

Eau Claire, August 21 1882

Dear Grandfather!

Being that I have plenty of time to write today, I will not neglect to report a few words and let you know a little about my state of health and situation. Yes, God be praised, I have up to the present time been healthy and active which is the best good a person can have here on earth.

Your very welcome letter written the 28th of June, together with the one of July 3rd, I have of course received some time ago, for which you are thanked. I see thereby that you are well and live as usual, which is a joy for me to hear, but I understand also that Grandmother is still keeping to her bed, which is sad to hear, but it is doubtful I suppose, that she will ever get up again as she is getting older, so that her time is soon at hand. But possibly she can yet live a few more years according to God's will, as he directs all things for the best and according to what is useful for us. I will now tell a little about my work; I work as before mentioned, at the sawmill, which is not especially pleasant, but for my part I like it well in that job.

I also tried some other work a month ago, and that was, namely, I was a clerk in a general store which job for my part I liked less well, which was because I had less pay than at other jobs, and also for another reason; it is obviously such, that one who is raised in the working class, is better off continuing with the same; so after two weeks notice I left that place and went to the mill, of course much against the manager's wishes, but I explained my feelings straight out - that I could not be content in this business, although this business is not to be minimized, especially if a person could manage it on a large scale or with large supplies, but you see, everyone has to follow his own desires and longings. To be sure, I've also been on the point of starting a business, which cannot be of the best kind; namely, to become an innkeeper. You see, this is uncomplicated and not of the best business; yes, so to say, difficult and dangerous, as one must take care not to become a drunkard. I don't know if anything will come of it either as I am, according to American law, too young to start a public business. In order to do that, one must be 21 years of age. But anyway one can have speculations so that he can know what he can do when the time comes that I am of age. Enough of that. Nothing new of importance do I have to report to you. I did not meet Anders Sneen when he traveled through, but I did receive the letter sent through the mail, so I have not heard anything from him. Undoubtedly everything is alright with him.

Remainder of letter is missing.