

Drake, Mo. January 7, 1877

The grace of Lord Jesus Christ be with you! Amen!

My dear friends, H. Berger and wife nee Miss Minnie Engelbrecht.

H. W. Tappmeyer and H. Buchholz are comforting your brothers and sisters who are alone this Sunday evening. Strange you may think this to be, but it is nevertheless true, for God's ways often are inscrutable.

I am obliged to convey the sad intelligence to you that Father and Mother Engelbrecht are now in eternity. I shall endeavor to give you the details as well as I can.

You know that Father Engelbrecht was ill all winter, often had high fever and was in a weakened condition. A few days before Christmas he was so ill that he had to remain in bed. Severe pains in his abdomen made the calling of the physician imperative, who mitigated the pain; however, Father Engelbrecht had little resistance.

His inflamed urinary bladder caused great distress; usually he left the bed to relieve the pressure, but since last Wednesday he was unable to do this. Though weak and exhausted, and no longer able to speak, he remained rational. He breathed his last at one o'clock on Thursday afternoon falling asleep peacefully trusting in Jesus. He witnessed triumphantly Tuesday evening while I visited him, that his soul was hidden in Jesus and that he prayed to depart to be with Jesus. We grant him this heavenly rest, knowing that he has been a cross bearer and yearned to be released.

Mother Engelbrecht and your brothers and sisters nursed him tenderly and seldom left his bedside. He was laid to rest on Saturday. Mother Engelbrecht seemed to bear up bravely, but as you know, she was pregnant, and on Friday evening preceding the burial on Saturday, the midwife was called, however, the labor pains subsided until we left the home with the body of Father Engelbrecht. Toward evening that Saturday a daughter was born. Complications set in which necessitated the calling of a physician who, however, was powerless to aid. Only the Lord could help, but he deemed it wise to call her from the midst of her children. This morning at four o'clock she finished her course, and on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock we shall bury her. Strange indeed are the ways of the Lord. One is inclined to question the wisdom of God in calling both parents when so many children still need the loving care of devoted parents, but it behooves us to yield and to trust, confident that the Lord knows best and does not err.

This sad announcement must grieve you sorely dear friends, as it has us, especially since we are concerned about the infant and are thinking of its future welfare. The Wehamhoeners will in all probability take care of the child. Their daughter is with us this evening and is nursing the infant.

My beloved, I must hasten to a conclusion. I find it rather difficult to give you all the details, because I was not present at all times. The children are grief stricken and requested me to write to you. Please write soon and remember your sorrowing brothers and sisters in prayer. Let us all bow ourselves under the hand of God and trust Him, for he has promised to exalt us in due time and to care for us if we cast our cares on Him. The Lord be with you and you with Him.

Written in response to the request of the Engelbrecht children.

Greetings to all

This is a copy of letter evidently written by the local pastor to Minnie who lived 50 miles away, and this apparently was the only way to let her know of the death of her parents. It is evident she was unable to attend. This letter was sent to Aunt Marie by one of the Engelbrecht cousins. The letter refers to the deaths of Kasper and Anna Engelbrecht, who were Grandma Emma Schaper's parents. They came to this country from Germany and settled near Bay, Missouri, before they were married.

The children of Kasper & Anna Engelbrecht

Minnie was born the 15th of November 1855

Henry was born the 9th of October 1857

Anna was born the 13th of July 1859

William was born the 22nd of June 1861

Emma was born the 10th of May 1863

Louise was born the 20th of August 1865

John was born the 27th of August 1867

Ernst was born the 23rd of February 1869

Joseph was born the 7th of March 1871

Gust was born the 3rd of March 1873

Sophia was born the 23rd of May 1875

Marie was born the 6th of January 1877

Marie and Louise passed away as small children.