

11. Michael Haherfellner to Julie Diehl, May 1, 1907

[Translation; no line numbers]

Vienna, the 1st of May 1907

Dear Julie!

We joyously received our dear, long and detailed letter. Please excuse that I did not answer it for so long. There were many causes of different kinds, the much work in relation to finishing up the sale of my coal fields and then my wife was very sick again and a couple of other things.

So you received my letter from Christmas and you and your children were happy about it. That gives us joy. You are quite a happy mother, you children seem to love you a lot and that must make you happy. As I see from your letter you must all be a big happy family? That must make your lives comfortable. To live in such comfortable situation in a foreign land must replace a large part of your homeland. You, dear Julie, are doing well and that is good to hear and we are very happy about it, even if you are often sad, dear Julie, we understand and suppose we know the reason. It is the memories of your dear, good husband, isn't it? The memories come up often.

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even more so, because he was such a good husband to you and father to your children.

You can say that you were the happiest, which only few can say.

The name "Bismark" in Germany, which will also be known to you, this man founded the empire, came from nothing and took himself to ruler. He was asked by a noble person about his luck and he said he had only had three lucky hours. So your children are doing quite well, they have a cheese factory?

That must be very profitable. And with the little towhead, your favorite, you much all have much joy. I gladly believe that. We are very happy about your picture. You'll get our picture later. Your farm is a big 240 acre farm! An acre is a bit smaller than our measurement is, but there are few farmers by us who could have such a large farm and which would make a profit, because here the work is much different. The farms hands are too expensive and only an eight hour work day. That is very strange to me, to have such a large farm with so few people, the machines even have to be taken care of. There are many of you Hehenbergers and Diehls there, soon you'll be able to found your own town! I would love to visit you all, and to see your big farm, but that great hope will not be—or if I were 30 years younger! Here I only know the one cousin

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Hehenberger in the town, he was the community secretary and I spent time with him, but he is unfortunately also dead. My brother was very sickly and has been gone about 30 years, since then I don't know anything about him, but he's certainly also dead. Do you still know, dear Julie, the address from where you used to live? I can't remember it. And

the maiden name of your mother? If I knew this, and went to Wels then I would ask around if there were still Hehenberger or relatives of your mother living there. Mathias is doing well there and the children of Michael also, which is very happy. If you had stayed here, then you also wouldn't be the wife of a day laborer like so many I know who have little or nothing, but many also married land owners and millers, which I think could have been the case for you. It is all chance and luck. Today things are all different here. There are more taxes and more pay, but otherwise everything is well regulated and everything has been improved everywhere. About two Swiss, I looked around, but the ones around here that are dependable are employed in the dairy farms and cloisters by the large land owners and the large farms. They are well paid and they won't go to America. The only ones going to America are Hungarians and Croatians. Many search for their luck earning money in America and then they come back again. But of these, there are none to be recommended, they are lazy and undependable. I could never suggest such people to you! If I still had

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properties then I would dig up two good Swiss, and when I was convinced of their efficiency, then I would send them, but unfortunately I have no property anymore, and I don't want to get any. I've had many business and properties, but also many worries and when my things are finished off, then I want my peace and quiet. I'm very sorry that I can't do this service for you, to send you a dependable Swiss, but I would do it so gladly. For your letters, dear Julie, I pay nothing, I hope also that my letters to you are correctly marked and that you don't have to pay anything to receive them. Please let me know! Yes! Here, when a letter is sent to America, it is weighed at the post office and then you pay according to the weight. Do you have a good wine? We have very good wine here, Grinzinger, Nahsberger, Gumpoldskirchner, Vöslauer, Pfaffstättner and others. These wines are famous, but we also have a very good apple cider. There was a food fair for only for cider from our town (Scharten), Efferding, St. Florian, many were distinguished because of their good cider. Do you have apple cider there? It's so healthy that here the doctors prescribe it to the sick. We read in the newspaper that in America this year, as an exception, the chickens laid so many eggs, like never before, and they were sent to New York! I bet that made you happy. Here eggs are much more expensive than by you. 35 cost a Gulden! Did you sell all of your pigs? yes?

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Did you also have such a terrible spring? We have continuous cold weather and rain. In the mountains there are even still snowfalls and such that in some areas traffic stops! and terrible floods and even storms. The telegraph connection Vienna-Triest has stopped. In Salzburg it is storming and snowing like the middle of winter. The weather has already done great damage, also the field fruits and fruit trees are in danger, Upper Austria is also hit by this weather. The fruit trees are suffering and this would be terrible for the cider production, then it is well known that Upper Austrian cider is the best! It will make food more expensive! You maybe read in your newspapers that the Vienna Men's Choir, consisting of 300 men and 40 women is on a trip to America! They are staying in New

York in the hotel "Royal". The Americans are excited that the "German Vienna Singers" will be received there. They left here on April 21st and are on high seas at this time! On the great Atlantic Ocean! If only they have good weather and no storms! Is it far from you to New York?

I'll close for now and hope and wish that you and all of your dear ones will receive this letter in the best of health. My health is still ok, but that of my wife is not good and doesn't want to get better. With many heartfelt greetings to you and your children and also the little, cheerful towhead. your Cousin

Mich Haherfellner

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my greetings in heartfelt manner, she was very happy that you wrote to her separately. She will write you more when she is feeling better.

Finally, we wish you and all of yours a happy Whitsunday/Pentecost celebration! Uncle Georg has been dead a long time and I know nothing of his sons. Warm greetings to you! you Cousin

Michael Haherfeller