

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

This document contains the letter text from the book *The August Rutishauser Letters 1903-1904 Second Edition* by Richard L. Hanson. The author considers the letters to be in the public domain and grants permission for readers to copy and republish any or all of the letters, in whole or in part, provided credit is given to the source.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

November 24, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: November 25, 1903 6 a.m. Downieville

Downieville, Tuesday

Nov 24

Dear Maggie and children!

I arrived here Sunday evening about 6 clock and I stood the trip first rate. When I came here Sunday evening, Supper was past & I had to do considerable awaking to get a bite of bread & a cup of cold tea, as I was very hungry. The Dr. came arriving yesterday morning at 7 clock, as he took off the cotton it commenced to bleed pretty hard, but he fixed all right causing me untold pain for awhile. He says it is a very bad case & growled because they put no oil of milk on it. Anyway I feel pretty good since & he dressed it this morning & will do every day. He is putting different things on & is not giving me any medicine for awhile. This place here is allright only the idea of beeing among a lot of old men of all kind of description I can hardly tolerate it, & am afraid I shall be homesick. We get three meals a day Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner at 4 clock, & before 8 clock everybody got to be in Bed. They don't furnish any writing Paper & no stamps, so send me some stamps if you have any. If I had 25 cts i would buy me some Paper and Envelop. Tell me are you provided yet I see a suscriptive paper at Massons! Miss Thomson told me that Mrs Tuse of Quincy where she recommended our Amelia to, is a very refined lady, has been a school teacher & she would probably teach her at home as she told her how far Amelia was advanced. They keep a orderly house & allow no Rowdie's around. I think it would be a grand help to Amelia.

Now I hope this letter will find you all right & do not fret as I think it will come out allright in the end. Sam McLaughlin sends his regards to Charlie & want to know if he ever sees his goats.

Now you write to me right away & I shall answer quick. I would write oftener but I have not got any paper nor Stamps. Well I will close with a hearty Kiss for all.

Good bye Maggie

Your loving husband

August

address

Hospital

Downieville

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 2, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: (hand carried by Clave O'Rourke)

Downieville Dec 2 -

Dear Maggie:

As I have a chance to send a letter over to you by Clave O'Rourke, who brought May Carlson over yesterday, I am getting better everyday. The swelling is going down & I can feel in it now when the Dr touches it. I think it will come out all right but it will take time yet. Mrs Spellenberg came to visit me yesterday. Mr John Lassiat & his wife came up to see me too. they told me that if Amelia did not get the place at Quincy they would like to have her on the same term. She could go to school here, they live close by the School house. They have three girls, two of them going to school. I think she would have a good place and be well treated. Mrs Lassiat seems to be a nice woman. So in Mrs Masson has heard from Quincy & she cannot go there, either send her over right away, may be there would be a chance to come over with Masson. Otherwise send a message to J Jones & he can telephone over to say to send somebody after her, Tell him to tell Ross Taylor & he would send me the message. 3 letters I send you ahead of this & hope to hear from you soon your
August

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 6, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: December 7, 1903 6 a.m. Downieville

Downieville 6th Dec. 1903

Dear Maggie & children:

I received your two letters yesterday & was so glad to hear from you, & that you are well & got all provisions in. I did not think you would let Amelia come, as I know you need her. Too bad the baby is troubled so much, I hope it will get better soon.

I ask the Dr this morning how I was getting along & he didnt encourage me much. Of course the wound is healing up but the swelling will not go down especially around my ear. It bothers and pains me nights like it always did but still I dont think it is so bad as I can feel it.

He is giving me medicine & he says, it will work slow but if it takes hold he thinks it will help me. We will know in about a week or ten days & I let you know about it. He dont like to do any cutting on it, & says I better try to go below again. Sometimes I think the Damn Drs are all alike.

I am at liberty to go to town when I please. We have to do our own washing & I guess I will have to pitch in tomorrow & wash my under clothes, the shirt I shall give to some washwomen here. Glad you send me a little money as got to have a good many little things. I ought to get me pair of overalls too.

Well this hospital here is more like a poorhouse than anything else, the Dr. comes here every morning & tends to those that are sick, there is no nurse here, one old man, a inmate of the hospital tends to those that needs help. he helps the Dr. dress my wound & he says the swelling went down considerable. They put some kind of ointment on it & cover it all over with cotton & then put a bandage on.

It has not bleed since the first time he dressed [it]. Yesterday I got a letter from Mr J Thomson. Well I shall write to you soon again & dont let me wait long to here from you.

Kiss all the children for me & I hope this reaches you well I am your loving
August

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 13, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: December 14, 1903 6 a.m. Downieville

Downieville 13 Dec 1903

Dear Maggie & children!

I received your letters yesterday & was so glad to hear from you all. I am surprised how our neighbors are all so good with us, this is the time to find out friends. I was glad you made old william Horn walk home & I hope by god we will get even on them some time. If Willie had done as he promised that time I might be home now & at least by Christmas but as it is I have not got any idea when I will get out of here. I have been pretty sick this last week. Tuesday was awful, they had to inject morphine to kill the pain. Neuralgia got in this bad ear, & you have no idea what I suffered. I cannot much [at] night & nights are so long. The over wound is all healed up but the lower one broke out about a week ago and done considerable bleeding. I had to go to town Monday to have it bandaged up again by the Dr as the steward here dont like to takle it. The Dr. here puts long bandages on, about 10 -15 yards, 3 inch strip, they hold fine. He has not much to say but I can feel that the swelling is going down considerable, he gives me 2 kinds of medicine & I think they keep me pretty well down because I dont feel strong at all & have not got much appetite. I think the dr. got some motive for it. Anyway I shall not leave now until I feel anywhere near right. I know it will be lonesome for you in stormy weather but may be we will not get very much. It is drizzling rain here this morning & quite warm. A man died here night before last & the[y] buried him yesterday. He was a Chilean & had the Astnue. I suppose you had it pretty cold lately, the coldest we had here was 20 above 0. This is a lovely country too bad a man had to be in a Poorhouse; I think Mrs Dubuque was foolish not to bring her family over here. I hope you where here. If I get out of here I shall try to get work here. I Lassiat is running a mill about 14 Miles from here & I am sure I will get work from him. They tell me they raised about \$47.- here & people are good with me, a young fellow with name Hunter was up to see me the other day & he told me if I need anything to let him know. The Brewer told me to come & see him as often as I wanted & so lots of others. Do not sent that money below to the hospital, send Bill to me & I will write to home. Why did you not get some dried fruit instead so much Wheat. Nice of Liverwares to send you so much much stuff & also of Hill & Louis.

Give my regards to everybody & keep up spirits this is the best we can do. I tell you I am pretty lonely & homesick at times.

Well children good by

write to me as often as you can as it pleases me very much to hear from you. I hope Baby's face is getting better & I know what he is when he is so cross.

I suppose I get a letter in a few days again & I shall write right along so good bye. All Good Bye
Maggie

August

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 14, 1903
From: Maggie Rutishauser
To: August Rutishauser
Postmarked: December ?? 1903 La Porte

Port Wine Dec 14, 1903

My Dear August

I received your letter yesterday. Roy Masson was in La Porte. Mrs. Gray gave him the letter. I am very sorry to hear you do not get any better and the wound broke open again what do you think made it break open again it seems terrible you have to suffer so much.

Mr Moore came this morning and gave me \$88.75 cts. what Mr Lavazola collected over in Downieville he did not send the list over as he said he thought he could collect some more they have not heard from Miss Thomson yet as she promised to try and raise some money in Sierra City he gave me 2 twenty dollar pieces and five Dollars in silver so just as soon as I have a chance to change \$20. Dollars I will send you some more I will have to go to La Porte or send as Willie wants a pair of shoes very bad. I intend to take good care of this money and spend just as little as I can help so when we need a dollar we will have it it made the children open their eyes when they saw so much money. Baby's face is almost well again and he feels better. he does not cry so much, the children wish they were over there so they could get some apples.

Mr Hill brought me about 20 yds of Calico to make the children dresses which I think was very good of him I will send you a sample of it Packers have not moved yet and dont know if they are going or not as the french men have not come up with the money it is terrible quiet over here as there is nothing doing no body around.

Well August this is all this time hoping to hear good news from you next time

we all join in sending you lots of love and hoping to see you soon

From Maggie good by.
I will send your comb next time

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 17, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co. Cal.

Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Downieville 17th Dec 1903

Dear Maggie!

I expected a letter from you for the past three days. Enclosed you find one your father wrote me, a very nice letter to a man in my situation. Tell him not to send me anymore of his advices & tend to his own business. If anything will prevent people from helping you it is his presence there. Dear Maggie I am pretty sure the Dr will succeed in my case, it has not bleed for ten days, the lower wound is open, & discharging a terrible stinking matter. Of course I suffer constantly but if I am satisfied it will be for the best I shall stand it. There is a inmate here with name Daniel Webster, I used to know him up our way. He is troubled with the Kidneys but able to do lots of help around. Well he sleeps in the same ward with me & if I need anything nights, he tends to it. He has been helping the Dr. dressing my wound, for about a week or 10 days, I ask him to day for the first time. He says the swellings are going down & getting better looking all round. Of course it will go slow & perhaps take all winter but whats the difference as long as I am getting well. The worst part is my ear, it is entirely closed up but the Dr is tinkering on it. Consequently I cannot hear any better.

I think I will trow up the Clerk ship in School & shall notify Miss Alexander.

You look in the big book there is marked under Special Fund \$11.00 Marked out the best way you can before they come after the books. You will find it in one column on top, try to erase it or scratch it out. Keep all papers coming for the school & then surrender them when they come after them.

Well how are the children & the baby especially, write soon & dont let me wait so long between time.

I shall send you another letter before Christmas. I have bought me a pair of Overalls, they are better to sit around. Yesterday we had a stormy rainy day & to day it is breakin up, can see snow on the hill, I suppose you have got some snow. Now good by all & especially to you (My regards to Charlie)

Maggie from August

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 18, 1903

From: Amelia Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser, Downieville

Postmarked: December 19, 1903 10 a.m. La Porte

Port Wine Dec 18.

Dear Papa

We received your letter to-day and are very sorry you are sick.

It is snowing very hard to-day It did look like clearing off yesterday but to-day there is no end to the old snow. The mail-man took his sleigh to-day and Willie went after the mail he had a ride both up and down.

It is not very long before Christmas. Stanley and Mabel are always thinking of Santa Claus, but I am afraid he will be too poor. Ruth and Willie are going to write to you next time. Willie is talking of writing to Elwain but he don't seem to get at it.

Stanley went out this morning in the snow he put on his boots, and he thought he was big. I'll tell you. Do you ever see Mrs Winrod?

The baby will be six months old. next Saturday. the day after Christmas he is still minus a name. he sits up in the cradle and the high-chair. he is getting quite cute.

Well hoping to hear from you soon I will have to stop as there is not any news. Well good-Bye From Amelia

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 20, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: December ?, 1903 6 a.m. Downieville

Downieville 20th Dec. 1903

Dear Maggie!

I received your two letters with (one Dele. [delivery]) yesterday together & was so glad to hear from you all & that the baby is getting better. I think I am getting better right along & the Dr. told me this morning that the swelling is going down, I have good hopes now that I will come out all right after awhile. I shall stay here until

I am better as I am contented about you beeing all right.

Of course it will be a lonely winter for you but it cannot be helped. I send you a messenger [local newspaper Mountain Messenger] & in it you can see they are going ot have a New Years Eve Ball for our benefit, you see there are very good people over here too. I have not been in town for two weeks, as it is too wet & besides the medicine keeps me pretty well down. I have not got much appetite & consequently am weak. I think the Dr. want it so, to get the disease out of me. Yesterday another man died here he was paralyzed he comes from Poker flat I think his name is Goodell, going to be buried today.

I am glad you got some money on hand dont let yourself & children go bare fouted [footed]. I shall buy me another jumper, & maybe stamps & a pencil. If you can send me a little more I would like to get a pair of slippers & a cap. I told the Dr the other day what your father wrote to me & he said, That man crazy to talk like that. so you see he calculates to pull me trough [through]. Anyway I know he is doing his best, & think he will succeed. Well, a week from tomorrow is Christmas have you got any eggs Kill a chicken & have as good a time as you can with the children. Buy them a little something if you can. God knows we had a poor enough Christmas last year.

Give my regards to Charlie & Tom & everybody.

Well good by dear

from your

August

To Willie!

Well, my boy they say your are doing pretty good, & hope allways will be that way. It is allright to go & see Mr France as he likes good boys, may be bye & bye he will give you some dupe for your snowshoes. I wish you a happy Christmas & hope Santa Claus will not forget you, Remember your Papa

To Stanley!

Well my little man I wish you a very happy Christmas & hope you be a good boy & remember your Papa

Tell Charlie to look out for Dan's Goats.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

Dear Amelia!

I am always glad to have a few lines from you and hope you will do so right along, as I answer you in Mama's letter anyhow. Well I am getting along pretty good now, no more bleeding but it is awful tender & I suffer considerable. I am not going to come home until I am better & ready to go to work & I may get a job around here. So you will have to get along the best you can. Are the chickens laying. The chickens over here lay but they use all in cooking.

Well, Amelia I wish you a very happy Christmas & write to me all about it.

Your loving papa

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 21, 1903

From: Maggie, Ruth, Amelia, Willie and Mabel Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser, Downieville

Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Port Wine Dec. 21, 1903.

Monday afternoon

My Dear August

I was very much disappointed this morning not getting any letter from you. I only hope you are not any worse if you get very sick be sure and let me know right away as it is tearriable we was so shure of getting a letter we did not know what to think of it but I only hope you ar not sick.

Christmas is coming fast the children are allways talking of Santa Claus. but it is going to be a dull old Xmas for me but I hope another year you will be at home and well.

Mrs Dubque and Exzilda went to La Porte to day. They are going to stay until after Xmas so it will be pretty lonesome for us while they are gone they come over quite often.

babys face is well again which is a big relief for me and him both the little fellow suffered lots it useto be so itchy. Stanley is out all the time riding Snowshoes or Sleigh.

Packers went below yesterday I guess thats the last of them in the mountains.

I am glad to hear every body is so kind to you over there there is lots of good people in the world after all

My dam crand is the meanest I ever seen but I hope I will see them want yet. Mr Hill is very kind he is always bring us something

this morning he brought some big raisins citron two cans jelly he said he knows the children want something for Xmas dinner, so August keep up good courage and dont worry the time will pass away as Dec. is nearly gone.

Be sure and write often as we look for a letter Monday and Friday at the least we all send love to you

yours forever

Maggie. good by

Port Wine

Dec. 21, 1903

Dear Papa,

I thought I would write you a letter to-day as there is nothing else to do.

There is a few inches of snow on the ground now and we ride most all the time. I cracked one of my snowshoes but Charlie fixed it. Mrs Dubuque went to La Port to-day. They are going to have a tree over there Christmas eve night and she had to go over there to help them sew.

Exzilda, Amelia, Willie, Mabel, Stanley and I , were over to Frances shop yesterday he is getting it fixed up fine.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

Charlie comes over often.
I will close as Amelia want some news to tell.
from Ruth
Good bye
Port Wine Dec 21 1903

My Dear Papa --
As to-day is Monday and we write to you every Friday and Monday I will write you a few lines to-day.
It cleared off very nice last night but it is so warm to-day that I am afraid it will storm soon again. It would be very nice if it keeps clear till after Xmas.
Mr. Moore is talking of going below. The baby is getting lots better he feels pretty good to day his face is nice and white. Stanley is writing to you now to Willie and Ruth have written already. Ruth, Willie and I sawed six sticks of wood this morning and Ruth and I chopped all but 2 sticks up we will chop the other two after while.
I suppose they are going to have a nice time in La Porte Xmas. I would like to go but I guess I can't Mrs Dubuque and Exzilda went over to it.
Well good-Bye
From Amelia
Merry Christmas

Dear Papa We have been sawing wood are you going to have a chicken dinner Christmas. Mr France give me 10¢ for taking the wheel barrel up from the grave yard and Mr Gibson gave me 10¢ taking his clothes down.
Mr Downs gave me 25¢ for going to Brunette after Dichmoore we didn't get any letter from you to day I wish you were home Christmas
Mama is going to get a pair of boots
I guess I will close
your son
Willie
write to me next time
good by
papa
My Dear Papa from
Stanley
write to me next time
My Dear Papa
from Mabel

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 23, 1903

From: Amelia Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser, Downieville

Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year to you

Dear Papa

As Mama wrote to you to-day I will write a little too. I guess you will get our other letter that wrote Monday about Saturday.

We are trying to clean up the house a little bit for Christmas to-day Ruth & I scrubbed the kitchen floor.

Wille is always talking of writing to Elwain but now he has decided to write Xmas.

The mail-man comes with his sleigh he uses his little red sleigh.

Well as I have no more to say I guess I will close hoping to get a letter from you Xmas Day.

I am as ever your Loving Daughter

Amelia

Good-Bye Write Soon! Love from all

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 25, 1903

From: Stanley and Amelia Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser

Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Xmas

My Dear Papa

Santa Claus brought me candy nuts gum a box of candy a little wheel-barrow and a card. he put another awful pretty card on the box. he hung the babies stockon [stocking] full of candy and nuts, on the cradle.

he brought me a chocolate candy rat. I gave one to Charlie and you ought to hear him "Ha Ha."

Amelia is holding my hand when I am writing this I will write the rest myself. baby can sit in the cradle what did santa claus bring you.

good by dear Papa

From Stanley

baby sits in my high chair

Christmas Day

My Dear Papa

The letters you wrote to us all pleased us very much. Stanley thought you did all right by writing to him. To-day he is spending his time at cracking and eating nuts and candy They were all so anxious to know if Santa Claus came that Ruth, Willie and Mabel were down before I had the firs [fireplace fires] started. Santa Claus brought Ruth and Mabel each a piece of dark blue ribbon, and some candy and nuts and a package of gum. He brought Wille a plaid necktie some candy, some nuts & Gum. To Stanley he gave a candy prize box the prize was in a little wheel Barrow, a Christmas Card, some candy, nuts & gum the baby also some candy and nuts. Mrs France gave ten apples this morning Ruth and Mabel went up to Brunettes to-day Lily and Rose were over yesterday and wanted them to come up to-day.

Charlie has been telling Stanley many stories about Santa Claus. It has been all Santa Claus with every one of the last week.

Brunettes are going to have a turkey Dinner to-day They said the Turkey weighed 14 1/2 lbs. We made four cakes 1 jelly cake and 3 plain ones and Johnny Down gave us some sweet crackers. so we have plenty of sweets.

From Amelia

I hope you will write soon Amelia

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 26, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: Dec 27?, 1903 6 a.m. Downieville

Downieville 26 Dec 1903

My Dear Maggie

I just received your letter which you send [sent] last Monday & am surprised as you ought to got two letters that day, one with your fathers letter & the other with the Messenger [local newspaper is "Mountain Messenger"] Maybe you got them Wednesday, I suppose the mails ae pretty crowded. I only missed one letter of writing to you, that is this week, I wrote one last Sunday & One to each of the children, calculating you should get it yesterday Christmas. I always had in my head Christmas was coming on next Monday, so yesterday morning, the Dr came in and bid me merry Christmas, I was up set all together any way. I was wrong & the Dr said I must have lost my head some where. I was so mad I did not go down town at all in fact I have not been down for two weeks or more. We had a very good dinner, Chickens plenty, & some Duff with brandy gravy, my appetite has been very weak of late but I ate a pretty fair Meal. Dear Maggie, do not fret, for I am confident I am getting better right along, also I have lots of pain & steady too The Dr says he could not cure me without pain and shall stand all I can he give me morphine Pills for to sleep nights, & I feel to day lots better owning to some sleep I am getting It will take a while to get over that yet & it will be best for us, if I stay with it.

Will Dubuque was here yesterday to see me, brought me some cigars, Mr Frank Wetse send a base cigars up.

The weather is beautiful over here, only cold mornings, I dar not stick my nose out of Doors, as I catch cold very quick.

They had nothing going on in town on Christmas, they will have a dance for out benefit on New Years eve, that is the reason I send you the messenger over. We have a old Irish Woman over here she has to work washing for the fellows that cannot do it, She will wash for me too, I told here [her] I would give hers something for it. I got you[r] \$1 0/2 you send me

Mr Hill is very good to give you something for the children for Christmas, & I hope you will have them to enjoy it a little. You ought to get this letter about Friday I just came from eating my lunch, Bread & Milk & butter, I am glad Baby is getting better, & I like to see Stanley out in the snow, there cannot be much of it there now, as we cannot see any at all from here. Everytime I tell Sam McLaughlin that I heard from home he wants to know if Charlie ever see's his goats. He went to church yesterday morning without any breakfast. Otherwise he is well & he can eat like a hog. One man feeds & he just swallows all they put into him. Newer squeals! Heat or cold, big or little Give my regards to everybody, Maggie this is a good way to find out friends.

Good by children & a very happy New Year to you all from your loving Papa
I will write soon again

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

December 31, 1903

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: January 2, 1904 6 a.m. Downieville

Note: An envelope from August postmarked 6 a.m. Dec. 31 exists, but no accompanying letter was found.

Downieville Dec 31' 1903

Dear Maggie & children

I just received your letter you wrote on Christmas Day, & it made me feel pretty good, that you are all well & had a pretty fair Christmas. I also got the 5 dollar gold piece all right, dont send me any more until I shall happen to call for. I am glad to hear from Amelia & Jesky, Guss is still on the blow but I think Amelia has her hands full. Maybe I will take a notion to write to her some time.

This is the last day this year, & it is storming very hard, I think it will hurt their dance in town, as the outside boys won't come in in such weather.

Well Maggie, I am getting along pretty fair. I have not got much pain now only smarting on the sore place. The Dr puts on that yellow powder now you know you got some yet, & also a plaster he keeps it all pretty well bandaged up, so everything be warm. You can think this bandages alone make a man tired therefore I go to bed early bet. 5 & 6 clock, must all g_a [go?] early. I get up at 6 clock in the morning. the Dr. come here about 1/2 past 6 I have a very good bed a single spring bed with two matrasses, 2 pillows & two big woolen blankets. Lately I have been sleeping pretty good without any drug, the Dr. told me not to take any unless I am obliged to from pain My appetite is not good but that is the Dr's doing. I got me a jumper the other day so I guess I will get along allright for a while. I have not resigned as Clerk [see page 31] yet but will do so in a few days.

I will not worry no more now & try to be as chearfull as possible, as I think it will help me considerable along.

Give my regards to every body & I suppose when you get this letter you will have about 3 ft. of Snow.

Kiss the children for me & remember them of me. I am glad the baby is getting along well & he is quiet company now.

I suppose I will hear hear from Ruth & Willie, & hear how much Turkey they have been eating at Burnetts.

Now good bye Dear
from your ever loving
August

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 1, 1904

From: Amelia and Maggie Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser

Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Queen City Jan 1, 1904

Wish you a Happy New Year

Dear Papa

We have not written to you since last Friday well it was Saturday we posted it because Willie and I mailed it La Porte Saturday. To-day is New Years it snowed all day yesterday but cleared off last night some time Ruth, Willie, and I received New Years cards from Miss Thomson to day they are very pretty Willie went after the mail this morning he did not get a ride because the mail-man had his brother-in-law Joe Shorte with him but he dont mind as he has boots now. We are going to have roast pork for dinner also stuffing with it.

There are about 1 1/2 ft of snow here this morning Charlie was up to see us the night before last he told Mabel he would be up to-night

Grandpa has not been down for about a month Well as I have no more to say I will close

Good Bye From Amelia

Queen City Jan 1, 1904

My Dear August.

I received your welcome letter this morning and was very glad to get it and hear you are feeling better we looked for a letter Monday and did not get any we was shure we would get one Wednesday but was disapointed I was going to write Wednesday but I got so upset I was washing and the mail man brought a big box of second handed clothes which came to La Porte for us I think they came from Miss Thomson there was no mark of any kind to let us know where they came from they are all very good and will come [in] handy and I think it was very kind of her to do so much so it took a long time to look over them Time I got done it was to late to write I know you will be looking for a letter but I will write twice a week from now on as I guess our exciting times are about over the clothes are almost all womens clothes there is 2 good tennis flannel wrappers and 2 pair of shoes one pair are almost new they are nice fine shoes with cloth tops 1 new hat for one of the girls lots of stockings of all sizes and kinds a pair of rubbers and ever so many things to[o] many to write we will show you all when you come home, August I think it is a good time to find out friends we have more than I thought we had it is something I shall never forget but only hope you will soon will be wll again so we will be able to look after our self again it is one good thing we will not be any more behind than we were as I will pay for every thing I get it will not be so bad on you when you get well, I am sorry Will Reid went away to Poker Flat to work I loose his washing it came very handy he came and paid me before he left \$3.00 so I only have Mr. Gibsons washing now but we will get along all right as I do not want for any thing for a while. I got the children all new shoes so they are all right for the winter baby is growing fast and is as fat as can be Stanley and Mabel are in the snow all the time and have big times Charley is well and always comes up when we got a letter from you every body is glad to hear you are getting better it is to bad you have so much pain but August stay

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

with it as long as you know you are getting better dont worry about any thing I will write twice a week all winter the time will soon pass by.

I hope you have received the \$5.00 all right the chickens are laying fine now I only hope 1904 will bring us better luck.

Willie Ruth Mabel will write to you next time it looks as if it was going to snow again soon well August take good care of your self and write often as it is not very nice to be disapointed

We all join in sending you

lots of love and kisses

From yours forever

Maggie good by.

P.S. is the lower wound healed up yet or is that tumor on your neck getting any bigger can you hear any better now since the swelling is going down I hope they had a good big dance over there last night.

My head cheese is fine

Maggie

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 3, 1904
From: Ruth, Willie and Mabel Rutishauser
To: August Rutishauser
Postmarked: January 5, 1904 La Porte

Jan. 3, 1903 [1904]
Port Wine

Dear Papa,

As mama told you that I was going to write this time I will write a few lines.

I went down to Jack Farel's to-day with Exzilda and the girls, as they were going to La Porte.

Santa Claus brought Stanley a candy goat and he was licking it he said that he wasnt going to eat it but he was licking it all the time, but after he licked it the neck got pretty thin and one day when he was licking it he let it fall on the porch and broke its head off he went down crying to Charlie to fix it but Charlie couldn't fix it so Stanley ate it.

We got to [two] Almanacs for 1904 they are the Laseys Birthday Almanacs.

We got the January Numbers of the Peoples home journal.

There are quite a lot of snow here now I ride Mamas snowshoes - as Willie, Mabel, and Stanley want to write I will close

From Ruth
Besure and write to me.
Good Bye
until next time

dear papa.
I wish you was home & Exzildas kiddies [kittens] about a weekago. I saw it _____
to day mama made me a shirt I will haftowgo [have to go] after the mail
I guess I will close
good by
from Willie

Dear Pappa
I wish you was home. I was down at Charlies two C times yesterday and he knocked the ice off of my snow shoes Mrs Dubuque and Exzelda was over here yesterday & I had the leg ache last night. Charlie tied strings around my legs. Mama sent for a pair of sided O garters and we will get them to day.
I guess I will close as Willie will soon go to town
from Mabel

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 8, 1904

From: Willie, Mable, Stanley and Maggie Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser, Hospital, Downieville, Sierra Co., Cal

Postmarked: January 8, 1904 La Porte

jan 3, 1904

Dear Papa as I am looking for a latter from you to-morrow Mr franas [France] Doped my snowshoes today and nall too them after while me and amelia went to La Port.

I guess I will close

Willie

son

My dear Papa

The head cheese was good. Tell Dan for Charlie that his goats are allright. I go down to Charlies about half a dozen times a day. We are riding snowshoes to day My snowshoes dont run very gast Good. Bye from Mabel

Dear Papa

Mr France is going to make me some snow shoes he tared Willies he gave me and Willie some popcorn I go to see Charley every day santa claus brought me a goat and I ate it

I wish I could see you now are you getting better

thats all to day

from Stanley

good by

dear Papa

Me and Stanley go down often to see Charley we are going to have beans for dinner there aint much snow around here now I play with my wooden ladies I hope you are getting better so you can come home soon

I would like to see you thats all Dear Papa From Mabel

good by

2

I will tell you the things we received in the box of clothes form Sierra City!

11 women waists

28 pair of stockons of all sizes

4 skirts

2 flannelette wrappers

2 pr. Shoes 1 pr rubbers

2 mens coats

1 pr Mans pants

1 pr Boys pants

3 Womens Coats

2 Shirts for Baby

1 mans under shirt

1 Boys overshirt

1 girls hat Brand new

1 boys hat nearly new

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

- 2 womens hats
- 3 womens white under skirts
- 2 womens chemises
- 1 prewomans under drawers
- 1 pr womens under drawers

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 11, 1904

From: Amelia, Ruth, Willie and Maggie Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser

Postmarked: January 12, 1904 Port Wine

Queen City

Jan 11, 1904

Dear Papa --

Today we looked for a letter from you but did not get one. but I guess we will get one Wednesday. It is so hard to write a letter because there is so little news to tell. It rained pretty hard yesterday but it cleared off last night pretty cold

Mr Davis still comes down to see Myrtle every Saturday evening and always stays until Monday or Tuesday.

David Dubuque came home Saturday night it was change day at the Bellevue Tunnel. It is the first time he has been down for quite a while. Willie got Mr Gibson's clothes this morning and he gave him some papers.

Mr France is making snowshoes allready he made one pair. I don't know who for he is going to make Exzilda Dubuque a pair. We rode snowshoes until we wore all the snow off this side of the hill If it stays clear long we will have bear ground. Maude Smith went up to St Louis with the mail man last Friday

The baby is very cute when he is good he has a crying spell once in a while.

Our Pork is a very nice we had a piece for dinner yesterday also Potatoes and turnips mushed together and a cracker pudding. Ruth Willie and I wrote to Elivain Friday he seems glad when [he] gets a letter for he answered Willies last one the same day he got it but he said it was pretty hard to make out Willies writing. How nice it would be if the mail only came acrossed the hills it would not take so long to get a letter around.

Well as everything is so quiet I will have to close

With love to you

From Amelia

Write Soon again / Good Bye

Port Wine, Cal

Jan. 11, 1904

Dear Papa,

As everybody is writing to you I thought I would write a few lines to.

Mr. France said that he would make Stanley a pair of snowshoes if he had something to make them out of, but he got some timber and he might have enough. he asked Willie if that wood that you got would make him a pair.

We hav'nt [haven't] heard from Aunt Lizzie or Aunt Annie since you came from the city.

Yesterday it was storming and we played school Mr Hill gave us a can of Plum and currant jelly we opened the currant jelly one night for supper it is pretty good.

We had a letter from Elwain he said it was pretty dull down there Christmas, and he said that his two Granpas were sick and that his father was setting out fruit trees, Stanley thinks he is big because he has new pants and boots. As there is'nt much news I will close

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

from Ruth
Good-Bye
Charlie sends his regards to you

Dear Papa
Did you get your comb The mail man gave me a pair of mittens.
Mr France tared my snowshoes I got a better brom Elwain got a veloctpede for Christmas Mr France
is makeing some snowshoes maken me and Amelia next Tuesday _____ gave me ___ marbles.
I guess I will close
from Willie
good-by
good-by

Port Wine Jan 11, 1904

My dear August
I did not get any letter from you this morning but will write any way I hope you are not any worst it
makes me feel lots better when I get a letter. I would like to get one every mail I hope we will get
one Wednesday any way it is very cold here lately the snow around the door is all ice The children
have big times riding in the sleigh little Jamie Markitta got his leg broke saturday he was riding in
the sleigh and fell out some way and broke his leg below the knee they sent over for Dr Anussey but
he would not come he said they would have to bring him over there it was to dark and cold saturday
evening to take him out so the little fellow had to suffer until sunday morning the mail man came
after them, I guess old Anussey would let abody dye [die] before he would come out.
This month is going fast it is the 11 already so August keep up good courage as the time will soon
pass by and spring will be here I only hope you will be well then as it is a terriable thing to be sick so
long I hope it wont snow much more as I would hate to see much snow, I have not heard any thing
form that dance yet. I hope Danlesan will do some thing to help us out. it is very quiet around here,
Davis is badely stuck on Mirtle he comes down every week rain or shine. we are all well and only
wish you was the same Well August I will close hoping to get a letter soon we all send you lots of
love and hope to see you soon
From Maggie good by

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 12, 1904

From: Amelia Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser

Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Port Wine Jan 12,

My Dear Papa

We expect a letter from you to-morrow we did not get one from you Monday.

Jack Farrl [Farrel] has been talking of going to Downieville this month the 14th was his day set. I don't know wether he would go or _____ol is going by Poker Flat.

To day Ruth and I were up to Grass Flat Rhoda & her man has been in Scales and Mrs Day was in Port Wine so Sarah and Mrs Hartly were all we could go and see

Stanley has the prettiest little pair of snowshoes you have ever saw they are dark red Mr France gave them to him.

I guess I will have to stop as Mr Hearon is at Charlies Mama is writing too I am in a hurry

From Amelia

Good Bye

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 15, 1904 (estimated)
From: August Rutishauser
To: Amelia Rutishauser (delivered by Jack Farrel)
Postmarked: (hand carried by Jack Farrel)

Downieville Friday

My Dear Amelia:

I am always glad to hear from you every time Mamma writes to me & I am very much pleased with you. You must not expect a letter from me every time, as I can not tell you enough. Lots of time I wish you where over here, it would be ever so much consolation to me, but I know dear Mama needs you just as bad. I have got one letter from you Thursday & shall answer it Sunday.

I would like to see Stanley with his shuire [shiny] shoes he must be proud of them. Amelia please round up your little flock some stormy days & make them write to me. I suppose Willie has lots to do. Carring [carrying] Mail, sawing Wood & sf. Well we dont have no snow here, but cold morning & frosty & the sun out about 4 hours a day. Give me snow & high hill, you feel better. Well I must close, I expect them fellows up pretty soon, so I remain your loving

Papa

From: Maggie Rutishauser
To: August Rutishauser
Postmarked: (no envelope found)
Queen City Jan 15, 04

Dear August

I received your long watched for letter this morning and am glad to hear your are free from pain and hope you will continue so I dont see why you do not get my letters around ___ting Monday and friday Mrs Dubuque says some times the letters go around by _____ so she told me to ___ [Post?] on Via Marysville they will go quicker _____ always does. Mrs Dubuque Amelia are going to Grass Flat this afternoon I am going to leave the baby with Amelia. That letter I sent with Mr Harren I do not know if you can make it out as I wrote it in a hurry he was waiting down at Charlie's I have not heard anything from that dance I am beginning to think it was a falsehood Dear August dont ever think we are forgetting you as we are speaking of you all the time. Stanley feels proud of his new snowshoes little August is getting big and cute he is not so cross now Amelia is going ot write you a long letter thats all this time remember me Maggie

January 15, 1904
From: Emma E. Hughes
To: Maggie Rutishauser
Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Downieville
Jan 15, 1903 [1904?]

Dear Mrs. Rutishauser.

Please accept this little token as a holiday present from Naomi Parlor x 36 N. D. G. W. [Natrive Daughters of the Golden West]. Accept our best wishes for a bright and happy New Year.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

Yours lovingly
Emma E. Hughes
Rec. Sec.

[The following was written on the note in a manner suggesting that it was later used as scratch paper.]

36.15

L 5

\$41.15

34.55

75.70

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 16, 1904

From: August Rutishauser

To: Maggie Rutishauser

Postmarked: (no envelope found)

Downieville 16th Jan

Deary Maggie:

Yesterday Morn. Dr. brought me a letter from you, Bill Hearn gave it to him. I answered it right away & gave it to Bill yesterday afternoon, he was up here to see me and brought me some Oranges. He told me he ask the Dr about me & later said I getting along all right only he is afraid the ear will be destroyed. Well he is working at the ear now, it does discharge awful stinking stuff. He puts on a great big plaster cast to cover ear & all. You can think that it is terrible uncomfortable to have the bandage & worse on my head all the time, that is the easier it is hard for me to write much, & so the children must excuse me. Otherwise I am getting better & stronger every day, & my appetite is coming back again. Sam Aldrigde & G. Livermore where [were] over yesterday & came to see me too. Jack Farrel did not come, well he was right they say it was poor traveling. They are staying over until Thursday, I have in closed a letter for Amelia with the one he will bring you I was glad to see the fellows & hear News from over there.

The stage has changed over here now I dont know how letters will travel now, but do not worry I shall write as often as I can. If anything should happen you shall know it by the telephone. They have the letter laying over some time at Marysville or Comptonville. Too bad Johnie Marguette had his leg broken, poor little fellow has his troub [troubles] early. I am glad the children have a good time snowshoeing, it is better for them there then be in the mud.

One old fellow had his arm broken here too by falling on frosty porch. They have not send the money to you yet I heard. Tell Willie, when they play School to try to learn how to write I shall write to all of them next time.

Well, good bye Maggie dear & keep up courage as I think it will be all right yet - your loving
August

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

January 19, 1904
From: August Rutishauser
To: Maggie Rutishauser
Postmarked: January 20, 1904 Downieville

Downieville 19th Jan

Dear Maggie:

I was surprised this morning when the Dr. handed me a letter from you. I expect those fellows up here this forenoon. I have written to you two letters this week. you should get one to day Friday. Last Week I missed one, as I was waiting from day to day to hear from you & further more I was in a terrible misery all the time. Dr told me to quit the Med. awhile yesterday morning.

I had a very good sleep last night, the best I had since I have been here. the appetite may come back slowly, as I eat pretty good this morning Friday Codfish I am awful week [weak] hardly able to get around.

The sore place is getting along slowly, the plaster he puts on every day is holding allright. It is very near two months since I came here, & if he makes that much progress in the next two I think I ought to be all right.

Well good bye my dear Maggie
from August

January 19, 1904
From: August Rutishauser
To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.
Postmarked: January 20, 1904 Downieville
Downieville 19th Jan 1904

Dear Maggie & Children

I have not heard from you sometimes but I suppose I will get a letter to day from you as the Stage has changed times, we get the mail in the Evening. Well did Bill Hearn got home Sunday, they started in the morning they must have a pretty rough time of it. Last night it snowed here about a foot, I guess. You must have about 3 - 4 feet. Oh how I wish to be there & well.

Well Maggie, I am keeping about the same. I am awful weak, & I told the Dr this morning if he could not give me some thing to strengthen me, he says hes got to keep me down, to cure, I guess I ll have to stand it. In fact, I believe he is making headway as he is working on the ear believed it is all pretty well done. So Maggie the best thing I can do to keep up with the Dr & not rest until he tells me to go home. I have not got much pain lately but the plaster is pulling terrible at times.

My hearing is not any better, but it may come back in time, the ear is not discharging so much smelling stuff no more. It is hard for me to write long as I aint able to hold my head up long with all the bandages, I feel the best laying down.

Well I hope you are all well, & kiss all the children for me, especially the baby. I shall write to all of them some days I feel better. I like to see Stanley having a good time in the Snow.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

Give my regards to Charles & everybody.
Well good by my dear
from your loving
August

From the January 30, 1904 *Mountain Messenger*:

“Mrs. A. Rutishauser, who was here for several days on a visit to her husband who is confined at the county hospital, returned to her home at Port Wine Sunday, accompanied by John Masson, James Mudglin and Will Horn.”

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

February 2, 1904

From: August Rutishauser

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal. (via Marysville)

Postmarked: February 3, 1904 6 a.m. Downieville

Downieville 2th Feb 04

Dear Maggie & children:

The Mail business here gets me kinda misled, they run it funny on Sunday the come in for two days & no mail goes out. therefore I am somewhat late with letters but better late then never. I am getting along nicely, only the ear is hurting me right along but when the Dr. gets done with that once I will improve faster My appetite is about the same [when] you was over here but I think I am a little stronger. My cough is getting better, it is loose. Mrs Strand has been up twice since you left & she was glad to hear from you that you got home all right Everybody here in the house inquired all the time how you got home & gave you a good deal praise. Old Kate wanted to know & I told her you was ready to come back again, she says you better stay with the children as I was all right here. They all notice here that the swelling on my face is going down, I did not say anything but I noticed since I had that last bleeding.

Sometimes I think the Dr. is going to get the tumor & all out with that plaster, if he could would it not be a good thing, I be very willing to stand it.

Yesterday there was a big funeral here from town, Mrs Taylor died a very old and respected lady.

Last Sunday the Dr. did not get around until afternoon, he has been up Saturday night with Mrs Judge Smith, they got a little baby girl the first for about twenty years.

The Weather is keeping up very fine & I am afraid we will have too much of Storm later on. I am sorry the baby is cross, but is about time to get his teeth. I am surprised about Ch. Brundridge [Brundridge?], Willie ought to knock the top of his head of [off], never mind I tell people around what his word is good for.

Well this is about all for this time & hope this will find you all well & in good spirits I remain your
loving papa
& affectionate husband
forever August

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

February 5, 1904

From: Amelia and Maggie Rutishauser

To: August Rutishauser

Postmarked: (delivered by Bill Harris and Jack Farrel)

Queen City

Feb. 5, 1904

My Dear Papa

To day we looked for a letter from you but after all was dissapointed but maybe one will come to La Porte to day and Lay over there until Monday. We sent for some things we needed at Wienstocks & Lubin. We also looked for that to-day and got dissapointed so I guess we will have to content outselves until Monday.

The baby is growing very fast he can sit up alone now you would hardly know him now if you could see him.

Well we are having some more Snow it makes the times so lonesome when it Storms we never did mind a winter as bad as we do this one. if you were home it would be different but I guess we we have to wait patiently for Spring. This morning Willie had a ride with the mail main in the sleigh. We all were over at Dubuques Last Tuesday and Mrs Dubuque weighed us:

Mama weighed 125 lb

Ruth "72"

Willie " 65"

Mabel " 51"

Stanley " 46

Baby " 20

and I 105.

Exzilda Dubuque 100

Mrs Dubuque 130.

Well good bye as Mama is going to write.

From Amelia

Queen City Feb 5, 1904.

My dear August

As we did not receive a letter from you to day we will write any way I only hope you are not any worst and not abel [able] to write time seems so long when we dont get a letter twice a week from you you dont know how glad we would be if you was able to come home now I sepose [suppose] you have another man in the Hospital by the time as we seen him when he went out with the mail man and Jim Hayse if he is sick I think he is going to a bad place they can talk as they please about the old Hospital but I dont go a cent on it I only wish you was out of there but dear August keep up it wont be long before spring now as it is the 5th of Feb. allready.

I guess you got the letter I wrote monday quicker as Jim Hayse said he would take it over to you.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

we are bycotting [boycotting] the Post Mistress pretty bad the mail man is doing every thing against her he can, Exilda wanted 10 cts worth of stamps the other day old Gean would not give them to her because they do not post their letters there. Dick More came home yesterday Frank Modgelin came home also, Annie Laplant has been very sick with Neuraliga of the Lungs they thought for a few days she would not live but is getting better. they have started to work at the tunnel again but they say it is very dangerous - 2 weeks ago to day about this time I was with you How the time goes by. baby August is cross to day his teeth bother him a great deal Stanley is out on snowshoes you can not keep him in when the sun shines
Well August this is about all I can write to day
I only hope you are gaining in strength so you can get out
From Maggie good by

Port Wine

Dear August

as Bill Harris and Jack Farrel is going over I will write you a few lines we are all well and was disapointed not getting a letter Monday or Wednesday but hope you are well and back with those fellows when they come back I will write again to morrow as they are in a hurry I will close good by dear August take care of your self and tell us all how you feel
From Maggie
good by.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

February 9, 1904

From: Maggie Rutishauser

To: Mr Aug. Rutishauser, Downieville (Hospital), Sierra Co., Calif. (via Marysville)

Postmarked: February 10, 1904

tuesday evening, Queen City Feb. 9, 1904

My Dear August

I received hour two letters yesterday and am glad to hear you are getting along nicely and hope you will continue so it would be a good thing if the Dr could draw every thing out with that plaster and I only hope he will as what a relief it would be to see you well again, we are all well the children have big times in the snow Stanley can ride down the hill fine now Mrs Dubuque and Exilda was over to day the old man has gone to work again, this has been a very cold storm the wind blew that dry snow in every where it is lots better to have the winter now than in the spring when we want warm weather

I sepose [suppose] Judge Smith will be proud of his young daughter as Mrs Dubuque says they have 4 grown children I am glad Mrs Strand comes up to see you once in a while I wish Downieville was not so far away so we could see you often There is about three feet of snow here but if it gets warm it will go down fast.

I received a letter from Sierra City yesterday with a check for (\$8.50) eight dollars and fifty cts. from the M. G. sunday school which I think are very kind of people to think of us they wrote me a very nice letter also. I must answer it soon. (Wed. Morning) well August I dont think the mail man will come to day with the sleigh as it looks to much like snow he carried the mail over Monday so guess I will have to post this letter in town dear August take good care of your self and give my regards to all the old men there and old Kate also little August has 2 teeth through one on top and one in the lower jaw 2 more coming pretty near through then he wil be all right he will have 4

good by dear August with logs of love from all
yours forever Maggie

Mabel and Stanley will write next time to you Stanley likes his niggers but he says they have no eyes.

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

February 14, 1904

From: Mrs A. Strand

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: February 15, 1904 Downieville

Downieville, Cal.

Feb. 14th, 1904

Mrs. Rutishauser,

Dear Friend:

I was up to to see Mr Rutishauser this after-noon and he looked very poorly. he told me that he has'nt been able to write to you for a week. he says he is getting so weak - that he ain't able to write and I told him I would write to you he wanted us to telephone to you but the wires are all down.

He wanted me to go over to the Dr.'s and see what he said, so I went over, and he says he is growing weaker all the time, but can't tell how long he will last.

I will close hoping that you and the children are all well.

Please answer this letter

I remain

Your Friend

Mrs A. Strand

Downieville

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

February 16, 1904

From: Maggie and Amelia Rutishauser

To: Mr. August Rutishauser, Downieville (Hospital), Sierra County, Calif.

Postmarked: February 17, 1904 Port Wine **Return to Mrs R-**

Port Wine Feb. 16, 1904.

My Dear Papa;

It has been pretty fair to day only we had a couple of good showers I hope to-morrow will be the same as we want to wash we have not for two weeks.

To-day we that is Willie, Ruth, Exzilda and I went down to Mr Gibson with eggs he buy a dozen a week and it makes 50¢ per week for us as every little helps We got a letter from you both Friday and Monday and hope to get one to-morrow it takes just a week for a letter to come from Downieville

Monday we had a letter

he did not have very much to say We thought there was something wrong with him as he never answered our letter for so long.

Mrs Dubuque and Exzilda were over to-day Mr Jim Modglin Jr and Walter Lewis went to Scales to-day.

Well as news is scarce and Mama is going to write a few lines So good-Bye From Your Affectionate Daughter

Amelia Rutishauser

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

February 16, 1904

From: Mrs A. Strand

To: Mrs. Aug. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Sierra Co., Cal.

Postmarked: February 16, 1904 Downieville

Downieville, Cal.

Feb. 16th, 1904

Mrs. Rutishauser,

Dear Friend:

I will drop you a few lines to tell you that Mr. Rutishauser is dead he died last night the wire was down and we can't telephone to you.

I remain

Yours Truly

Mrs A. Strand

THE RUTISHAUSER LETTERS by Richard Hanson

February 25, 1904

From: Katie E. Winrod

To: Mrs. A. Rutishauser, Port Wine, Cal.

Postmarked: February 25, 1904 Downieville

Downieville Cal.

Feb. 25 '04

My dear Mrs. Rutishauser

I wish to assure you of my heartfelt sympathy in your great loss and I know you have the sympathy of every one here.

My baby is so young I have not been able to leave him as (I nurse him) and the traveling has been so I could not take him to the hospital but myself and my husband have often asked the Dr. if there was anything we could do for him but the Dr. told us we could do nothing and everyone was kind to him.

Dear friend you will have to look up on it as for the best. We know not why but God's will is best though it seems hard that a loving wife and children should be deprived of a good man's tender care, but surely God will not fail to comfort those left behind if they trust in him.

August had a nice funeral. Every one seemed anxious to pay the last tribute they could to a good man's worth.

If you come over again I would be glad to have you come and stay with me.

If there is anything we can do for you here let us know.

With love to all and a prayer that God my [may] watch over and comfort you and your little ones

I remain faithfully yours

Katie E. Winrod

LETTER FRAGMENTS

than it is now as the Sun made the Snow so sloppy. Well as Ruth is going to write I will close I am
Ever your loving Daughter
Amelia
Good-Bye

and dont worry about anything the winter wont be very long now as long as you are getting better it
it will make it lighter for us and I only hope you will be good and well by spring but dont try to work
until you are good and well Papa has not been down for four weeks
Lewis Couture sent 50 lb. flour down the other day
I guess I will close as news is scarce
good by August
From Maggie
write often
the children was pleased with their letters from you

Obituary

Mountain Messenger - 20 Feb 1904

Death of August Rutishauser

August Rutishauser of Port Wine who entered the county hospital nearly three months ago suffering from a tumor in his neck died at that institution last Tuesday. For several years the deceased had been troubled with this affliction, but it was not until about three years that it became serious. Two years ago Dr. Iglick removed a large fibrous tumor from his neck, but left several others that could not be removed at the time on account of his condition. Last fall he went to San Francisco and had more tumors removed but the wound never healed and the growth increased until it caused his death. Mr. Rutishauser had been a resident of Port Wine for a great many years and was a respected citizen of that community. He leaves a wife and five children to mourn his loss who have the sympathy of the entire community in their sad affliction. He was a native of Switzerland and aged about 44 years. The funeral took place from the M. E. Church Wednesday afternoon and was well attended. Rev D.W. Calfee conducting the services.