

Oct. 16, 1970

Comments on letter of Nov. 20 and 21, 1877:

To my knowledge these are the only letters or writings known to me to have been handed down from my grandfather, John Baggerman.

I believe they were written just before sailing back to Holland to visit the members of his family remaining over in this country. My grandmother (his wife) said that on his return to the United States he contracted typhoid fever on the ship. He was ill when he landed and became so seriously ill on the train trip back to their rented farm home in Madison County, Illinois (near Horseshoe Lake) that he had to be taken off the train in Johnston, Pa. Somehow the train conductor notified my Grandmother where he was. She went there and he died there soon after her arrival.

Wm. F. Baggerman

Bob

New York, Nov. 21, 1877

My dear wife a.s.o.!

We arrived this morning, Wednesday, at 7 o'clock in New York, so it took us about 48 hours, as we have been standing in Buffalo still 6 hours. This morning we were on the steamship, on which we will travel. It is one of the greatest of the steamship company, called Scholten. I changed 65.20 dollars into paper money, which I can change in Rotterdam into 150. - guilders. I received a check for that to send you that, in case my paper money might get lost. Then you have a receipt to get it back. We are both still fresh and healthy. During the trip we met 3 Dutchmen, who are also going to make a trip to the old fatherland. They are from Wisconsin, and left their wives at home. They take the same ship as ours. I wrote you a letter from Buffalo.

And furthermore receive our greetings and give a kiss to the little one from me.

I call myself your loving husband,

John Baggerman

New York 21 Nov 1877

Geliefde Vrouw enz!

Wij zijn van morgt woensdag
te om 7 uur in New York aange-
komen dus in ongeveer 48 uur en
hebben te Buffalo nog 6 uur ge-
~~stopt~~ Wij zijn van morgt op de
Stoomboot gezeist waar wij met
mede gaan is een van de grootste
in de lijn de naam van de boot
is Scholten. ik heb 6.20 dolla
in papier in ge wisselt dat ik te
Rotterdam 150 gulden met een ~~wissel~~
wissel in mijn te kan nu heb
ik een check daar van ge kregen
om u dat over te sturen in
~~u~~ ^{mijn wissel} ~~u~~ mocht ver lozen iaken dat
hebt u nog een te wys om het
~~dan~~ het weder te krijgen te
wij zijn beide nog fier en gezond
daar op de reis hebben we 3
hollalders ~~en~~ moet die ook

een glaciër reisje waar het
oude Vaderland doen zij komen
van Wisconsin en hebben daar
haar vrouwe ~~my~~ ~~zij~~ ook nu
ge late gaan op de zelfde boot
waar my mede gaan ik heb u
een brief van Buffalo geschreeven

Zoo verders Ont vang de groeten
van ons en kus de kleine
van my

Zoo noem ik my
U Lief hebbende man

John Baygerman

Buffalo, November 20, 1877

My dear wife!

As we arrived here this morning, Tuesday, at 8 o'clock and have to wait till 10 minutes before 3 o'clock till the train leaves for New York, I had time to write you a few lines. Anyhow we arrived in good health in Buffalo and so now Charles and I are walking through the city to visit it. Then tomorrow, Wednesday, we will be at 7 o'clock in the morning in New York. And then I want to write to you immediately again.

Be greeted by us.

I call myself your loving husband,

John Baggerman

Buffalo 20 nov. 1877

Je Liefde Vrouw!

Daar ~~is~~ van morgen dins
dag om 8 uur hier zijn aan
je komen en moeten tot van
middag 10 minute voor 3 uur
wagte eer dat de trein afgaat
naar New York zoo had in tijd
u eenige regelen te schryfe wy
zijn in goede ge zondheid aan
je come in buffalo en nu loopen
ik en Karel de stad is door
om ~~de stad~~ eens te bezien en zullen
dan morgen woensdag om 7 uur
morgens ^{te New York} daar zijn en dan wel

ik u dadelijk weder schryfe

Zgt van ons ge groot zoo
noem ik my u lief hebbende
echt ge noot

John Baggerman.