

**Brief von Joachim Hinrich (= Henry) Ehlen an seinen Neffen  
Ludwig Ehlen in Wiegersen, Krs. Stade**

**Geschrieben am 8.7.1869 in Oregon City, OR**

**Letter from Joachim Hinrich (=Henry) Ehlen to his nephew Ludwig Ehlen in  
Wiegersen, Stade Co., Germany**

**Written on July 8, 1869 in Oregon City, OR**

The first member of the Ehlen family to emigrate was Johann Diedrich Ehlen (b. Oct 1, 1799 Groß Meckelstedt, married to Maria Charlotta Böning on Nov 24, 1824 in Sittensen). He is listed in the 1850 census of Bethel Twp, Shelby County, MO: John D. Ehlen, 51, laborer; no wife; children: Henry, 20, tailor (real name: Claus Hinrich, b. Nov 2, 1829 Groß Sittensen), Mary, 18 (real name: Maria Dorothea, b. Jul 8, 1832 Groß Sittensen), Catherine (real name: Catharina Susanna, b. Jul 24, 1835 Groß Sittensen). His eldest son also lived in Bethel: William, 24, tanner (b. Apr 19, 1826 Groß Sittensen); wife Mary, 22; child: Laurence, 1 month.

Ten years later (1860 census) John Diedrich Ehlen lived with his son William, now a glover in Bethel, William's wife Mary and his children Lorenz / Laurence, 10, and Henry, 5.

His children Henry and Mary had moved to Marion, Northern Prec., Oregon. They were boarders in a "hotel".

Seven years later Johann Diedrich Ehlen's nephew Joachim Hinrich, the writer of the letter, got permission to emigrate on Mar 27, 1867. He was born Jun 24, 1840 in Wiegersen, son of Claus Ehlen and his second wife Metta Margaretha Alljes. He made the crossing on the ship "Germania" from Hamburg to New York (arrival May 27, 1867).



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

In 1869 he worked on his uncle's farm for 7 dollars a week. In 1880 he was a dealer in plants and shrubs in Portland, Multnomah, Oregon. His wife was Eliza, b. 1852, his children William, b.1876, and Adolph, b. 1878.

Now it was Joachim Henry's turn to make *his* nephew come over. He wrote the following letter to his brother Johann's son Ludwig Ehlen, b. Jun 23, 1851 Wiegersen.

Lieber Neffe!

Endlich ergreife ich die Feder, um dir einige Zeilen wieder mitzuteilen. Wie es mir hier geht und womit ich mich beschäftige kannst du ja aus den Briefen sehen, welche ich an deine Eltern geschrieben habe. Die Hauptsache meines Schreibens ist nun, dich aufzufordern, sobald als möglich zu mir zu kommen.

Was willst du dich dort noch länger bei den Bauern herumquälen für wenig Geld. Hier kannst du in einem Monat mehr verdienen als dort in einem Jahr. Ich verdiene monatlich 40 Dollar und wenn du einige Zeit hier gewesen bist, verdienst du dasselbe. Wenn du nun meinen Rath folgen willst, so tritt Michaelis aus deinem Dienst und besuch diesen Winter noch eine gute Schule. Übe dich hauptsächlich in Rechnen und Schreiben, denn diese Fächer sind in jetziger Zeit ganz unentbehrlich; nebenbei vergesse auch das Studium der englischen Sprache nicht.

Gegen Ostern denke ich, wirst du dann von dort abreisen. Du thust am besten, wenn du mit einem Hamburger Dampfschiff fährst bis New York. Dann in New York kommst du wieder auf ein andert steamboat (=Dampfschiff), welches dich ganz nach Californien fährt. Über Panama fährst du mit der Eisenbahn. Wenn du in New York ankommst musst du dich an Sievers wenden, der dir dann Aufklärung geben wird. Seine Adresse hat mein Bruder. Was du an Kleidungsstücken mitzubringen hast, wirst du aus früheren Briefen sehen, die ich dir schon übersandt habe.

Ich ersuche dich auch mir recht baldigst deinen Entschluss mitzuteilen.

Schließlich grüße alle Freunde und Bekannte von mir.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen schließt dein

Unkel Joach. Ehlen

Oregoncity, den 8. Juli 1869



Dear nephew,

At last I have seized my pen to write to you a few lines. You know from the letters I have written to your parents how I am doing here and what kind of work I have. The main reason for writing this letter, however, is that I want to invite you to come to me as soon as possible.

Why should you tire yourself out for the farmers for that little money. Here you can earn more in a month than there in a year. I get 40 dollars monthly and when you have been here for some time you will have the same. I would advise you to give up your job at Michaelmas and go to a good school this winter. Practice arithmetic and writing, because you cannot do without them these days. And do not forget to study the English language.

I think you will depart at about Easter. You should take a Hamburg steamboat to New York.. Then, in New York, you take another steamboat that takes you to California. You cross Panama by railroad. When you arrive in New York you must contact Sievers who will tell you what to do. My brother knows his address. You know from my earlier letters that I have sent you what kind of clothing you need.

Please tell me as soon as possible what your decision is.

Say hello to all my friends and acquaintances.

Best wishes from

Your uncle Joach. Ehlen

Oregoncity, July 8, 1869