

A letter from the former home of the Volksblatt man

Niesky, (Deaconess House)
(Close)

Mrs. Piezonka was very happy to hear from you. She asked me to tell you that her Lena Hofe has played with you, went to school with you and shared confirmation classes with Pastor Jenks who died two years ago. When he retired he lived near Görlitz in Mays. His wife still lives there. He is buried in Petershain below an old linden tree near the little church yard gate. Mrs. Piezonka sends her regards. She is still a lively lady. Mrs. Barthel sends hers and both hope to hear from you soon. If needed I will help you with the mailing address to make sure your letter will get to the right Barthel. Mrs. Lena Barthel seemed to be of less than good health. The elderly Mrs Piezonka is the cousin of the husband of Lena Barthel. She lives in the house in which you lived as a child. Your house had passed through two hands over the years and was enlarged and still appears rather clean. The house next to yours is a parsonage, there is a school on one side and a restaurant on the other. The owner, Mr. Kujan, whose wife is a born Barthel, niece of the tailor August Barthel who had emigrated to America in the 1880s. Teacher Barthel asked me today to write to you. He is the brother of Mrs. Kujan and a very nice man whom I visited with today hoping that he might have more news for you. His 76 years old mother had advised me to do so. Teacher Bartel asked why the relationship between you and tailor Barthel had broken up. His descendants live in Chandles and wrote letters with him. Teacher Barthel would like to communicate with you by letter if you would enjoy that.

I think that as we grow older the childhood memories reappear in our mind. Sometimes it is the house and surrounding area where one grew up, other times it is the people one communicated with. Even though I grew up in a town this happens to me, too. I have been in Niesky for 20 years. I am 46 years old and love living in Germany. I suffered a lot during WWI and do not belong to those people who can live their life as they please. Two years ago I travelled to Sweden and had a good time. I loved the sea. But I longed to go home. I imagine and wish that, dear Mr. Proske, my letter will bring back memories of your childhood with its irrecoverable magic despite the fact that you have found a new home across the ocean. I want to emphasize again, that your Petershainer relatives will want to hear from you with a detailed letter.

I also want to thank you for the money you sent to me. I had it exchanged today and am very happy with it. A part of your gift I will share with Pastor Kuhnke who had forwarded your letter and money to me.

I hope you will receive my letter in good health, best regards,

Your
Josephine Andrae, teacher,
Niesky, near Görlitz,
Deaconess House

Translated by Margot Hendricks