

BELANGRIJKE BERIGTEN

uit

P E L L A,

IN THE VEREENIGDE STATEN

van

NOORD - AMERIKA

OF TWEDE BRIEF VAN

SJOERD AUKES SIPMA

van daar geschreven aan de ingezetenen

van

B O R N W E R D

Waarin vele bijzonderheden betreffende de Hollandsche vereeniging in den Staat Iowa, de levenswijze en de gewoonten van Amerikanen, benevens vele nuttige wenken voor hen die naar de Vereenigde Staten willen verhuizen, voorkomen.

Voorzien met eenige aanmerkingen door N.N.

Gedrukt by de Wed. B. Schaafsma te Dockum - 1849.

Translation:

NOTEWORTHY NEWS
From

P E L L A,

In the United States of North America

Or the second letter from

SJOERD AUKES SIPMA

Written from there to the residents of BORNWERD.

Wherin many particular incidences took place about the Holland settlers in Iowa, the life style and habits of the Americans, in addition many useful hints for those who anticipate to emigrate to the U.S.

Supplied with a few footnotes by N. N.

Printed by Mevr. B. Schaafsma

Translated by John J. Dahm Sr.

in Dockum - 1849.

Grand Rapids, Mich. - 1979.

P R E F A C E

We have made very few changes in this second letter from Sjoerd Auken Sipma in which we found much more noteworthy material to publish than we found in his first letter. And also we have made very few changes in the style of the writer, that is in his choice of words so that in the first place the peculiarity of the writer might not be lost and secondly that no one might accuse us of breaking faith with him. That we in this have faithfully fulfilled our task, we can testify to those who have read the original hand-written letter which has been in the hands of many different persons. One does not object then when here and there a wrong expression is used or a word is found in the wrong place. The writer is not an educated man - he himself admits this - but only a day laborer.

Our purpose of publishing this letter is for the use of those who anticipate moving to the United States and possibly providing an hour of pleasant reading. This second letter was also the wish of most Bornwerders and of the relatives of the writer that even as the first one that it be printed.

N. N.

Pella, September 26, 1848.

To my family, to the farmers
and the school teacher in Bornwerd.

Esteemed Friends,

We received your letter after a journey of forty days and learned that all of you were still in the land of the living and also that everyone was in good health, also that not many changes had taken place which for us was good news. It was also a pleasure to learn that most of the inhabitants of Bornwerd were healthy and well, in spite of the death of the wife of T.G. Hiemstra and also the suffering of the wife of J.H. Kroodsma and grieved us. Still the God who is Lord of the whole earth and has in His hand life and death helps you all to rest in His will.

Now I shall begin to answer your questions although I can do this only poorly since I am not educated but only a laborer as you knew me in Friesland. Moreover I am not too versatile in the English language to be able to investigate all details. In spite of this I am willing and ready to answer your questions

as good as I possibly can. I shall start with giving you a description of the State of Iowa.

You must not pronounce this word as if it were a Holland-word; it is an English name and is pronounced ai-o-we, in three syllables. On the Eastside of Iowa is the river Mississippi, on the Southside the State of Missouri, Westerly on the river Missouri and North to the Indians. The land West of the Missouri river is also occupied by Indians. Just three years ago Iowa was incorporated as a State in the U.S. Ten years ago there were no white people in Iowa and it was occupied only by Indians (1). This State is about one hundred thousand square miles and contains nearly one hundred thousand souls. A mile is a twenty minute walk. The State is divided into counties. Thirty counties are measured and there are according to the saying of the Americans about sixty in all. The counties are divided into townships; every county has sixteen townships and are again divided into sections. Every township has thirty six sections and every section contains 640 acres. Each section No. 16 of every township in all of Iowa is school ground. In every county is someone who sells the school ground and banks the money for interest. From that interest the teachers are paid in accordance to the number of pupils each teacher has.

(1) The Indians in the United States are crowded out by the Whites and they by necessity have to pull further West. This happens either by force or deceit; and the lot of these poor people in many respects are deplorable. No matter how highly the righteousness of the U.S. may be called, the dealings with the original inhabitants of this land are anything but righteous. The Whites, who in the eyes of the Indians are usurpers of their Fatherland, have the right after a five year stay in the U.S. to the claim of citizenship and that right is for the poor or the rich. But the Indian who often are very attached with bleeding hearts to the graves of their forefathers and he has to fortify his rights to the newcomer. He is looked upon by the Americans as a stranger on his own grounds and even is prevented from uniting as one nation.

In many States of North America, especially in the South, they keep slaves who often are treated by their masters in an inhumain manner, yes, sometimes in a beastly manner. In most of the Easterly States they, however, are liberated but are, nevertheless, "cast offs" in society.

The State of Iowa is very fertile, the soil is very good. As far as I know the black soil is about three to four feet deep then there is a kind of reddish clay. In some places, at the higher grounds, the subsoil is sand-like. The Americans who come from all over the U.S., say that they have not seen a State that is so adaptable to transportation as Iowa; while this State lies Easterly on the large river Mississippi and from East to West there are three fairly big rivers emptying into the Mississippi cutting through the State so that it is easy to make canals out of these rivers. Moreover, since there are no large mountains it is easy to build railroads. You must not think that the fields are as level as in Friesland, then the land would not properly drain. The land is hilly, but the hills can be cultivated; in general the hills make the best tillable ground. There are also level fields; a two hour's walk is almost treeless and these fields lie between rivers and about half way they drain on either side. Most of the trees are found by the riverside. I have seen almost no spot in Iowa or it could properly drain as God has created it. About in the middle between the rivers the ground is higher and is called the ridge. From this ridge runs rivulets, called creeks which run out again into the bigger rivers. These river are: Des Moines River (2), the most Southern, then comes the Skunk River, and then the Iowa River. In this State there is more prairieland than woodland. The woods are generally not much account; first wood has to be used for buildings, then much is necessary for fencing, and finally the wood is necessary for firewood. When wisely used then there is enough for everybody, one does not have to use the wood as indiscreetly as the Americans do.

(2) In the former letter it is wrongly stated as Main River, it has to be Des Moines River - the Monks' River. The writer is not acquainted with the sound of Moines which is not too much different from the sound of main.

In the winter time the prairies are burned down in order to get better and new grass for the cattle. This fire ignites the forests also, so that they sometimes burn for weeks. Then also the dead and fallen trees burn but the young ones suffer so much damage that often they will not mature.

I cannot tell you what type of wood is here, since I am not a connoisseur of wood. This I know that most of the wood is oak. There are here seven or eight types of oak trees; also linden- and walnut trees. The wood here is very hard and sound. To fence in the land, oak is almost always used because it splits easily. The trees are chopped in lengths of eleven feet, then split and readied for the land to be fenced in.

I shall not write much about the animal kingdom. The stock of cattle is not as heavy as in Friesland the cause, to my opinion, is brought about that ~~the~~ ^{they} here are left to themselves the whole winter. Not a calf is put into the barn nor are the young horses protected so that the stock suffers much. For the rest I can't see very little difference. Wolves, deer, and snakes, that's all I know that is present here. The snakes are not big, three or four feet are the biggest. I have already killed many of them. In the more or less populated parts they are as good as gone. There are no rats, mice and bedbugs a plenty, but so far I haven't seen any.

Now I shall write something about the world of vegetation. Oats, grits, buck-wheat, wheat, rye, peas, beans, turnips, other cabbages, leaf- and all kinds of vegetables, many more than in Friesland, that I cannot describe because I do not know the names. Rapeseed, horsebeans and broad-beans are unknown here but are brought in by the Society. The wild flowers in the spring give a charming sight; the one color changes for another, the field is then completely covered with yellow lilies. There is also a flower which look like a tulip; it is a little smaller and totally white and develop in the ground the same as a tulip. Flax, hemp and musterseeds are also grown here, and corn in great abundance. Those who have fenced in and broken up the soil of fifty or sixty acres,

have in general forty acres of corn, it is the least work; it is one product which is harvested mostly in the winter when the field work is slack. Concerning wild fruits, it's next to nothing; wild apples are no good, wild grapes are little and sour as vinegar, wild plums are good and found in abundance; the black berries and hazelnuts are good and plentiful, and there are some years that the nuts fatten the pigs. Now I shall end this, I guess this is enough.

This time I shall tell you about the people who are living here in wealth and poverty. There is no equality of riches here. In this State there is very little money. There are many people who are rich in land holdings and possess hundreds, yes even, thousands acres of land and in this they are wealthy. There are no poor people; those who want to work have their bread and butter as well as the farmers. Those who have lost their parents early so that they cannot help themselves are taken care of by the members of the family or are taken into the home of other acquaintances and they have the obligation to live with their providers until they reach the age of twentyone. It is counted as a big scandal here when children leave home before their twenty first birthday if the parents have enough work for them. When they have reached twenty one then they are free.

The taxes here are as follows: One must pay one cent ($2\frac{1}{2}$ gld. cts.) of a dollar (2 glds. 50 cts.) of all one's possessions. In the spring a person makes the rounds to take into account the worth of one's cattle - cows, horses, sheep and hogs and taxes must be paid of those that are above a half year old. Everyone must give the worth of his cattle himself. One must pay one dollar per hundred dollars value of the tillable land, that comes to about four dollars per acre. Also one must submit the worth of one's gold and silver and of the cash money on hand. If the household effects have a value of a hundred dollars then one has to pay one dollar. For the worth per dollar of watches and clocks one must pay one cent in tax money. The land valued at four dollars per acre,

pay four cents tax. Of the money which is outstanding on interest, one must pay one dollar per hundred. All your possessions valued at a hundred dollars figures one dollar tax (3). Also the men folk who are twenty one years of age or above, pay a headtax; those who are able bodies pay fifty cents. This year I pay sixty cents tax in all. There are no other taxes except those named above; no patents etc., everything here is free. The population here is growing by leaps and bounds. Nearly every day, through the Society, two or three families arrive here on their way further West; some, however, stay in our vicinity. From the growing population in this State the farmers in part make their living; this is easy to understand since the newcomers have to buy everything the first two years. If this were not so, they could make very little since there is no transportation here. If the products from here were transported to the Mississippi River, the expenses would eat the profits because it is a journey of forty hours over land. The cost per hundred pounds is 75 cents when taken by a freight carrier. When the Des Moines River becomes navigable for steamships which is already in working and will be finished in three years; then the charges most likely will be less.

Five years ago the first white people arrived in Marion County. It was at first a hard life, so my boss told me; they could not sell a thing because there were only Indians and they were here by the hundreds.

The Indians exist mainly on wild life, such as hares, rabbits, wolves, dogs, snakes and hogs. They grow two kinds of produce, maize and white beans. The farming they leave totally to the women. They have to plant and reap and also

(3) Thus the tax in general amount to 1/100 of the estimated value. It makes a big difference in the U.S. compared to the Netherlands. For example: I have a piece of land which usually yields no more than fifty guilders in rent and I have to pay fl.9.87 in taxes which amounts to 1/5 of the proceeds without taking into consideration the fee for the diked marsh etc. The difference is amazingly great! And where will it end?

chop firewood taken out of the forest; the men do nothing but hunt. Last fall we saw about fifty Indians in Pella, men, women and children. They met us on a Sunday just when we came out of church. These people look healthy; they were stocky and fat. One could not notice that they carried a grudge against the Whites. When the first Whites arrived they had the upper hand; they are a peace-loving people. I shall end with this (4).

As I already have said, the first Whites could not sell anything; they had to travel a hundred miles in order to shop and just as far to take their corn and wheat to the mill to have it ground. The eggs they sold by the bushel for fifty cents. It was a hard life but at the present they have a good life. There are presently two grainmills, two sawmills, two brickworkers, one pottery workshop and enough stores.

The Americans in general still live on claimland. Everyone has about between three to four hundred acres. You already know what is meant by claim: to live on unsold land without having bought it. A claim must be reported to the State and for every member of the family fifty cents must be paid. A claim may not be bigger than half a section, that is 320 acres, and the right to the claim expires in one year so that it is again free for others if it has not been bought by the occupant. In this they do not interfere; the one helps the other to keep the claim or to obtain a claim. One simply goes into the forest, cuts posts and puts a stake on every corner for as big as he chooses his claim to be,

(4) When reading the life history of Zwarte Havik, translated from the English by R. Posthumus, we meet with many important peculiarities of the Indians' life style, morals, customs and views.

Here are two examples to the point - When an Indian youth has an eye for a girl, then his mother goes to the mother of the girl to ask her permission for marriage to her son. If granted then the lover goes out at night to the tent where the girl is sleeping, puts a lamp next to her bed and waits for her reaction. If she snuffs out the lamp, it is a sign that she is willing to marry him. However, if she leaves the lamp on then the lover returns home by morning but often repeats his proposal the following evening and places himself singing by the entrance of her tent and so often until he sees his wish fulfilled.

The Indians have a great respect for the graves of their fathers. When they either voluntarily or by compulsion leave their camp then they always take along the bones of the dead and bury them again in the new camping ground.

and that's the end of it. If there is someone who buys this claim, which according to law is perfectly legal, then the temporary holder is not too well off. This summer it happened in our neighborhood that a person who had bought for himself and paid for a claim wished also the claim of his neighbor. He went to the State and bought two hundred acres of land which belonged to three of his neighbors. It is easy to see that these people were very angry. This story keeps on going further and often some people come to him in order to persuade him to give up the land but he flatly refuses. The other day just as I went home to eat, I saw in the distance a whole army of people approaching on wagons and horses; they waved flags, shouted, whistled and blew trumpets. I thought now what! So I asked my boss about the meaning of all this and he told me that they were trying to force that person to give up the acquired land. My boss also went and the neighboring Americans with him. They went to the house of this man but he was not at home; he had vanished. The people watched for two days and two nights but they could not find him. They did not see him during this time. There were about two hundred men altogether and at last they started to get rowdy by his house. Fire was set to the horse barn and to the shed containing much corn. About fifteen bundles (5) which were lying close to his house were set afire, and they killed a few pigs. This brought him to time; he sent someone to surrender the land with proof of ownership. The States do not furnish a certificate of purchase as is the case with privately owned land. The State simply give an evidence of ownership and it cares less how often it changes hands. The same certificate is always valid to the bearer. Now everything was over and everyone went home. This is the way it's done here when someone buy land and someone else has the claim.

If there are a certain number of residents in a county then the State is ready to sell the land publicly. These public sales have already this summer been held

(5) The poles or boards are used to fence in the land.

twice here in the home of my boss. He then performs the office of a notary. On such occasions the one does not outdo the other. If they on such sales do come together then the one says to the other: "That is the land I live on and I want to keep it." Then they buy it for one dollar and twenty five cents which is the standard price for States' land; it does not sell for less.

Now I shall mention something about the lifestyle of the Americans. They all live in cabins, or rather beam-houses. They select the nicest and straightest trees for that purpose. Some people make the beams square and others again leave them as they are. It goes here just as in Friesland, the one builds a nicer house than the other. Most of the cabins are 18 feet long and 16 feet wide; but there are also larger and smaller ones. One uses only heavy beams and in the corners they are cross-lapped. The square beams are individually stacked from eight to eleven high; the roof is not too steep and covered with a double layer of small thin boards so that it becomes waterproof. Two doors are made across from each other and usually on both sides of the door is a window. The chimney is built from flat rocks found in the forest but also fashioned from sods of the prairie. Here in the forest is much stone and also pit-coal. As far as furniture goes they have a beautiful clock, a mirror, a nice bedstead and exceptionally fine bed-clothes, most people also have a small box used as a lavatory under the bedstead. I am saying one bedstead but, of course, there are as many as required by the number in the family. The tools which they use daily and also the clothes hang inside the cabin, barns the Americans don't have. The cabin as I have described it is the only housing on three or four hundred acres of land. Although they have a shed for the horses and for the sheep to protect them for the wolves at night; they also have a bin for the corn.

The other grains are usually threshed by machine. There is a man going around from farm to farm with his threshing machine as they do in Friesland with the cole-seed cloth and they are paid in one tenth portion of the grain. The owner

of the land and grain, however, must furnish seven or eight helpers. The Americans have no dairy farms; generally they have two or three cows for their own use. Here the calves suck the cows, not because the cows will not otherwise give the milk but only so that the cows will come home to the calves. During the day the calves are tied up and in the evening the cows are milked and in turn they are tied up and the calves are free to roam so that they come home and suck the cows. If perhaps one cow does not show up at night it doesn't matter and one won't go out and look for it; that cow will take care of herself. The first fourteen days the cow's milk is not fit for human consumption, it will be used exclusively for the calf. The Americans say that sheep's milk also is not fit to drink. Last year my boss had two sheep from which the lambs died. I told him that these sheep had to be milked. "No", he said, "the milk is no good." And I said: "Sheep's milk is good for me and I'm willing to milk them. "Go ahead", said he, but he warned the milk is not fit to use". We still milk them and the milk is as good as in Friesland. If a horse is ready to get a colt one does not look after it, nor after the hogs; it seems that everything here goes by itself.

For farming the Americans have need of very few tools. If someone has fifty or sixty acres of tillable land one man can easily work it with two horses and two oxen. The land is plowed once a year. The corn is weeded with little ploughshares and the other grains are sown and reaped and that is all that is done to it. The winter wheat is sown early here and it is now already up. We have already plowed and sown for next year.

Something else - The Americans are very neat regarding the meals and drinks. The table is decked with a white sheet and the tableware is cleaned in hot water. There are always three dishes at the table; wheat bread is always present and plenty of meat. Also at mealtime coffee is used, generally with sugar. When the meal is finished the leftovers are taken up and fed to the dogs (6).

(6) This is the greatest sign of abundance of food and prosperity in the U.S. Here (in Friesland) the bones are picked cleaner so that nothing is left for the dogs. There are plenty of people whose mouth would water at the sight.

The American women are very lazy; they don't do a thing but get the food on the table, they never sew and they wear their clothes until they are rags and then they throw them away and buy new ones. The women seldom go out and if they do want to visit a neighbor then they want a horse to ride on. All women ride on horses. My boss' wife and their two children, one of them is two years old and the other is three weeks and all three ride on one horse. The women sit sideways and go as fast as the horse is able. The women wear their hair loose here; for the rest they dress just as the women in the cities of Friesland. The dress of a man does not differ much from ours. The drinking of gin is scandalous.

I was asked whether there is more good soil in our vicinity suitable for homesteading by immigrants. I can answer that by saying yes. There is enough room here for all of Friesland. The Society can get much more land and outside of that still more.

They also asked me if they can assure the immigrants of a good living. This question is more difficult to answer because I will mislead no one if I can help it. I don't know how soon public transportation will open up; if it stays the way it is now and everyone develops the land than everybody gets stuck with his grain products. Up to now, however, no grain has had to be exported due to the increase of our population and although the wheat is not expensive, the farmers enjoy a good living and have no need of money except to pay the hired help and taxes. To shop we pay with grain.

They want to know from me the purchasing price of a two hundred pound-measure farm to develop it, if that's necessary. I shall describe this to you piece by piece.

For one fourth of a section, called a quarter section, being a hundred sixty acres and exactly two hundred pound-measures must be paid to the State which amounts to two hundred dollars. A dollar, as you know, is two guilders and fifty

cents in Holland money. A dollar contains a hundred cents even as it is with you; but when I speak of cents then I mean American cents. Now, I said, two hundred dollars must be paid to the State/^{for}so much land, if there is no claim on it. But the best land around here happens to be claim-land; but most of the claimholders will want to sell their claim. If that's what you want then you must pay the claim-right, usually half a dollar an acre. With a certain amount of land one must have forty acres of woods, but with the land which has a claim on it there is always enough woods.

In the first place one has to build a home and that can be built from the wood on your property. If you decide on a block-cabin then it costs no more than fifty dollars. You can also build a house from brick. The brick here costs four dollars per thousand and the size of the brick is a little larger than in Friesland. The lime is inexpensive but I don't know the price of it. Next you must dig a well, it takes three men and they must work on it three or four days before it is ready. The stones for lining have to be gotten out of the forest. The hired men earn fifty cents per day plus board.

Then further fence posts must be made to set off the land; ditches are not known here. These posts are taken out of your woods and they cost one dollar per hundred for cutting. About seven thousand posts are necessary to fence in forty acres if you do it in one piece and that's the way they always do it here. And now the posts have to be hauled to the land and that you can do yourself. With one man and two oxen it is possible to carry 150 to 200 posts per day, if it is not too far off. Now the post have to be distributed and that is easy; one man can handle seven or eight hundred per day. Once the land is enclosed ~~the prairie~~ must be broken up; there are people who plow the land for others. This is done with oxen usually eight or ten pull the plow and it costs one dollar fifty per acre, some charge two dollars. Now the land is ready for cultivation. When the soil is broken in the spring nearly always corn is planted. If it is plowed or broken up in the

fall then oats or summer wheat is planted. The latter is more likely to yield a bigger harvest than the first. When forty acres are ready that is as a starter enough. When one has a hired man or herdsman then you yourself have little field work to do and you can fence in an additional ten acres every year. When you have enclosed the first field then the rest of the fencing does not cost much more, because one side is already fenced in the poles have only to be set out farther. On the land that is now ready two horses are necessary; one will also do, but two is better. In addition two strong oxen, one wagon, not less than three plows and a harrow. A good workhorse one can buy for forty to fifty dollars. Two good oxen with a yoke costs forty dollars. A new wagon costs sixty to seventy dollars but a used one you can get for thirty to forty dollars. Plows are not expensive, they are made in the city, and are for sale by some for six to nine dollars. I don't know how much a harrow costs; most Americans make it themselves and totally from wood. The harnesses for two horses cost about twenty dollars, if newly bought. Now I have given the price of one thing and another and so you can figure what the total amounts to. However, I have not given you the cost of cows, sheep and hogs in as far as I know. Everyone can have as much life stock as he wants even though he has only one acre of ground. All land that is not fenced in lies open to everybody and here there is still ten acres wild which is not partitioned off. A cow costs around ten to fifteen dollars then you get the calf with it. A sheep costs one dollar fifty or perhaps two dollars and a hog with seven, eight or nine piglets, one pays from four to six dollars. One can make a good living on a farm as I have described it but do not figure on making a great deal of money.

One can also homestead closer to the Mississippi where plenty of land is available, though it is more costly but because of the river, transportation is better there. Of this I have no information at this time.

Further I shall give you the average price of the grains as they are sold here presently. A bushel of corn costs twenty cents, wheat fifty cents, oats fifteen

cents, white beans forty cents and potatoes twenty cents. These are the products most often cultivated. There are still produce but no market for them.

They ask me how much interest one pays per hundred. That differs widely. Six per cent is the lowest and ten percent the highest. Presently the State of Iowa pays seven percent.

They also ask me how much income per year one must have to maintain a decent living for an average family. You can answer that yourself because I cannot figure the business of a household for someone else. I shall write what everything costs and then you can figure it out yourself. First I have to say that the pounds are lighter here than in the Netherlands. A pound here is four Holland ounces. The wheat flour cost two cents a pound, buckwheat flour one and a half cent, corn meal broadly half a cent. If you buy the grain and take it to the mill then it costs less. The women must do the baking of the bread and it is easy to learn. Dried bacon costs three to three and a half cent a pound and pork two cents per pound. The price of potatoes and beans you already know, but perhaps you are not as yet acquainted with the bushel. A bushel of wheat weighs sixty pounds and a bushel of beans ~~sixty five~~ pounds. Rice costs eight to ten cents a pound and the coffee beans ten cents per pound. Tea is more expensive than in Friesland. Sugar costs seven to ten cents a pound, salt two and a half cents, tobacco twelve and a half cents, soap five cents and syrup ten cents per pound. The exact price of oil I cannot say but it is more expensive than in Friesland. I believe I have made mention of most of the household articles.

The cost of clothes, I can't be sure. Cotton fabrics, as I recall, from ten to twenty cents a yard. The yard here is longer than by you folks. Three American yards is equal to four Holland yards (7). Wool fabric is very seldom used here and costlier than in Friesland besides not nearly as good. Shoes cost one to two

(7) Though the writer speaks of Holland yards (ellen), however, one must keep in mind that this is the old system.

dollars and are not nearly as good as by you. I think this is enough. I have already written about taxes which amount to very little.

Now I'll say something about religion and schools. There are many sects in the U.S. but all have the same privileges. Not a single preacher gets his money from the State. Every congregation, whatever the denomination, has to provide its own minister's salary. The States do not meddle in church's affair. How the situation is in the heavier populated cities, I do not know. But here in the West the preachers have no office nor subsistence; most of them are farmers and preachers at the same time. To be a minister to some sect is entirely on a volunteer basis.

The State concerns itself a great deal with the education of their youth. What the situation is in the East, I do not know, but out here in the western States thirty-sixth part of the land is sold in behalf of education. Interest is drawn on the sale of the land and that money is distributed among the teachers in propotion to the number of students each has. Teachers have no standing in the community so that most teachers are in addition also farmers. Those who give themselves out to be a teacher can teach wherever they wish. The knowledge of the English language is a requirement in this State. The Society of Pella has two teachers and both teach Dutch as well as English. In the neighboring State of Missouri there are French and High-German schools, but I do not know whether it is required to know the English. In Missouri there are a great many Frenchmen and Germans but it is an unhealthy climate. I do not advise for a teacher to come to the U.S. to make a living unless he comes with a group of immigrants who keep their own teacher with them. In this case the allowance of the State is assured (8). But someone who can speak and write the English can find a good living in another way, not here in the western States, but in an office in the big cities of the eastern part. I have talked to someone about this who knows it

(8) The writer does not speak very favorably about the position of the teachers of the U.S. Stuart, a Scotsman, who visited America for a number of years takes the opposite view at least concerning the eastern States. Also regarding the salary of the teachers. He gives a very favorable opinion about the U.S. when he says: "There is not a nation in the world that is better clothed, better fed and better taught than the Americans."

better than I do and he told me that if a person came to the U.S. with the knowledge of the English, High German, French and Dutch languages, he would be assured of a good living. I can tell you no more. But I almost have forgotten teacher, that your wife can earn a lot more money in the big city. We had tailors and seamstresses in our group who for a time stayed in St. Louis and there earned a great deal of money. Tailoring here in the cities is very expensive. This then is enough.

If a blacksmith who thoroughly understands his craft can make a living here? He cannot make a living around here by his craft as smith alone, he has to be in the big cities where he can make a good living. A blacksmith can make a good living here but he must be a farmer at the same time. Here we need farmers and farmhands.

Someone wants to know how he would get along if he came to the U.S. with eight to ten thousand guilders. To my judgment I would say that he would have it better here than in Friesland. If you are in retirement, you can do much more with your money in the U.S. than in the Netherlands. Money here draws heavy interest: six percent per hundred is the lowest and if there is a shortage of money one pays ten percent per hundred. The school property which at the present is being sold in Marion County brings from nine to ten dollars per hundred. Then after the tax has been deducted then there remains five dollars clear interest. Now you don't have to pay any more tax except of your gold, silver and your household effects along with your polltax. You don't have to pay relief nor landtax, there are no other taxes except those which I have already mentioned. I have already written the prices of several commodities and if you compare the cost of the provisions in the Netherlands then it differs nearly half. You can live here cheaper than in Friesland. Things are more expensive and some less costly in the big cities. It seems I have already said enough about buying and the clearing of land. Those who settle in the Western States, to my opinion, can do better to buy stateland than to put their money on interest. Just buy and keep the land the way it is until buyers show up. There are many money people in America who make use of their

money in this manner. In Iowa there are speculators from the East who five years ago bought large fields of stateland and bought it for one dollar and twenty five cents an acre and now resell it for ten dollars or more an acre. That is better than putting it out on interest. In short, when the above mentioned person comes to the U.S. than there is no doubt that he can make a good living.

From the letter I received, my family and people of Bornwerd are under the impression that there is trouble between H. Vierzen and me because I don't work for him. Briefly here is the story. I have already mentioned that a farmer here who has only forty acres under cultivation really has no need of extra help. H. Vierzen obtained land that needed no clearing. Scholte had bought about thirty six claims and those had to be ordered from him. P. and H. Vierzen together bought a claim. H. Vierzen had two thirds and P. Vierzen had one third. There were eighty to ninety acres fenced in and cultivated. The grains had been harvested but not the corn. Two houses stood on this property and for an American farm it was well cared for. H. Vierzen had in addition to me one hired man and a day worker; and P. Vierzen had three hired men and most of field work had been done. Vierzen said to us if he had work all of us could stay but because he didn't have work for us all the time, we were at liberty to seek employment elsewhere. So everyone has to look out for himself. I always had work and worked for Scholte before Vierzen got on the place. This is the reason that I do not work for Vierzen and there is no disagreement or trouble among us. We still live in good harmony and understanding just as when we left Friesland. I was somewhat offended that the letters from Friesland did not mention anything about my family but I did not mention it to him. And I understand from your writings that it is the same with the letters from Friesland that no one mentions our family. Twice he said to me when he had written a letter that he had made mention of all of us, and this was the reason why I had not written sooner. You wrote me that rumors were a foot that the money of immigrants has been lost and that Van Raalte was involved in it. This is untrue there is no money lost.

I was asked how much it has cost to get me to my destination. The exact amount I cannot tell as no one has settled with Scholte. However, I shall tell you what I know of it. It cost me fl. 5.81 from Dockum to Amsterdam. I paid fl. 40.50 for the provisions for the ocean trip. According to others the voyage for each person came to fl. 45.00. For the trip from Baltimore to St. Louis we paid eleven and one half dollar and could carry a hundred pounds free of charge. If there was over the hundred pounds an additional half dollar had to be paid for each hundred overweight. The cost was one dollar per person from St. Louis to Keokuk and ten cents for every hundred weight. The ride from Keokuk to Pella cost one dollar per person and seventy five cents for the hundred pound weight.

As you know I deposited fl. 202.00 for traveling expenses for which I went from Amsterdam to St. Louis. Scholte did not pay from this sum for the trip from St. Louis to my destination, everyone paid for his own. In Baltimore Scholte had requested Jews to take us to St. Louis which would cost no more than seven or eight dollars per person but they figured eleven and a half dollars and there were fourteen hundred people in our party! I figured that I overpaid fifty dollars. I don't recall how much I paid for food during the trip over land, but that is not much. Now you have an idea of the charges and when the final settlement takes place then I can tell you exactly how much the whole trip cost.

You wanted to know how I relate to the members of the Holland Society? I can tell you that I can get along well with everybody and desire no better. I have a good many friends among them but, of course, I am more closely attached to the Friesians.

Now let me tell you a few particulars about our Society. Concerning religion it is fairly good. A big house has been built in Pella and is used for school during the week and church services on Sunday. On Saturday catechism classes are held there for the children and on Sunday morning from eight thirty to ten o'clock we have an adult class for men. Ten o'clock church service is being held and at one thirty in the afternoon catechism classes are held for the women and at three o'clock there is another church service. We have no regular preacher as we had in Friesland. The

congregation is administered by the elders and deacons. Scholte is one of the elders. There are in all five who alternately do the preaching. There is one thing I do not approve of, along with many others, namely not commemorating the holidays such as Christmas, New Year's, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost. On those days there are no church services and everybody goes about his daily business. Not only the observances are neglected but they defend their non-observance by saying that no one can find proof in the Bible, and, that they are an institution of the Roman Catholic Church. Be that as it may, I don't agree with this practice here (9). The church service then is the only thing that is fairly good; for the rest Scholte handles it badly.

As you know when we were still in Friesland we had to deposit money for the trip and for the buying of land which Scholte would undertake for the whole group. When in St. Louis he chose to set out in company with a few farmers to find what seemed the best deal. The farmers had a better understanding of land than he and so they accomplished their mission. Accordingly Scholte/^{chose} between two and three townships situated between Des Moines and Skunk rivers which are about forty hours west of the Mississippi. Pella lies in the center between the two rivers which are a distance of four hours apart. There were about thirty Americans living on the bought land who had claims and Scholte bought the claims of all those because he wanted us to be by ourselves. The claims were bought at too high a price but for the land he paid no more than one dollar twenty five per acre. He bought for the entire Society and now the claims had to be ordered. It appealed to many because then they were in possession of the whole farm inventory. Scholte had bought the claims with the condition that the Americans had to leave everything on the farm, horses, cows, hogs, sheep, plows, harrows, wagons etc. Those who had deposited the most money

(9) And the apostle Paul evidently was also not in agreement with the practice in Pella, because he went up to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Moreover, a human being has a mind of his own which the wise Lawgiver of Israel understood as can be seen in the many solumn feastdays He established. Our Savior did he not go with His disciples to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast day?

obtained the claims and Scholte told them the purchasing price. It was expensive but it included everything and the people were so simple and gullible that they believed all that Scholte told them. They had too much confidence in him which later became evident. For one claim he took four hundred dollars too much, and for another five, another six, yes, even to seven hundred dollars than what he paid for the land himself. That's the way he treated us, a man who was looked upon as a father but who was out to fill his own pockets. H. Vierzen can prove it too because he paid two thousand dollars too much to him. Soon it leaked out what Scholte had paid for the claims. The Americans who formerly held the claim some-^{paid} times would visit their successors and so found out what Scholte/^{paid}for their former farm. The other land buyers who did not receive a claim had to pay two dollars and twenty five cents per acre, that was also one dollar too much. There is also a suspicion that not a penny will he return from the actually cost of the trip. From this he owes everyone twenty guilders and from some still more. There is not a single one yet who has a certificate of ownership - and has already deposited the money in the Netherlands!!!! Some persons are getting tough with him to begin settlement and to hand over their statement of ownership but he tells them to wait. I think it is getting to the point where he will be brought to the American courts. He himself is justice of the peace in Pella but that doesn't matter, the Americans are giving us the necessary instructions. You can easily see that in the Society there is much division and confusion, not so much among the members, but against the directors. There^{are}/a few who side with Scholte and they refuse to hear any bad stories about him, perhaps they are in cahoots with him. The Americans are keeping a wary eye on him, they say that he keeps all of us people poor. Not so long ago an American said this: "You have left to avoid the rule of a king to be in a free country and now you have taken along a king who oppresses you." It is this way, those who had not deposited any money are much better off because he can't hold back what money remains from the cost of the trip.

I estimate that there are almost forty houses in Pella. A plot of ground to build a house is very costly. Three lots are measured from each acre and that is big enough to build a house. Each lot on the mainstreet cost a hundred dollars; off the main road the lots are cheaper. Because every farmer wished to have a house in the city, many lots are being sold. This summer a villiage was laid out on the Des Moines river and Scholte said that this city was open for everybody, Americans as well as Netherlanders - in the city of Pella it was restricted to Hollanders. The name of the new city is Amsterdam; but I heard that he has sold only one lot so far. Pella would have been already a sizable city if Scholte had allowed freedom to the Americans to live here. It is too late now and the population in Pella stays almost the same. We don't count the souls as when we left the Netherlands. There are some bad rumors about Scholte going around in the U.S. and because of that most Netherlanders who otherwise would have come here, are going to the State of Michigan. The colony of Holland, in Michigan, today comes to seven or eight thousand souls. Also among them are a number of Hollanders from Iowa who did not join the Society. South of the Des Moines river are many Netherlanders but they were there before we came here. A couple of months ago many Hollanders came to this State but they homesteaded closer to the Mississippi. It almost appeared as if the whole State of Iowa was no good because of Scholte's bad dealings, but there is plenty of room outside of Pella. The soil is excellent here. The land lies evenly without hills. The water here is delicious as one never finds it in Friesland, the air is healthful, the summertime weather is somewhat warmer than in Friesland but the nights are cool so one can sleep well. There hasn't been a day that I could not work because of the summer heat and I haven't been indisposed one single day. Beukema said that one would loose weight in America but that is not necessarily so, the Hollanders and Fresians here are fat and stout. All the people in our colony have been very well during the past summer. The State of Michigan likely will be as healthful as here but the Americans say that the soil is not so good. Nearly everything is forest there so the clearing

of the land costs more money and labor. One finds there a sandy soil and the top-soil is reddish in color. Transportation there is better but that is going to change here before long. The States bordering the Des Moines river have yielded the right of all even numbered sections five miles south and five miles north. These are now being sold. The sale of which is used to make the river navigable by building traps and dams.

We are still living in the same house about which I wrote my last letter and I still work for the same man. I have hired ~~myself~~ myself to him until March of next year. As I wrote you before, in the first two months I earned eight dollars per month, now I am getting ten dollars per month throughout the year, in winter as well as summer. Moreover, I get free housing and fuel. The firewood does not cost much here but it costs something to get it out of the woods. I get my own firewood on the boss's time and we divide it up and use it together.

Peat is not known here, wood and coal are the only fuels. One uses only wood in the stove and fireplace and that gives enough heat. I do not want peat in place of wood because peat takes longer to ignite. In the winter the Americans kindle wood twice a day, in the morning when they get up and in the evening when the sun goes down. If there are two men in the home then they work together on the fire, they carry big blocks of wood inside. The trees are cut into four foot lengths and thrown into the fire without splitting the blocks. When it is really cold the fire blazes all night.

Here we work from sun-up to sun-down throughout the year. We sleep in the morning until the sun comes up. Then I do the chores, feed the horses, milk the cows and split wood as much as both of us need for the day. After that we eat breakfast. Customarily we eat three times a day. When breakfast is finished then I ^{go} about my daily work until twelve o'clock when we eat for the second time. One thirty I go back to work again until the sun goes down. This routine we follow throughout the year. The working days are long in the summer but short in the winter because

we always sleep until sunrise. Usually in the morning we don't light the lamp. I have no board and lodging by my boss, I'm on my own. One step out of the house then we are in another house. They build the houses so close together. We have much fun with one another; they are very nice people. At first we could not understand each other and we used our hands to mimic. When I would go to work the boss had to go along to indicate by motion what I had to do. Sometimes we both burst out laughing. He could not understand me nor could I understand him but now we get along very well with the language. The Americans in our vicinity say that I speak the English fairly well. Sometimes they use me as an interpreter to set things straight when they have Hollanders who cannot understand the English. It certainly has been worthwhile that I landed so soon by an American. I learn the language, earn much money, and no one is pushing me in my work. If it rains or it is too wet than I don't have to work. It seems that the Americans are afraid of getting wet. I guess that one third of the labor force of the Society is working for the Americans because there is not much money in the colony - Scholte has it all. The majority have spent all their money on land and can't afford help.

I have one and one half acres of land which I rent from my boss and I pay three dollars, two dollars per acre and that includes the plowing. Now we have for ourselves peas, beans, potatoes, carrots and turnips more than enough and that which we have not in garden, we have planted in corn for the pigs. Presently we have eight hogs. Because I am a steady hired man it didn't look good to us to have a cow this summer. A cow takes much care in the summertime, moreover, we have enough milk from my boss' two sheep. We don't have to go hungry on account of money as you can see by my earnings. My wife earns a little bit of money too. She patches clothes for the two hired men of Pieter Vierzen, Gosse J. de Vries and Geert Dijkstra who pay her eight dollars per year. She also spins yarn regularly. We buy the wool for twenty cents a pound and sells the yarn for seventy to eighty cents a pound. It is a good thing that we took our spinning wheel along because here they cost five dollars.

Since there is so much to write about, I have almost forgotten to write you how much profit there is in a dairy farm. In the summer butter costs six to seven cents and in the winter ten cents per pound; cheese presently, six to seven cents per pound. This summer a party carried dairy products to St. Louis and after the expenses were deducted they netted the same price for it as they got here. It is easy to understand when figuring transportation expenses. Now another party is making a trip with dairy products and they expect the net profit to be somewhat higher. There is no other cheese made here except from whole milk because the butter and cheese are the same price. If the ^{cheese} here brings seven cents per pound than the milking of cows is more profitable than the farming of the land. We are lacking a good kind of grass here. The pasturing and mowing of the prairie grass makes it so. If a number of cows are pastured for four or five years on a plot of ground than the prairie grass disappears and the weeds take over. The Americans, indeed, have cultivated grass but it is not the right kind. I can not compare it to anything better than what we in Friesland call mollestaarten, it grows as tall as oats. Clover is available here but nothing except the red variety.

Now I have to tell you something about Eelke Klazes who was in our company until we got to Baltimore. Maltreatments did not occur between him and Vierzen. In Amsterdam every household had to buy provisions for itself. The three employees of P. Vierzen and two of H. Vierzen together made up a single household. So Vierzen and Eelke had nothing to do with each other and everyone was his own boss on the ship. Suddenly Eelke started a dispute with someone about the cooking of meals and the argument came to a shouting at each other. (I haven't heard or seen it so I'm telling what someone has told me.) Vierzen came by when the controversy was at a high pitch and he reprimanded Eelke and ordered him to shut up. At this point Eelke and Vierzen started to quarrel with violent words and the result was that Eelke asked Vierzen for the bill since Vierzen had advanced him the money. Vierzen presented the bill but Eelke could not pay him a penny. Eelke owes Vierzen eighty

guilders. Afterward Eelke regretted the whole episode but they never made up.

About the miseries of the trip of which Eelke speaks, I know little about. It was so, there were too many people on board the ship and thus the crowded condition got on the nerves of everybody.

I'm not surprised that Eelke says that this country is not fruitful because outside of Baltimore he has seen very little of America and the vicinity of Baltimore is very rocky. In fact I know so little of America and Eelke still less. The school children in Friesland also talk about America and Eelke knows no more than they. Enough of that.

Pieter Vierzen, Gerrit van der Weit and we live four to five miles southeast and all the other Vierzens one mile northwest from Pella. Gerrit van der Weit has bought from an American the claim of forty acres of prairie ground and five acres of woods for twenty five dollars. This amount he can earn by working out. Now he must pay the Stage yet. The block cabin on it, he made himself. In the spring he cleared six acres and planted corn on it. But he had to harvest it too early because the poor fencing would not keep out the oxen and cows. They still like it very much here; are in good health and are making out very well. Last fall when they lost their children, van der Weit was in poor health for a long time.

Pieter Vierzen has sold his share he had with H. Vierzen and for four hundred and fifty dollars again bought a claim (not really a claim because the land has been paid) of a hundred sixty acres of prairie ground and sixty acres of wood land. Seventeen acres of this land is broken up and fenced in (that is better than having to buy it from Scholte). He now lives on a rented place right close to us. For rent he pays one third of the grain harvest. His new farm lies in Mahaska county. Our colony lies in the northerly part of Marion county and east of Marion county lies Mahaska county. This winter he wants to build a house on his land. Presently they are all well and this summer a daughter was added to the family. The other Frisians in Pella are still healthy and well. Since I wrote you last no one of the

Frisians has died. If there are Frisians who plan to come to America, I would not know where to advise them to settle since there is room everywhere where immigrants are able to homestead in the States of Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and in Iowa. Everywhere there is plenty of room. But this I do recommend, do not form an association in the Netherlands as we did, but pay your own trip and do not give your money into the hands of someone else in doing so you will then save many guilders. The quickest and cheapest way for you to travel is by way of New Orleans. Once in New Orleans you can get to St. Louis without repacking your belongings and you pay only two dollars and fifty cents per person. I do not know the ^{cost}~~weight~~ of a hundred pound weight but surely it is not more than fifty cents. However, when you start your trip in the spring then I advise not to come over New Orleans because in the summer you cannot stand the heat there. But if you should leave in the fall my above advice stands. You cannot see too many new and wonderful things in New Orleans.

Frisians! my former fellow-countrymen, I freely invite you to come to the U.S. Luxuries and pomp you don't find here but only a simple country lifestyle. Don't figure on gathering riches here in the west but figure on a comfortable and abundant life with little effort. An ambitious farmhand does not have to work many years to begin a small ^{farm}/for himself. Although he who comes with a little money is far ahead. I wish that all my relatives were here, they surely would have a good living if they stay healthy and well. But the possibility is rather remote to get here, unless there is a well-to-do emigrant who wants to take along a household. I wish, indeed, that you fellow villagers of Bornwerd would find a way to help Ritske and his family to emigrate, moreover, he desires very much to come to America. If people in your vicinity has plans to emigrate and felt so inclined and if the village did something to help financially, that I would like very much. I estimate that his family would need five hundred guilders to get here. You must not figure on H.Vierzen to do something or that he would consider helping common workers to come to America.

My sister Ijtje was so eager to come with us to America, if that is still so and if there is someone who will help here, than I will stand security for her in case she fails or cannot pay back the cost of the trip.

When we left no one else of my brothers or sisters expressed a desire to come. How they feel about it now , I do not know but my wish is that they all came here. I am far removed but my thoughts are always with you.

Now a word or two to my aged father (10), if he is still living. I don't think that it is good for you to come to America, perhaps you would not be able to stand the long trip. There were a few oldsters who went along with the group but it was too much for them. Only two of them made it to Pella and they had the privilege and pleasure to see their seed to be established in America, but that was just for a very short time, they already rest in the grave. - The parting from you, dear father, was very difficult for me; more difficult than I let on and I think that found it still more difficult when you had to say farewell for ever to your son. But alas, dear father, it was not my intention to be separated from you, as you know very well. But it was to go to a country with an opportunity to find a better life for me and my family than in Friesland. And in this we are not at all disappointed because if all stays well we will be able to have a farm of our own. This would have

(10) Auke Sipkes Sipma is a venerable old man of eighty four years old. This grey-bearded man is a living example of a tireless and ambitious worker. He has raised a family of seven children, three sons and four daughters and never has received a penny from the public poor fund although he had to earn every cent for support of his family with manual labor. Always active and well-behaved, he knew how to keep the wolf from his door. He gave his children an excellent bringing up and thus acquired them respect of the whole community. For a number of years old age kept him down so that he was no longer able to provide for his livelihood, although in spite of his old age he possesses the same undaunted spirit. Last summer I saw him go by my house, panting and worn out going to work in the garden of Frouwke van der Meer, although such work was not required of him. And many times he complained that his age was catching up with him. I have noticed more than once that it is hard for him to enjoy the money received from the benevolent fund of the church. A very worthy example for those of the working class who live a care free life or carelessly spend their money. They are not ashamed to say: "If we suffer they must help us." It is for this decrepit grey-bearded man who has lived an active life it is no shame to enjoy welfare. When some healthy people at middle age ask for dole - that is shameful. I know very well that in our land for many having big families it is almost impossible to earn enough money with manual labor but one often sees unmarried men with healthy bodies unashamed ask for a handout. Why not have them serve in the army? Then they don't have to bother anyone.

been impossible in Friesland and to think that we can own our land! As we live here now, we are already much better off. Three times a day we have the best to eat and are able to save money on top of that. What a difference compared to Friesland! There is not a single man, taking his trade in consideration, who gains more by coming to America than a farm-laborer. Had we stayed in Friesland then we would have lapsed into poverty in a few short years. If you consider all of this, dear father, then you will certainly have no regrets that we left Friesland. This has always been an encouragement to me that you have never disheartened me in this. However, we have never talked about it because parting is such a painful thought. I still rejoice in the fact that I decided to leave Friesland. It will surely be a pleasant thought for you, dear father, that you receive word now and then from us and that you know that we are in a better land and that your children do prosper; although to meet one another face to face will perhaps never happen. I very much wish to be with you father and also to be with my brothers and sisters but I do not^{wish} to be in Friesland again. Oh, father may our names be written in the Book of Life whereof we have knowledge on this side of the grave. Then we will see each other again in the hereafter in the heavenly Jerusalem where there is no more sorrow and all our tears be wiped away. This is my heartfelt wish for you and for our whole family. I will be happy to hear from you, dear father, if you receive this letter still in fairly good health and if you really miss us. I can easily understand that it is still hard for you but you can rejoice in the fact that we are in a land where there is ample room or would you have preferred that we had remained in Friesland? Further I wish you, dear father, and residents of Bornwerd and our whole family all the best for body and soul.

I don't know if I have answered your questions to your satisfaction. I have done it as good as I could. If some questions are not answered sufficiently, let me know. I have not written anything about the Society's board of directors because we won't have anything to do with them. If there is a general meeting in Pella about one

thing or other then they make an announcement but the meeting is not attended by a single Friesian. By now we know enough about this Society.

I've been careful that I wrote nothing that which I was not enough informed about. I had no idea that my previous letter would come out in print because then I would have written some more. I was also afraid that the postage would come too high for you. If it were sent by seamount, the cost of it would surely be high. How much that would be I know not and still I don't know. Of the first letter I paid ten cents and the one I received from you I had to pay thirty five cents.

Now that my former letter appears in print, my name surely is all over Friesland. Letters are received here from Friesland which mentions my name in them.

I'll leave it to you how you will handle this letter. We are grateful to those who will contribute to the expenses of the letters and also to the opportunity given to see that my family gets the news and again that I receive the news from them. Also thank you teacher, that you took the trouble to see that our relation in Engwierum got the letter. I shall be glad in return to write you if there is something you would like to know. Write as often as you can and I will pay the postage on this end. If there are some of the family who can and will write, don't fail to do it because of my expenses. If you write again, please write about everything you can think of as you did in your last letter which I liked very much; such as the situation in the old country, about the potatoes and other produce. Write about our aged father, brothers and sisters, kinsmen and how everybody is getting along in Bornwerd, etc.

On September 23 we had an addition to the family, a healthy baby daughter and all are getting along fine. The name of the baby is IJtje, which was the wish of my wife and the only sister I have in this country. This is also the reason why I haven't written before the writing stopped short after the birth of our daughter. Otherwise you would get the idea that Eelke Klazes was right in saying that America is not fruitful.

For now I shall finish but first a kind request of the teacher once more to send word to our relatives in Engwierum. You don't have to copy the whole letter, only write about our well being and as much as you like about that. If you write again name those in your vicinity who are making plans to emigrate to the U.S. and where they are planning to settle. Willem Jeltjes of Janum has left for America and has settled in the State of Michigan. The rumor is a foot here that he left Friesland bankrupt. Is that slander or, indeed, the truth? Can you give some information about it?

Teacher of Bornwerd, I ask you again to write me soon, I expect a letter back from you this fall. Also write me whether my sister IJtje is completely recovered. Our greetings to our aged father, to our mother in Engwierum, all my brothers and sisters, all those who live in Bornwerd and further all those who know me. I wish everyone the best for body and soul. Also greetings from the wife of Gerkes Posthuma.. They are all healthy and well and his wife is now with us in the house.

Sjoerd Aukes Sipma,
Jantje de Vries.

My address is still:

Pella, Marion County Iowa, U.S. North America.