[Translated by Werner Hahne; original badly faded and many spelling and grammatical errors. LSH 8-24-1978.]

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Mount Vernon [Indiana] the 18th November
[Other correspondence indicates 1857]

Dear Brother-in-law

At last you have a letter from the Leukroths —/ and I bring you my greetings. With God's blessing and our Savior's joy I will now tell you and you listen to me. Your letter we received already and learned that you are still well and thank God we here are too with health and a willingness to please [?]. We have seen your circumstances in that it is in California as it is here: that one cannot earn money by pleasure walking but the good Father knows what we all need and if you have faith in God he will give you what is good for you. My wish is that God will bless you in body and soul; you ask what your Mother and your Sister and Reinhold are doing. They thank you for your inquiry. They are all well. Your sister was blessed this spring with a daughter and both are enjoying each other. Your mother is happy in her last days in the God of her Savior and she can see now that everything comes from God, health and blessings, because the fat meat and sauerkraut please her very well. Also, Reinhold sends greetings. He has grown much, goes to school every day, [has] entered the first grade, and looks forward to seeing you again. You wish to know how my business is going. I can't say anything but that the good Lord has blessed me amply. I have a business worth 700 Dollars. My store boots and shoes I get from Cincinnati, and [I] live with my family in the house where you and Schlässer stayed. And you ask about your Brother; I am sorry we cannot write as yet to you. We have written to Europe but have not received any message. That is the reason you have not received a letter from us for a while, but when we receive a letter, you will receive a message immediately, I promise. In Mount Vernon nothing much has changed. During my stay here 2 churches have been built, and also nice brick homes. As I see it, business is better here during the bad times than in the big cities. Weinbrenner and Schlässer send greetings who [Schlässer?] lives here now and built himself a workshop to start on his own. Also, cousin Stiehl sends greetings, and he brought your letter and also had one in his hand from his son. You are inquiring about your old acquaintance; she is now married to Störtz Dreiber and looks a bit shabby. It has * * * Mättigens here who are better off than these.

I am in a mood to close my letter. Again, Reinhold sends regards to you with a Lübkert and a * * * .

* * * he gives it to you as best he can * * * .

* * * has often told of his uncle.

We wish you all a hearty farewell, and write soon.

Your brother-in-law

Gotthold Leukroth

_/In a later letter signed Lenkroth