The following is a correspondence between Russ and Bjorg Caauwe and their friends, Hann and Cis from Temple City, AZ, Oct 29, 1970. I believe Russ and Hans were in the service together. The letter from Hann to Russ describes their results of transcribing two letters from Maria (Jelderda) Caauwe dated Nov. 21, 1926 while she lived in Colijnsplaat, Netherlands. Her letters describe her sadness of being alone and missing her children who have moved to America. The third letter appears to be from Adrian Caauwe, one of Maria's sons to his brother Peter. Hans and Cis apparently are Dutch as they can transcribe the letters so accurately.

Temple City 10-29-70.

Dear Russ and Bjorg:

It was a real surprise to get your letter of Nov. 11, 1970. Cis and I immediately proceeded on transcribing and translating yuur letters, or I should say the Xerox copies of the letters from your grandpa.
The letter in the neat handwriting was of course not to difficult to do; the other letter required a little bit more imagination and effort. Although the copy was not to good, the handwriting had deteriorated considerably and was difficult to decipher. I used a yellow translucent highlight felt tip pen to trace and reconstruct the letter. Included you will find both the Dutch transcript and the English translation. In translating the letter I have attempted to stay away from a too liberal translation in order to preserve some of the prosaic character of the writing.
In regards to your question where your grandfather and his relatives lived in Holland I would like to refer you to the earlier letter, dated 21 November 1926, which is headed by the word Kolijnsplaat. This is the name of the village and is now spelled Colijnsplaat, which is located on the island of "Noord Beveland"; an island of a group of five at the most South-western part of Holland, just of Antwerp in Belgium.
The island of "Noord Beveland" lies in the province of "Zee-land", which you may recall was hit by a disastrous flood, destroying many dikes and resulting in a heavy loss of life in 1953, when we were in cadet training in Greenville AFB, Miss.
The island is approximately 11 miles long and 3½ miles wide as measured at the extremes; further it boasts five villages in total and is linked on the South side by a ferry and a bridge to its bigger neighboring island "Walcheren & Zuid Beveland" which are actually connected to the mainland by a landtong of 2 miles wide and some 15 miles long. A letter from you directed to the city hall or "Stadhuis" would no doubt provide you with the necessary contacts and information. The coordinates of "Colijnsplaat" are as follows : 3 50'30" W and 51 35'30"N , no doubt you can locate this on some atlas detailing the Netherlands, if you cannot find this in detail let me know and I'll get you one somehow.

In your letter you also asked me for some comments on the wording you found on postcards, which is following hereunder:

| | |
|---|---|
| " Betonzinkwerken aan Schouwen volgens systeem de Muralt Gesicht op een gedeelte van den drijver" | "Concrete sinkers at Schouwen according to system "de Muralt" View on part of float" |

Note: Concrete sinkers were used extensively in the construction of the so vital dikes and naturally played an all important part in the daily lives of the people living under the protection of the dikes from the sea. A barge like box of concrete, about 150' long and 50' wide and some 15 ' high or deep would be constructed, floated into place and when properly positioned, scuttled and subsequently filled with rock and dirt to form the base of the dike or pier. The very early methods used huge baskets woven from willow twigs instead of the concrete sinkers. The surface of the dike facing the sea would be lined with rough hewn granite stone and later with concrete pre-cast slabs.

"Wissenkerke Voorstraat"

Note: Wissenkerke, now spelled "Wissekerke" is a village on the same island located some 5 miles west of "Colijnsplaat" and "Voorstraat" translates into "front street"

"De Dijk Iepelstraat"

Note: "De Dijk" translated means "The Dike" which I presume must be something smaller then a village, I think a very small community. "Iepelstraat" means "Spoon street"

"Colijnsplaat Voorstraat"

Note: "Colijns plaat" ; Dr Colijn was at one time a prime minister in the Dutch government and was very well known and respected. "Plaat" ; this word can have different meanings, such as "picture" for instance, although I would be inclined to

accept another meaning, " a Mud flat" , a mud flat which is exposed at low tide and submerged during high tide. You should bear in mind that many parts of Holland have been reclaimed from the sea by building dikes around the mud flats and this may have been the case there. "Voorstraat" means "Front street"

Well Russ this is about as much as I can supply you with at this time, if you would like further help, please do not hesitate to ask.

The kids are doing fine and so is Cis. The Girl Scout activities keeps all the women folk in business I guess. Cis and I have been volunteered as caretakers for some girlscout camping facility in the high mountains and will be going there next week to see what needs to be done. In the past the responsibility for these camps were in the hands of one individual and since they are geographically so dispersed no one could ever be expected to do e decent job and this year each camp is maintained by one family, which lessens the burden and will hopefully result in an increased efficiency.

September and October were extremely busy for us, you may recall that I was Symposium chairman for the Survival and Flight Equipment Association, SAFE, and had to organize the technical symposium, which was held in Las Vegas. We had some 4000 people attend the demonstrations and technical paper sessions. To give you an idea of what it was all about I am enclosing some literature relevant to this event.

I am glad to hear that you guys are still addicted to the "Ketchap", should you need more let us know and we will send you some to augment your ventures in Indonesian cooking.

I can well imagine your shock, when Chris totalled the Falcon out. But thank God that she came out alive, I sure hope that she did not have any lasting effects from it. How is the financial end of it being resolved, will the insurance cover everything, I surely hope so.

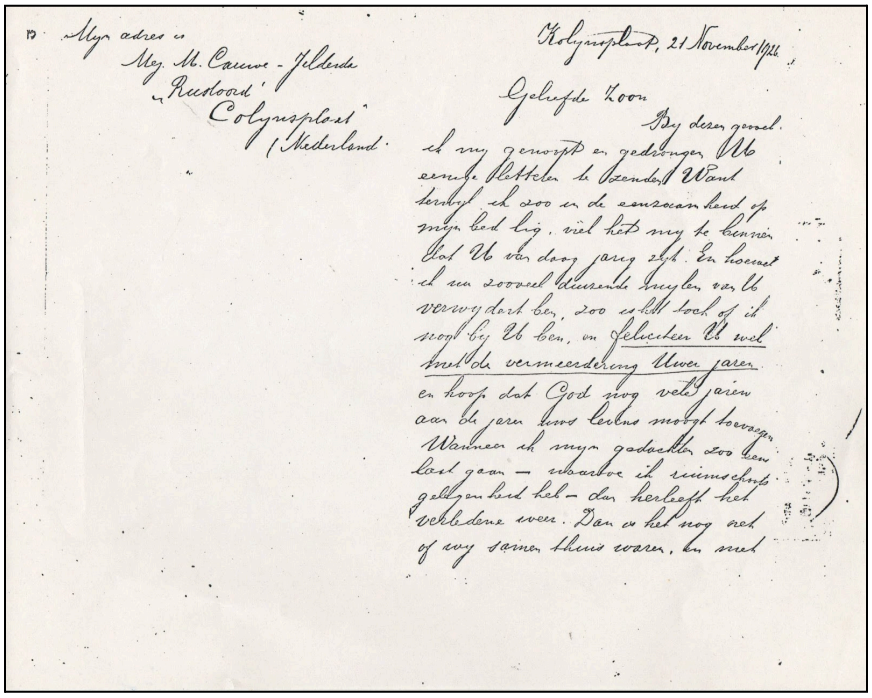
When are you coming this way again, I wish that you guys could come out here again sometime. I bet that your kids would love it. Vacation time may be a good time for this, we should think about this and see if we can plan something.

Remodeling of the house keeps us going constantly, we are now in the process of putting a new wood shingle roof on the house. Last week I finally got a chance to take up one week of my vacation and spend it all on the roof. Doing it ourselves, with the two of us, will save us some money. Re-roofing the house would cost some $3,000.- and by doing it ourselves it will cost us only material, which will amount to some $800.- It is getting so that you cannot afford to pay the labor anymore. At the end of the day I feel like a 90 year old man, believe me. Yesterday we tore off the shingles of the living room at the patio side and naturally the rains came. This afternoon we broke all previous records of rainfall, wouldent you know. Cis and I in panic to cover the huge gaping hole wit plastic sheets, which was not to easy due to the high winds which came in as well. When the roof is completed I can go back to remodeling the kitchen again.

Incidentally did you know that Helen Pearson, from the hobby material shop here, died earlier this year. I seem to remeber that you had dealt with herecompany on numerous occasions in the, past.

Russ, I am going to stop here, give our regards to Bjorg and all the kids. We hope to hear from you soon again. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your letter.

Hans

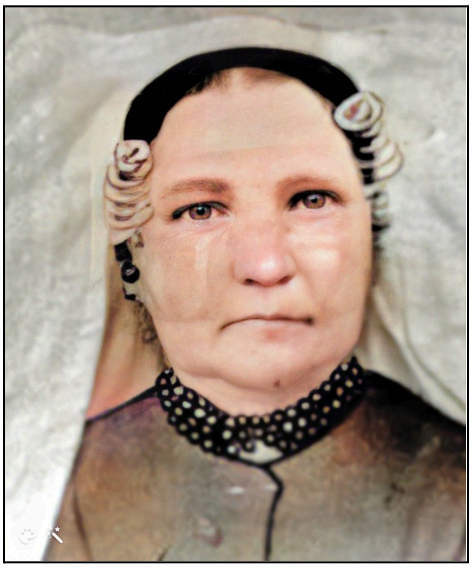


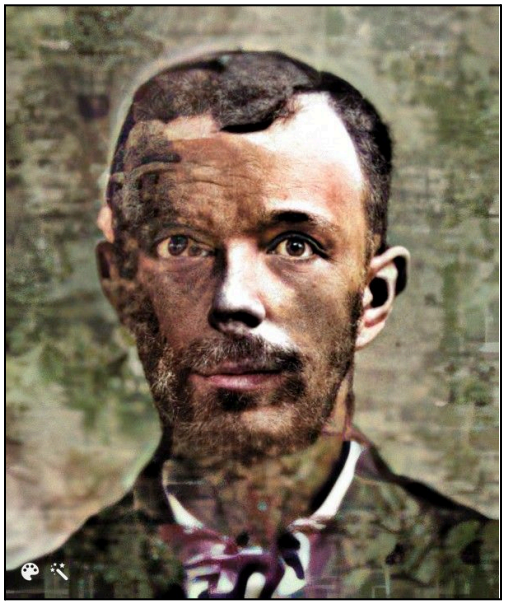
Mijn adres is
Mej. M. Carree - Jelderda
„Rustoord"
Colynsplaat
(Nederland.

Colynsplaat, 21 November 1926.

Geliefde Zoon.

Bij deze gemel. ik mij gerucht en gedenken U. ernstig. Letteken te zenden. Want herhaal ik zoo en de eenzaamheid op mijn bed lig, viel het mij te bemerken dat U van deze jaren zijt. En hoewel ik nu zooveel duizende mijlen van U verwijderd ben, zoo is het toch of ik nooit bij U ben, en feliciteer U wel met de vermeerdering Uwer jaren en hoop dat God nog vele jaren aan de jaren Uws levens mogt toevoegen. Wanneer ik mijn gedachten zoo een loop geven — alsdan ik reminiscente gelegenheid heb — dan herleeft het verledene weer. Dan is het nog zoals of wij samen thuis waren, en met





elkander op en neer gingen. Ik kan alles nog zoo goed herinneren — mijn geheugen is zoo goed! — zelfs de kleine voorvallen uit uw jonge jaren weet ik mij te herinneren, en daarom houd ik mij dan bezig. Wat nu, toch verduidelijken dan gedreven worden te — maar — en gedachte leeft mij, en ook altijd met U mee. En ik hoop te zeer dat U uw oude moeder ook niet vergeet, al zijt ge nu in het groote Amerika, in het verre Nebraska. Ik ben nu pas oud vergaard, den 9de November ben ik 91 jaar geworden. Wat een ouderdom he — maar gelukkig nog in het volle bezit van mijn vermogens. Waarschijnlijk hebt U om mijn verjaring niet gedacht, hoewel ik toch wel een briefje of zoo van U verwacht had. Dat is altijd zoo aangenaam dat leeft weer wat op!

En hoe gaat het in Amerika, in het mooie Nebraska? Is de oogst nogal wat meegevallen, en gaat het U, d. het algemeen nogal goed? U Heer, is de oogst ook nogal redelijk geweest, want onze producten blijft minder in prijs als het vorig jaar.

Geliefde zoon, onder familie nu het U nog wat voor U. Op mijn hoog leeftijd, tanthende en mijn kamertje ben ik nog gelukkig gezond. Bij deze zend ik U dat portretje, zodat U nu mij nu een beeld van mijn gewone dagelijksche omgeving. Bij mij is gezien de „affaire" de Moeder van het Gesticht. Hopend U van U ook een briefje terug te ontvangen

na hartelijk groeten aan U allen
Uw liefhebbende Moeder
Mej M Carree - Jelderda

Original hand written letter dated 1926 from
Maria to Peter

Kolijnsplaat, 21 November 1926.

Geliefde Zoon

Bij dezen gevoel
ik mij genoopt en gedrongen U
eenige letteren te zenden. Want
terwijl ik zoo in de eenzaamheid op
mijn bed lig, viel het mij te binnen
dat U vandaag jarig zijt. En hoewel
ik nu zooveel duizende mijlen van U
verwijdert ben, zoo is het toch of ik
nog bij U ben, en feliciteer U wel
met de vermeerdering Uwer jaren
en hoop dat God nog vele jaren
aan de jaren uws levens moogt toevoegen.
Wanneer ik mijn gedachten zoo eens
laat gaan - waartoe ik ruimschoots
gelegenheid heb - dan herleeft het
verledene weer. Dan is het nog net
of wij samen thuis waren, en met

elkander op en neer gingen. Ik kan
alles nog zoo goed herinneren - mijn
geheugen is zoo goed! - zelfs de kleinste
voorvallen uit uw jonge jaren weet
ik mij te herinneren, en daarmee houd
ik mij dan bezig. Wat men toch ver
uit elkander kan gedreven worden he' -
maar .... in gedachten leeft men er toch
altijd met mee. En ik hoop ten zeerste
dat U uw oude moeder ook niet
vergeet, al zijt ge nu in het groote
Amerika, in het verre Nebraska -
Ik ben nu pas ook verjaart; den 9den
November ben ik 91 jaar geworden. Wat
een ouderdom he' - maar gelukkig nog
in het volle bezit van mijn vermogens.
Waarschijnlijk hebt U om mijn ver
jarig niet gedacht, hoewel ik toch
wel een briefje of zoo van U verwacht
had. Dat is altijd zoo aangenaam

dat leeft weer wat op!
En hoe gaat het in Amerika, in het verre N
Nebraska? Is den oogst nogal wat mee
gevallen, en gaat het er in het algemeen
nogal goed? Hier, is de oogst ook
nogal redelijk geweest, maar enkele
producten zijn minder in prijs als het
vorige jaar.
Gelifde zoon en verdere familie nu heb
ik nog wat voor U. Op mijn hooge
leeftijd, zittende in mijn kamertje
ben ik nog gefotografeerd. Bij dezen
zend ik U dit portretje, zoodat U
nu mij nu zien kan in mijn gewone
dagelijksche omgeving. Bij mij
is gezeten de "juffrouw" de "Moeder"
van het Gesticht.
Hopend van U ook een briefje
terug te ontvangen
na hartelijke groeten U allen
Uwe U liefhebbende Moeder
Wed M Cauwe - Jelderda

Mijn adres is
Mej. M. Cauwe - Jelderda
"Rustoord
Colijnsplaat"
Nederland.

Afz. Mej. M. Cauwe - Jelderda
Rustoord
Kolijnsplaat.

Kolijnsplaat, 21 November 1926.

Beloved Son

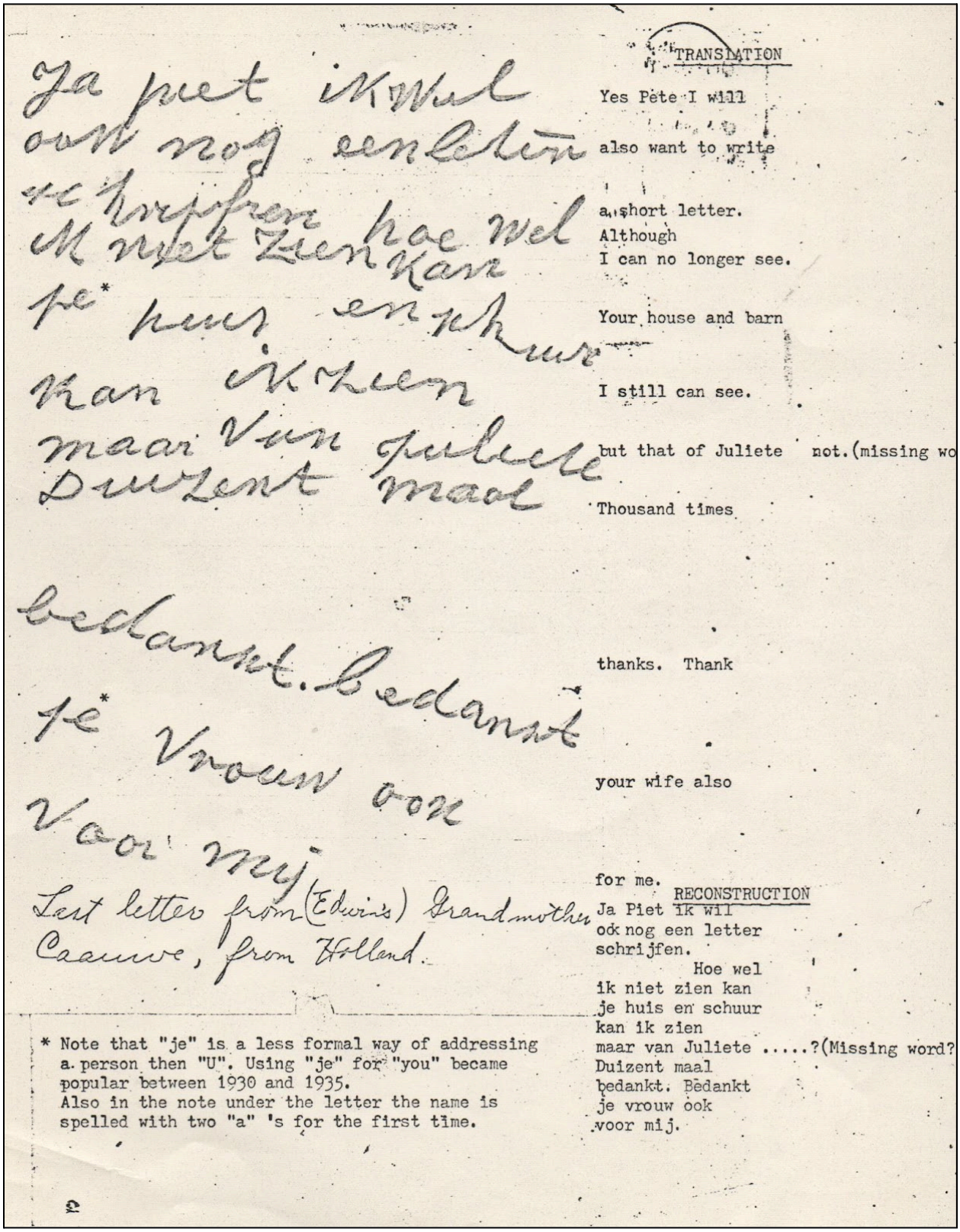
Herewith I feel
compelled and urged to write you
some words. Because, while laying
in bed in all loneliness, it occurred
to me that you have your birthday
today. And although I am thousands of
miles distant from you, it is just like
I am with you, and I congratulate You
with the addition in years and hope
that God will add many more years to
your life.
When I let my thoughts wonder - for
which I have ample opportunity - I
re-live the past again. It is then
just like we were home together, and

together walked up and down. I can
remember everything so clearly -
my memory is so good! - even the
smallest incidents in your younger
years I can remember, and that is
what I occupy myself with. Oh how
far can people be driven away (separated)
from one another - but .... in thoughts
one always carries this knowledge with
him. And I hope most sincerely that You
will not forget your old mother, although
now that you are in that large America,
in that far away Nebraska.
I have just had my birthday; November the
9th I became 91 years. What an age -
but fortunately in full possession of
all faculties. Perhaps You did not think
of my birthday, although I would have
expected at least a note from you.
That is such a pleasure and it gives me
a lift!

And how are things in America, in that far away
Nebraska? Has the harvest been good, and are things
in general well ? Here the harvest was fairly good,
but some products are lower in price then the previous
year.
Dear son and family, I now have something for you. At
this old age, sitting in my small room, I have been
photographed. Hereby I am sending you this portrait,
so that you can see me now in my ordinairy daily
surroundings. Seated next to me is the "Lady", the
"Mother" of the Institution (home).
Hoping also to receive a short letter from you, my
kindest regards to all of you
your loving Mother
the widow M Cauwe-Jelderda.

My address is
Miss M. Cauwe - Jelderda
"Rest-home Colijnsplaat"
the Netherlands.

Here is a typed copy
of the letter in Dutch
and a translated
copy into English



Ja piet ik wil
ook nog eenletien
te schrijven
Hoe wel
ik niet zien kan
je* huis en schuur
kan ik zien
maar van juliete
Duizent maal

bedankt. bedankt
je* Vrouw oox
voor mij

Last letter from (Edwin's) Grandmother
Caauwe, from Holland.

TRANSLATION

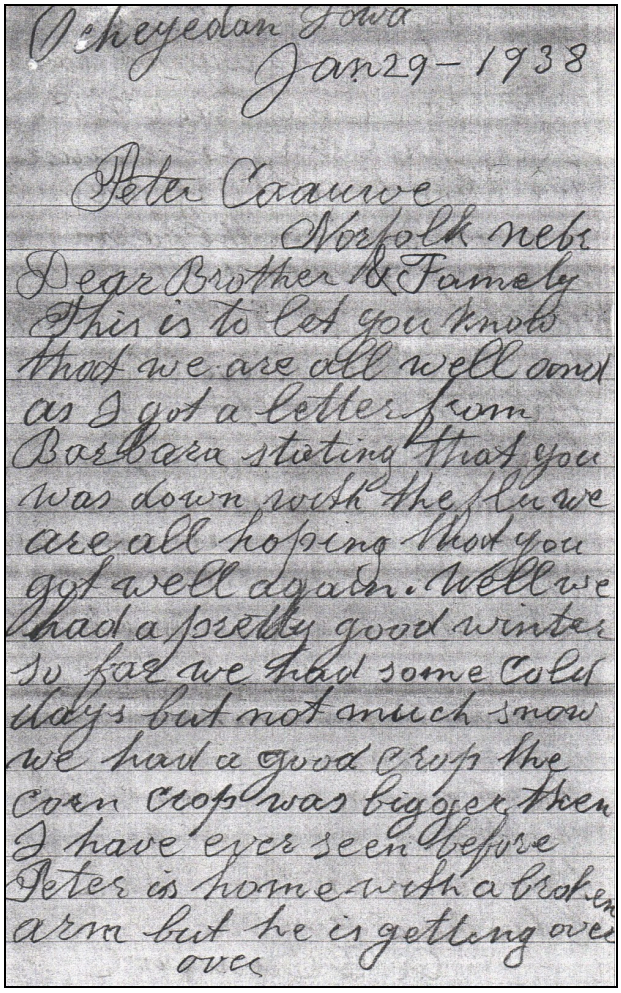
Yes Pete I will
also want to write
a short letter.
Although
I can no longer see.
Your house and barn
I still can see.
but that of Juliete not.(missing wo
Thousand times

thanks. Thank
your wife also
for me.

RECONSTRUCTION
Ja Piet ik wil
ook nog een letter
schrijfen.
Hoe wel
ik niet zien kan
je huis en schuur
kan ik zien
maar van Juliete .....?(Missing word?
Duizent maal
bedankt. Bedankt
je vrouw ook
voor mij.

* Note that "je" is a less formal way of addressing a person then "U". Using "je" for "you" became popular between 1930 and 1935.
Also in the note under the letter the name is spelled with two "a" 's for the first time.

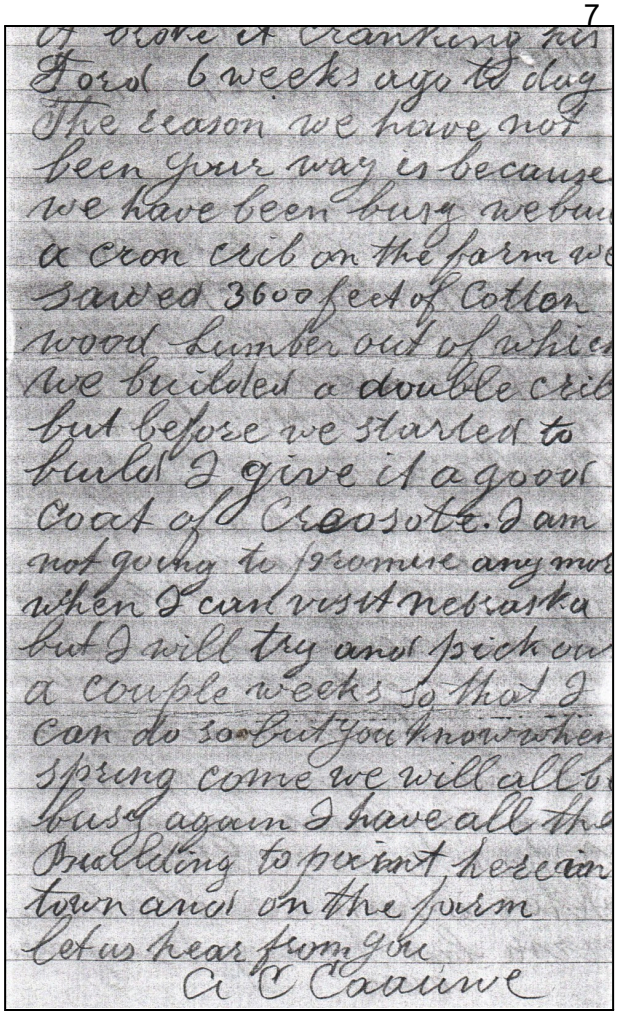
This is believed to be Maria's last letter to Peter. You tell her handwriting has gotten worse.



Orchyedan Iowa
Jan 29 - 1938

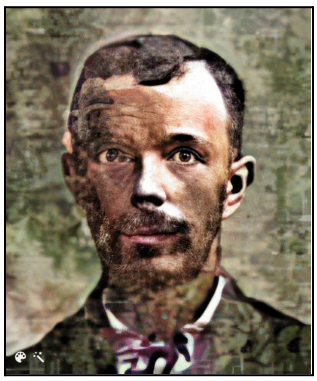
Peter Caauwe
Norfolk nebr

Dear Brother & Family
This is to let you know that we are all well and as I got a letter from Barbara stating that you was down with the flu we are all hoping that you got well again. Well we had a pretty good winter so far we had some cold days but not much snow we had a good crop the corn crop was bigger then I have ever seen before Peter is home with a broken arm but he is getting over
over



drove it cranking his Ford 6 weeks ago to day The reason we have not been your way is because we have been busy we built a crib on the farm we sawed 3600 feet of cotton wood lumber out of which we builded a double crib but before we started to build I give it a good coat of Creosote. I am not going to promise any more when I can visit Nebraska but I will try and pick one a couple weeks so that I can do so but you know when spring come we will all be busy again I have all the building to paint here in town and on the farm Let us hear from you

A C Caauwe



Peter Caauwe

Letter from Adrian Caauwe to his brother Peter dated Jan 29, 1938