

**8. Michael Haherfellner to Julie Diehl, December 11, 1906**

[Translation:]

Vienna, the 11th of December, 1906

Dear July!

I received your extremely dear to me letter with  
great joy and send you greetings and wishes  
5 that you enjoy the friendly words. Can you  
believe that it is almost 60 years that we have  
known nothing more particular about each other. And now  
only where we are old and through a coincidence did we  
find each other again. I remember very well you and  
10 your parents, and Johann and Mathias. Joseph,  
who is so agreeable and writes me often, I didn't know  
here. I also remember Michael Hehenberger, the brother  
of your and my father. What all have you lived  
through there in America? ----- and  
15 us here! ----- there would be a lot on both sides  
to tell. ---- As far as I know, here I am the only  
descendant of the Hehenbergers, all of the others  
are already dead. In the number of years where we  
are, it lightens up already (there become less), only  
20 very few become so old \_\_\_ even I am very gray  
already. I am 69 years old, but still quite  
content with my health.

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You have no idea what joy I and my wife have  
had with your picture. I think you would get along  
25 very well with my wife. She is from Wels and knows  
a lot about agriculture. She has also raised many chickens,  
and she's completely in love with you. She speaks  
so often of you and always says, "If only Julia were  
nearer, so that I could speak with her." Do you ever  
30 have longing to come here to your old homeland?---  
Come here to us and your old, beautiful homeland. We  
warmly invite you and would heartily welcome you.  
You have invited me to come to you, which sincerely  
gives me joy, and I think you very much for it.  
35 Unfortunately, it is impossible, that I would travel  
to America at this age. It is, for me, a foreign land  
and the climate is not supposed to be favorable,

because so many families are coming back again  
because the climate there is not good for them.

40 The weather here is agreeable, it is only as cold as 34  
degrees Fahrenheit. And the safety affairs are not very good  
there. I can't believe that you can run such a farm with only  
one farmhand. That would be impossible here, but it is lucky,  
that you have such a good son.

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45 How many children do you have? And what are they all?  
Hopefully they are all doing well. What is Mathias?  
He is already older than 70. Is he married? Does he  
have children? We are childless. We had a girl, her  
name was also Julia, but she died at age 6 with  
50 diphtheria (a bad throat sickness)  
She was very healthy and 3 days later, died.  
We are still inconsolable about it.  
I own some coal fields in South Bohemia (Czech Republic)  
for which I am currently in sales negotiations. If this  
55 sales comes through, then I will pull myself out of  
business. In the winter, we will stay in Vienna and in the  
summer we'll live in the country. But that is all dependent  
on the sale. --- this much I can tell you, that we too have  
made it through a lot here. I was in Verona, Italy for 4 years  
60 as a mandatory master baker, then in Linz, and Salzburg, and  
since 1884 in Vienna.  
You have been a widower for a long time. Where is your  
husband originally from? The photograph of us, dear Julia,  
will be sent to you later. We only have pictures from earlier  
65 days. We'll have a new one taken.  
My wife and I wish you and your children a very merry  
Christmas celebration and a happy New Year, that you  
may long remain healthy and live peacefully.

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70 My wife and I wish the same to the  
rest of your relations. Before I close, I apologize,  
dear Julia, that I didn't answer your letter for so  
long, because I was unsure of the address until  
Josef sent it to me.  
75 In expectation that you, dear Juli, will write a lot to  
us again soon, of you and yours and from there  
where you are, my wife and I send you heartfelt  
greetings, also to your children.

your Cousin  
Mich. HaHerfellner

80 My wife sends many greetings and that she will write you  
herself sometime.

[Envelope:]

Esquire

Mrs. Julie Diehl  
Spring Green, WI  
North America