

Letter from Gerhard Wiebe, Ellerwald, to his brother's children in Russia.

Translated by Helen Ens, May 2020. Edited by Glenn Penner, 11 July, 2025.
From the diary of Gerhard Wiebe, pages [209](#) – [211](#).

The third letter under the above date to my brother's children. [19 June 1791]
My dearly beloved brother's children, Isbrand Wiebe, Joh. Wiebe, Agatha and Anna plus their spouses. [Children of Johann Wiebe, #199338]

Dearest!

My wish is that it would be well with you in all respects and that you are healthy. Because I have not received any communication from you since your letter from Dec. 19, 1789 from Chortiz, I visit you with a few lines, in which I report that we are well and things are going well. My son G.W. got married last year with his cousin, the widow of Bernhard **Epp** [#201095] in Schadewalder Feld. From your dear mother I recently received news that she and her husband, and your sister, Aganeta, are well and send many greetings, as does your brother Gerh. **Wiebe**, who is employed by **Klaassen** in Krebswald. Oheim [uncle] Harm **Regier** [#789703] and his wife, Bernhard **Penner** [1365629] and his family, Jac. **Braun** and his family are all doing well, as are also the senior H. **Bock** [#1180122], his wife and children. Here we have had two very mild winters, but last year we were blessed with a good cereal crop and even now everything looks promising. Nothing has happened with Anke's money for she has not yet been declared of age. If you could inform us in what manner you would like to have it sent to you, whether by ordinary mail or by a bill of change we could take care of it. Should God grant us peace, maybe someone would like to travel your way to see how you all are faring and then we could send the money with them. There are several people here who are thinking of following you, they are just wondering if they would be able to support a family there. Here land/ acreage is surprisingly expensive; Even for seeding a 'Morgen' [about 4/3 of an acre] for one year they charge up to 50 fl. [Florins]. And no Mennonist is allowed to buy land from a Lutheran or Catholic. That will force many to leave the country; but this too is not allowed.

Dear children! How is it that you do not write anything about your living conditions? Have you forgotten us entirely? I suppose because of lack of money you do not like to write and for the same reason I have delayed writing this long, I did not want to cause you any expenses, but love motivates me to hear how you are doing. Please, write soon, together with others and report also on your conditions. Do you have opportunity to listen to the preaching of God's Word, and do you still have a love for God's Word? Also, of your economic situations I would like to learn. I can imagine that the first years will bring many a hardship and sorrow. But with time everything improves. Trust God and serve him from your heart, he will not forsake you. Also please report if the Johann **Klaassen** [#198357], born in Krebsfeld, is still among the living; his brother-in-law, Jacob **Andres** [#266172] and wife send friendly greetings. Is Is. **Barkman** [#198384] still alive, and his travelling companions? I would like to have a register of all the families that left our church and if they are still living. Am closing, I commit you to the merciful love of God, the Father. The Lord bless you and yours in body and soul. We greet you heartily and I remain your loving friend and uncle

G. Wiebe

PS My friendly greetings to all who remember me and whom I would know. The Holy God bless them and grant them his fear in all their hearts. Amen

I notified you of the death of Pet. **Dueck**. [#207795 or #8430]

