

**Brief von Claus Tambke an seine Eltern<sup>0</sup> in Ohrensen / Krs. Stade  
Geschrieben 1871 (?) in Blendon, Ottawa Co., Michigan  
Letter from Claus Tambke to his parents in Ohrensen, Stade Co., Germany  
Written in 1871 (?) in Blendon, Ottawa Co., Michigan**

Claus Tambke was born on Feb 24, 1842 in Ohrensen (?) and died in Blendon in 1937. His father's name was Claus. He applied for emigration on Mar 13, 1868 and arrived in NY (from Bremen on the "Hansa") on May 18, 1868 together with his wife Metta Bösch (1843 – 7.4.1922) and his 9- month-old son Claus (1867 – 20.9.1940). He appears in the 1880 census of Blendon, Ottawa Co., Michigan as a farmer: Claus Tumpkei, b. 1842; wife Meta, b. 1841; children: Claus, b. 1868; Henry, b. 1870; Anna, b. 1874; Johnny, b. 1877.

His brother Hinrich (Henry) is listed in the 1880 census of Haw Creek, Morgan Co., MO: Henry, 38; wife Mary, 26 (b. MO); children: Anna, 9 (b. MO); John, 7 (b. NE); Regina, 3 (b. NE); Christina, 2 (b. MO). He emigrated before his brother Claus in 1867 and in 1872 lived in Wisconsin.



S/S HANSA (from: Palmer, List of merchant vessels)

Geliebte Eltern,

euren Brief vom 7ten März haben wir mit Gesundheit erhalten und haben daraus gesehen, dass ihr noch alle ziemlich gesund und munter seid, bloß dass Mutter nicht immer recht wohl ist, was aber doch nicht gut zu ändern ist, denn was Gott thut, das ist wohl gethan.

Geliebte Eltern, ich muss mir entschuldigen, dass ich so lange nicht geschrieben habe, denn ich war oftmals zu faul und mannigmal hatte ich auch keine Zeit, denn wir sind Gott sei Dank jetzt alle ziemlich gesund und munter, denn meine Frau und **Kinder**<sup>1</sup> haben diesen Sommer viel mit das kalte Fieber zu thun gehabt, denn das kalte Fieber hat hier paar Sommer viel geherrscht. Ich bin aber immer gesund gewesen und habe diesen Sommer an die Sägemühle gearbeitet und habe 14 Schilling den Tag gehabt. Das macht in einem Monath 25 2/4 Thaler, denn ich habe dieses Sommer ziemlich gut aufgemacht. Wir haben uns dieses Jahr ungefähr 300 Thaler erspart, denn die Sägemühle hat aufgehört zu laufen am 7ten November und nun ziehen wir wieder nach unsern alten Platz, wo wir letzten Winter gewohnt haben und mache wieder Pfahnholz (*Pfannenholz?*) und nächsten Frühjahr denken wir wieder nach die Sägemühle (zu gehen). Ich wollte mir erst diesen Herbst Land kaufen, denn wo mein Schwager **Claus Behrens**<sup>2</sup> wohnte, da war ein Mann, der wollte sein Land im Sommer verkaufen und jetzt wusste er nicht, was er wollte und nun will ich es noch mal ansehen, denn ich habe jetzt noch gute Plätze Geld zu machen. Ich habe mir jetzt etwas über 600 Dollar erspart, denn Land kann man immer kaufen, wenn man Geld hat.

Wir haben am 4ten November auch einen Brief von meinen Bruder **Hinrich** gekriegt und (der) hat geschrieben, dass sie noch alle gesund und munter sind und dass **Hinrich Mull und Johann Mull**<sup>3</sup> ihm besucht haben und sie wieder hingegangen, wo sie gewesen sind, was sie heißen **Lienkeln** (= *Lincoln*)<sup>4</sup> und dass **Catharina**<sup>5</sup> und noch ein anderes Mädchen da hingezogen sind und Catharina verdient 3 Dollar die Woche und Hinrich hat mir geschrieben, dass er von **Peter Ficken**<sup>6</sup> sein Schreiben gehört hatte, dass ihr Lust habt hier nach Amerika und dass ihr wohl nächsten Frühjahr nachkommen würdet und dass es Peter nicht mehr in Deutschland that und dass er wohl noch diesen Herbst oder im Frühjahr wieder her nach Amerika kommen würde. Wenn er da blieb bis im Frühjahr, so war es gute Gelegenheit für euch nach Amerika zu kommen, denn ihr seid mir angenehm zu jeder Zeit.

Jetzt will ich euch mal schreiben, was wir für Witterung diesen Sommer gehabt haben. Wir haben sehr trockenen Sommer gehabt und im Herbst haben wir viel Wind und Sturm gehabt und dabei viel Feuer, denn es sind mehrere Städte abgebrannt und es ist viel Feuer in Holz und Busch gewesen und sind viele Häuser und Leute verbrannt.

Mein Schwager **Claus Behrens** und (alle in) seinem ganzen Hause sind auch noch alle gesund und munter. Sie haben auch (einen) kleinen **Sohn**<sup>7</sup> gekriegt, ist aber bald ein Jahr alt und ist dick und fett und ich hoffe, dass ich euch mit meinem Schreiben bei guter Gesundheit antreffe, denn wir denken, dieser Brief wird euch viele Freude machen, wenn ihr uns und unsere Kinder auf das kleine Bild zu sehen krieget, denn unsere Kinder können sich gut berühren, still sitzen können sie auch keine Minute, denn sie springen und tanzen ganze Thage durch. Die machen uns aber auch viele Freude.

Für diesmal will ich schließen. Viele Grüße von mir und meine liebe Frau und Kinder an euch alle und grüßet alle Freunde und Bekannten. Schreibet bald wieder.

Euer liebender Sohn

Claus Tambke

0) *His parents were Claus Tam(b)ke, b. 14.11.1811 in Ohrensen and Anna Lemmermann, b. 14.8.1812 in Kakerbeck. They got a permission to emigrate on 15.1.1872, together with their third son Johann, b. 31.3.1853 Ohrensen.*

1) Nach dem Census von 1900 hatte Claus Tambke außer den 1880 genannten noch 2 weitere Kinder : Otilie, geb. 1880, und Freddie, geb. 1883.  
Sein zweitältester Sohn Henry bewirtschaftete 1900 einen Hof angrenzend an den seiner Eltern. Seine Frau hieß Minna, geb. 1873 in Michigan, sein Sohn Arthur, geb. 1898.

2) Siehe den Brief von Claus Behrens.

3) Drei Brüder Mull aus Ohrensen (Eltern: Ludolph Mull und Metta Tamke) wanderten aus: Claus Mull 1866/67, Hinrich Mull 1869 und Johann Mull 1870/71. Im Jahre 1871 waren sie in Illinois.

4) Vermutlich Lincoln, Illinois

5) Henrys Frau Katharina?

6) Peter Ficken, geb. 2.10.1846 in Deinste/Krs. Stade, war Sohn von Klaus Ficken und Engel Steffens. Er war 1867 bereits ausgewandert, kam dann zurück und ersuchte am 20.1.1872 um eine Genehmigung zur erneuten Auswanderung nach. Er lebte zunächst in Omaha, Nebraska, dann 1920 in Oak View, Logan Co., Oklahoma: Peter Ficken, 73, farmer; Frau: Josephine A. (Leonard), 60; Kinder: Herman W., 25; Freda A., 21; Minna J., 18 (alle Kinder in Nebraska geboren. Er starb am 10.3.1920 in Lovell, Logan Co., Oklahoma.

7) Der Sohn war John.



Dear parents,

We received your letter of March 7th from which we learned that you are hale and hearty, but that Mother is not always well. However, it is not up to us to change it, because what God does is well done.

Dear parents, I must apologize that I haven't written for such a long time. I was often too lazy and more than once I had no time. We are, thank God, all well, although my wife and **children**<sup>1</sup> had a lot to do this summer with the cold fever. The cold fever has raged here several summers. However, I personally have always been in good health and worked at the sawmill this summer and got 14 shillings a day. That is 25 2/4 Thaler a month, because I did very well this summer. We have saved this year about 300 Thaler, because the sawmill stopped working on November 7<sup>th</sup> and now we are moving to our former place where we lived last winter and make shingles (?) and we are planning to go to the sawmill again next spring.

This fall I wanted to buy some land because where my brother-in-law **Claus Behrens**<sup>2</sup> lived there was a man who wanted to sell his land in the summer and now he didn't know what he wanted, and now I want to have another look at it, because I know of good places where to make money. I have saved a little more than 600 dollars and you can always buy land when you have the money. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November we got a letter from my brother **Hinrich** who

said that they are still doing well and that **Hinrich Mull and Johann Mull**<sup>3</sup> visited them. Then they left him again for the place where they lived which they call **Lincoln**<sup>4</sup>. (He also said) that **Catharina**<sup>5</sup> and another girl moved there, and Catharina earns 3 dollars a week and Hinrich (also) wrote that he learned from **Peter Ficken**'s<sup>6</sup> letter that you would like to come here to America and that you would perhaps come next spring and that Peter didn't do well in Germany and that he would come again to America this fall or next spring. If he stayed there until spring it would be a good opportunity for you to come to America because you are heartily welcome to me any time.

Now I want to tell you what the weather was like this summer. We had a very dry summer and in the fall we had a lot of wind and storm and plenty fires with it, because many towns burnt down and there was a lot of fire in the woods and undergrowth and a great number of houses burned down and a lot of people were killed by it.

My brother-in-law **Claus Behrens** and all the people in his house are also in good health. They had a **little boy**<sup>7</sup>, who is now almost a year and who is big and fat, and I hope that my letter meets you in good health. We guess that this letter will please you when you see us and our children on the little photo, because our children like to play around, they cannot sit still, they must jump and dance all day long. But they This fall I wanted to buy some land because where my brother-in-law lived there was a man who wanted to sell his land in the summer and now he didn't know what he wanted, and now I want to have another look at it, because I know of good places where to make money. I have saved a little more than 600 dollars and you can always buy land when you have the money. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November we got a letter from my brother Hinrich who said that they are still doing well and that Hinrich Mull and Johann Mull visited them. Then they left him again for the place where they lived which they call Lincoln. (He also said) that Catharina and another girl moved there, and Catharina earns 3 dollars a week and Hinrich (also) wrote that you would like to come here to America and that you would perhaps come next spring and that Peter didn't do well in Germany and that he would come again to America this fall or next spring. If he stayed there until spring it would be a good opportunity for you to come to America because you are heartily welcome to me any time.

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I want to close now. Best wishes from me and my wife and children to all of you, and say hello to all our friends and acquaintances. Write back soon.

Love, your son  
Claus Tambke

0) His parents were Claus Tam(bc)ke, b. 14.11.1811 in Ohrensen, Stade Co., and Anna Lemmermann, b. 14.8.1812 in Kakerbeck. They got the permission to emigrate on Jan 15, 1872, together with their third son Johann, b. 31.3.1853 in Ohrensen.

1)According to the 1900 census Claus Tambke had, besides the children mentioned in the 1880 census, two more children: Otilie, b. 1880, and Freddie, b. 1883. In 1900 his second eldest son Henry had a farm adjoining that of his parents. His wife was Minna, b. 1873 in Michigan, his son Arthur, b. 1898.

2)Cf. Claus Behrens´ letter.

3)Three brothers Mull from Ohrensen (parents: Ludolph/Lütje Mull and Metta Tambke) emigrated : Claus Mull 1866/67, Hinrich Mull 1869 and Johann Mull 1870/71. In 1871 they were in Illinois.

4) Probably Lincoln, Ill

5) Henry´s wife Katharina?

6) Peter Ficken, b. Oct 2, 1846 in Deinste, Stade Co., was the son of Klaus Ficken and Engel Steffens. He had emigrated in 1867, then went back to Germany and applied for a permission to emigrate on 20.1.1872. He lived first in Omaha, Nebraska, then (1920) in Oak View, Logan Co., Oklahoma: Peter Ficken, 73, farmer; wife: Josephine A.; children: Herman W., 25; Freda A., 21; Minna J., 18 (all children born in Nebraska). He died on Mar 10, 1920 in Lovell, Logan Co., Oklahoma

7)The son was John.

[Back to index](#)