**Dear Lena*, July 1st , 1885***

Hello sister, I really appreciate your response. Just thought you should know, today is a holiday known as Canada Day. It is today because exactly 20 years ago, in 1867, Canada had officially become a country. Today makes it a good excuse to celebrate, and it becomes more favorable because more settlers had started to arrive to the town of Portage La Prairie and the population continues to grow and the town expanded into a city even before having the Canadian Pacific Railway finally reaching near this part of Manitoba. Anyway, things have fairly good and I still hope for the best in everyone. Including you and me.

**Sincerely, your sister**

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***Citations***

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**Dear Lena March 23rd ,1886**

I had just finished reading your reply, though I gotten it early in the morning, but didn’t have a chance to read. I am always, as usually, very busy with farm work, and soon it will be harvesting season for the grain we grow for the town nearby, but I still get some help from the kids. Did I mention that the eldest boy twins had turned 16 precisely 2 days ago? And I’m sure you and I can still remember them when they first started to learn to walk, they grow up so fast. Sometimes, when coming home from their school, the twins either stay with me to help with the horses or the crops or go and see where has my husband, Trader Ian done today, or what is he going to do. He does go away often, and our 5 children and me are always glad to see him back home safe. Reply back.

**Sincerely**

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**Belarus,**

**Brest Region,**

**Stolin District,**

**Village of Gorodetz,**

**Houovetz, Katherina**

**Dear Lena August 28th, 1887**

Hello, sister. I still can’t which season I like better; winter or summer. In most summer days it can be really hot, while the winter is really cold, however it can be hard to get ready for the winter during some years because you always make sure you have more than enough, at least enough supplies to survive. We have already finished our barn 2 years ago, so our horses, cow and chickens would have more of a likely chance to last through and after winter. All I hope over ever winter is that our family and friends would make it through the season again this year.

**Belarus,**

**Brest Region,**

**Stolin District,**

**Village of Gorodetz,**

**Houovetz, Katherina**

**Sincerely, Your sister**

**Dear Lena, January 5th, 1888**

Happy New Year to everyone back home. It was a great celebration in the town of Portage La Prairie, the children played, the adults laughed and some sang songs, even though it was cold still. Though I still miss you my sister, our mother and father, and maybe even our annoying brothers. Last year’s harvest went well, there were no horses stomping the crops, or birds picking at it. I was very thankfully for last year of 1887, the farm the family made and the town we live in, reminds me of home. I wish for everyone I know to have a great year in 1888. Happy New Year and I love you all back home. Reply soon.

**Belarus,**

**Brest Region,**

**Stolin District,**

**Village of Gorodetz,**

**Houovetz, Katherina**

**Sincerely**