



**AHSGR Archives**  
Collection: AR0281  
John Jacob and Katherine (Vogel) Herman  
Series 1: Folders 1-14

Folder 1: Letter from Johan Jacob Hoffman

Translation (English):

Written in Hussenbach on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 1906. From me, Johan Jacob Hoffman, to you, dear comrade Johan Jacob Herman. I wish that God give you greetings, the Holy Spirit be a comforter to you and Jesus Christ stand by you, and may you keep God in your heart and I your mind, Amen. To begin my letter, with deep love and a passionate heart I extend my right hand in a greeting and send you kisses. Dearly beloved comrade I am, thanks be to God, still in good health and hope you are the same. From the bottom of my heart. Dearly beloved comrade, you wanted to know how things are with me, if they are still the same as they were when you left. So I'll tell you. Dear comrade, I'm getting married. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of September I was engaged to Mrlis Adolf. So I'm inviting you, dear comrade, to come to the wedding. Dearly beloved comrade, I want to let you know that we were engaged on the 5<sup>th</sup> and on the 13<sup>th</sup> my brother-in-law left for America. He'll soon be your countryman and you can go see him.

Now, dear comrade, many greetings and kisses from me and from my father, mother, brothers and sisters. We are glad that you were still in good health at the time of writing your letter. But, dear comrade, it pains me and makes me sad not to be able to be with you. And now, dear comrade, I want to let you know that Konrad wanted to go to America and made it as far as the sea. There he got work and then they sent him back. Now he's known as American Konrad. Now, dear comrade, once more, greetings from me your beloved comrade and my wife Mrlis Hoffman nee Adolf and also greetings and kisses from my father, mother, brothers and sisters. Dear comrade Johan Jacob Herman, if you write, please send me your address. I lost the one you sent me. Please write back, dear comrade. And finally one more kiss from me because I had to part from you.

Amen

Folder 2: Letter from Johan Jakob Hoffman

Translation (English):

Written in Irkutsk on 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 1908, from me, Johan Jacob Hoffman, to you, beloved comrade Johan Jacob Herman. The Lord be with us and the love of God the father and of the son, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be and remain with us for all eternity. To begin my letter may God give you greetings, the Holy Spirit be a comforter to you and Jesus Christ stand by you and may you keep God in your heart and in your mind. Amen. I want you to know that I received your (dear and valued) letter with great joy on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August and from its contents I see that at the time of writing you were, thanks be to God, in good health, which is the main thing here in this pilgrims life. I am, thank God, also

in good health and hope you are the same, from the bottom of my heart. And I hope these few lines find you in the same good health as they left me. Dear Comrade, I would have written you sooner, but we've been on maneuvers for 15 days, so I wasn't able to write. Dear comrade, I really experience poverty for the first time there. On many days there was no bread and no water and it was unbearably hot. And, dear comrade, that isn't the worst. We are very insecure here; many soldiers have been shot while they were on guard duty. Several have been shot and had to have their legs amputated. But may almighty Go protect me from such misfortune. Dear comrade, if you write to me, let me know why it is that I get no answer from me father-in-law. I wrote to him last spring and never got an answer. Hearty greetings to them. I hope they and their family are all still in good health. And finally, hearty greetings and kisses once again. We remain friends till our happy meeting. Amen. Please reply soon. Here is my address.

City of Irkutsk

26<sup>th</sup> Eastern Siberian Artillery Regiment, Company 4

Jacob Hoffman

Folder 3: Letter from Johan Jakob Hoffman

Translation (English):

Written in Irkutsk on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 1909, from me, your loving comrade Johan Jakob Hoffman, to you, beloved comrade Jacob Herman. TO begin my letter may God give you greetings, the Holy Spirit be a comforter to you and Jesus Christ stand by you. And may you keep God in mind and in your heart and may the peace of God which surpasses our understanding preserve our hearts and minds. To begin my letter, with deep love and tear-filled eyes and a passionate heart I extend my right hand in greeting and send you kisses, shaking hands with you in spirit. And I want to let you know that I received your dear and valuable letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> of October o.k on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October and was very happy to receive it. From its contents I see that you were still, thank God, in good health, and that's the main thing in this pilgrims life. Thanks be to God, I am also still healthy and I wish you the same, indeed from the bottom of my heart. I hope these few lines find you in the same good health as they left me. Dear comrade, you said you like it in America and are earning pretty good money, so you don't think about coming back to Russia anymore. I wish you the best health and happiness in your work. But, dear comrade, I don't like it here much at all. I earn 50 kopecks a month and have to be satisfied with that. Nothing (else) new for now. So finally, hearty greetings and kisses once again. Greetings also to my father-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law Adolf and their children. I would be pleased if they, too, are in good health. We remain, friends till we meet happily again. Amen, Adieu, adieu. I am hoping for a reply soon.

Folder 4: Letter form Amalie Frick

Translation (English):

Hussenbach, the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1911

Dear Johann Jacob,

I am writing to let you know that we are all, thanks be to God, still healthy, and we hope with all our heart that you are the same. About a month ago we wrote you a letter and told you that on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May we suffered a great misfortune. The 15<sup>th</sup> of May was for us and 54 other families a day of horror and misfortune. A fire broke out and 55 firms (businesses) were burned down, one of them was ours. And besides this disaster there was a bad harvest. There are no earnings and we don't know what we can do to make it through this.

I turned to you in my letter, which you surely didn't receive, for support and assistance (contribution) and I'm doing that now. So, dear Johann Jakob, if its possible and if you are able to do so, please be so good and send us some money. Some of the others who were hit by the disaster have already received money from their friends in America. And we have no other friend except you. I hope you like pity on us and not let us wait in vain. [The old] father is not well; he's all swollen up. He doesn't have long to live. Mother is still well and has a lot of work taking care of her husband. [I pray] God will give him a blessed end if it gets real bad. They also send a hearty greetings to you and your family and ask that you, if you can, carry out our request.

With hearty greetings to your and your family, we remain Amalie and Johann Georg Frick.

Folder 5: Letters from Anna Maria Herman

Translation (English):

Hussenbach, the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1911.

Precious, beloved son and brother John Jacob Hermann and daughter-in-law and grandchildren, grace and peace from God the father and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen. I begin my letter, written with tear-filled eyes of love and passionate heart, by extending to you my hand in greeting and my lips in a kiss, in spirit shaking your hand.

I will be very happy if these few lines find you in good health and everything is O.K with you, my precious, dearly beloved son and your wife and child. I am, thank God, now in good health again and hope you are the same. I wish this from the bottom of my heart, until we happily meet again, if not in this world, then we shall meet in Heaven above. It would be my, your loving mother's, greatest wish to see again in person and to be able to talk to you directly, for you are and remain my son as long as I live. Father was sick, very sick, for 5 months. First of all he had problems with breathing and secondly he was all swollen and there was a lot of seepage. There was such a smell in the room and everywhere that you could hardly stand it. I always had to wash everything so that it would have a different odor. I had to life him and carry him and we often had to cry together. We shed a lot of tears. I couldn't eat or drink, and father couldn't ear because of the pain. I, your loving mother, cannot describe the pain he went through.

We talked about you, and your blessed (late) father wished you would come here. There was a letter sent to you asking you to come to his so he could see you before you died. This was his only wish. He cried a lot, and then your brother John... Georg and sister-in-law came and helped him. Your father said that John Georg helped him the best. Male (name?) slaughtered and fixed chickens for him. They did their best, but they had other work since there had been a fire at their place.

In addition I want to let you know that your father wanted to will the house and everything to be, but I said I don't want everything, so the "Tusch" (tables?) are yours along with 100 rubles.

So I'm asking you to write back to me, your loving mother Anna Maria Hermann, widow, how you want to take care of it. Also the apple garden and everything has so far been left to me. Father said you have a job and [so] you have enough. As far as I'm concerned I wish you were here, since I hear your cousins are opposed to this, especially Georg Friedrich. Ask him how often he helped father. I, as your loving mother, didn't want anything. If you were here there would be the two of us.

When father was healthy we used to work in the garden, but this summer I had to do it all along. I did it gladly, but I would be very happy if your father were still alive. A husband is a strong support. Now I live with my son, your brother, and the patriarchal house is empty. But it's not like it was when your father was alive.

Your stepbrother has done his best for his foster father, and I, your loving mother, would be happy if you were here and could move into the house. While your father was alive we often wished you were here. You are and always will be my son. Now I wish you and your wife and child a healthy Christmas holiday and I ask you to write back quickly. Greetings with love, I remain your loving mother till death, widow Anna Maria Hermann and brother Jos. Georg Fräck.

Folder 6: Letter from Georg Jakob Herman, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1912

Translation (English):

Dear Half-brother(?)

Today, the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, I [ finally] got an opportunity to write to you again. So I'm letting you know that I received your letter and also the authorization and I've taken care of everything. I bought you a Sarat accordion for 15 rubles, 70 kopecks, and a pair of felt shoes of the best kind for 2 rubles. And I want to let you know that I'm on my way to America. I'm in Saratov now and have purchased my baas(?), and this afternoon, Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, I'll be taking off for America. I left Hussenbach 5 days ago. I didn't use the agents. I will be traveling through Germany, probably through Bremen, I don't know yet for sure. If its Gold's will I'll get to you and then we can talk about everything. Dear half-brother, wait for me, your half-brother Georg Jacob Herman. Farewell, till we meet.

[address in Saratov, written in Russian]

G. J. Herman

17<sup>th</sup> of December 1912

Folder 7: Letter from Fred Besel, Math 28<sup>th</sup>, 1913

Translation (English):

Dear friends, Johann Jacob Hermann along with your wife and children, since I am in possession of a letter from you I cannot pass up the chance to write to you. So I am sending you the heartiest greetings

and wish you the best of everything. All of us in our family are quite well, thank God, and we're busy a plowing. The weather has been good so far and everything is crammed full. We're hoping for a good harvest. My brother and I have seeded 1900 acres in total. I told brother-in-law Suppes that I would write to you about the money. He paid, I should ask you if you paid the businessman in Kansas City. If you send him the receipt, he will pay you for it. That's what he said he arranged with the man when we moved away from there. Nothing else to write about. Farewell, write soon. We remain your friends till we meet again. Georg Friedrich Besel and family. Amen

Folder 8: Letter from Leo Tipple, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 1913

Translation (English):

Dear brother-in-law and sister-in-law, hearty greeting to everyone from Leo, Anna, and children. We and the children are, thank God, all still healthy. Dear brother-in-law, I'm glad that you put down the drozerai (?) and wrote me a letter. I'm still working at Emery Bird and have to work almost every Sunday. There is plenty of work here. There is a lot of people in the city, but you can always find work. You know that yourself. I like it here in Kansas City. Nothing new to write about. In closing, greetings to all from Leo, Anna, Mina, and Klara Tipple.

Folder 9: Letter from Georg Frick, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1922

Translation (English):

Written [on the] 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1922

[This is] written from me, Georg Frick, to you, dear brother Jakob Herman. To begin with, I am sending hearty greetings and kisses to you and your wife and children. I hope this letter finds you in good health. And now I want to let you know how things are with us. So far we're all alive and healthy. But the worst of all has happened. There is a great famine. You might have heard about that. With us its so bad that there's almost nothing to live on, and if we don't get help we'll die of starvation. The suffering is unbearable. And now, dear brother Jacob, that we've described our suffering to you, if you have a loving heart you can also feel our suffering. Its impossible to describe in writing how bad it is. And now that its possible to get to us again, many people here have received help from their friends in America. So I'm asking you, dear brother Jacob, if possible please help us a little in our great need. No matter how little [you're able to help] the Lord will bless you all the more. For so the Lord as said: share our bread with the hungry and let it travel over the waters, and you will be blessed your entire life. I ask you once again to think about [be moved by] our suffering that we have placed before your eyes. And finally once again greetings to everyone in your house. And now I will close my letter and hope for the best from you, dear brother. I am hoping for a quick response. Once again, dear brother, [please] don't for get me and I will be very grateful.

Folder 10: Letter from Johan Jakob Hoffman, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1925

Translation (English)

(This letter), written in 1925 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April is from your loving comrade, Johan Jacob Hoffman, i.e. "fat Hans", and his wife and children and is directed to you, J. Jacob Herman, my beloved comrade, and to your wife and children. The grace of our lord and savior Jesus Christ, the love of God the father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, Amen.

To begin with, we wish that God great you, the Holy Ghost comfort you and Jesus Christ assist you, and that we have God in our minds and hearts and may the peace of God, which surpasses man's reason, preserve our hearts and minds, Amen.

My comrade, beloved in the Lord, after much, much striving and searching I have finally found an address where I can send you a few lines. So, with tear-filled eyes and most sincere and heartfelt love I extend my hand and send you kisses, shaking hands in spirit as if we were talking directly with one another, and I am letting you know that we, thank God, are still quite well and we hope from the bottom of our hearts that you are equally well and that this letter finds you in the same good health as it left us, Amen.

Dear comrade, I now want to let you know how things currently are here. I am no longer living with my family. My family consists of 7 souls, and I am very poor so I don't know how I will continue to survive. In 1921-22 we had a great famine and so everything has been used up in order to survive, and now today we are in a second famine the like of which has never been seen as long as people have lived in Hussenbach.

It is a sorry sight. When you look at the people, they all look sick with hunger. I get up today and have nothing to cook except water and salt and I don't know where I can get anything. I have no earning at all. So I am turning to you for help to save me and my children from the bitter death by starvation, if you still have Christian feeling toward your old comrade. Helping the poor also a service to God.

You cannot imagine the need here since you haven't been through it. So you don't know what it's like. But, my dear comrade, hunger hurts, and it hurts a lot. Any (other) sickness can be as painful as it will, it is not as gnawing and painful as hunger. Dear comrade, for 7 months I haven't had a single piece of cooked food, and you can imagine what it's like when one has nothing but broth to eat. Our supplies are gone. The famine is weakening us to the marrow of our bones. Famine torments us constantly. Famine challenges the poor and has also gone into the house of the rich. The famine has exhausted us; there is nothing left over. See how the children are crying. Oh, we don't even have a crop in the field yet and in the buildings many have dropped from hunger. You see a lot of people there standing and begging for help. You even hear the cattle moaning because it wants its hunger satisfied.

So let your bread travel over the sea. If you don't have a lot extra, angels will see to it that it will be O.K. for you again. God weighs everyone's deeds on his just scales. So I am asking you sincerely, dear comrade, to help as much as you can and (as much as) you want to. I am confident you will not abandon me in my great need and will help me out of my great troubles. Farewell. I am hoping for a speedy response.

Dear Comrade, if you write, write about how things are going with you. Dear comrade, if you want to help me, I ask you to do so as quickly as possible since the need is so great and can't be put off. I believe, dear comrade, if you could look over here with your mind's eye and see how great the need is, you would cry out that help is needed and there isn't a minute to lose, in order to lessen the hunger of my

comrade. Dear comrade, I am asking you not to close your heart to my crying and come to our aid. May God bless you in body and soul and give you the blessing of Abraham, Amen. Greeting you with love, we remain true comrades till we meet again.

Writing for your speedy answer. Adieu, Adieu

Folder 11: Letter from Georg Frick, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1933

Translation (English):

Written on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1933

Written to you, dear brother J. Jakob Herman, from me, your brother Georg Frick. First, hearty greetings and kisses to you and to all your family, big and little, from all of us in our house. We are all, thanks be to God, healthy, except for our eldest son, who has been bed ridden all winter. Dear brother, you can't imagine how hard it is to live when there's nothing there. You might have heard about the great suffering here. The biggest problem is the lack of bread. So I have a request for you, dear brother. If you can, please be so good and send us some money, even if only 5 (dollars). Anyone who hasn't been through such suffering can't feel how much it hurts. Dear brother, if you receive this letter, please send it also to G. Jacob, if you know where he is. I would have written him, but I don't have his address. Dear brother, if you get this letter, please send us your address and write back and don't let our request irritate you. And finally, hearty greetings to all in your house. I wish to happiness and health and also much blessing. Adieu, farewell, dear brother. I am hoping for a quick answer from you.

[Small piece of paper: letter apparently got to Johann Jakob Herman via someone else]

Dear friend, if you get this letter, please send it to my brother J. Jakob Herman

Folder 12: Letter from Johan Jakob Herman, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1933

Translation (English)

Written (on the) 6<sup>th</sup> of April

(This is) written from me, your dear half-brother Johan Jakob Herman of Hanwendel(?), to you, dear half-brother Johan Jakob. Dear brother Jacob, I have often written to you, but you have never written back [you never let yourself be heard from]. I often asked Georg Jakob Herman about you but never got answer. (Then) today he send me your address, so I'm writing to you to let you know how things are with me. I am so far still well and so is my family and we wish you and your family the best of health. Dear brother, I have a request to make. If it is possible, if you can and want to, can you send me 5 dollars. I trust you can help me with that much, since I have nothing at all to live on. There are 8 in my family and there are many days when we have nothing at all to eat. Be so good and have mercy and don't let me die of hunger. Georg Jakob also intends to send something. Dear half-brother, please help. I spent 8 days and nights with your father when he was unable to take care of himself. I closed his eyes

[when he died] and did him the same honor as if he were my own father. Dear brother, please accept my request. I'll be grateful for any help, and God will repay you.

Dear half-brother, in closing I once again send hearty greetings to you and your entire family. Farewell. Please accept my request and do what you can. The Lord will bless you- I believe that for sure. Farewell. Please answer.

This is my address [written in Russian]

Canton Frank Village Hussenbach

Johan Jakob Herman

House #814

Dear brother, don't forget me. I ask you to do what you can. Farewell.

Folder 13: Letter from Johan Jakob Herman, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1933

Translation (English);

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the father and of the son and of the holy ghost be with you all, Amen. (This is) written from me, your dear brother or half-brother Johan Jakob Herman, to you, dear half-brother Johan Jakob Herman. To begin with, hearty greetings and kisses from all of us in our house. We want to let you know that we are all still quite well and hope you are the same.

Dear half-brother, I have written to you but I haven't gotten any reply. Maybe you don't want to be a friend of mine. I took care of your father in his last days and you don't even write. Georg Jakob Herman has already sent me [some money] 3 times: two times 5 dollars and once 10 dollars. Please be so kind and send something. It's so sad here that you wouldn't believe it. Three of my children have already died (?). Dear brother, we are very poor. So if you can and if you want to, please send something, as much as you can and is in your power so I can live. [Please] feel our need and send 5 dollars. Dear brother, help if you can and have mercy and God will bless you richly and I will be very grateful. Please take pity and help. My family now consists of only 5 persons.

Dear half-brother, I want to close my letter, once more sending you and your family hearty greetings. Write [and let me know] how things are, how big your family is, and everything. Dear brother, farewell. The Lord be with you. If you send us something, please be sure it's addressed correctly

Here is my address

Johan Jakob Herman

House #814

Folder 14: New Years Greeting from a Herman family member

Translation (English):



[Unable to read first 3 lines]

Help, Lord Jesus, let there be success. And the new year begins. Let us bring new powers [to bear] so that this year will be holy. I wish you as much happiness and blessing as there are droplets in the rain. Peace and Joy for everyone in the house. I wish you happiness in the house and in the field. God has everything taken care of. Today is the 8<sup>th</sup> day since the birth of the Christchild. That is true, very true. That's what I wish you for the new year.

Jacob Herman