

Berlin June 4, 1947

Dear Cousin!<sup>a</sup>

I received your dear letter from May 15, '47 with great joy and thanks. My son Werner was a prisoner of war in an English military camp for more than a year and learnt to speak and read the English language some; he was therefore able to translate your letter fairly well. It is like you wrote; it is difficult to write if one does not know the other but only for the first time; the next letter goes better. I am glad we write to each other, after all, we are relatives. I have already heard about you and your family; when my father (Your Uncle Karl) was still alive he always referred to himself as Uncle. Whenever he received a letter from Uncle Gustav from U.S.A., he would read it to us, sometimes twice, he was always real proud; nobody was allowed to write back, that was his business, I was always up to date/well informed about my relatives in the U. S. A. When my father and mother died after the war I started to exchange letters with Uncle. Now dear Cousin you wanted to know how large your circle of relatives here in Germany still is.

Actually there is only my sister Berta and her daughter. Berta is still in East Prussia; I receive very little news from her. Our homeland East Prussia is part of Russia now and eventually she would want to leave her homeland and come closer to here where we are. Berta has 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. The oldest son is married and still in captivity/prisoner of war. The second son contracted lung problem while in the military. The third and fourth son both became war casualties. Her oldest daughter Martha and her husband have not made contact and are still missing; we do not know if they are still alive. Berta has not heard from her husband either and so she lives with her youngest daughter Anita together. Uncle wrote me that he also sent a package to Berta; hopefully she has received it.

You have probably heard about me through Uncle; I am 51 years and since 1919 married in Berlin. My husband is a 30 year railroad employee. I have one son, he is 27. Unfortunately he is a disabled war veteran; had 2 grenade fragment in his lung of which one was removed, the other is still lodged. He also has hip and arm injuries. He can no longer work in his learned trade as a plumber. But we are hopeful he can find something else that he can do. We lived so content, then this unlucky war was made and bringing the whole world misery and sorrow. Life is very hard and difficult at the present. For that reason dear Cousin am I to you and Uncle very thankful and glad for the little nourishment assistance you provide. Together with your letter came a package from Uncle; then yours will also come. Maybe some day things will get better here and we will be able to partially pay you back. May The Dear God bless you and protect you for your aid to us.

With my last letter to Uncle I sent a small picture of us all; hopefully Uncle received the letter. I tried to describe us all, so now when you visit Uncle you can get figuratively acquainted with us. We have not heard anything from Aunt Emma's son Herbert. Even 2 years after the end of the war many have not made contact or have been heard from. Her violent death affected me into my heart. She was always so happy and full of life and

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<sup>a</sup> I believe this letter was addressed to Harold Kletke

always saved for her Herbert. We will let you know by writing to you, if we hear from him.

Dear Cousin,

At the moment I am not too well, and therefore dictated this letter to my husband.

Hopefully you can read the letter and receive the letter in the best of health.

Now to you and your dear family real sincere greetings from your cousin Anna and family.

Many greetings as well to Uncle, but I will write to him also thanking him for his package that I received.

Anna Steguweit

Berlin No.55 Pilckemstr. 19

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