

Genesee Novem 8<sup>th</sup> 1918

Dear Son Henry!

We received a card from you and Uncle John Gesellchen received a letter they were very glad to hear from you, and so were we glad to see that you were well and hope that you will be till you come home again, anyhow I hope by the time you will receive this letter that we will have peace. Henry yesterday we had a big holiday in the forenoon we received the news here in town that the war was over and that the Germans surrendered and laid down arms but Oh joy I tell you we did not only laugh but some of us cried for joy and I was one of them! Charley phoned and tolled us so Papa took the car and he and I went to town but you ought to see the people in the streets everybody was just wild all the bells were ringing churches, fire and (aid?) bell and they were marching with flags and cars were driving with lots of people up and down the street and all had flags. They were blowing horns and playing drums. I tell you everybody was excited for about two hours and we stayed in town till after dinner and everything was quite (quiet) but we doubt the peace news so in the afternoon we heard it was not true. Oh disappointed we were! so in the evening they had a big bonfire close to the high school and they burned the Keyser and sang Patriotic songs and everybody seemed to be happy over it that we had peace. but today we heard that it was not true and that they were fighting just as hard as ever but I hope by the time you read this letter that everything will be over and that we won't have any more boys killed! We have four golden stars in our service flag you ought to see the flags flying here in our town it looks like a Fourth of July celebration! Sorry to say the golden stars in our flag are a boy by the name Smith was the first one, then was a boy Caldwell died in an eastern camp of the influenza, then was Harry Bielenberg killed in action in France, went over the top 6 times but was killed at last. he was with Le Veuge (Leveque) Whalen in the same Squadron. LeVeuge is still there yet about a week ago when Charly received a letter from him he said he (had) quite close calls but always got saved home again. and the other gold star is Eddie Lawn he was in a camp in California he got the influenza he was seriously sick and Miss Lawn went to see him but he died and came home with the body and was buried last Wednesday. Theodor Johann is quite sick with the flu at the Gonzaga he is there for training he enlisted and John Tobin enlisted for training at the University at Moscow. he had the flu also but he is out again we had about 8 or nine cases here in town they are all on the mend Gus Figgins (Fickens) was quite sick we kept out of it so far if Amali don't get it. We can stay out of town but she is very careful. She stays at home and keeps the children in the yard! Albert had (it) but so far Hazel and children did not get it, Christina had it in Spokane she was very sick and Otis Carrol went to see her I think he pulled her out in a hurry anyhow it is fierce if they aren't careful that they don't catch a cold and keep very warm I hope you don't get it if you do be careful for I have no doubt that you won't come home for I'm praying every day to the blessed virgin, she will protect you that's my hope, well here and everywhere in Idaho all the churches and schools, Theaters (theaters) and all places of amusements are closed. we have not been in church for three weeks! Course Smolts place is not closed in account of a eating place. They give meals now regularly just like a restaurant that the reason that they can't close it. If it was only soft drinks and ice cream it (would) have been closed. I tell you they were scared, Eddie would have to go and work in the field. they have always two girls. They change girls every few weeks. Betty Kraut was there a long time. She was cook. She was about the best they had. Well old man Schleert died about a week ago. I don't know if the girls wrote all this news that I'm writing you. Viola is asleep and Bertha is gone to bed and Papa is going to bed and Charls is laying with his head on the table asleep. It's a hard time to get him awake. well we are thru digging potatoes and Papa got about three hundred sacks and Charls has 150 sacks

but the potatoes are now only one dollar a sack so Charles wont make as much as he expected but he bought 50 dollars worth of liberty bonds Tina bought some liberty bonds don't know just how much she has Martha is still in Spokane working and taking treadment from Otis. she is coming home soon she had good wages 40 dollars a month trying to pay for her dockter bill. that way she hase payed 100 dollars already . She saved her money very well she is a rustler.

Chals is blowing (plowing) across the road that flat he is blowing the pasture with a walking plow and these horses and our hired man is blowing down in the flat with the gang plow it is getting black it looks fine we where afraid he would not plow much anymore but the weather is nice yet for this time in the year it did rain quite a bit a while ago but today was a real sumer day course it was cool in the shade but in the sun it was real warm. Viola and Papa where picking apples and she gets so mad at it she had an overaul on to clime the trees she says if Papa would not give a person a preaching all the time I would not mind picking but Oh that won't be any different never! Josie Broimling and Amanda Greiser are married and living in John Broemlings house. Mr. Herman Broemling bought that place. Well we have a young man for a hired man now he is only 21 years old and he did not pass examination flat footed and poor eyes so he cant go to the war so I hope we have a man that we can keep anyhow I hope he is quiet active and willing and can handel the horses fine he said that Kikie hase not kiked with him his name is Arther Griffith and his folks live north east from Moscow. The farmers are working on that new road now they are grading and working on it a road thru Meyers Field from the Hasfurther boys on thru the Meyers Field coming out by the old brick yard I expect you know where that is! and on another road they are working on and thats the state Highway come past hear and going straid on past Manderfelt we don't know yet for sure whether we are going to get it anyhow they are working for it very hard we will know in a couple weeks with my best wishes and love I will sent you this letter everybody is in bed and the house is getting cold your Mamma.