

**Originally transcribed by Father Peter Altmann after a trip to Europe in Jan 1976. A very old letter was given to him by a relative and he translated it as follows:**

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*"This letter was written by our grandfather Ignatz Koller (from Milladore, WI), to his sister and brother in law in the year 1885 to Germany."*

*Dear Sister and Brother-in-law,*

*Will take the pen and paper and will write a few lines to let you know, thanks be to God, that we are all well, and hope the same of you all. It is almost 3 years that we have not heard from each other. I wanted to write sooner, but was always so busy. We are so busy clearing off land so we will have some cleared land to plant grain. So far we have 20 acres cleared. But the stumps are still there. The small stumps rot a bit in about 2 years but the bigger stumps take 5-6 years. We also bought 523 acres of land but that is all woods and brush yet.*

*I can write you that the climate by us is just like by you in our old country. Stones are very few but everything is woods and brush. We have two oxen, 3 cows and 2 steers, 1 calf and 2 pigs.*

*I and Wagners and Poeshell Ashenbrenners live about a stone's throw apart. Wagners also have 2 oxen, 1 cow, 1 calf and 50 acres of land and 10 acres clearing. Old lady Wagner is still as she was when she left Germany, Metzen over there. We have now very nice weather, we are busy clearing land and all winter we hauled logs to the railroad. 900 logs measured one hundred thousand feet.*

*Dear Sister and Brother-in-law,*

*Milladore, April 28, 1885*

*I can also write that the country by us is just like by you. The meals are good. In winter we have meat 3 times a day. During summer our meals are mostly from wheat and flour and butter and milk. Last winter we butchered 3 pigs each weighing about one zenter, (about 200 pounds). Hope to receive soon an answer from you, sending greetings from me and my wife to you and your wife and children. Also greetings from Mike, George, Monica, Ignatz and Mary, all the children and relatives. Greetings from Wagner and wife and children. Please write us all the news from out there and if your children are all married. Monica (Koller-Altmann) and George (Monica's brother) are married. George bought a farm 80 acres and 20 acres clearing. There was a house and 2 oxen and 2 cows with the farm. It cost him 750.00. You can buy all kinds of land here with different prices. Good land costs between 5 and 10 dollars an acre, and low and marshy land is much cheaper. We have all kinds of wood here, mostly hardwood, pines, birch, maple, oaks, hemlock, butternut, elm. We had them all in our old country. Greetings to all.*

*My address:*

*Ignatz Koller*

*Milladore, Wis.*

*North America*