience only
when the decision had been made, preparations had to be made. South Africa

Holland and America.

the inhabitants of Wittis and in the letters with whom were exchanged between
years she was to be the object of deep interest and attention of the part of
and peaceful areas in Holland. She never lived in Wittis, but for a few
besides, she grew up in Beede near Zurich in one of the most beautiful
A very important person involved in letters from the past was Janette
Was the first to leave Wittis.

in Wittis, of these ten children, three emigrated to America. Cornettis
year and a half old, and Janma, a month old. Three more children were born
the first marriage of Jan Costi, and two of their own children, Cornettis, a
them a better life than life on the farm.

From what Cornelius had told him, he was sure that he could assure
and that they would begin farming together in the spring
situation had changed. Cornelius's parents had rented a farm in Minnesota
undoubtedly because his economic prospects in Wiltzes were so poor. Now the
former request by Jacobus to permit the marriage had not been approved,
between Jacobus and Martha. Their friendship had covered several years. A
wife. This was the first time that there had been mention of a marriage
at the beginning of the next year, and that she wished to go with him as his
parents the news that Jacobus Verburg was leaving Wiltzes to go to America
Within a few weeks after Cornelius left Wiltzes his sister Martha gave her

in South Africa.

to Wiltzes he would be alone as a bachelor attempting to settle as a farmer
established himself with a family (whom he called Uncle and Aunt in his letters
struggle against the English. Prudently, although Cornelius sought to
more important to keep the peace with England than to help them in their
had reasonings among the Afrikaners. They felt that Holland valued it to be
also felt many worries for his parents. The Hottentots in South Africa were
On August 1, 1903, Cornelius left Holland to begin his new life. He

regarding the possibility of a romantic relationship which would lead
down trees, installing the railroad bed, etc. It is not known where
preparatory work was being done: draining water from the swamps, cutting
of the railroad was under way, but between Sudbury and Whitchurch only
Quebec and Whitchurch. Between Quebec and Sudbury, the building
time was building a railroad. About 2000 kilometers In length, between
In Canada he worked for the Canadian Northern Railroad, which at the
said that maybe he had rushed too much going to South Africa alone.
through Western Canada (near Drummond) with his friend Morton Van der Leef he
Canada. He did not visit Africa when three years later when he traveled
In 1907 he left South Africa. He went to London and from there to
approximately 500 kilometers north of Bethel.
Vrededorp. These cities were in the northern part of Witwatersrand,
established a dairy, but he wrote that he probably would begin in parts in
crossed the Orange River to Bethul. In Witwatersrand, he started to
Cape Province and within 100 kilometers from where he began. In 1906 he
the two, and from there went to Kooka. All of these places were in the
did not work for them, but worked at others places. He feltPressed for
he called them uncle and aunt. living at Brandon's east of Middleburg. He
largely for the grazing of cattle. He began living with an elderly couple
benefit. The farms were larger, and the area where he first arrived was used
much greater than he had anticipated. His experience at Bede was of little
He remained there for about four years. The problem of settling there were
Corrietta Vander Vliet left Vliet in South Africa on August 15, 1903.

The Roger.
The marriage certificate states the following witnesses: P. Janzen, Mrs. Van der Vliet (Janzen's mother), Mrs. Van der Vliet, (Janzen's father), Mr. Van der Vliet and Mr. Janzen's brother. The marriage certificate was present, also some of the Van der Vliet family. He had sold his parents, he married Janze Bunsink in Berdict on May 7, 1909. In the beginning of 1909 Cornelius Van der Vliet returned to Holland, as

JANZER

The Netherlands, May 7, 1909
Cornelius Van der Vliet and Janze Bunsink

PHOTOGRAPH

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The Canadian Pacific.

To travel from Port William to Campbell by the Canadian by the railway of Northern. There were short lines between the railways. So it was possible railroad ran through the eastern part of Canada, south of the Canadian from Montreal to Vancouver and from there through Western Canada. This was another railroad, the Canadian Pacific Railroad, which ran

VANZER.

Work for the railroad to Campbell, about 800 kilometers east from Holland. He had then already signed a contract to work at the preparatory course asking her to marry him. In early 1909 he traveled back to Cornelius worked during 1907 and 1908.
The Netherlands, 7 May 1999.

Corneille van der Velt and Janette Ensink.
be responsible to be the house-keeper for all of them. So it was no wonder
the men who had come with them would also live in the house, and she wouldn't
entire camp, Nor was the house intended to be for her and Cornelia only.
Their house was in a camp of workers, and that she was the only woman in the
There were still more disappointments. Jantje made the discovery that
He came a week later, the house was not yet finished the previous week.
June 19, she walked to the station to meet Cornelia, but he was not there.
alone in Port Williarn in a home where there were no other Hollander's. On
campbell to finish building the house. For three Toney weeks Jantje was
decided that Jantje would stay in Port William. The men would go to take
the house at Campbell. The house at Campbell take was not yet finished, so it was
The group reached Canada in late May. They then took a train westward
trip with peaceful Betje.
he had ever experienced on the ocean. Jantje probably often compared this
sea sick almost all of the time. Cornelia said that it was the worst trip
encountered. It was storming during the entire trip, and the passengers were
The trip to Canada was eventually due largely to the trouble they
There were still three others, among them loopy, and Dirk Akkoy.
on May 7, 1908. They lived at the time in the Summer House of Op de Java.
is to say, a brother of his wife Johanna. Jacobs and Johanna were married
family, Harman Van Der Lee, a brother-in-law of Jacobus Van Der Will, that
Grout buschink, probably not from Beetsche nor a member of the Beetsche
back with him and Jantje. Among the six were: Jan, a brother of Jantje,
while he was in Holland, Cornelia convinced six of his friends that
About the house. The reason was I do not know, and nothing was known for certain. What the reason was I do not know, but then they had to wait. The house was so far away that the walls were standing, and it then they had to wait.

Today well and working zealously to finish the house. On June 12 the house was finished. According to a letter received from C. Yesterday everyone was at 6:30, but one cannot depend upon that. It is a train which runs two times a week. According to a letter received from C. Yesterday everyone was at 6:30, but one cannot depend upon that. It is a train which runs two times a week. Everyone needs to be there. The train can be there. The train can be there. Least hope I will not be disappointed. The station where the trains arrive.

still here. very likely cornells will come to get me today. i am

June 19, 1909

Port Willams

Janette to the van der Willer family in williams

second husband.

Michigan, and the winds in Zealand where she lived for a few years with the winds in Zealand. The wind storms and the summer heat. In three weeks in Port Williams, with the winter storms and the summer heat. In three weeks in Portland, with the winter storms and the summer heat. The wind storms and the summer heat. The wind storms and the summer heat.

in all of her life she realized how beautiful Berde was.Probably she realized how beautiful Berde was. Probably she realized how beautiful Berde was.

Little niece in Michigan, Janette made the statement that she had forgotten.

Many years later, on a picture post-card which she sent from Berde to a friend, Janette took the picture. She sent it to her family. The picture had been taken in Berde. It was a picture of the town where she had lived.

The solution would be to have Janette go to Michigan, where Jacobus and Marta could not eat. In despair, Cornells and Janette decided that the only thing she could become ill as a result of the disagreement. She lost weight and

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few bicyclists, young women also ride with a horse and buggy. Vehicles never
our cows milk very well do that, some of the cows have a bell on them. I see
have not yet seen this, they seem to be more intelligent than in Holland.
the highways, where the electric train runs as well as on the grass. But I
large areas the cows are free to go anywhere. They could very well get on
it. Here and there is a cow, but that does not amount to much in such a
no thought seems to be given to moving, and there is no possibility of dating.
woods have all been cut down, and now the stumps are still in the ground.
there is no postal delivery on Sundays. Formerly it was all forest. The
Catholic. I have seen all of them. The stores were all closed on Sunday.
There are at least 5 large churches here: Presbyterian, Lutheran and
small. The young men wore regular clothes.
neck, and the crown of the head covered by a kind of sailor hats, but very
black robes, broad sheeves, like a kind of robe, while its around their
congregation sang all standing. The choir women were all dressed in long
choir sang consisting of young men and young women, and latter the entire
enjoyed nothing except the singing, that sounded beautiful. At first a
On my walks I passed a Presbyterian church and went inside; naturally I
Mrs. Bakes different kinds of cake.
all, they do not go to church, most of Sundays are spent sheepding, and the
during their here, the people are so friendly, but I do not feel at home at
although I am so eager to leave here and long to be in my own home. I am
helped a little in the work. The time does not seem to be too long,
I could. I have madetranslations every day from my cook book, walked and
up to this time I have worked busily, have completed My skirt as far as
Asphalt roof, papered inside, a carpet on the floor, etc., etc. There is
a sitting room, and one room for the two of us. The walls are white, and
our house has four rooms, one room is for the boys, one for dining and
(today the first part of the letter has been lost)

begun July 1909

Cornelia

Cornelia and Janie

Cornelia and Janie

Your loving children,

money yesterday? I still had 1 cent.

Naturally, I was disappointed again Saturday. Fortunately, he sent me
finished, the men are working well! Here are the facts: one of the best.
writes, he was too busy and hopes to write later. The house will soon be
now, they were all well. C. asked especially that greeting be sent to
come. I received a letter yesterday. P. R. he hopes to come next Saturday
June 23, Saturday, I get a little space for Cornelia but he did not

housewarming.

is wasted. This is better qualified for conversation than to be
a month. I can understand people here, if others were that so much time
houses are being built everywhere. House rent is high, here people pay $7.4
there is a great demand for carpenters here, for a wage of $3.5 an hour.

have noticed they look neat.

seem to be washed here. All institutions here have negroes. As far as I

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water kettles yet. Our stove heats well, and we have plenty of wood around
here. But some things are still lacking, such as, for example, we have no
tests. We bought some of our kitchen utensils in Fort William and some
crock at the end by the window, then for decorations, pictures and wall-
pleasantly arranged. In the dining-room a long table with red-seal, our
kitchen, wall-paper for the kitchen and dining-room. The rooms are quite
room, but we have white boards for the rest, a piece of sail for the
We had purchased a carpet in Fort William, it is much too small for this
afternoon at 3 o'clock all of our things were here and we could get to work.
arrived here. No one was at home, the boys had all gone to work. In the
another from our recent days, Thursday morning at about 10 o'clock we
In addition to what I wrote I will tell you about one thing and

-Jamie

Your loving C and J

With love,

Assured of your prayers.

Receive the greetings from both of us, and God be with you, brother

I have not written a letter either.

soon, up to this time no news from William, although I must admit, that I
birthday, or possibly you will bring it to her yourself. Do write back

I will enclose a letter for mother for you to send to her on her

further along in our work.

In the woods before we began to build the house, but every day brought us
still a mess around the house, for which we had to clear a large open space
to send you some news. Unfortunately I can not say: "All is well," since
it has been some time since we have written to you. So it is high time.

August 1, 1909
via Port William West.
Superior Junction #5
C/o A. McGregor, Bag.

Committee to his parents

Jane

I will add to Matifee's letter so you can read both of them.

Work.

Too. I find all the many courses which are in Vogue here to be too much
this afternoon we went to the Wilson Sunday-Pot and a little pudding.
work to wash up and then hurried to the camp to eat.

us for the first time this morning. Before this they came here from their
yesterday and bought a supply of living necessities. The boys are with

J. L. things. I will store my bed-spread temporarily.

Nature is beautiful here but the mosquitoes are a terrifible pest. It is
things all arrived in Good condition, one cup was broken but that was all.
the house. A cheerful had to be cut out, everything is woods here. Our
Herman Van der Lee is the hardest worker of all; he enjoys America, adjusts himself to everything and is always happy.

The following about the boys: Herman Van der Lee is the hardest worker but not a great deal anymore.

Favorable the rest of the time. At first we were bothered by mosquitoes, the weather is fine here most of the time, a bit warm now and then, but

with the letter from Father Busserink enclosed, I almost forget to tell you that we received your letter of June 23.

I almost forget to tell you that we received your letter of June 23.

But I will not complain, but well carry what is laid upon me like a

work is succeeding. God lays a cross on our shoulders, the

pathway is soon with thorns, because now that everything is going well, the

seems my to farm in a western state, as to one of the western provinces. It seems my

Jan Busserink does wish to go to the poorer, so he might just as well go

become seriously III, we would be sorry later.

It is hard, for me, but especially for Janette, but if she were to

arrange to stay with one of our acquaintances for the time being.

convention in view of sister’s approaching death, she will have to

Busserink will be gone to bring his wife to sister M. If it is not

difficult because I cannot get away because of my work. So, probably Jan

take care of a sick person properly, so far from everythine. And it is also
that if it does not improve soon, she will leave here, as it is difficult to

eats she vomits very tired and an exhausted feeling to eat, so we have decided

Janette has not been well for the last week, unable to eat, and when she

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We had a large household consisting of young fellows who had come with us. There were no women in the vicinity, but there was not the worst. But there is little contact with people, only the men who work on the pleasant little lake in the woods. When the house was completed, C came after me. Our little home was so I found it very difficult, so soon after that hard separation, with British-speaking people, I felt very lonely and very little diversion. I had a day's trip from whence my husband was working. Boating which was a day's trip from whence my husband was working. We left first of all when we arrived in Port Arthur alone for three weeks. A city finished and I had to remain in Port Arthur alone. Our house had not been time we last met. Disappointments were also our lot. Now I will answer your letter of August 2. Much has happened since the Dear friends and friends,

Chander, October 1, 1909

Janette to friends

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C and I
your loving children

And now, greetings from me and my wife.

This conductor around the house and in his speech, made to do carpenter work. He also works well, but it is somewhat rude in his work. Dirk Ackroyd is also doing well, but he is planning to go to Port Vittoria to come along. That he had better stay. Now I am glad that he did wish to come along. That he had better stay. Now I am glad that he did.

I have also been pleased 100% with you. Naturally, I thought when he
As in Holland, but all sandy-roads.

There are notices, it is all up-hill and down-hill here and no hard roads and Bells can drive, the Bells also show, I do not see pickets here at all,

myself, which I have never done at home, but here it is necessary, all women have progressed to the point where I dare to drive an old horse.

I can again attend the preaching of the Word, an hour's ride from here.

makes all things right once more, this is a Dutch community. Oh Sunday, I believe that that way is just right and necessary for us. But, the Lord that first time we were discouraged by it all. It is often so difficult to

The Lord's ways are often wonderful. We often ask, why this and why

hope, God permitting to begin farming.

to get me. C hopes to finish this accepted job before winter, by spring we

is too great to go alone. Therefore I will just wait for Corinna to come back to my husband. If the expenses were not so great, and the distance

Now, by God's grace, I can enjoy good health, and would so much like to

bride with me. He really did prefer to do farm work.

of the second day I already felt much better; the trip took 5 days. My

end. It was remarkable that traveling seemed to be good for me; By the end

It was very difficult to part again so soon, but we were at our wits

six weeks.

here, Chandlner, with a sister of my husband, where I have been for more than

there was no help to be had, so we knew of no better solution than to come

became ill, could not eat at all, and became weaker and thinner by the day.

from Holland, as boarders. But when I had been there only two weeks I
have promised to write some time. To send two similar letters to Utrecht
have read it to cousin Mulder, where we have spent many socable hours and
still have a strongly request, and that is to send the letter after you
the youngest is three weeks old. Now I have told you this and that, and
March has 5 children. The youngest will be five years old in February,
pleasently.

hand here. Fortunately I have made no diversion here and can spend my time
weather is still fine, nice sunny weather; at times the wind blows
is very good this year.

corn (we would have called it maize) is raise a great deal here, and
but not by no means now.

met several people from Holland who at first would like to have gone back,
times are much cheaper than in Holland; butter costs 25 a pound. I have
cents a dozen, sugar 6 cents, coffee 20 cents, etc. Raisins and similar
water supplies are cheap, meat costs 8 cents to 10 cents, eggs 20
women do their own baking, and some of them can bake their cakes.
but on the other hand, women spend a great deal of time sewing clothes. The
not take care of themselves. In most cases, little is done to the houses,
farmers who have orchards. They do not do well here, they say, but they do
one can buy them in the city, but they are expensive. There are a few
I probably think of Holland too often. There is almost no fruit here.
comfort me by telling me that, and I hope I will soon be.
not easy to get used to it, but one soon becomes accustomed, and people
one has to get along without many of Holland’s conveniences, and it is
well, but still not as much as I had expected, especially since my wife had
in Alberta this spring and begun farming. My work this summer has paid
as soon as circumstances make it possible, I will, D. A., acquire land
well, so we face what lies before us with joy.
Everything is very fine with us. October is looking fine and feels very
May God bless the means which are being employed to that end.
A prayer is that Mother may still be spared for us.
that Mother's condition is alarming. I need not add that our hope and
So, no longer delay, the more so since to our sorrow we were informed
and so am happy to report with my wife again, I have neglected to write.
although I have been here with Sister Martha for three weeks already,

Dear Parents, Brothers and Sisters,

January 20, 1910
Chandirer, Rt. 1, Minn., USA

Correlative to his parents

Heartfelt greetings also from Verbunge and his wife to the Mudder family.

The address is on the enclosed note.

Hoping to hear from you all soon.

C and J van der Vlter

Your affectionate,

in love.

Now, hearty greetings to everyone, also to cousin Mudder and his wife.

Time seems superfluous to me. Writing letters to the Pothierland is necessary at

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Chandler, January 31, 1910

Letter from Martha to Aurelia and W.H. and Ourossoy

2. "meer" has two meanings. Probably Correllis wishes to say that he knows it.

I. Correllis refers to himself.

Dear brother and sister Affleck

(Incomplete letter)

Although we have nice weather today it has still been cold this winter...

It is a twin kind of Campbell Lake (pronounced Tee-k) which means "meer."

Only part of a picture, that of the kitchen is visible.

The winds are not visible, because they are on only three sides.

Very curious, where we naturally also wished to be seen, and therefore set half-

The house was taken from a great distance in order to show all of it.

Kind of connection, like I had last winter with Mc Gough.

The person with the gun is a sort of clerk for Mc Gough, who has that

Would say without question.

Couple of snapshots, taken as we sat beside the lake. On the stop as we

A few days ago I sent you a picture of our house, the beede, and also a
difficulties of that nature in the future.

to leave. However, we will hope that we will be spared from further

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somewhat shy, but Klasa not at all. You asked me to write something about Klasa and Kriet. "I am a small and tender child," Kriet is usually of this. Know it well now? (open the mouth) and "It been een Kriet is crying because of an earache today. Yesterday it was Jacobus. All three considered I have to be after him all day, and at times he is so cute, gratitude for the first time she said a little naughty something. Klasa is such a Janice little pet. In the end, he is something... He is watching now. Yesterday, I thought them, and I myself am always so well. The little Jan is growing fast, he is which the Lord gave to us. The Lord grants us such great blessings through oh, sister, I felt so rich in the possession of the little treasures of disappointment but she is thankful that she is so well again. she will be able to go in and out with us again. It is quite a now the danger is past, well without worry, but there is every hope that the worst, at the time I thought, Cornelia will have to bury her also, but good appetite and looks healthy and refreshed again, but at first I feared prematurely. We have had quite an experience. She is quite well now, has a have heard from home by this time, Janeiro delivered a dead baby girl. we have experienced a great deal with Janeiro last week. As you will. Despite we will be her god. May the Lord spare her for us. worst. must forgo. Fortunately, we know that Mother belongs to the Lord, and then enjoy something special, and also in ordinary situations, how much mother are many inconveniences connected with it. I often think of this when we some of you except for mother, and although it is not dangerous, still there. We recently received your letter in reasonable health, and noted the
Janet is reasonably well again now, and today for the first time she

...hand her soon life can be taken again.

darlin's. what a rich blessine the Lord grants us, when we see so close at
dear parrents, I considered myself to be so rich and fortunate to have our
it was my plea "oh Lord still spare her life." under and amid all of this.
were been a severe blow if we had lost Janet also, as I had expected, and
unfortunation of having a little darlin was not realized, still it would

answered prayer. and although it was a disappointment, when the
will have to bury her also, but, fortunately, the Lord vanguarded her and
women when she became so uncomfortable I thought, mother, connected
improving, which is more than I had expected. When I think of those first
appreciated properly when we see others living in distress, Janet is also

By God's grace we are all in good health, a privilege which is

Dear Parrents and other Family Members!

Letter from Martha to her parents

Janet is beginning to talk about sitting up.

C has also taught them to count in English.

Also C and Janet.

Jacob and Mr. Verry breege

Greetings from all of us.

Thank you for all the news in your letter. Receive the loving

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In 1911 the house was enlarged,
the kitchen was also the
first floor and the kitchen was also the
living-room.

3. The house had only four rooms at first and the kitchen was also the

and the little tidy ones.

Your Loving Martha

Our Greetings to all of you.

Another: I am very well myself, but am very busy.

without a maid. Bertha could not come and so we had not yet advertised for

cakes, and canned peaches and some strawberry jam. We have been getting along

Jennie still showed some interest. She made a couple of delicious

snow on the ground.

present we are not having very heavy frost, but there is a great deal of

so east. They are all doing well and went out-of-doors again this week. If

we hope to celebrate the Birthday this week. Our Greetings is Growning

forward to some news and you look for news from here, that I can imagine.

heart at all times and a joyful eye directed cast heavenward. We look

same medicine, and suffer a good deal? May the Lord Grant you a submissive

How are all of you, especially Mother, always necessary to take the

added here, only that she was unconscious.

are at the table in the living-room.
really responsible for his own actions.

In a few years, there is no need of trying to convince him, and he is Canada is for him the land of the future, where he hopes to make his fortune. But for his wife has not reached that point, but be that as it may, western
more of his newspaper as the deeps of the Valley of the World, that is safe,
one of Sweden, Norwegians, Russians and what not. For conformity, who thinks
it seems very hazardous for them to go west soon, and to pitch their tent
married life. But, surely, what they experience has meaning, and it to me
reasons why God has led them in the paths which they must go in their
complete recovery of Connelles’ wife. We ourselves do not wish to judge the
news about what we have experienced. Fortunately, there is hope for the
during the week which lies ahead of us you will undoubtedly receive the
and that we will receive the information when it is convenient.

February 7, 1910
Chandler, Minnesota

Letter from Jacobus to the Van der Vliets.

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Jacques and Kopnis. 

Notice that Jacques now at times signs his name as Jas: an abbreviation of his American name James. Jerome, also, uses various names: Jacqueline,

Verdurée planted another tree near the location of the grave. But gradually it became old and weather-beaten. In 1980 (?), Corneilles

the valley below was visible. The original tree stood there for many years, located on the crest of a hill north of the barn on the farm, from which

That he and Janije would have done that together. Her small grave was

of those same small trees was planted on the grave of his small daughter.

some bushes, berrets and jilacs, and also some small trees. Undoubtedly one

eaten in May. He had also planted a small flower garden. He had planted

Before he left Corneilles had planted lettuce and radishes. These were

doors.

Janije and the children, Marle also wrote that the cows were milked out-of-

March 25, there was a bouquet of crocus on the table, probably picked by

early spring. Work in the field began three weeks earlier than usual. On

there were severe snowstorms in the winter of 1910, but there was an

The departure and death of Corneilles

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Jas. Verdurée

With hearty greetings

whiter has made us much busier with less pleasant activities.

Except for the colds of the children we enjoy good health, although the

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When I am on my trip I will let you hear from me from time to time.

For us not only but for the entire community.

Body and in spirit as the years increase, and that it may long be a pleasing especially Father and Mother. May the Lord Grant His Indwelling Strength in Best wishes to all for the commemorations on April 1 and 22, but

Broomton, Alabama

When you receive this letter I will D.Y., be in the vicinity of

then, as soon as I have finished the house, with my sister Rosalind we.

He will presumably come back to this area after a couple of months, and

will come later with my wife.

Will come later with my wife.

to take up land. I will also acquire some for my brother-in-law from whom I

hope to meet tomorrow and look in Yuncture and then to go farther west

to go to Canada this week.

Dear Parents, Brothers and Sisters

March 27, 1910.

Chamber, Minn., USA

Letter from Cornelius Vander Vliet (the first)

The winter months.

work on the farm, and had also made a small cheese barrel for March during

Cornelius Van der Vliet was a skilled workman. He had done carpenter