

Meyer Brothers Letters

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On the left is a representation of the original letters, in German or Yiddish. On the right is the translation. Translator notations are throughout these documents, indicated via highlighted sections or observations regarding difficulties in determining the meaning of a particular passage and/or the condition of the letters.

Comments or questions about these letters as well as requests to view the originals can be made by contacting Jay Silverberg at jbsilverberg@gmail.com. Please use the translator's notations accompanying each letter batch when requesting to view an original letter.

Thank you.

Jay Silverberg
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Petaluma, CA

Louisiana Letters, Batch 12 (PDF File 20130722145206141.pdf)

This file includes many undated pages that have evidently become separated from letters in which they were originally enclosed. A number of the pages have distinctive colors, folds, and/or patterns of holes, which might allow them to be matched with the letters they belong with.

Letter 1 (3 pages on pp. 1 & 2 of PDF 141): message from Babetta (maybe the one referred to message in Karl's letter of May 13, 1869, but not included Batch 11]?)

- Double-wide paper. Letter was folded from left to right, and then folded again (4 vertical fold lines). When folded once (showing a single page), all four corners are missing. Hole in secondary fold, 1/3 way from bottom. No paper matches in Batches 1-11.
- Heinrich has been sick, and has not been heard from for a while
- Heinrich has been in New Orleans
- Family has heard New Orleans is unhealthy
- Emanuel's son Heinrich is a toddler, just starting to walk
- There's some news about a friend named August

Letter 2 (2 pages on pp. 3 & 4 of PDF 141): messages from Babetta (p. 4), Regina (Yiddish, pp. 4 & 3) and Josef Meyer (p. 3)

- Single-wide sheet, originally folded from left to right, and then later, from top to bottom (fold = 1/3 of way down). Semi-circular piece missing from one margin, 1/3 from top of letter at location of vertical fold.
- No salutation; continuation of a message from Babetta – so if there's a letter with an unsigned message from Babetta, this would be the continuation.
- Karl is determined to go to America
- Mother is apologetic that Heinrich hasn't received a present. They tried to send it, but the person heading for America had already left
- Karl went to Ingelheim, to try to fix the problem.
- Emanuel's son Heinrich is mentioned; nothing about walking
- Joseph personally wrote a short message; he's still actively working

Letter 3 (pages 5, 6, 7 & 8 of PDF 141): Messages from Regina (Yiddish, p. 5), Babetta (pp. 5 & 7), and Karl (pp. 7, 6 & 8).

- One double-wide piece of paper, white brown with age, folded from left to right like a book, to make four pages. Second left-to-right fold makes a vertical line down the middle of each page. Almost unnoticeable horizontal fold, about 1/3 the way down the page. Small holes about 1/3 the way from the top of the page, at the intersection of vertical & horizontal folds.

- Family in Lachen have just heard of Heinrich's engagement, and Regina & Babetta are extremely upset. Babetta evidently has hopes of marrying and is worried that she won't be able to for financial reasons.
- Regina is asking Heinrich to send \$600.
- Babetta refers to the fact that Karl wants to go to America.
- Karl is visiting home, probably on the 1st of the month (alternatively, maybe it's his first visit home).
- Karl complains that Heinrich has not sent him any letters. Heinrich seems to be in Jackson.
- Karl has previously written Heinrich & Emanuel, asking for something important (money for Babetta, apparently).

Letter 4 (page 9 of PDF 141): messages from Regina (Yiddish), Babetta, & Karl (?)

- Narrow white paper, yellowed with age. Large corner of page missing (45 degree angle from close to the right margin to one-third the way down the left side of the page. There seems to be Yiddish text on the back side of the page, but that page is not copied here.
- The family in Lachen has just received a bill of exchange from America
- Emanuel's son is a new baby.
- The letter seems to have been written shortly before Passover ("Easter").
- Joseph has apparently dictated a short message to Babetta (didn't write it himself)

Letter 5 (p. 10 of PDD 141), bluish paper), end of some message from unknown person (Karl's handwriting?), Yiddish message, message in Babetta's handwriting

- Narrow, bluish paper, many scattered holes in center of page, bottom right corner missing (large section); small wedge-shaped piece missing from left margin, apparently where the paper was folded from top to bottom.
- Regina has just received news of the birth of Emanuel's son; is delighted that he was named after Regina's father.

Letter 6 (p. 11 of PDF 141): 1st page of a letter written in Galveston on September 24 (no year given), to both brothers.

- Single-wide sheet of very faintly lined paper, slightly yellowed, in very good condition.
- Karolina wrote a letter to the brothers three weeks before, and hasn't received an answer yet.
- Aunt Elis went to New Orleans the day before (Nov. 23)
- Also, on Nov. 23, there was a big fire that burned down many houses.
- **LETTER 1, BATCH 10 (Mar. 6, 1870 REFERS TO THIS FIRE, SO THIS LETTER MUST BE DATED AT THE END OF FEBRUARY 1870.**

Letter 7 (p. 12 & 13 of PDF 141): undated message to Emanuel and family, evidently enclosed in another letter. P. 13 seems to be the backside of p. 12, which was used for various calculations (just numbers, no words).

- Slightly yellowed paper with clear blue lines. Paper in good condition. Left edge looks as if someone folded a wide piece of paper and then tore it along the crease.
- Karolina refers to Emanuel's "children," so this letter was written after Mathilde's birth.
- Since there is no date on the letter, this page was probably included with a dated letter addressed to Heinrich.

Letter 8 (p. 14 of PDF 141), Letter dated September 28 (no year), written by "Caroline" to Emanuel & family.

- Single-wide piece of paper with clear blue lines, slightly yellowed. Little patch of discoloration in the middle of the top edge.
- Karolina just received letters from Emanuel & Henry
- She says she sent them a letter, and then followed it up two days later with a letter for their parents back home.
- She wants to know if they received those letters (the question was not answered in their letters to her).
- Someone is going to New Orleans, and she expects to get a letter from him (i.e. expects he will bring back a letter to her from their parents?)

- Letter #1, p. 1 (= right side of p. 1, PDF file 141), May 13, 1869?

[message from Babetta included in another letter]

[Mei]ne Vielgeliebte Geschwister alle!
 [I]n dem wir deinen Brief l. Heinrich erhielten fr[eu]ten
 wir uns alle ungemein worauf wir uns immer Sehnten
 aber als wir denselben lasen und daraus gelesen haben
 daß du l. Heinrich krank warst so ist uns wieder alle
 freute gesunken auch sagte ich immer ich weis nicht warum
 wir so lange keine Antwort erhielten denn ich fand es ja wirklich
 daß du l. Heinrich nicht nachlässig bist daß macht uns wirklich
 unruhig bis wir wieder Brief von Euch meinen l. erhalten be-
 sonders geht uns sehr zugemüth in dem man immer hört daß
 es schrecklich heiß ist in Amerika obschon es jetzt bei uns auch
 heiß ist so findet man doch immer ein kühles Plätzgen
 auch vernehme ich aus mir selbst daß die Stadt Orlins muß eine
 ungesunde Stadt sein muß besonders wie man gewönglich hört
 daß man kan kein **Gewetl? Qwell?** wasser bekommt Allein Gott der
 Allmächtige ist überall zugegen und kann einem überall
 beschützen Nun l. Alle wenn Es um dem Allmächtigen seinen
 willen seit Ihr alle bei guter Gesundheit und vergnügt mit
 einander. Nun l. Schwester auch ist es mir sehr aufalend
 [da]ß du l Schwester nicht immer schreibt wen der l. Heinrich
 [sc]hreibt ich denke l daß es dir l nicht anzeit fehlen [hole]
 [hole]..u l hoffe ich daß du von nun an immer von dir hören[hole]
 [hole] ..chen ich Neuigkeiten von dir l hören zu dürf[hole]
 [hole][Eman]uel wie geht es bei dir hoffentlich be[hole]
 [hole] ..e l Famielie wohl nun was mach dei[hole]

[message from Babetta included in another letter]

To all of my dear siblings
 When we received your letter, dear Henry, something which
 we had always been longing for, we were all extremely happy,
 but when we read your letter and read from it
 that you, dear Henry, were sick, then all joy
 was reduced. Also, I always said I don't know why
 we didn't get any answer for so long, because my opinion was
 really that you, dear Heinrich, are not neglectful. That makes us
 very uneasy. Until we get another letter from you all, my dear
 ones, our state of mind will be very uneasy, particularly since one
 keeps hearing that it is terribly hot in America. Although it's also
 hot here by us, a person still always finds little places where it's
 cool. Also I myself have heard that the city of New Orleans must
 be an unhealthy city, particularly because one usually hears
 that one can't get any [well?] water. But God
 Almighty is present everywhere and can protect a person
 everywhere. Now, all of you dear ones, if it is the will of
 God Almighty, may you all be in good health and happy with one
 another. Now, dear sister, it was quite striking to me
 that you, dear sister, do not always write when dear Heinrich
 writes. I think, dear one, that you are not lacking the time [hole]
 [hole]... dear, I hope that from now on we will always hear from you
 [hole] I [hope?] that I may hear news from you, dear ones [hole]
 [hole] Emanuel, how are things with you? Hopefully better [hole]
 [hole] ... dear family [is] well. Now, what is your [hole]

Letter #1, p. 2 (= left side of p. 2, PDF file 141), May 13, 1869?

<p>[/hole] [Hei]nrich ist Er recht mu[n]ter läuft Er recht herum [/hole] ...hete ich mich sehr in sehen was aber for jetzt nicht sein kann und so müssen wir uns immer mit dem Schriftlichen Corospetzenz begnügen. Nun meine I jetzt schließe ich Euch und küsse Euch vielmal. Nun meine I werdet Ihr wahrscheinlich erffreut sein über die Neuigkeiten die Euch L Karl von August schrieb was ich wirklich wie Wahrheit halte indem Es mir die Karolina erzählte nun meine I braucht Ihr Es nicht weit zu sagen. Jetzt grüße und küsse ich Euch alle vielmahl und hoffe Eure baldige Antwort schreibt mir bald das wir wieder in beruhigung sind Ich verbleibe wie immer Eure Schwester Babetta Mayer</p>	<p>[/hole] little Heinrich doing? Is he quite cheerful? Is he running? [/hole] ... I [wish] very much that I could see him, but for now it can't be, and so we have to be content with written correspondence. Now, my dears, I close [or embrace??] you all and kiss you all many times. Now, my dears, you will probably be pleased about the news that dear Karl wrote to you about August, which I really consider to be the truth since Karoline told it to me. Now, my dears, you don't need to talk about this far and wide. Now I greet and kiss you all many times and hope for a quick response from you. Write me soon, so that we will be calm again. I remain, as ever, your sister Babetta Mayer</p>
<p>[13 lines of Yiddish] Libe kintr ikh beziehe mikh oyf das shrayben dem Karl unt Babet (Babette) ikh mus aykh vizzen lazzen fon maynem vohl ikh hofe als bay aykh oykh zo zayn virt libe kintr das shrayben fon dem liben Haynrikh grayfte mikh zehr an das er laytr (leider) krank vahr das kan ikh gar nikht mehr shlafen libs kint der libe Gott virt dir kind dayne gezunt hayl vidr [shennen] vo ikh gevis dakh fir dakh dafir bette libe Haynrikh libe Meir vas makht der libe klayne Hay[n]rich kan [illegible due to torn edge] vo ikh gar nikht daran tsvayfler der libe [illegible, torn edge] [ihn] nur gezunt lazzen das ikh nokh file frayde an [torn edge] geht es yetst libe Karolina bay dir es [torn edge] [torn edge] di zakhe in/ikh immer vi virt es in [torn edge] zo hays zayn da bin ikh [illegible]</p>	<p>[13 lines of Yiddish] Dear children, I refer to Karl and Babette's messages. I must let you know of my good health. I hope all is well with you as well. Dear children, the letter from dear Heinrich scared me very much in that he unfortunately was sick, so that I could hardly sleep. Dear child the good Lord will give you good health again, which I certain pray for day after day, dear Heinrich. Dear Meir [= Emanuel] what is little Heinrich doing? Can [torn edge] which I do not doubt [torn edge] [May the] dear [Lord] just keep him in good health that I still [torn edge] a great deal of joy [torn edge] is it going for you now, dear Karolina [torn edge] [torn edge] the matter I always [illegible] it in [torn edge] to be so hot that I [illegible]</p>

Letter #1, p. 3 (= right side of p. 2, PDF file 141), May 13, 1869?

[13 lines of Yiddish]

Aykh libe shraybt uns bay empfang dizen [torn edge both sides]
[i]kh mikh vidr [beroynen/beroyken/beroykhen [beruhigen]] kan zonst
nayes vays ikh nikh[t] [torn edge both sides]
tsu shrayben ikh hofe als der brif aykh zo andriff[t]
[torn edge both sides] er uns ferlest (verlässt) es gris dikh libr Meir
und dayne libe froy und dayne liben Hari (Harry? –
Haynrikh) und kiset (küsst) a---hn alle fir mikh und
grise dikh libe Karolina und hofe balt file
nayikhtkayt[n] (Neuigkeiten?) fon dir tsu heren
(hören) vo ikh imer dernakh shtreve (streben?) und
gruse dikh libr Haynrikh und hofe das dir der libe
Gott dayne gezunt vidr geben hat das dokh nur mayn
vunsh izt libs kind shraybe nur bay empfang dizen brif
damit ikh mikh vidr broykhen/braykhen [beruhigen] kan dayne
vinsht Virden (würden) vir gevis in erfilung (Erfüllung) br---
[torn edge] grist mir die gantse familiye ongl unt dande und dande elise
und ihren und vehr das shraybt izt ayer mutter bis evig libe kintr
Re[g]ina Meyer
shraybt nur balt

[13 lines of Yiddish]

Also dear ones write us upon receiving this [torn edge both sides]
I can calm myself again.
I don't know of any other news [torn edge both sides]
to write about. I hope that the letter reaches you [torn edge both sides]
it leaves us. [We] greet you dear Meir
and your lovely wife and your dear Harry [Heinrich?]
and kiss [them] all for me and
greetings to you dear Karolina and [I] hope
to hear a lot of news from you soon,
which I always yearn for. And
greetings to you dear Heinrich and [I] hope that the good
Lord has given you back your health; that is certainly my only
wish. Dear child please write upon receiving this letter
so that I can calm down again. That wish we will certainly
[torn edge] fulfillment.
Greet the entire family for me, Uncle and Aunt and Aunt Elice and
[their children] and this is your mother who is writing, for always dear
children, Re[g]ina Meyer
Just write soon

Letter #2, p. 1 (= p. 4, PDF file 141), date?

<p><i>[continuation of a message from Babetta, included in another letter]</i></p> <p>Nun meine I Alle da Ihr werdet sehen daß Bruder Karl entschlossen ist nach Amerika zu reisen so thut Es mir sehr leid wenn ich nur eine Silbe davon höre. Oftmals sage ich das Er in Deutschland bleiben soll. Allein so schrecht Er Er hat keine Arbeit bei uns. Nun meine I da ich denke für heute genug geschrieben zu haben so entschuldigt mein schlechtes schreiben und seiet alle [g]egrüßt und geküßt von Eurer Schwester Auch hoffe ich das wir bald [Ne]juigkeiten fon Euch hören dürfen. Nun jetzt schreibet bald oft und [hole] dies von Eurer Schwester. Auch fiele herzliche grüße an Alle unserer [hold]endmal</p> <p>Babette Mayer. was von sonstigen Neuigkeiten anbe- [hold] ..ingt sind leider sehr wenig alle junge Mädchen sind noch zu haben. B Mayer</p>	<p><i>[continuation of a message from Babetta, included in another letter]</i></p> <p>Now, all of you my dears, you will see that brother Karl is determined to travel to America. I feel very bad whenever I hear even a syllable about it. I often say that he should stay in Germany. But he cries that he doesn't have any work here where we are. Now, my dears, I think I've written enough for today, so excuse my bad writing and may you all be greeted and kissed by your sister. Also, I hope that we may soon hear news from you. Now, write soon and often and [hole] ... this from your sister. Also many cordial greetings to all of our [hole] ... thousand times.</p> <p>Babette Mayer. Regarding other news, [hole] ... unfortunately there is very little. All young girls can still be had. B. Mayer</p>
<p><i>[10 lines of Yiddish]</i></p> <p>Libe kintr und familiye ikh betsihe mikh oyf das shrayben fon Karl unt Bavet (Babette) ikh mus aykh vizzen lazen fon maynem vol vi oykh fon uns alle ikh hofe als bay aykh ikh do zayn firt ikh frayde mikh ungemayn (ungemein) mit ayereh batt/bott krafil/krapil [<i>Photographie</i>] fon unzre familiye das vir ayn mahl das fergniken (Vergnügen) gehabt haben zi tsu zehnn vir vinshen alle ven vir zi nur shprekhen kenden (könnten) zo es abr unmekhlikh izt mizzen vir uns beknikken (begnügen?) mit dizzen der libe Gott nur aykh alle hiden (hüten?) und gezunt lazzen vo ikh dakh fir dakh [z]ol fir bette libe kintr und familiye libe Hay[n]rich besha/o/tikhe als [<i>uns?</i>] nur nikht das du kayn brezent/prezekht (present?) erholten hast mit [<i>illegible</i>] gloybe nur das vir dir gevis dayne vinshe vinshe befridikt hetten (hätten?) ven mir nur gevist hetten ven er abrayst vehre (wäre?) Karl gvis nakh Ingelheim</p>	<p><i>[10 lines of Yiddish]</i></p> <p>Dear children and family, I refer to the writing of Karl and Babette. I must let you know of my well-being as well as that of us all. I hope everything with you is going well too. I am exceedingly happy with your photograph of our family. If we only had the pleasure of seeing them. We all wish that we could just speak with them. But since that is impossible we must be satisfied with this. May the good Lord protect you all and keep you healthy, which I pray for daily. Dear children and family, dear Heinrich [<i>illegible</i>] only that you haven't received a present¹ with [<i>illegible</i>]. Just believe that we certainly would have satisfied your wishes² if we had only known when he was leaving. Karl certainly went to Ingelheim</p> <p>¹ The author writes brezent. This could possibly be the Franconian German pronunciation of the English word present. Its use here and elsewhere is odd, since German has the standard word Geschenk for this.</p> <p>² Due to lack of punctuation and other difficulties, this sentence is rather clumsy</p>

Letter #2, p. 2 (= p. 3, PDF file 141), date?

<p>[8 lines of Yiddish] gekangen] und dizes alles bezorkt (besorgt) abr ven Gott vil[---] virt alles [geakht] verden vas makht der libe klayne Haynrikh vo vir yeden dakh fon ihn shprekhen izt er balt gros Gott in nur [hiden = <i>hüten</i>] und gezunt lazzen das ikh nur fileh frayde an ihm er lebe vaytr shlise ikh mit aynem shrayben unt gruse aykh alle libeh kintr libe Karolina und libr [Manevel?] und libr Haynrikh und [r]osa und den libe klayne Hayn[kh] und die gantse familye und hofe als der brif zo andrift vi er uns ferlest (verlässt) ver das shraybt izt ever/eyer [illegible] mutr bis in/ikh den dodt/zozt [Renia] Meyer</p>	<p>[8 lines of Yiddish] and is taking care of all this all, but if it is God's [will] everything will be [all right?]. What is dear little Heinich up to? For every day we speak of him. Is he already tall? May God just protect him and keep him healthy so that I may experience great joy due to him. I shall finish up with my writing and greet you all dear children, dear Karolina and dear [illegible name – Manevel? Emanuel?] and dear Heinrich and Rosa and the dear little Heinrich and the whole family and [!] hope that the letter arrives after it leaves us. This is your [illegible] mother writing to you. Until my dying breath, Re[g]ina Meyer</p>
<p>[from Joseph] Viele herzliche Grüße & Küße von dem I. Vater an Euch alle Auch ist Er sehr verdrießlich wegen den schlechten Geschäften & scheicht als wenn man nur könnte auch einceyl [einzel?] wieder ein Stündchen scheihten aber so eben vergehbens einem 200 [weight symbol] kosten 95 – 100 fr das Pfund fleisch 16-17 fr & so ist es mit allem & nichts zu verdienen. In der Angenehmen Hofnung verbleibt Er Eurer Vater sowie immer bis auf Ewig J. Mayer</p>	<p>[from Joseph, who refers to himself in the 3rd person] Many cordial greetings and kisses from your dear father to you all. He is also very grumpy because of bad business and is also [slaughtering?] as if one could only [slaughter?]for one more hour again, but currently in vain [for someone?]. 200 [weight symbol] cost 95 – 100 fr. A pound of meat 16 -17 fr. That's how it is with everything, and nothing can be earned. In the pleasant hope, he remains your father as ever, until eternity. J. Mayer</p>

Letter #3, p. 1 (= p. 5, PDF file 141), date?

<p>[21 lines of Yiddish]</p> <p>ayte erhilte (erhielte) ikh dayn brif mit vaynenden drenen (Träne) lezen vir fon [zayer] Haynrikh das du es ebenso v/makhst als brudr Meir als du dikh oykh ferhayretest ahne/ahkhe das nur uns etwas vizen tsu lazzen du hettets (hättest?) gevis gegloybt ven du di zakh (Sache?) hettets (hättest?) ferlengeren (verlängern) lazzen als du gevis du/di groze netike (nötige?) bekomen hetets abr vehr (wäre) es dokh shehn ven man zakhen kent zo hettes dayne shvestr ferzorkt (versorgt) als du [di] als letikh (ledig?) herum loyfen lazzen und vir uns shemen muzzen for yeden menshe unt di oyken (Augen?) undershlaken (unterschlagen?) als yeder zakt (sagt) zi/du mus arbayten in Amerika bis zi alt und groyhe (graue?) izt hernakh kan du/di in Amerika bettlen gehn ihre bridr kimern (kümmern) zikh u[m] zi nikhts denke nur vas dizzes fir el[ter]n und geshvistr fir laynen/layken/laygen [für einen?] grozen gram izt ikh shehme (schäme) mikh nur und [illegible (unter?)] aynen menschen tsu gehn abr vahrshaynikh makhte dizes aykh kayen gram kanst du dikh nikht mehr erinren vi begierlikh (begehrlich) ikh aykh er [ts/f]okhken (ersuchten?) habe yetst [z]oll zet [sollst?] du dokh denken [n]ur nikh zo fi []/tsu gram tsu makhen hetest dokh denken zollen eltrn fraylikh makhen und di shvestrn ferzorkhen das vehr shehn (schön?) geve[z]en ven vir heten zakhen ken[n]en di brider haben fir ihre shvestrn gezorkt yetst denke ikh du virzt gevis fir di Babette 600 doller shiken und nikht di zakh [ferschlaykhen = verschleichen] lazzen und gevis baym emfang dizzen brif shikke[n]/shenken bruder Meir vartt (warte) dokh bis 26 yahr alt vahr abr du dayne shehne [---]rn gar nikht zukhzt tsu brafendirn (prafentieren? Profetieren?) yetst [gat (Gotten?) vhre (wäre?)] ikh zonzt nayes vays ikh fir hayte nikhts und shlise ikh mit maynem shrayben [Regina Meyer written in German Kurrentschrift]</p>	<p>[21 lines of Yiddish]</p> <p>... today I received your letter. With dripping tears we read from [ambiguous word] Heinrich that you did the same as your brother Meir when you also got married without even letting us know anything about it. You would have certainly believed if you had let the matter be prolonged that you certainly would have received the large necessary [word missing], but it would have been nice if something had been said since [you] would have provided for your sister. Meanwhile, you let her run around single and we have to be ashamed in front of everyone and keep our eyes lowered since everyone is saying she will have to work in America until she is old and gray. After that, she can go around begging in America. Her brothers are not concerned about her. Just think what a great sorrow this is for [your] parents and siblings. I am just ashamed to go out among people, but probably this did not cause you any sorrow either. Can't you remember how [vehemently?] I entreated you all? Now you should just think about not causing so much sorrow. You should have thought about making your parents happy and providing for your sisters. It would have been nice if we had known the matter. [Your] [if we could have said,] brothers have provided for their sisters. Now I think you will certainly send 600 dollars for Babette and not let the matter slip out of sight and certainly send it when you receive this letter. [Your] brother Meir waited until he was 26 years old, but you do not search for your [illegible] at all to [take advantage of?]. Now I [string of illegible words] don't know any other news for today and I finish with my writing. Regina Meyer</p>
<p>[Babette's handwriting]</p> <p>Ich beziehe auf das schreiben Bruder Karl und der l. Mutter indem wir heute Brief erhielten und darin ersahen das die l. Eltern so brafe Söhne erzogen haben und schöne folge geleistet haben und sie schön im um Rath befragt das freuet mich wirklich</p>	<p>[Babette's handwriting]</p> <p>I refer to the notes of brother Karl and our dear mother. When we received the letter today and saw in it that our dear parents have raised such virtuous sons and have accomplished fine results and have asked [i.e., the sons have asked?] them nicely for advice, that really makes me happy.</p>

Letter #3, p. 2 (= p. 6, PDF file 141), date?

sehr. — das ich mich schämen möchte wenn es ein Fremder Mensch sieht in solcher zeit sollte es noch so **reife** unverständichete Junge Leute geben. Ich könnte mich fast zu Tod grämen wenn ich an meine Schwester denke die jetzt schon 32 Jahre alte ist und ist so groß von Ihrem Bruder hinter das Licht gesährt worden. Ihr habt Sie halt weit fort gethan daß Ihr sie nicht mehr den Augen habt das ist wirklich schön von 2 Brüdern nicht mehr zu sorgen für eine Schwester das gehört in wirklich in alle Zeitungen eingerückt zuvor es muß leider niemand darunter leiden als Schwester Karolina die schon so auf Jahren ist und leider keine Zuflucht zu niemand mehr hatte als zu Fremden Leuten Nicht war I. Schwester wir haben schöne Bruder in Amerika die sorgen schön für Ihre Schwestern. Wirklich können sie sich nicht mehr erinnern wie Ärmlich sie Eltern erzogen und glaubten wirklich das die Brüdern Ihre Schuldig thun wurden als Brudern und Kindern was noch das schönste ist Verlobte sich Heinrich als 24 Jähriger Knabe wo wirklich von solchen gegenständen hätte sollen noch Fremd sein wir wunderten uns über Emanuel der war doch schon eher Männlich als Heinrich aber Sie werden es glaube ich doch noch bereuen aber es wird zu Spät sein. Habt Ihr Bruder Karl auch nach Amerika **uzen** wollen hat er wahrscheinlich

— so that I might be ashamed if a stranger should see in at such a time [that] there is such a group of ignorant young people. I could almost die of grief when I think of my sister who is now almost 32 years old and has been hurt by her brother so greatly behind the light. You (two) have put her far away so that you don't have her before your eyes anymore. That is really nice of 2 brothers, not to provide anymore for a sister. That really needs to be inserted into all newspapers beforehand. Unfortunately, no one has to suffer from this except for sister Karolina, who has been [there] for years and unfortunately did not have any recourse/shelter anymore except with strangers. Isn't it true, dear sister? We have nice brothers in America who provide nicely for their sisters. Really, they can no longer remember in what poverty [their] parents raised them and really believed that the brothers did their duty as brothers and children. What's loveliest is, Heinrich got engaged as a 24-year-old boy, when he really should still have been a stranger to such things. We were surprised about Emanuel, who was already more of an adult than Heinrich. But they will, I believe, come to regret it yet, but it will be too late. If you (two) want brother Karl to travel to America too, your father-in-law

Letter #3, p. 3 (= p. 7, PDF file 141), date?

<p>Euer Schwiegervater warscheinlich noch eine Tochter daß Er sich als gleich verbindlich machen sollte für Sie. Ach ich meinte wirklich Bruder Heinrich muß verückt sein seine Jugend zeit so zu versherzen. Ich würde mich schämen wenn es einer von unsern Verwanden wüßte. Wir dürfen wirklich keine Vergnüte Stunde mehr auf Erden haben kaum ist Bruder Karl ein PaarTag[e] zu Haus müssen wir schon wieder die große Plage haben man braucht sich wirklich nicht zu wundern über Euch Ihr habt Eure Eltern nicht um Rath gefragt.</p> <p>Jetzt schließe ich mein schreiben und grüße Euch vielmahl Schwester Karolina Könnt Ihr jetzt als Brauchen als Macht jetzt kann Ihr es so machen Bruder Emanuel kann sie als ein Paar Monate hernach Heinrich daß ist wirklich schön von Brüdern — — — — —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Babetta Mayer</p> <p>M. Lieben bevor er.inen zu ienchen dieses noch was zu erwähnen Es thut mir wirklich sehr leid solche Briefe zu schreiben an Brüder & fort-schikn zu müßen</p> <p><i>[Left margin:]</i> Viel Glük zu Allen Euren vorhaben.</p> <p>Entschuldiget uns [alle? alte? alles?] hoffe gute Antwort</p>	<p>probably has another daughter that he should immediately make obligatory for them. Oh, I really thought brother Heinrich must be crazy, to throw away his youth in such a way. I would be ashamed if any of our relatives knew. We are really not permitted to have any enjoyable hour on earth anymore. No sooner is brother Karl home for a few days, then we already have to have great trouble again. A person really does not need to wonder about you all. You all did not ask your parents for advice.</p> <p>Now I am ending my letter and greet you all many times. You all can now use sister Karolina as a maid. Now you can do it this way: Brother Emanuel can for a few months. After that, Heinrich. That is really nice of brothers. — — — — —</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Babetta Mayer</p> <p>My dears, before [...?...] [...?...] this, there is something else to mention: I am really very sorry that I have to write and send off such letters to brothers.</p> <p><i>[Left margin]</i> Much luck with all your plans. Excuse us [all? old ones? for everything?]. Hoping for a good answer.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Meine Lieben!</p> <p>Haben Schw: Babetta & die liebe Mutter Euch möchten so nahe getreten sein, so Entschuldiget Sie, denn die l. Mutter iß sehr aufgebracht indem du l. Hein: Sie nicht um Rath fragtest daß & Babetta meint jetzt</p>	<p>My dear ones, If sister Babetta and our dear mother have offended you, then please excuse them, for our dear mother is very angry and upset since you, dear Heinrich, did not ask her for advice & Babetta now thinks</p>

Letter #3, p. 4 (= p. 8 PDF file 141), date?

Wär alles verloren, Nachmals bitte ich
Euch dasjenige zu besorgen von dem
ich Euch schrieb & dann wird alles wieder
vergessen werden. Nur das einzige
iß daß es mir sehr leid thut das
Ihr Schw: Karolina nicht verfragt habt
& du l. Hei: so **geuzs wigt** [geschweigt??]:
Ich werde es für jetzt niemand sagen
bis sich später durch andere Leute
herausstellen wird. L. Bruder Heinrich
ich glaubte gewiß von dir auch in **tschaks**
enburg [*Jackson-burg?*] oftmals einige zeilen zu erhalten
welches nicht der Fall war, ich komme
1 ten hier an & muß dieses jetzt schon wieder
hören & weiß wirklich nicht wie lang es dauert
doch glaube ich in dieser zeit Schw: Babetta
zur Braut zu machen, ich bitte Euch besorget nur
das was ich Euch schrieb:
Nachmals bitte ich für uns alle um Entschuldigung
denn l. H du wirß selbst einsehen daß du
gefehlt hast

 Nochmals seiet begrüßt & geküßt
 & somit verbleibe ich Eure treuer
 Bruder bis Ewig
 K. Mayer

Hoffe baldige Antwort
Entschuldiget unser schlechtes Schreiben.

all is lost. Once again, I ask
you all to provide what I wrote
you about & then everything will
be forgotten. The only thing
is that I'm very sorry that
you all didn't ask sister Karolina
& [that] you, dear Heinrich, were.
For now, I won't say anything to anyone
until [it] is exposed by other people
later. Dear brother Heinrich,
I certainly believed I would often receive
a few lines from you in Jackson-burg,
which was not the case. I arrive here
[for the first time? on the 1st of the month?] and now have to hear
this again already, and don't know how long it will last.
But I expect to make sister Babetta a bride
in this time. I ask you just to provide
what I wrote you about.
Once again, I apologize on all of our behalf,
because, dear Heinrich, you yourself will perceive that
you have done wrong.

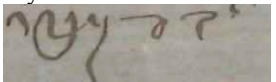
 Once again may you be greeted and kissed
 and with that, I remain your loyal
 brother forever
 K. Mayer

Hoping for an answer soon.
Excuse our poor handwriting.

Letter #4, p. 1 (= p. 9 of PDF file 141), no date

<p><i>[Yiddish text; page is torn and missing the 2nd half of the 1st 8 lines]</i> Mayne libe [torn edge] mit greztr fir[ayde] [torn edge] und daroys erzehn [torn edge] bay uns ferzikhrn kend [torn edge] hat uns ungemayn gefr[ay]t vo vir [torn edge] dank dafir shiltig (schuldig) zint libe kindr [torn edge] das ikh der libe Gott gezond [illegible] das vir no[kh] [torn edge] file frayde an aykh erleben vo ikh dakh fir [torn edge] dakh dafir bedde libe kindr du shraybst libr Meir das du zo ayn libem kind host ikh vinshe ven ikh ihn nur zehn kende (könnte) und das makht mir ayne ungemayne frayde das [er] maynen zeliken Gottr d/zaynen komen hat vaytr vil ikh shlise mit maynem shrayben und das aykh zhe f/ts----en da/zo andrefen (antreffen) vi zi/du ns ferlazen und aykh alle dikh/zikh libe Karolina und libe Rosa und libe Meir und libe Haynrikh und bezondrs den libe engl Hari kist ihn fir mikh vehr das shraybt izt eyer muttr [illegible] [-]ur di [Tante] [elis] [u]nd [two illegible words] zo aykh Tante [illegible] und ihre kinder ingel a [illegible] und dayne froy und kinder [several short illegible words] ayre mutter Regina Meyer</p>	<p><i>[Yiddish text; page is torn and missing the 2nd half of the 1st 8 lines]</i> My dear [torn edge] with great joy ... [torn edge] and have seen from it ... [torn edge] could assure about us here. ... [torn edge] has pleased us greatly that we ... [torn edge] ... owe thanks for that. Dear children ... [torn edge] that I am, dear Lord, healthy [illegible] that we may [torn edge] yet experience much joy concerning you, which I pray for daily, dear children. [torn edge] You write, dear Meir, that you have such a sweet boy. I wish that I could only see him and that gives me great joy that [he] my beloved God [ambiguous word] has come. I shall now close with my writing and [hope] that [illegible string of words - "these lines"?) find you as they left us and you all dear Karolina and dear Rosa and dear Meir and dear Heinrich. And especially the dear little Harry. Kiss him for me. The one who writes this is your mother. [illegible] only the [Aunt Elice] and [two illegible words] also to your Aunt [illegible] and her children and uncle / boy [illegible] and your wife and children [several short illegible words] your mother Regina Meyer</p>
<p><i>[Babetta's handwriting]</i> Neuigkeiten weis ich für jetzt keine ohne daß ich wünsche daß ihr Vergnügte Ostern hält und gute Matza habt wir bekommen auch unsern von Jugenheim Dies wünscht Eure Schwester Babetta Mayer <i>[evidently Babetta wrote down this message from Joseph]</i> Viele herzlige grüße von dem l. Vater an Euch alle die Freude die Er gehabt über dem Wechsel ist unaussprechlich wofür Er Euch auch fielmal dankt und verbleibt wie immer Euer Vater J. Mayer</p>	<p><i>[Babetta's handwriting]</i> I don't know of any news for now, except that I wish that you have a pleasant Easter and good matza. We're getting ours from Jugenheim. This is wished by your sister, Babetta Mayer <i>[evidently Babetta wrote down this message from Joseph]</i> Many cordial greetings from our dear father to you all. The joy that he had over the bill of exchange is inexpressible, for which he also thanks you many times and remains, as ever, your father, J. Mayer.</p>

Letter #5, p. 1 (= p. 10 of PDF file 141), no date, bluish paper, not double-wide

<p>Nicht zu vergessen uns zu jeder Zeit zu schreiben wenn Ihr im Vall als keinen Brief habt von uns könnt Ihr doch schreiben [Yiddish word]</p>	<p>Don't forget to write us all the time. In the even you don't have any letter</p>  <p>from us, you can still write</p>
<p>23 lines of Yiddish. Many holes in last few lines. ibe kinder Nakh langen varden ikh/in mir Gott zay dank dokh vidr aynen brif fon aykh tsu henden gekommen und daroy's erzehn (ersehen) ayren gesund hayt/hirt das bay mir das gringste nikht andrs izzt abr vi ikh in lij[b/d] virt [vir] mayne fray[de] vie gena/omen abr zo frayde ikh mir vidr libr Meir das du beklkst (beglügt) virst mit aynem [zohn] [m]er grose frayde das er maynem zelikhen fatt'r zaynen namen hat ikh vinshe das ikh in nur zehn kene (könne) lib[r] kindr das fir yetst unmekhlikh (unmöglich) izt ikh hofe das du und dayne libe froy gesund bay ihm blayben und nokh file frayden an ihn erleben und hofe das ikh balt vidr ayn brif fon aykh tsu zehn das mir grose frayde [hole in text]y zons naves vays ikh fir h[ayt] nikht vaytr shlise ikh mit mayne shraybe und hofe das aykh der brif zo andrift (antrefft) vi er und [uns?] fer [hole in text – verlässt?] [hole in text] an dikh libe Karolina und an dikh [hole in text] und libe Ro[sa] und [illegible] liber Haynrikh [holes in text] der libe Gott zayne gesundhayt vidr geben hat vo ikh dakh fir dakh dafir bette das [z]ayn der libe Gott [illegible] nur gesund lazt und nokh file frayde an aykh erlebe [illegible] shr[ayb]t izt ihre mutter Regi[[n]a Meyer ikh gris di libe shvekhr Hanna und hofe balt [hole in text]</p>	<p>23 lines of Yiddish. Many holes in last few lines. Dear children, After waiting a long time, another letter from you has come to my hands, thank God, and from it I saw your good health, which is not the least different with me. But when I I [illegible] in [ambiguous word] my joy as taken, but I was happy again, dear Meir, that you are blessed with a son. Even greater joy that he has my saintly father's name. I only wish that I could see him. Dear children that is for now impossible. I hope that you and your sweet wife stay healthy [with] him and experience many further joys with him and I hope that soon I will see another letter from you. That would [hole - give me?] great joy. I don't know of any other news for today. I will close with my writing and hope that the letter finds you as it leaves us. [hole in text] ... dear Karolina and to you [hole in text] and dear Rosa and [illegible] dear Heinrich [holes in text] the dear Lord has given [him] his health again as I pray for day after day, that the good Lord should only keep [illegible - him?] healthy and that [he?] may experience much further joy from you.. [This is] your mother who is writing, Regi[n] Meyer I greet the dear sister-in-law Hanna and hope [hole in text – for an answer] soon.</p>
<p>[Babetta's handwriting] zu bemerken habe ich noch ich grüße und küsse Euch alle vie[1]mal grüßet mir Tante Elis Ihr[e] Famielie und se[ndet] uns Ihre Abildung fon der l. Schwester und se[torn edge] Geschrieben hast wie herzliche grüße A [torn edge] Tante und seine l. Famielie Viele [torn edge] und ihre l. Familie. Auch Gratulier i[ch] [torn edge] Freude und dir l. Bruder als [torn edge] das Mordsches am fu[torn edge]</p>	<p>[Babetta's handwriting] I have something else to mention. I greet and kiss you all many times. Greet Aunt Elis's family for me and send us her picture of our dear sister and [torn edge] [you] have written, [as well] as cordial greetings [torn edge] Aunt and his dear family. Many [torn edge] and her family. I also congratulate [torn edge] joy, and to you, dear brother, [torn edge] the [...?...] [torn edge]</p>

Letter #6, p. 1 (= p. 11 of PDF file 141), no date, 1st page of letter with faded blue lines

<p>Galveston 24 ten Februar Liebe Brüder Es ist bereits 3 Wochen daß ich zu Euch schrieb und bis dato keine Antwort erhalten was Wirklich nicht die Ursache ich denke so viel werde ich doch wenigstens daß noch Werth sein oder vielleicht habt Ihr Wirklich keine Zeit gehabt Nun hoffe ich bei Empfang darüber Antwort zu bekommen. Gestern reiste End Elis Nach Neuorlins und Samstag wird Bode [= English „boat“?] Berinzwe Gestern Aber war ein Bedeutentes Feuer hier und sind sehr viele Store abgebrannt und bedeutente Bildingen [buildings]. Nun hoffe ich daß ihr</p>	<p>Galveston, February 24th Dear brothers, It has already been 3 weeks since I wrote to you, and to date have not received any answer, which is really not the cause. I think I ought to be worth that much at least, or maybe you really haven't had any time. Now, I hope to receive an answer about that upon [your] receipt [of this letter]. Yesterday, Aunt Elis went to New Orleans and Saturday [? a boat?] will [?bring her back?]. Yesterday, however, there was a big fire here and very many stores burned down. Now, I hope that you</p>
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Letter #7, p. 1 (= p. 12 of PDF file 141), no date, note to Emanuel & family, evidently appended to a letter to Heinrich

<p>Lieber Bruder Emanuel und Famielie Dein Werthes schreiben ist mir geworden und dein so wie deiner ganzen Famielie Wohl daraus ersehen welches Ich von mir Gott sei dank auch sagen kann. Nun konnte ich gar nicht begreifen warum Ich so lange nichts von Euch hörte. Ich machte mir allerlei Vorstellungen aber Gott sei dank ist alles am besten. Nun was gibt es sonst Neues bei Euch Ich denke Henri wird recht groß sein Wirklich wünsche wenn ich nur die lieben Kinder sehen könnte. Nun was anbelangt sagst du daß Geschäften jetzt besser sind und hoffe zu Gott daß es so bleiben wird Nun lieber Bruder weitere Neuigkeiten gibt es hier bis jetzt keine Nun was macht Rosalie Papier muß recht Theur bei ihr sein daß sie nichts von ihr hören läst Nun lebet alle recht wohl und seit gegrüßt und gekisst* von deiner Schwester und Sch[wägerin] K Mayer.</p> <p><i>* Karolina's German spelling is deteriorating. It should be "gegrüßt und gekisst")</i></p>	<p>Dear Brother Emanuel and family, I received your valued letter and saw from it that you and your entire family are well, which I can also say about myself, thank God. Now, I couldn't understand why I didn't hear anything from you for so long. I imagined all sorts of things, but thank God everything is doing very well. Now, what else is new with you? I think (little) Henry is probably quite big. I really wish I could just see the dear children. Now in regard to business, you say that it is now better and [I] hope to God that it stays that way. Now, dear brother, there's not any other news here so far. What is Rosalie doing? Paper must be quite expensive at her house, since nothing is heard from her. Now farewell to you all and may you be greeted and kissed* by your sister and sister-in-law, K. Mayer</p> <p><i>* Karolina's German spelling is deteriorating. In the word "greeted," she wrote "u" instead of "ü" and she spelled "kissed" with an "i" as in English instead of with "ü".</i></p>
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back side Letter #7, p. 1 (= p. 13 of PDF file 141), no date, note to Emanuel & family, evidently appended to a letter to Heinrich

<p><i>Judging from the up-down fold in the middle of the page, this is the back side of page 12 of this PDF file 141.</i></p> <p><i>No text, just calculations in pen and pencil</i></p>	<p><i>Judging from the up-down fold in the middle of the page, this is the back side of page 12 of this PDF file 141.</i></p> <p><i>No text, just calculations in pen and pencil</i></p>
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Letter #8, outside address (= left side of p. 14 of PDF file 141, dated Sept. 28 (no year))


Emanuel Mayer Clinton La. <i>[numerous calculations in pencil; a few in ink]</i>	Emanuel Mayer Clinton La. <i>[numerous calculations in pencil; a few in ink]</i>
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Letter #8, p. 1 (= right side of p. 14 of PDF file 141), dated Sept. 28 (no year).


<p>Galveston 28 ten September Lieber Bruder Emanuel und F. Deinen so wie Bruder Henri sein schreiben kam mir heute zu Hände und Eure bestes Wohl darin erfahren welches Ich von mir so wie von der ganzen Famielie auch sagen kann. Nun war Ich in sehr großer Verlegenheit daß Ich schon so lange kein Brief von Euch hatte Ich habe bei Empfang den Vorte- genhinn sogleich geschrieben und dann 2 Tage Nachher mit meinem Briefe für Nachhaus welches du oder Bruder Henri nicht einmal bemeldest daß Ihr meinen oder den Brief für unsere liebe Eltern erhalten habt. Wirklich Ich bekomme mir keine Antwort für die fragen Ich stelle in meinem schreiben. Nun hoffe Ich bei Empfang dieses Briefes wirst du mich wissen lassen ob ihr den Brief für unsere Liebe Eltern erhalten habt oder nicht. Ich schreibe einige fragen in dem Brief wo ich dachte Antwort darauf zu bekommen.</p>	<p>Galveston, September 28th Dear Brother Emanuel and family, The letters from you and Henry arrived today, and in them I found out that you are in the best of health, which I can also say about myself, as well as the entire family. Now, I was very confused/uneasy because I hadn't received any letter from you all for so long. Upon receiving the [? preceding one?], I immediatly wrote and then two days later [wrote] with my letter for back home. Neither you nor brother Henry ever reported that you received my letter or the letter for our dear parents. I am really not getting an answer to the questions I ask in my letter. Now I hope when you receive this letter you will let me know whether you all received the letter for our dear parents or not. I wrote some questions in the letter and I I thought I would get an answer to them.</p>
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Letter #8, p. 2 (= left side of p. 15 of PDF file 141), dated Sept. 28 (no year).

Wirklich sehe Ich in einem Briefe
was Ich aus dem andern sehe
wo Ich von Euch bekomme. Wirklich ich
denke mein schreiben ist deutlich
genug es lesen zu können. Die **sthrsechen** [*?schimpfen??*]
weil Ich nicht zu Haus geschrieben habe
er schreibe er wird nach Neuorlins gehen
und denke Brief von ihm zu

bekommen. Nun wie ist der  abgelaufen
bei Euch sehr gut bei mir Ich hoffe
zu Gott dass meine liebe Eltern
so gut gefeiert [*gefeiert?*] haben als wie Ich
Nun hoffe Ich bei Empfang dieses
das du mich wissen lest was ich in
diesem schreiben frage
Lebet Recht Wohl und seit
gegrüßt das wünscht Eure
Schwester und Tante
Caroline Mayer
Ich habe dies in der früh
geschrieben

Really, I see in one letter
what I see from the other
which I get from you. Really, I
think my writing is clear enough
that it can be read. They are [...?...]
because I have not written home.
He writes that he will go to New Orleans
and [I] think I will get a letter from him.

Now, how did the  go
at your place? Very well at mine. I hope
to God that my dear parents
have also celebrated it as well as I.
Now I hope when you receive this
that you will let me know what I am
asking about in this letter.
Farewell and may you
be greeted. This is wished by your
sister and aunt,
Caroline Mayer
I wrote this early in the morning.