

78. Paul Goetsch to Alexander Krueger, December 3, 1902

[67] PAUL GOETSCH TO ALEXANDER KRUEGER, DECEMBER 3, 1902

Slides 353 - 359.

Trade Mark Blue Ribbon Fruit Exchange Paul C. Goetsch, Prop. South Calera, Ala 17
Adress 5322 - 1st Ave Woodlawn Ala

or

c/o Drennen & Co Silk and Dress Goods Dept

5 B'ham Ala.

~~South Calera~~, B'ham Ala., 12/3 19018

Mr Alexander Krueger.

Watertown Wis.

Dear Alex, your welcome letter came
10 to me as a pleasant surprise, and to
show my appreciation will not delay
in answering. I am certainly glad that
you did well this year, this will give you
new stimulus and ambition for the com-
15 ing year. As for my self the past season has
been one of reverses, disappointments and
severe trials. Contrary to my hopes and
expectations the crops through the middle
of our state from North to South were very
20 poor, and more or less all over the south,
resulting from lack of rain; and a very prolonged
drouth. In fact some of the natives
claim it to have been the worst year they
ever experienced. The result of it all was,
25 "I looked me up a job for to make a living."
I came to B'ham and had the refusal
of four positions, I accepted one with Drennen,
since then, I have been placed at the head
of the dress goods and silk depts', as ^{dep't} manager
30 and buyer at \$75⁰⁰ per month. Now here
is where my story dont read so good, I had
all my goods shipped on to B'ham, and sent
my wife and babies on in advance. Our
plans were to board with a family I knew,
35 (Steussys' who used to live in Watertown,) and store
our furniture until we had time to find
a suitable place. When I reached B'ham
several days later I found Ellen in bed,
just having under gone an operation, which
40 if it would not have been attended to at
once would have caused blood poisoning

and death. No sooner had she got well, when
both children took sick with some stomach
and bowel disease, and kept growing worse.
45 In the mean time we found a house, and
had just moved in, when Ellen got sick,
which developed into typhoid fever, I had
her taken to a hospital, and had the chil-
dren cared for in a private family. All three
50 were at the point of death at one time, when
Russell finally commenced to improve and
so did Ellen. But our dear little Dorothy grew
worse, and two weeks ago Sunday (on the 16th)
she was called home for eternal rest.
55 A beautiful little funeral service was held
at our house, and we had the remains of
our lost one interred in Wood lawn cemetery.
Ellen could not be removed from the hospital,
so did not get a farewell look at the dear
60 one, and had not seen her for three weeks
previous. The Tuesday following, I brought
Ellen home, since which time she has been
gaining. Russell too is getting on very
nicely now. So you see my experience has
65 been very bitter. Every week as I get my
salary, most of it goes toward paying bills
which accumulated. I do not like the dry
goods business here, as well as in Milwauk-
ee, and will likely not stay after next spring
70 or fall, or before, if a good job came my
way. I still have my 20 acres at So Calera,
and am having it cared for by Mr Frank
whom you met. I shall not do any more
farming for two or three years; or until my
75 orchards are in full bearing, this is nothing
but a fruit country. I was surprised to learn
that Will Wendorf was still in Costa Rica,
I wish you would send me his address at
once, as I should like to write to him.
80 I may want to take a trip down there my-
self, if I can get a job to match his.
My uncle is now at Calera with his
wife, she has a store there, and he bought
a hotel for \$3000⁰⁰. They say she is playing
85 the deuce with him, says she only married
him for his dough, and was sick of her bar-
gain ten days after. I have heard different things

like this from several reliable sources, and
from what I've seen of her she is none to
90 good. I would like to go back to our old Mil.
until my place here is in full bearing but
Ellen wouldnt listen to going back to live.
She says she'd like to visit all her friends,
but wants to ~~ff~~ live in the south.

95 I dont know if Carlos has his picture or
not, he says his brother called for it at Calera,
and he had not seen him. Your clippings on North-
ern Wisconsin were interesting and very true, but
the one on Johnson grass is way off, as I
100 have seen too much of it, and its habits.
Thorsby they say made a very good fruit
crop in spite of the dry summer, which
I can readily believe as fruit was
the only thing I had, and some was very
105 fine. Dont ever mention again about your
making trouble, as I really believe that
both Ellen and I enjoyed your visit even
better than you yourself, and wish you
could have stayed longer. We prize the photos
110 very highly, in fact they are priceless now
as this collection contains the only pictures
we have of that sweet little angel which has
left us. I had taken orders for some of
the others, but as the niggers paid no de-
115 posit I would not take any chances.
I wish you would see if you still have the
negative of my little girl, if you have I
should like to order several in my next
letter. I am making my letter quite
120 a long one, but as they have been few
and far between, hope you wont tire,
reading it. I swapped my mare for
a mule which Frank is now using
at South Calera, as part of the arrangement
125 I made with him. My buggy I swapped
for another mule which in turn I swap-
ped for a beautiful 4 year old mare and
got some difference besides. This gave me
a pretty good price for my buggy as my
130 colt will bring me 75 or \$80 in spring.
The postmaster at Longview is keeping
her for her feed, he uses her only for
riding to and from work. I would give

135 a good deal if I had it to spend, just
to see all my old Northern friends + kin,
and have a look at old Watertown.
I hope you will write me soon in fact
I would like to have you write me at
140 once, Will Wendorf's address. Ellen begs to
be remembered to you all. Remember me
especially to your folks, on the strength
of my first full crop ^{of fruit}, I will likely
come back to pay old Watertown and my
former stamping grounds a genuine old
145 visit. If you take the "Western Fruit Grower," look
up my article in the August number. I must
close now with kindest regards and best wishes
Sincerely ~ Paul Goetsch

(across top of page above line 102, SML)

150 I am going to have
sent to you a pretty book-
let on the Georgia Fruit
belt. This is a fore runner
of what our district will
be some day.