

## 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](mailto:jbsilverberg@gmail.com). Please use the translator's notations accompanying each letter batch when requesting to view an original letter.

Thank you.

Jay Silverberg  
October 2015  
Petaluma, CA

Letters in this file are:

1. 4-page letter in English dated Oct. 10, 1860, to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer
2. 1-page letter in German dated Jan. 9, 1860, to Emanuel from Uncle A. Levy
3. 1-page letter in English dated Jan. 17, 1861 to Emanuel from Leopold Oppenheimer
4. 1-page letter in German dated Feb. 16, 1861 to Emanuel from Uncle A. Levy
5. 1-page letter in English dated Feb. 4, 1861 to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer
6. 2-page letter in English dated Feb. 26, 1861 to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer
7. 2-page letter in English dated Mar. 4, 1861 to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer
8. 2-page letter in English dated July 13, 1861 to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer
9. 1-page letter in English dated Aug. 14, 1861 to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer
10. 1-page letter in German dated Aug. 27, 1861 to Emanuel from Uncle A. Levy
11. 3-page letter in English dated Sept. 3, 1861 to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer
12. 3-page letter in English dated Sept. 11, 1861 to Emanuel from Leo Oppenheimer

Letter 1, pages 1 and 2 (= right side of p. 1 and left side of p. 2 of PDF file 507)  
Letter in English from Leo Oppenheimer to "Friend Emanuel" dated Oct. 10, 1860

Page 1

Bayou Sara Octbr 10/60

Friend Emanuel,

I take pleasure this evening to inform you of my good health, which I hope is the same with you. Ever since you *[sic]* absence has nothing been going on untill *[sic]* this evening. Levy & Louis left this evening for Levonia *[Livonia]* & Louis is going to stay ther. *[sic]* Businies*[sic]* has been very dull indeed Since you left here & if it does not go any better an that I think that we will have a great many of our Goods left for next winter. The Wm. Jarvis *[a ship]* which Content our Goods from James M. Beebe & Co. was wrecked & indeed we were very glad to hear of it *[sic]* but this day we recieved *[sic]* a letter from James M. Beebe & Co. in which they stated, that all *[lose? = loose?]*

Page 2

Cargo was Saved of which we were Sorry to hear

I have collected for you from Manval belonging to Anderson \$1.00 & from Moses for your Paints \$1.00 amounting to \$2.50 to which

I am in debt to you. you can draw on me for this amount & I will except *[sic]* it payable when B. & Lane will be elected.

I offer to bet you this amount that Breckenridge will not be our next President.

Hoping that you do a good bushinus *[sic]* for commencement & to hear from you soon. I remain

Your Friend

Leo Oppenheimer

P.S.

My best regards to Miss Caroline we heart [= heard] Mrs. Ellis & [*fly*] are coming to morrow.

Letter 1, page 3 and 4 (= right side p. 2 and left side of p. 1 of PDF file 507)  
Letter in English from Leo Oppenheimer to "Friend Emanuel" dated Oct. 10, 1860

Page 3

Emanuel Levy has left for N. O.

Leon & all of them send best respects  
to you & Miss Caroline

L.O.

Page 4

Have you received a letter from Europe?  
which we Send [*sent*]\* you. I think  
Levy Send [*sent*] it.

L.

*\* Note: In German, a "d" at the end of a word is pronounced "t," so Leo was pronouncing the word correctly in English. He just didn't know the correct English spelling.*

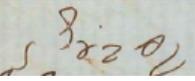
Letter #2, p. 1 (= p. 3 of PDF 507), letter to Emanuel from Abraham Levy (Uncle Aberle) dated January 9, 1861

Bayou Sara January  
9 / 1861

Mr. E. Mayer

Dear Nephew

dein Brief vom 2 dieses habe  
erhalten denn heute haben wir  
die 3 bl Wheskey geschickt das  
Flanrer Geges molases wirte  
ich hier alles besorgen du mu  
alles im kleinen machen und

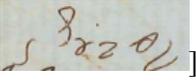
den [Yiddish word: in de dorff wegen braties [= Engl. "practice"?] wen  
du mir Kleinigkeiten willst schiken  
nach New Orlean und Schikn  
das Geld dafr zu Brd  
Meyer und wenn du  
selbst nach New Orleans  
gehst su Ihm dan wirte [werde]  
ich din [dir?] ein Hors ver mahen  
auch. Mein Bangey [= Engl. "buggy"?] Kast  
mich 50:00 nur izzt zu berhen [bergen?]  
habe daran, sanst  
semlwie alle mahl  
hier hoffe ich es auch.  
viel Gruse ich ech alle  
A Levy  
die nails fr  
mein Haus  
werte ich morgen in dein Care schiken

Bayou Sara, January 9, 1861

Mr. E. Mayer

Dear Nephew,

[I] received your letter of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
of this [month]. Then today we sent  
the 3 [bl = barrels? bottles?] of whiskey.  
I'll get you all the [..?..]  
kegs of molasses. You have to  
do everything in a small way and

and not start the [Yiddish word: in the village because of [?practice]. If  
you want to send little things  
to me in New Orleans and send  
the money for it to Bro.  
Meyer and if you  
yourself go to New Orleans  
to him, then I will  
make a horse [?available] to you  
also. My buggy cost  
me 50.00 , only now I have to hide/recover/salvage  
from it. Otherwise  
[..?...] every time  
Here, I hope so, too.  
Many greetings to all of you  
A. Levy  
I will send the nails for  
my house in your care  
tomorrow.

Letter #3, p. 1 (= p. 8 of PDF 507), letter in English from Leo Oppenheimer to Emanuel Mayer dated January 17, 1861

Bayou Sara January 17th 1861

Dear Friend Emanuel,

I take this opportunity  
to write you a few lines to let you know of the  
general going of me [= *how I am in general*] & also the house  
This morning Mr. A. Levy discharged  
our Salesmen Mr. Goldsmith on a/c [*account*]  
of not making expense F. this [= *for these*] hard times.  
wunt [= *One*] thing I know it ill be me shortly.  
if ther is any chance for him [*i.e. Goldsmith*] to get a situation  
out ther you will oblige him by letting [*sic*] me know  
it (he is a first rate salesman & indeed a very  
nice man. We send you this morning  
per Stmm[*steamship*] Golden Age 1 hhg Sugar 3 kegs  
of Nails. This is all I got to tell you  
at present Hoping to hear from you soon

I remain Very respectfully  
your friend

Leopold Oppenheimer

P.S. My love to Lena & Sere [*Sarah?*]

tell them, they must write to me

My regards to your Sister, Aunt & Morriss

L O

Letter #4, p. 1 (= p. 5 of PDF 507), from Abraham Levy to Emanuel Mayer, Feb. 16, 1861

<p style="text-align: center;">Bayou Sara Feb 16 / 1861</p> <p>Mr. E. Meyer Dear Nephew Heute schike ich dier pr RR 5 bl Common whiskey und ein bl Good Whiskey hoffe du die selbe Richtig erhalten wirst mit gruse fon dem [Freund?] <p style="text-align: right;">A. Levy</p>Grüse mir Mr. &amp; Mrs Tobias</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Bayou Sara Feb. 16, 1861</p> <p>Mr. E. Meyer Dear Nephew, Today I am sending you by RR [<i>railroad</i>] 5 [<i>bl = barrels? bottles?</i>]of common whiskey and one barrel [<i>or bottle?</i>] of good whiskey. I hope you will rightly receive the same. With greetings from your [friend?] <p style="text-align: right;">A. Levy</p>Greet Mr. &amp; Mrs. Tobias for me</p>
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Letter #5, p. 1 (= p. 6 of PDF 507), from Leo Oppenheimer to Emanuel Mayer, Feb. 4, 1861

<p style="text-align: center;">Bayou Sara La., February 4 / 61</p> <p>E. Meyer Esq. Clinton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dear Friend</p> <p style="text-align: center;">I take pleasure to</p> <p>write to you this evening uhr [=hour] on this subject Black Men Jim belonging to Prof? Barrow? requested me to write to you in regard to a ring belonging to Miss Amanda Barrow Said Jim says he has given you a gold ring to have repaired at Jules Bousquin for him Miss B. Send [sent] for me to day &amp; Jules Bousquin says he has returned the ring to you as he could not fix it what have you done with it? Please inform me off [sic]as it seems the way Jim says she would not like to loss [sic] the ring, if you</p>	
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have it Send it by Mr. Levy. We all enjoying  
good health & expect same of you all.

With my best regards to all

I remain very truly your  
friend

Leo Oppenheimer

My love to L & Leon

Letter #6, p. 1 & 2 (= p. 7 of PDF 507), from Leo Oppenheimer to Emanuel Mayer, Feb.26, 1861

Page 1

Bayou Sara La, February 26/61  
My Friend Emanuel  
Your letter directed to A. Levy Esq.  
came to hand & in which you stated that you had  
delivered the ring, belonging to Mrs. Richardson  
(formerly Miss Amanda Barrow) to boy Jim,  
such as you told Levy before, but said boy Jim  
said you had not done so. Mrs Wate Richardson  
came in the Store herself to inquire about it  
I have told her that [= *what*] you have wrote me about,  
stated you had delivered it to Jim & beged [*sic*]  
to be excused, thas [*that*] you have [*?frit*] her to trouble  
*Scheint schon zufrieden* [= seems more or less satisfied]  
I have nothing of any consequence to tell you Levy has gone  
[..?..] to Williamsport, busseniss [*sic*] is very dull  
but I have a good deal of work on hand  
as we had a Shelf fixed halfways trough [*sic*]  
middle of the Store, collections are indeed

Page 2

very bad & we have refused a good many people on  
*a/c* [*account*] of not paying [*?n/r*]. With my respects  
to your Sister Mr & Mrs Tobias & family & Same  
you Can expect from yours off friend  
Leo Oppenheimer

I Enclose a letter for Leon  
/ changed my mind, because  
he owes me a letter

Letter #7 (= page 9 & 10 of PDF 507), from Leo Oppenheimer to Emanuel Mayer, March 4, 1861

Page 1

Bayou Sara March 4/61

E. Mayer Esq  
Clinton, La

Friend

I take this good opportunity for politness of Mrs. Philipp Tobias to answer your letter which I acured [= *acquired?*] by her & in reply to I would state, About the ring of Mrs. R is all in order, she has never found out what became of it – as far as Harper's Bill concern I do not Know whether it is right[.] you authorized me to pay it, consequently I done so – The flour we did not have & ther [= *there*] was non [= *none*] to be got in town [bes] then Eight & ½ I think that you would do well by ordering your flour direct from Louisville[.] if you want to I can send you their Circular so you can see, what it sells at. You stated in your letter

Page 2

you had written to me twice but I have never rec'd any — We are all well & expect same from yours. My regards to Lena Leon your Liebe [*dear one*] & Morris. I remain with respects as Ever your friend  
Leo Oppenheimer

Letter #8 (= pages 11 & 12 of PDF 507), from Leo Oppenheimer to Emanuel, dated July 13, 1861

Page 1

Bayou Sara La  
July 13/61

Friend Emanuel

I herewith  
let you know that we arrived here  
safe on Sunday Evening at  
about ½ after 6 o clock.  
Dear Friend, you would  
oblige me very much by  
sending my watch down  
if repaired, as soon as possible  
as I have a little trade on  
hand & I want to get rid  
of her [it] mighty bad, if you  
don't come down on Sunday  
Send her to Jackson in  
Care of Mrs Oppenheimer  
let me know the costs of her [it]  
& I will Send you the money

Page 2

by first Conveyance —  
Nothing new going on here  
all well & send respects to  
you with my best wishes

I remain Your  
Friend  
Leo Oppenheimer

Letter 9 (= p. 13 of PDF 507), from Leo Oppenheimer to Emanuel, dated August 14, 1861

Bayou Sara August 14 /61

Dear Friend Eml.

At yesterday morning

I arrevd here safe & found all in good  
health, which I hope the same of you all  
& especially of one whom I admired  
So much, when at your place, one whom  
I suppose is about as far from your  
place now as from this town, my only wish  
now is that I could go & See her Sunday  
Oh the charming one ——

John Irvin has as yet not returned from  
Woodville So I could not get that money  
therefore I would like you to sign that  
order I wrote out & send it by first  
opportunity. I have seen your Sister  
this Evening she is perfectly well & hardy  
I like Clinton very much just on account  
of the young ladies there. — I wish  
I could come out more now, as I actually  
admired one of the young Ladies ther *[there]*  
very much — With my best wishes to all  
I remain your true Friend  
Leo Oppenheimer

P.S.

My best respects to —  
if she is there \_\_\_\_ —

Letter 10 (= p. 14 of PDF 507), from Abraham Levy to Emanuel Mayer, dated August 27, 1861

Bayou Sara August 27/1861	Bayou Sara, August 27, 1861
<p>E Meyer</p> <p>Dear Nephew</p> <p>Wie du ersehst bin ich sehr wohl nach Hauße gekommen aber sehr nas mitt wasser &amp; Dert &amp; wir hoffn mein [Bhrset?] wohl ist[.] ist [und?] du am Sanday hier her Kannst und du thust wie ich dier gerrah habe. gehe Samsday abent weg und blebe in klinton aber nehme dich doch in Obaht [=Obacht] wen du nach Jaktson kannst mit meinem [Bhefet?] mit Corn zu geben. und gehe Slo mit Im sanst nihts neues für heite Auser Grist dich dein Unkel</p> <p>A Levy</p> <p>--</p> <p>Caroline &amp; [Elles? Alles?] lileldr are all well, nehme dich in obaht an der <del>Pridg</del> Bridg wo ich dir gesahst [=gesagt] habe &amp; Chusles Hais so das nihts basehrt [=passiert]</p>	<p>E. Meyer</p> <p>Dear Nephew,</p> <p>As you see, I arrived home quite well, but am very wet with water and [?dirt] &amp; we hope my ["Bhrset" = name of horse?] is well and that you can come here on Sunday and you do as I advised you. Leave on Saturday evening already and remain in Clinton, but take care, if you can go to Jackson with my [Bhrset], to give him grain as well and go slow with him. Otherwise, nothing new for today except that your uncle greets you</p> <p>A. Levy.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Caroline &amp; Alice [..?..] are all well. Take care on the bridge where I told you &amp; [..?..] so that nothing happens.</p>

Letter 11 (= page 15 & 16 of PDF 507)

*[page 1 = p. 15 of file]*

Bayou Sara Sept 3/61

Dear Emanuel!

I take this good  
opportunity with your freight  
to write you a few lines, to  
inform you of my good health,  
which I hope some of you —  
The night *[tonight?]* by the **Laurel Stin** *[= name of boat?]*  
I send you farm Goods  
(1 case mdse *[merchandise]* & one box Toba *[tobacco]*  
the Box was a little to big  
but it was the best I could  
do in boxes. I had to unpack  
some winter goods to get that  
box, You will find in  
your box a Small pkg *[package]*  
for Miss Guss *[Augusta]* Wolf[.] by  
delievering the Same with  
my best regards you  
will oblige me. it is the  
Bonnie Blue Flag; – over

*[page 2 = left side of p. 16 of file]*

Lena told me it was her Miss G's  
favorite song & it could not  
be got in Clinton, So I took  
the good opportunity to  
present my compliment  
to her by sending it —  
Mr. A. is going to shut up  
on Rosh hashona, on  
Thursday & Friday —  
where I had plenty of  
time to come out but the  
dickens it is to get out  
there as the grey poney is  
out & not to be caught  
I suppose you all will  
have fun times then, while  
the only pleasure I  
Can have is to struggle about  
town. With my best wishes  
to you, Adler Esq. & family  
I remain your true Friend  
Leo Oppenheimer over

*[page 3 = right side of p. 16 of file]*

Answer this letter as soon  
as possible & let me  
Know what Miss G. says to the piece of Music  
L.

Letter #12, (= pages 17 & 18 of file 507)

[page 1 = p. 17 of file 507]

Bayou Sara Sept 11/61

Friend Emanuel

Your letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> [?mist] by Mr. Rankin I received in good health, in which I hope this will reach you. Your letter indeed was very pleasing to me to hear about the kind attention you paid on me by the little package I send [= sent] to your Care for Miss Augusta & more so to hear the kind talk of such a charming young lady as Miss Aug. if I had any chance of coming out, I would do so with the greatest pleasure, but complying with your request to write to Miss Guss I decline to do so as I am not well Enough acquainted

[page 2 = left side of p. 18 of file 507 ]

with her & more so feel rather a little bashful, as I think it might not altogether be pleasing to her. Your letter to your Sister I delivered

Busuniss here is brisk, Especially to-day I sold one Lady /125 worth of Goods, fancy Goods, of which we are glad to get rid off I have Seen that Mr. Frank from New Orleans was taken up in Shreveport for buying Blankets & saying he is baying them for the Government. – good for him I have nothing more of any Consequence to write to you So I conclude by trusting you will give my Kind regards to Miss Guss & remain *somit* [= “with that said”] Leopold

[page 3 = right side of p. 18 of file 507]

P.S. Give my regards to all the Clinton Folks I know.  
Write soon to your  
Leo Oppenheimer