Town of Milwaukee May 9 1860

Much loved Uncles and Aunts  Nephews and Nieces

Since we have up to the present been disappointed in our expectation of receiving an answer from you to my letter written to you last year in the month of May, thinking that you have not received it, it is our desire to take pen in hand a second time to write you, the more because the events which have taken place here urge us to do so, and so it is our desire that you will accept this in love. In my previous letter I told you that in the year 1854 we moved from Town Holland [Sheboygan County], where we formerly lived, 40 miles south of there, and now we live eight miles from Milwaukee, this is a large city, the reason why we moved was that Father was then called here for religious service, to be a leader here and carry on catechetical work, yet this lasted but three years because then trouble arose between him and the congregation, partly also because of the domineering and partisan spirit of the Holland ministers here, to tell it all would easily make my story too long drawn out, and it would do you little good, I also told you in my former letter about the death of mother, it astonished us to receive a note from you from the hands of Mina Keuwsen who told you nothing of our situation, since mother had died in the month of May 56, and I had been ill the whole summer, yes was ill still when she [Mina Keuwsen] left us, she lived with us five months and that would not have been necessary if I had been well, then too we did not receive the note from you until February this year, what the reason was for that we do not know, father too would have been gladdened to have seen it since he was frequently desirous of hearing from you, and yet so negligent about writing, what the reasons were I can not say we often requested him to, but it seems he could not get to it, we still have a portion of a letter which he began
At noon the law came to view father, three officers of the law with two doctors, the doctors said that there was no place in this
gods wise providence to cause him no greater pain
but did not complete, the two previous letters of Uncle Jan schipper
we received, one from Uncle Andriesen, and one from Cousin Jan Lindeberg, and
from it learned about the death of Uncle Jacobus and Aunt Sara, do pardon
their not being answered sooner, we are very sorry that you did not receive our letter
of last year since we were frequently desirous of a word from
you, father too, who had written a portion of it,
Now you will perhaps notice from my story what sad tidings we have to
tell you (or you may have been apprised of it from rumor or from some one else) it is then
this that our beloved Father too is no more among the living, but on the 29th of
December in an unfortunate and heart moving manner exchanged time for Eternity,
by the running away of the horse he had driven to the city that morning
because too he had quite a lot of work at home
and it was quite often his wont to ride away late, and so it was too that day,
because our horse is quite lively for it was only seven years old, a big
brown white-face) so it was bound to be late too before he was back, then too it would not have
become so late had he not had to visit some of his friends that he had to see, then
the horse must have frequently tried to dash away, as others say, and since it was a good
sleighroad and there was no load in the sleigh he made good time, then too our horse can't
stand anything at his heels or he starts to run, so we think that this was the case here too,
now not far from our house there is a ditch or low place through which water washes and
from there on
the horse must have started to run away, for from there on the sleigh had left the tracks
now father has written you that trees here are chopped two feet more or less above the
and the stumps are left standing, so it was here too along the road through
which Father must go and right between two big stumps, as big perhaps as there are no-
to be found, on each side of the road, now the sleigh had run up against the one and
on the other
Father seems to have struck his head, he must have been there in the evening around
seven o'clock already, and strange it was that just that evening not a person
came that road, Mother and I were indeed restless that evening, still all the time
had the idea Father had stayed with one of his friends, so that no one
went out to look for him, too Mother and I were alone in the house, at
eleven o'clock I had gone to bed but very restless, but Mother not at all the whole
night long and in the morning at daybreak she went outdoors, not expecting
to see anything there, but not far from the house she saw a horse standing yet did not think
that this could be ours, but still she was not easy then went there and
named the horse by name and when it turned its head she saw that it was ours, then went
a bit farther and saw there our dear father lying in the middle of the road partly
frozen too, Oh my dear what a circumstance, this you can somewhat comprehend but yet
not exactly as it was, left home sound and well and carried in dead, Oh how I
was affected I cannot express to you, sick as I was I ran from my bed in a skirt
when my father was being carried into the house, and look my dear father who
had in this my condition in which I had lingered four years carried me to and from
bed hundreds of times was dead, Oh what a circumstance, cry I could not, everybody was
amazed at me, less than fifteen minutes after he was in the house I sat down and
wrote a letter to James, alas what I must do without with my Father gone you can-
not comprehend, no one has lost so much as I, Oh how my heart bled, and so many tears as
I shed in my loneliness, for I am an object of misery and cannot do without the help
of others, but at times I can surrender it all to the Lord and say He
who has provided for me so long will still provide for me but for me it is
nevertheless a hard matter and a time of testing, for it is by brothers and a sister that I
have to be supported now, sometimes I say if I had to crawl on my bare knees and so
get my father back I would gladly do it, but the Lord who according to his decreeing
will carries everything into effect renders no account of his deeds,
but a great comfort and a pleasant recollection remains for us nevertheless,
For to his God and the Lord Jesus rich in love who is the only way of salvation
he always kept clinging, howbeit with frequent lamenting over his sins yet
carrying on a continual struggle against sin and having as his sole desire to be
the Lord's, Oh happy entrance into that land of Eternal rest where all
trouble and pain ceases, and to have the privilege of meeting, (as we may believe) those
that preceded him, as her whose womb bore him, and his eldest brother, and
her who carried us, he has now been freed from all trouble and is now serving his God
in perfect joy, For to him were confirmed the words we read in John 16
verse 33, last portion, which once came with marked force to his mind when we were still
living in kapelle, yes to the very last of his life even for in me he had to witness
many troubles,
but now it has ceased, Oh that you might continually
betake yourselves into his presence, and that with a desire to arrive there too

On his forehead, and his nose full of clotted blood, and his right arm out of joint, I certainly examined him 3 or 4 times
for if we were to see the eldest father,
O what a privilege it would be for our dear Grandmother  
to be able to say "Behold here me and the children Thou hast given me," Oh do seek  
after it, one may have satisfaction here of course in the world, but when death comes  
we can take nothing with us and then as a naked soul to appear before the great judge  
can bring nothing but eternal misery, how Father too did  
long at times to hear this some time from you, Uncle Adrian wrote  
in his letter that you no longer had a brother now to pray for you, but even though  
you were far away he made you now and then the object of his prayer at the throne of grace,  
feeling the burden of your souls, Oh it is occasionally my prayer too that through God's grace  
you may be made seekers while there yet is time to find, Oh when once one may experience  
the sweetness, joy, and refreshing there is in the service of the Lord  
then one is constantly desirous of it, Oh it is certainly a sweet service  
that gives afterwards an eternal peace, since the service of sin brings naught but eternal  
sorrow, but possibly some of you have learned to pray the prayer of the publican,  
Oh blessed and happy is he then who for Jesus' sake has found grace in God's  
sight, that this may not offend you is then my wish for it is being done in love  
I do not know, possibly until fall when I think I shall go live with Janet,  
my condition is desperate, as I told you above I  
became ill in the year 56 from nervous attacks and frequent distresses, the two first  
years I spent for the most part in bed, and frequently had to be carried to and from bed,  
I have had as many as four doctors and have wasted much money but made little progress,  
the first time I had these attacks was on occasion when three people died so suddenly  
of the cholera, and from that time this became continually worse, but still I was always able  
to do my work until the time I told you of, even when I had taken bad colds, For the present  
I am using no medicines and am still very sickly, and did not mend either after Father's  
death, there is not a day that I am free from nervous spasms and convulsions, sometimes I am of course dis-  
couraged  
All I can do is stay at home when it is summer I can occasionally go to Janet's, but no far-  
ther, she doesn't even live as far from us as we did from the little orchard at Kapelle, also I must  
still spend a part of the day in bed, what is yet to become of me I have no idea, at times however I have a lively faith  
that the Lord will in his own time give deliverance, when I see what I am by nature and how
many blessings I have the privilege of enjoying and what the Lord Jesus suffered, and that innocent, (if then I have nothing to say, I have as yet lacked nothing and our allotted portion of bread has always yet been granted us, mother too is very good to me I enjoy much friendship from her and she has some- much patience with me, at times too my desire has been that I might be released you times indeed to be quit of my troubles, but sometimes also from a desire to be with the Lord,5 since I might in faith take for granted that the Lord was charging me to his account, my guilt and sin were forgiven me, and since I had learned to know myself as a poor unworthy sinner, although it is accompanied with continual conflict and continual fear, that I have not surrendered fully yet with a continual adherence and a continual desire to be the possession of the Lord 9 in my former letter I told you that Janet and Isaac are both married, the former in May 55, and Isaac in March 59. Janet has had three children, the first died when seven months old, now she still has two one Gerard who will be three in September, and one Susanna who will be a year in July both dear children, that little boy Father made a lot of and 13 he of him, they have a fairly good living, they have two cows and a piece of land, which they have bought from Father, her husband's name is Jacob de Swarte a native of kinsland, 5 years older than she is, Janet too is weak but still she can most always do her work, her husband and children are fairly well, Isaac lives in Michigan and works in a sawmill he has already lived there four years, he has a wife from 
ortherland, her name is Trijntjie Wagenaar, they have one child Cornelia by name, but he thinks nevertheless of becoming a farmer too later on, he and James had bought those forty acres of Father when we moved here, which is now their possession they rented it when they were in Michigan and are doing that now still, but this winter James sold his 20 to Isaac for 350 dollars, so it is then his [Isaac's] intention after he has earned more to settle there, it is good land better than we have here 27 acres of it being cultivated and the rest is timber still, 25 Isaac and his wife and child are also enjoying good health, his wife he have never seen yet, James too used to work in the sawmill until last fall in October, at that time he entered the High School [Academy] at which he still is that is in the city of Holland Michigan, he is there to be educated for the ministry, for which he had a desire for a long time already, but frequently with the fear that he himself did not possess what he wished to present to others [he] thought that if the Lord wished to use him in his service He himself would open the way, it is then his constant desire to be engaged in the Lord's service, yes, even should it be among the heathen, he has unusual gifts which we cannot help being jealous of, and the spirit that has been in him since he was still a child is not yet extinguished, that is eager to inquire, if he pursues the entire course to learn English Latin Greek Hebrew and what more besides I don't know then he must be there 5 years where he is now and 5 years at another Highschool [College] in
New Jersey, O how happy Father was about this, and desirous that he might yet be an eye- and
ear-witness of this, but that has not pleased the Lord, but
this he was privileged to see offspring of his offspring, but what is more that the
prayers offered for us in secret and in public have been heard,
for so far as I may believe we are all treading the way he has trodden,
we do occasionally think over our lot here that we four who are still living
should be enjoying this privilege of having been bought and freed with Jesus’s blood,
but with the Lord this is to be sure not wonderful, and he certainly wishes to reveal the
of his free grace in redeeming sinners, the depraved heart does indeed
at times well up, so that Amaelek prevails, just as the Apostle Paul himself
laments Rom. 7 but then there is however sorrow and prayer from the heart
for forgiveness, I have not written this to plume myself with it, I hope the
Lord may guard us against this, that about what the Lord Jesus bought at such cost
we should be proud, but Oh may it serve to stir some of you to
jealousy, and should we see each other no more this side of the
glove then may it be on the other side,
As for financial conditions here in general that is not so good as
a few years ago, wages are lower, and trade as well in lands
as in products is not so flourishing, nor are provisions, cheap
as when we came here, crops this year up to the present are in general
quite fine, it was unusually dry this spring, so that people who
had lived here thirty years had not known it so, in the beginning when we first came here
Father bought a hundred acres of land, but had sold it all
except 21 acres which are still partly encumbered, but next summer when James
comes home we shall probably sell it, land is priced higher here than in
Town Holland [Sheboygan County] but we will nevertheless lose some on it at that, because it is less
valuable than a few years ago, mother also has twenty acres which she had
when she married Father on which she thinks she will go to live, she has no children,
she is a strong healthy woman used to working in the field, now we have
a request to make of you, to make inquiry if it is possible about Mother’s relatives,
who of them is still alive, whether Uncle Jan of Dortrecht is still
living, we have learned that Uncle William lives in the land of Hulst, and aunt Kie’s
husband of Allewoudsdijk has died, inquire about it sometime if you can, and write about
then, now we hope that you will not allow this letter to go unanswered but
will reply to it soon, even though Father is no longer living, realize then that his
blood flows in our veins, O Aunt Martina if you are still alive, you certainly
have not forgotten us, methinks it still comes vividly to my mind how you clung weeping
to his neck that last day, herewith I now close and hope also to receive one from you soon