

I.

Altona<sup>1</sup>, 29 Sept 1861

Dear brother and wife and children, we greet you and hope that you all are well. Your letter of July 22, I received on Sept 6, thanks God in good health, about our brother Siegfried<sup>2</sup>, he did leave in spring, so he travelled to Russia but unfortunately he did not give a sign until now, we do not know where he is at the moment, both his eldest sons go to sea with a large steamer between Hamburg and New York<sup>3</sup> as 'Stur' ((steward??)), the ship called Borussia<sup>4</sup> and the captain called Meyer, the travel is made in 14 days to New York, 14 days at the dock in New York and after 14 days they are back here in Hamburg. They have 5 to 100 passengers and also freight. The third son also went to the seas, fell overboard about three years ago and drowned. Both the eldest daughters make their living by washing, a 13 year old girl and an 11 year old boy are in a boarding-school, paid by the grandmother, (the old lady Girleman?), our brother August<sup>5</sup> has left behind 3 children, the eldest is 12 to 13 years, the youngest 9 to 10. Die Bächrin? ((name of the wife?)) has half a year before his death ...

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on 5 years before ? to a man ? Weimar, the woman has a good life.

My eldest son is 27 years old is inn-keeper<sup>6</sup>, my daughter Emma is 24 years old and my youngest son August 22 years, in May he has to join the 16<sup>th</sup> battalion in Copenhagen, after two months and having finished the school for officers. I bought him a ?ellungsman? for 400 M, so he came back for two months and now he is with me, he also has worked as a journeyman baker in Christiania, the capital of Norway, from there he travelled with a steamer by Stockholm to Riga, there he also worked for one year with brother August<sup>7</sup> and went to Elgersburg in the Berdd? and then my son August came to Berlin.

There I write him and he travelled immediately to Elgersburg, so he has been in our region in Stutzenbach and in K/Pahl?, when he came in K/Pahl for the first time, we immediately???

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<sup>1</sup> The letter from Ernst and Laurette (Kramer) Weiss talked about Ernst from Altona, who appears to be Ferdinand's eldest brother, Ernst Immanuel Kramer. This letter appears to be from him.

<sup>2</sup> Siegfried Kramer, b. 21 Apr 1808 in Goldlauter

<sup>3</sup> Writer spells it *Neujork* consistently through this letter.

<sup>4</sup> Writer spells it *Brusia* BORUSSIA 1855, 2,131 gross tons, length 280ft x beam 38.5ft, clipper bows, one funnel, three masts (rigged for sail), iron hull, single screw, speed 10 knots, accommodation for 54-1st, 146-2nd and 310-3rd class passengers. Launched on 3rd Jul.1855 by Caird & Co., Greenock for the Hamburg America Line, she was immediately chartered by the British Government as a Crimean War Transport. She started her first Hamburg - New York voyage on 1st Jun.1856 and her last on 30th Apr.1870. Re-engined in 1871, she then transferred to the Hamburg - West Indies service. In 1876 she was sold to the Dominion Line and started her first Liverpool - New Orleans sailing on 2nd Sep.1876. On 20th Nov.1879 she sailed from Liverpool for New Orleans, but on 2nd Dec, was abandoned at sea and sank with the loss of 169 lives. [North Atlantic Seaway, vol.1,p.387 by N.R.P.Bonsor]

<sup>5</sup> August Immanuel Kramer, b. 9 April 1816 in Goldlauter. According to this letter, it appears he has died recently.

<sup>6</sup> Translator had difficulties deciding on this word "Wirtsmeister"

<sup>7</sup> Is this August Immanuel Kramer again? – worked in Riga as a baker, and this writer's son August worked with him for a year.

### 3

taken Domber ((??)) and we are also be above again, then also Robert Krämer comes. That is what the baker? says to Krämer that this is of his nephews; when he has heard this, he does not know what to do for joy. His nephew died two years ago.

((The lines 8,9 are vague ))

Do you believe that golden mountains are to be found here? Two pieces he has now, the first already is 1 ½ year with him, that is a son of Mrs Walther, his father is back in the Undermill ((lower mill)) , at the other side his parents want to live in Underthorf; about the other four I do not know anything ; their coming from Goldlauter ...

((A vague line nr 19))=You know that he had problems? with money.

He has been for a long time with Walther at the ?? ; There he was for the last 9 years.

((Line 22 = ?? ))

brought together 5000? and his master borrowed him 4000 more, so he has his problems and to see us .....

((Line 26,27 and 28 do not give any serious text.))

### 3 Transcription

For all copies: the text is written without any punctuation, so when in my opinion a sentence ends I put an; German transcription, every line ending with a /

- 1.Domber ?? genommen und wir ?? /
- 2.sind da kombt auch der Robert Kramer /
- 3.das sagen der backer zu Kramer, dass das ein Vetter /
- 4.von ihm sei wie er das gehört hat so weiss er /
- 5.gar nicht für Freude was er thun soll /
6. Taghe hat er bei ihm blieben müssen /
- 7.sein Vetter ist vor 2 Jahren auch gestorben /
- 8.von der Schule ?? ?? der haben die schon /
- 9.anfangs aus Goldlauter ?? die alle/
- 10.bei backer in der Lehre sind in Goldlauter/
- 11.Glauben Sie das hier Goldberge zu haben.
- 12.sind ? Zwei Stück hat er selbst ; der erste ist schon/
- 13.1 ½ Jahr bei ihn ; das ist von Frau ?? Walther/
- 14.ein Sohn ; sein Vatter ist jetzt wieder in der /
- 15.Undermühle am anderen seits wille seine/
- 16.Eltern wohnen in Understorf , von den andere/
- 17.4 weiss ich aber nichts ; ihr abkommen aus
- 18.Goldlauter und sie aber .....?/?
- 19.Du weisst von ihn ?? ?? hat mit/
- 20.Geld ; er war ja lange Jahre bei Walther auf /
- 21.den ?? ?? ; da war er die letzte 9 Jahre /
- 22.?? Meister ?? ?? wohnen so hat er /
- 23.sich 5000 H? vergart, sein Meister hat ihn noch/
- 24.4000H? zugeliien auf Zeugnis, so hat er/

25. seine Sorgen und uns zu sehen einen/
26. durch ?? ; es ist auch seit ??/
27. Anfang alles so gethan für vier Jahre /
28. Auch schon mehre Mahl kleine ??