

custom house on our left where we stayed for the night. All the baggage was loaded on a small steamer and at 10:30 we sailed for the emigration house in Castle Garden. We got off the ship at noon. Money was exchanged here. Our Prussian Thaler was worth 78 cents in American money. We had to stay overnight in Castle Garden. On the 16th after breakfast we went sight-seeing in New York City. One fish dinner with some potatoes cost 30 cents. The watermelons were 20 cents a piece. There was also plenty of other fruit such as apples and pears. But all fruit was expensive. At 5 in the evening we left Castle Garden on a ferry to go to the railroad. At 7:30 we packed ourselves in the railroad cars and at 8 the train left. On the left side we had water for a long distance and on the right was a steep bank, very stony and hilly, covered with woods. Occasionally we went through mountain cliffs. It was cool and foggy in the morning of August 17th. On the left we saw some streams of water. On the right was a hilly landscape with yellow soil. The land was partly covered with trees. There were all kinds of fruit trees with an abundance of fruit on the trees. At 8 in the evening we stopped in a city. Everything was loaded from one train onto another one. We left this city at midnight. In the morning of the 18th we were still riding through wooded country, but the land was flatter. We arrived in Elkhart, Indiana at 8:30 in the evening. We stayed here overnight in our cars. On Tuesday the 20th at 6 in the evening we left Elkhart and arrived in Chicago at 11 in the night. We were brought to our quarters by the train. We left Chicago on Wednesday, the 21st, at 11 in the evening. On our left was the Red River. In the afternoon we saw good land but still not the rich black soil. It rained considerably on the night of Thursday, the 22nd of August. The following morning we went through wooded country, but the hilly ground was covered with good soil. At six in the evening we reached the Missouri River. The passengers on six of the cars had to get off and board the ferry for crossing the river. The rest of us remained in our cars as we crossed the river on the ferry. The ferry took us to Platts-mouth, Nebraska where those who headed for Dakota had to change trains. At 8 in the evening we left for Lincoln, Nebraska where we arrived at 11 at night. It rained very hard that night. On Friday, the 23rd, in the morning all of the baggage was brought into the emigration house. Six men were selected immediately to explore Kansas and Nebraska. This commission left at 11 in the morning. Gaeddert, with his group, arrived on Tuesday, the 27th of August. We were now a total of 67 families. Gaeddert, with a part of his group, left immediately for Kansas. On Saturday, the 31st, in the afternoon we moved into the new emigration house which was built adjacent to the older one. The commission which had been sent to Kansas returned at 10 in the evening. Rev. Buller gave a talk on Sunday, Sept. 1st, and in the afternoon Rev. Regehr, a minister in Lincoln, led us in a worship service. At one p.m. on Monday, the 2nd, the commission set out to explore Nebraska. Four of the commission returned on Wednesday, the 4th, and the rest on the 6th. Jacob, the small son of Jacob A. Schmidts, died at 3 in the afternoon on Saturday, the 7th. He was buried in a cemetery on Sunday. The decision had been reached that we were going to Kansas. Everyone had to state how much land he wanted to have. All of our baggage was brought to the railroad cars toward evening on Sunday the 8th. We left Lincoln, Nebraska on Wednesday, the 11th, in the morning and arrived at 8 in the evening in Atchison, Kansas. Half of the passengers had to get off the train while the rest continued directly to Topeka. About one hour later the rest of us left for Topeka arriving there at 11 in the evening and then meeting our friends again. A livestock market was available to us for 14 days in Topeka. We bought 3 horses, 2