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Stutzerbach¹ September 20, 1861

Many cordial greetings from all of us to you and your whole family.

Dear brother in law and brother² your so valuable letter of July 22 of this year we did receive by Ernst³ from Altona⁴, which letter did cause great joy to us by hearing again something from you, principally because we read in your letters that you have your income and that you are doing better than in Goldlauter, even when you have much to do, you have not to worry about food. This year we have bad prospects, because the potatoes grew badly and which really grew are not of good quality.

Concerning Goldlauter, I have to tell you that all goes badly. Many do come from there every day and ask for their daily wages; the colony has ended completely because the foundries stop and they stop because the Suhlerhauer⁵

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cannot compete with the Dutch iron; on Mühler's⁶ land a china-ware factory was built. So you can imagine how things go in Goldlauter.

Your brother in law, Ortlepp⁷ this summer went in road construction. His wife⁸ goes to hawk⁹ with Johan¹⁰ in the villages with bed-sheets¹¹. We also have bought from her. By coincidence she was here with her merchandise at the moment that your letter came, so that also she was very happy and thought when you were doing well and you were able to support her a little, she would accept the gift with great thanks(to me this seemed rather ridiculous). His eldest son is working in Erfurt and is doing well, also supporting his parents. The second is in the army as a volunteer. Because you would like to know what he tells about you, good or bad, I have to tell you that he asks every time how you are doing and never said something else. Your father in law¹² is now working for

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a steelworks¹³. How he is doing, I cannot tell you, because he is very secret, but I know as much that he did not advance, but went backwards, and I do not believe either that this will be his death, most of all because the mother in law cares too much for her own

¹ Stutzerbach is about 5 miles directly East of Goldlauter.

² Letter is addressed to Ferdinand Kramer

³ Probably Ferdinand Kramer's older brother, Ernst Immanuel Kramer

⁴ Altona is in Northern Germany, about 75 miles East of Bremerhaven.

⁵ Internet search didn't indicate what this meant.

⁶ A family name, specifics are unknown.

⁷ Probably Christian Friedrich Ortlepp. The only other male, Peter Immanuel Ortlepp doesn't have marriage data in the records. Perhaps he died young.

⁸ Juliane Dorothea (Schmidt) Ortlepp (assuming it's not Peter's wife)

⁹ The translator wrote "hawk?" and indicated that it appeared they were selling merchandise from door to door.

¹⁰ Is this Johanne Christiane Ortlepp?

¹¹ Amelius Weiß was a "dimity merchant". Definition: dimity n : a strong cotton fabric with a raised pattern; used for bedcovers and curtains. Source: *WordNet (r) 1.7*

¹² Amelius Weiß

¹³ The translator included a question mark here as though he wasn't sure of the correct word.

people. That your Rebbmann¹⁴, the good Friedrich died in his bed will be true, according to my wife, who knows better, this is completely true.

What Schlegelmilch¹⁵ does in the mill; at the moment his situation is still good, because he is milling for the farmers of Suhl and does his transport from and to Suhl with a cow. So he has to do night and day and has no problem.

Obermüller¹⁶ in Goldlauter is in the Meiningen region and is also doing well.

Dear brother in law, I have to admit clearly to you, that when trip were not that difficult, would soon see me in your family

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even when it would cost an oxen, but it is not possible, I make a trip every year and this year I travelled in the Hannover land ; last year I visited the Harz land . This year my wife and daughter would go to Altona, but by the decease of Wilhelmus it will not take place.

My wife had the plan, because Minna was ill, to travel there and to take her back to there but then came the letter, announcing that Wilhelmus died. The trip was cancelled immediately until next summer when we all still will be healthy.

I also communicate that I and my wife will stop the business, because in the summer we built a house where we want to live and even sold our lands.

Further more there is nothing else to tell and I wish you all the best.

Your loving brother in law and sister E.Weiss¹⁷

¹⁴ There were Rebbmanns in the Goldlauter area, however a search didn't find a Friedrich Rebbman.

¹⁵ Translated from *Development of the SuhlerTraditions* "As in the 19th Century the yield of the ores, changed the smelting company over Schlegelmilch 1861 production became ever smaller to porcelain. - The beginning of the world-well-known Schlegelmilch of porcelain. Several family members created their own factories. Suhler porcelain of the Schlegelmilchs ascended world-wide to a noble luxury mark.
<http://www.kunstgravuren.de/seiten/seitenfr/seiten/tradition.html>

¹⁶ Another family name, unidentified.

¹⁷ Probably Heinrich Ernst and Laurette Sidonia (Kramer) Weiß