

Yiddish letter 29 September 1913: A letter written on 29 September 1913 addressed to Alexander Weiss in Detroit, Michigan, USA. This letter gives us a look into Jewish life around Munkács in 1913. Translation by Mark Benisz for Lea Trager.

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Harsfalva 29 September 1913

Life and Peace

To the bochur (unmarried man) Sender Weiss

First I want you to know that we are well, healthy and always eager to hear from you. Second I want you to know that we received your lovely letter with great joy and also the 30 crowns. May G-d repay you and give you much mazel. About Rachel, I can share with you the following: She is in Munkacs and is engaged to a boy from Munkacs He is a good shoemaker he worked in Pest and he wants to go and live there. He is not a great... (fershoif???) but if she is happy then we must also be happy.

I cannot tell you much about his family May G-d help us to make the wedding. The wedding should have been in Elul (August) but she is not in the "matrike"??? in Chest (this is a town).

Rachel came home and wanted to go to Kerecke to "matriculate"?? with the "notary"??? (maybe it means to apprentice?? notar can also mean a commissioner) but it did not work out because unfortunately there were many woes this year in the world. There was cholera. It stated from.... (missing) and it is in our location as well. Everything is closed in some places, the markets the schools every village is guarded by gendarmes and military. One cannot go from one place to another (and not to Munkacs) One who wishes to travel by train must have a certificate from a doctor. If he does not have one he is quarantined for 5 days. No water not for washing. Everywhere there are soldiers and gendarmes.

Rachel went back to Munkacs and did nothing about this. She is going to have a "free" (non-religious) wedding. and the "mater" (aunt?) is afraid that the shidduch match) will not last because. (es firt zich ab?) Rose sent us a letter last week but we are happier when you send one. May G-d grant you health. You will G-d willingly marry and you will have a lot of money. We wrote her that she should come home because she is "nebach", quite distressed that you are not there.

Rivka writes every week everything is quite well with her except she yearns for home but it costs a lot. There is no more news We wish you a "kesivo vachasimo tova" (traditional rosh hashono greeting) and a good year. I send you my best wishes and for your "mater" (aunt???) and Malka. Avremel is "kenahora" (w/o evil eye) a very good boy.

Keep well, from your Uncle David and "mater" Sheindel  
And a good Yomtov, you will not get this letter until Sukkos.



Mr.

Alexander Weiss

103 Michigan av.

Detroit Mich

~~Michigan~~

Jelard

Selmon Kopf David

Karlsruhe

Quiraja

ungarn