

Dec. 1979

My mother, Sophie Stedtfeld Kleinschmidt, died Jan. 14, 1919 when I was 6 yrs. old. Grandma and Grandpa Stedtfeld came in from their farm out at S. Long Lake, Brainerd, and stayed with us through the winter. Then our mother's sister, Dorothy (we call her Aunt Dora - she still lives at Brainerd) came to take care of us four little girls. She was only 16. Uncle Ed (he lives at Tacoma, Wash. now) was 15 and he was still at home to help Grandpa on the farm. The next year Aunt Dora was engaged to be married and that is when my dad wrote his sister, Minnie Hauck of Evansville, Ind. about his plight. She then wrote the enclosed letter to Hanna Krueckeberg of Decatur, Ind. asking her if she would consider going to Brainerd to help out. She also knew that she was in her early 30s, a good Christian woman and would make a good wife and mother.

Hanna had been the housekeeper for a Ft. Wayne, Ind. couple for 7 yrs. but when they moved to Detroit, Mich. and took her with them she was very unhappy there and had just quit her job when this letter came from Aunt Minnie.

"God works in mysterious ways."

Hanna came to Brainerd in March 1921 and in Sept. she and my dad were married.

These copies of Grandpa Kleinschmidt's letters will give you an idea of his high ideals and his good humor.

Love,

Mom

Brainerd Minn

Jan 16-1921

Miss Hannah Knudberg.

Dear Friend:-

I am kindred puzzle  
and dont know what to do and  
how to write to a Lady I dont  
know But thru my Sister I  
got acquainted some way or other  
and think its best for me to write

I suppose you know most of my  
relation and heard of the head luck  
I had a Year ago and I am up  
against a hard proposition to find  
a good Honest Christian Housekeeper

So my Sister Minnie recommended  
You to me, and I am positive  
That you can fill the bill. I  
hope you will give it consideration  
and try it for a while and let

## II

me later as soon as possible

My Sister-in-law is going to be Married  
in The Spring I presume, and so  
The Old Folks are staying with me  
for a while till I get some one else

I have every Thing quite handy and  
don't have to step out <sup>side</sup> for nothing.

Had a Furnace put in This fall also  
have a Electric Washer Electric Light  
Telephone Bathroom &c.

And four of The nice little Girl  
you ever seen and I'd do any-  
Thing to keep a home for them

~~These ages or from 3½ up to 8 years~~

I know Sister would not deceive  
me or you either so you better  
make up your mind and come  
to Minnesota again Brainerd  
is a City of 10,000 pop. and has a  
large Rail Road Shops There is where  
I work ever since I came from Illinois



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III.

And This is shure a beautifull  
country among The Lakes and if you  
are a lover of Flower's Berries and  
Fishing This country is hard to beat.

We had a very fine Winter so  
far not much snow, either cold  
weather, Well we were predicted a  
mild Winter and I think its so.

I am willing to pay what ever is  
right Please let me know what  
your wages are? so I can govern  
myself accordingly.

With Best Wishes

I remain Yours

H. F. Klein Schmitt  
Bramerd

918 Ivy Str. Minn

P.S. Please excuse  
bad penmanship  
and let me hear  
from you in the  
near future

Evansville, Ind. Dec 19-20.

Dear Hanna -

I expect you will be surprise to hear from me. It is on very important Buisness. Well Hanna, I expect you remember yet that Martha wrote to you last winter that her Aunt died in Brainerd Minn. and that I went up there that was last Jan 15. Now my Brother Henry needs help, and we were thinking about you. So he ask me to write you, if you would help him out, his Sister-in-law that stayed with him, she went to get married by spring, so that leaves him with out a house keeper again. "He said" he was willing to pay as much as any body else, and pay your trip to come up there. Well Hanna if you would be willing to take the place, I can promise you, that he make it as

(over)



Comfortable as much as possible,  
he has every thing handy,  
Electric Washing Machine and Phone,  
Turnace, Bath, and a Car, he sure  
has a nice looking home, I don't  
no if you still remember Brother  
Ernst, he live in the country, and  
also those Brother Herman, I think  
that Martha told you that he has  
four Girlies, I sure was surprise  
at the children, when I was up  
there they sure were raise up  
like christian children, that is  
the reason he want a christian  
house-keeper again, two girls  
are going to school, and two  
are at home yet, Henry work  
at R. R. Shop, he comes home for  
dinner. Well we leaves it for you  
now, to study the matter over,  
and if there is any thing that  
you would like to no, I be will-  
ing to answers your question, (over,

Well I wish you think it over  
and let me know as soon as  
possible, so I can let him know  
what you think about it.

I wish you a merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year.

With Love

Minnie Stauck

P. S. You dont need to worry  
to make the trip by yourself  
he be will to come after you.