J.W. van Westrienen

Beest, Gelderland - Grand Haven, Michigan

J.W. van Westrienen to Marinus van Doorne

December 16, 1876

Dear Grandfather, Grandmother and further relations:

Since we feel the urge to write you we like to write you a few lines, that through the Lord's goodness we are all fit and healthy and we similarly hope the same for you. Dear Grandfather, as we haven't heard from you in a long time, and it was indeed a great surprise and a glad tiding for us when uncle C. Bos came from you to us bringing happy greetings from you all. also that through the Lord's goodness you all are still fresh and healthy which made us extremely happy. Uncle Bos was with us on December 11, though of very short duration, as he wanted to visit the relatives and his time was short, but it was happiness for us that we could receive your greetings from him for us.

Dear Grandfather, the old year has almost gone by. It didn't look all that good in the spring, because of the water that threatened to flood us, the harvest, this past summer was richly blessed despite all of it. Wheat was relatively good, rye, oats, beans and peas, and potatoes, too, which gave a passable relief, were very tasty - price 2.50 to 3 per hecto litre (mud). But because everything is so expensive here, it means working to continue eating, because if you want a small piece of land here, you have to pay from 180 to 200 guilders and more for 2 1/4 acres of land, in rent. So you can understand that we do not save very much, especially since a laborer's wage is 12 nickles a day in the winter and in the summer 15 to 20

nickles! Really not much. But because I and Father earn quite a bit together, we are doing okay and able to earn a livelihood along with a piece of land, some sheep (about 4) and some pigs, and so we scrape it together, we don't complain. And Grandfather, though we are far apart from each other, we still can carry each other's needs in prayer. Oh, let us practice this. We hope it from you as well and gladly look forward to your letters which you will send us soon. Yes, we long for you, Mother especially, who experienced her sorrow so early already with the loss of my Father — which was unknown to me — but this is the Lord's will. He did not desert us. He is a Father to the widows and a Father to orphans. He once again provided a father for me. It is Gijsbert de Vaal, who — a few years ago — was united in marriage with Mother and has also a son, named Johannes, he is almost 19 years now, but because of an infirmity on his legs he walks with crutches and is a tailor. And now I through the Lord's blessings hope to reach my 20th birthday on the second of January 1877.

Beloved Grandfather, if you write to us, write us how it is going with uncle Kornelis and his family, as we heard from uncle Bos that he does not live in with you any more. Give our greetings to uncle Kornelis and his family from us all and tell him that we are all well and healthy.

Furthermore, our greetings to all from Father, Mother and me and brother Johannes. Give our greetings to all friends and strangers, and the Lord bless you, soul and body, internally and externally. With these words I shall end this time and shall break off with the pen, but not with our heart.

And sign with my hand,

J.W. van Westrienen,

son of P. van Westrienen and A.T. van Doorne

If you write to us, address it like this: G.B. de Vaal

meg twish en gevand zijt. hetwelk ens tot zuer greete Eg ons goverst. Loch zeer histstondig, dans hij de famil allon nog tasch en gezond zijn, en wij hoopen war harte tic wilde beschien, en zign Tijd to host was, doch blig Elisterhays deval verstelkon, com Bos, is 11 December that much your is heart overlar seconlargen, down but hier in Navial Grootrager Gravinovili en vorder betrekhing Tijeling van a gehoord hebben, hotwelk ons booven mater het zelfele Natial grantrader dear wij in geen langer tijd ons overgekosmen signale, els blijde Groetinis vam ned allen van hom mochten vernemen Dansgrootvader Schap was het was one dat wilds Grotines own av vericonderen, was let deezer daugen tech nog wer ens con Eligide Ecodechays, claure com l'Boss, van u tot het worfaux mit best word dun stond, door het eonigen Letters schrijven dat sirj door 9. harrn geed wid Lon mede brownt, dat go door s. huren Good heid, allen Laux viej ons Helven godvengen gereilen sec svillen avig su Beart denib Leamber 1876. In Mythrether W Woord zal ik osor Wirman Condigen, en zal tons af years dust very van oam Bos hathen evernomen dott Les fien dat witness frisch en gezond zijn. tubt higmit meer by so in is don't ook de Grateris aan Gootenis van celle Frienden en onbekenste, en de com Romalis en zijn huisgezañ, vom ons allen ere. The war Hestienen en it g van voetrienen (en my, en Broeder gehannes, doet verder de heere zagen di lieden, in en suitarnolig, met oleeze Exchen met de pon macer miet met ons hurt, en teckenmijne Hand - min v O Grand Haven Jewholyth J. D. ab rowel

den Laar hier alles zer edner is, is, het reerhen em lies inipser rader, riel be it ondehond reaux, der, te blipsen exten. Transition go hier, con hockie land det is s'heeren wil. Hij heet ens niet reerlatin. Tellen wild, dan moet ge hier geven rem 180 tet. Ini is en zeuler der wedner en een nader der weeren. winter als er werk is voor 12 en des Comers voor 1522. geleeden, met maceter in elen echt ver einigt is Atwiser pendag, het is evaarlijk niet te veel Joch en hutt ook een zowgen, zekannes, genacemt hij is daar ik, en vader, met ons beide nog ab verabienen – mu bijna 19 zwa, doch dies zebak zijner beenen. Komen virj mog al zoo uen host, met een hoebje Loop hij op hinkle, toch is beermakin, en daar Jes, en 200 scharuld het nog all voort, avij had mijn 20 gaar loop to brijken. Gliefel Grootrad hos of fut must cam Normalis enzign huisginin Sand er bij, esm Schaap of vier, en een proat verk, ik toms onder 2. heer Desgen den 2 yanuar 1817 water dat our decigal to Coverstoomen, is de oogst in den atgeloopen Zoomer, rijk gezougend, de tarwe rede gonnagnist G. Grootrack wit zign soul ser van dandappen welke een tomelijke suit komet gewen to freez goed van simuel pays 2:50. a.3 yer much lijk goed, rog en hover France en erveten, och, de gehant sich begrifpen med hier eys averschieten han, en 200 oils bon voor den verkmensch in den Thomair ver wijelest, maar gorg hunen toch el tranders belangen of dragen och laut ons.

nows 21, en morder out boown mate, in thisteaur smo This is on souler der avedance en een vander der veeren dit betrachten, wij hogsen het ook van zien meit blijde komst moe lettern te gemoed die gij ons capicaling Zonalin Bult Ja wij zijn verkongond ook at zeeds was hett onderwinden, door lut ver hij heeft mij veeder een vader, doon beschikker indiengy tot ans schrift, see schrift ook eens het is fing best de vaul of his welk sonige quare