

## 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

Letter #1, p. 1 & 2 (= p. 1 of file 20130722152155056.pdf)

Letter in English dated July 30, 1868, to Henry Meyer from cousin Emanuel Levy

<p><i>[address]</i> Henry Meyer Clinton La</p>	
<p><i>[p. 1 = right side of p. 1 of file 056]</i></p> <p>Galveston July 30 1868 Dear Cousin Henry I wrote to you twice and did not get any answer from you I hope that this letter will come save <i>[sic]</i> in hand[.] I saw a case of goods Marked E meyer &amp; Bros not long before I left new Orleans[.] Bussiness <i>[sic]</i> here is getting Some kind of dullest[.] Direct my letters Eml Levy care of Greenleve Block &amp; Co Galveston post office box 318[.] We expect Over One thousand bales of cotton this year if it aint any cotton Worms[.] I hope this letter will come safe to you</p>	<p><i>[p. 2 = right side of p. 2 of file 056]</i></p> <p>I would like to see rosalee babie is it a girl or a boy[?] tell me when next time you write pa is [= <i>pa's</i>] book keeper[.] I am far far away from all Our friends, cousins and uncles &amp; aunts – it is a cattle ranch out here Allen Pool &amp; Co is the biggest buchert <i>[sic]</i> in the world[.] tell Salomon that he must write to me again[.] how is Bussiness there in Bayou Sara Jackson &amp; Clinton [?] dull aint it [?] So this is all the news for the day Your Truly affection Cousin Emanuel Levy</p>

Letter #2 (= p. 3 of PDF 056)

Letter dated September 7, 1868 to Henry Meyer from Carolina

*[Letterhead]* GREENLEVE, BLOCK & CO.  
Wholesale Dry Goods,  
STRAND STREET  
Galveston, Tex., \_\_\_\_\_ September 7, 1868

Liebe Bruder  
und X [alle]

So eben erhielt ich Eurn Brief mit inliegent  
unser lieben Eltern und Geschwisters Brief und  
sogleich die Photographien von unserer geliebten Mutter  
und ewigliebende Schwester die Freude und Überrasch-  
ung von mir könnt Ihr nicht denken meine liebe  
Mutter wieder einmal wieder zu sehen aber leider  
nicht zu sprechen aber Ich nehme verlobt mit denn  
Ich kann die Photographien nicht genug ansehen in denen  
unsere geliebte Mutter so frisch und munter aussah  
so wie die liebe Schwester wir alle bewunderten die  
sahen Bild Liebe könnte Ich nur Mündlich mit  
dir sprechen. Ich kann nicht viel schreiben ich schreibe  
nur die paar Zeilen für so große Freude  
denn ich habe keine Feder zuhaus Ich schreibe  
diese diese Woche noch

Lebt Wohl und seit  
gegrußt und geküßt  
K Mayer

*[Letterhead]* GREENLEVE, BLOCK & CO.  
Wholesale Dry Goods,  
STRAND STREET  
Galveston, Tex., \_\_\_\_\_ September 7, 1868

Dear Brother and X [*everyone*],

I just received your letter with the enclosed letter from  
our dear parents and siblings and,  
at the same time, the photographs of our beloved mother  
and ever-loving sister. You can't imagine my joy  
and surprise at once again seeing—but unfortunately  
not speaking with—my dear mother, but I  
accept them lovingly because  
I can't look at the photographs enough, in which  
our beloved mother looked so fresh and cheerful,  
as did our dear sister. All of us who saw the  
picture were amazed. Dear ones, if I could just  
speak to you in person! I can't write much. I am just  
writing these lines, which are so few for such great joy,  
because I don't have a pen at home. I'll write  
this week.

Farewell and  
greetings and kisses  
K Mayer

Letter #3, p. 1 (= p. 4 of file 056)  
Letter dated August 29, 1868 to parents and siblings from Karolina

*[Letterhead]* GREENLEVE, BLOCK & CO.  
Wholesale Dry Goods,  
STRAND STREET  
Galveston, Tex., August 29, 1868

Theurste Eltern und Vielgeliebte Geschwister!

Um Euch mein bestes Wohl Mitzu-  
theilen hoffe dasselbe von Euch alle,  
was doch immer die Hauptsache ist in der  
jetzigen JahresZeit und hoffe zu Gott das  
es auch so bleiben wird und das wir einen  
besseren sommer zubringen als letztes Jahr.  
Nun meine lieben wie geht es jetzt bei Euch  
Ich hoffe daß Ihr meinen Brief von letztem  
Monat erhalten habt und Euch überzeugt daß alles  
Gott sei dank Gesund bei uns sit? Wirklich  
haben wir einen sehr warmen Sommer aber  
dasß Wollen wir nehmen Nur gesund  
von Gott dem Allmächtigen das geht  
über alles. Meine Lieben Ich habe auch sehr  
oft Brief von den lieben Brüder **In**  
seid Gott sei dank das besten Wohles  
sammt Famielie. Nun meine lieben gibt  
es dies Jahr eine gute Krüte zuhaus?

*[Letterhead]* GREENLEVE, BLOCK & CO.  
Wholesale Dry Goods,  
STRAND STREET  
Galveston, Tex., August 29, 1868

Most valued parents and much-loved siblings,

[Am writing] to inform you that I am  
very well and hope the same of you all,  
which is always the main issue at  
this time of year, and I hope to God  
that it will continue to be so and that we  
will have a better summer than last year.  
Now, my dears, how are things where you are?  
I hope that you received my letter of last  
month and that I convinced you all that  
everyone here is healthy, God be praised.  
We are really having a very warm summer, but  
we'll accept that from God Almighty –  
Just healthy – that's  
all-important. My dears, I have also received  
letter[s] from my dear brothers very often. They,  
along with their families, are in the best of health,  
thank God. Now, my dears, is there  
any good cabbage at home this year?

Letter #3, p. 2 (= lift side of p. 5 of file 056)

Letter dated August 29, 1868 to parents and siblings from Karolina

Ich denke und wie Ich höre wird es  
so ziemlich gut hier sein denn wir komm  
es breuchen da es schon längst beinahe keine  
Ärnte gegeben hat hier allein Gott der  
allmächtige weis wann es Zeit ist wer auf  
ihn Vertraut ist nie Verlassen. Nun meine  
lieben Ich denke wir haben heute über 3

Wochen [Yiddish: *דריי וואך*] oder Neujahrsfest und dazu  
wünsche Ich Euch ein Herzliches lebe Wohl  
und mal Glück und Freude an Euren Kinder  
und Kindes Kinder zu erleben und hoffe  
daß wir Noch hundert Jahre Briefe einander  
Melchhelen [wechseln??] oder Möglich noch Persönlich  
einander sehen werden. wenn uns beide jetzt  
das Glück zu theil wird. Nun meine  
lieben Ich habe wirklich eine gute Heimath  
aber Wolte Gott daß Ich einmal wieder  
ihn Eurer lieben Mitte mich freuen könnte  
Nur Gedult Gott wird helfen der schon  
so oft gehulfen hat. Nun Schwester Babett  
hast du schon dein Feutiges Kleid  
gemacht Ich habe das meinige Schon  
letzte Woche gemacht was hier nichts  
Neues ist. Liebe Schwester hier macht  
man das ganze Jahr.

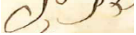
I think – and, as I hear – it is going  
to be pretty good here. We can use  
it, after all, because there has hardly been  
any harvest here for a long time. Only God  
Almighty knows when it will be time. Whoever  
trusts in Him is never abandoned. Now, my

dears, I think we're having [Yiddish: *דריי וואך*]  
or New Year's celebration in three weeks, and for this  
I wish you all a cordial farewell, and  
happiness and joy for your children and  
children's children, and hope  
that we will still exchange letters with each other  
for a hundred years, or will possibly even see  
each other personally if we both now  
get some luck. Now, my dears,  
I really have a good homeland now  
but I wish to God I could again have the  
happiness of being in your dear midst.  
Just patience. God will help, who has  
already helped so often. Now, sister Babetta,  
have you already made your [...] dress?  
I already made mine last week,  
which is nothing new here.  
Dear sister, here people make them  
all year long.

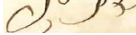
Letter #3, p. 3 (= right side of p. 5 of file 056)

Letter dated August 29, 1868 to parents and siblings from Karolina

Oftmals wollte Ich dir das **Me..s**  
von meiner **Telpe** schiken um deines mit  
dem meinigen zu vergleichen. Ich bin nicht  
ganz so **glatt** als wie du das bringt **dieses**  
Land mit sich. Nun meine liebe Ich  
hoffe daß ich bald besondere Neuigkeit  
von dir höre und Nun musst du noch  
so viele feine Arbeiten als wie Ich zuhaus  
war kannst du dich Noch erinnern die  
**Berdgen an Antw...mel** wo du gestickt hast  
habe Ich jotzt noch aufbewert. Ich freue  
mich nur wenn Ich sie ansehe. Nun  
meine liebe Ich Euch alles Nöthige  
geschrieben habe Ich werde wenn es etwas  
kühler wird mehr schrieben Nun meine lieben  
Eltern und Geschwister Ich wünsche Euch

Nochmals ein gute  was ihr  
Euch selbst wünscht und küsst  
Euch vielmahl einander für mich  
Lebet Wohl und seit begrüßt und  
geküßt wer das Wünscht  
ist Eure Tochter und Schwester  
Caroline Mayer  
hoffe bald von Euch  
zu hören grüßt all die nach mir fragen.

I've often wanted to send you the [...] from my [...], in order to compare yours with mine. I am not quite as [glossy-haired?] as you. That comes from being in this country. Now, my dear, I hope that I hear special news from you soon, and now you still have to do as many lovely taskes as when I was home. Do you still remember the [...] [...] [...] that you knitted? I still have mine safely stored. I feel happy when I look at it. Now, my dear, I've written everything necessary. I'll write more when it is a little cooler. Now, my dear parents and siblings, once again I wish you

a good  as you would wish for yourselves, and kiss each other for me many times. Farewell and may you be greeted and kissed. The one who wishes that is your daughter and sister  
Caroline Mayer  
Hope to hear from you soon.  
Say hello to everyone who asks about me.

Letter #4, p. 1 (= p. 6 of PDF 056)  
Letter dated Aug. 29, 1868 to Henry Meyer from Carolina

*[Letterhead: GREENLEVE, BLOCK & CO.*  
Wholesale Dry Goods,  
STRAND STREET  
Galveston, Tex., \_\_\_\_\_ August 29, 1868

Lieber Bruder Henri!

Est ist bereitz schon

2 Wochen daß Ich nichts von Euch gehört habe was daß  
sein kann weiß Ich die Uhrsache nicht. Ich erwartet  
Brief am letzten Montag aber leider nichts gesehen  
hoffe daß Ihr Euch alle des besten Wohles zu  
Erfreuen habt welches Ich Gott sei dank von mir so  
wie von der ganzen Familie auch Mittheilen  
kann was anbelangt von warmes Wetter haben  
wir genug davon aber Gott sei dank kein Krank-  
heiten was doch die Hauptsache ist. Nun lieber  
Henri was gibt es Neues bei Euch wie gehen die  
Geschäften Wahrscheinlich nicht am besten Hoffe aber daß  
es bald besser kommt und wie geht es mit dem  
Cotton hoffe gut. Nun lieber Bruder Wahrscheinlich wirst  
du auch einen Neujahres Brief Nachhaus schreiben  
welchen ich dir in deinem **Gubingand**  
Überschike und wirst die Güte haben dense-  
lben [*denselben*] zu Unseren lieben Eltern und  
Geschwistern Überschiken.

*[Letterhead: GREENLEVE, BLOCK & CO.*  
Wholesale Dry Goods,  
STRAND STREET  
Galveston, Tex., \_\_\_\_\_ August 29, 1868

Dear brother Henry,

It has already been two weeks  
since I've heard anything from you. I don't know  
the reason for that. I was expecting  
a letter last Monday, but unfortunately didn't see anything.  
I hope that you are all enjoying the best of  
health, which I can also tell you is the case with me  
and the whole family, thank God.  
Regarding warm weather, we have  
enough of that, but no illnesses, thank God,  
which is the main thing. Now, dear  
Henry, what's new with you all? How is  
business? Probably not the best, but I hope that  
it will be better soon, and how is the cotton  
coming along? Good, I hope. Now, dear brother, probably  
you are going to write a New Year's letter back home, too,  
which I am sending to you in your [...],  
and will have the goodness to pass the  
same on to our dear parents and  
siblings.

Letter #4, p. 2 (= left side of p. 7 of PDF 056)  
Letter dated Aug. 29, 1868 to Henry Meyer from Carolina

<p>Besondere Neuigkeiten gibt es hier jetzt keine was macht Onkel und seine Famielie hoffe daß sie sich alle des besten Wohles zu erfreuen haben lasse mich wissen ob sie ..ver Raschhaschane Nachhaus gehen Nun lieber Bruder denke dir alles Nöthige ge- schrieben habe hoffe daß dich diese wenige Zeilen so treffen, wie sie mich verlassen hoffe bald von Euch zu hören wer das Wünscht ist deine Schwester K. Mayer und sei begrüßt vieltausendmahl.</p>	<p>There is not any special news here right now. What are Uncle and his family doing? I hope that they are all enjoying the best of health. Let me know whether they are going home over Rosh Hashanah. Now, dear brother, I think I've written everything necessary to you. I hope that these few lines reach you as they have left me. Hope to hear from you soon. The one who wishes that is your sister, K. Mayer and may you be greeted many thousands of times.</p>
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Letter #4, p. 3 (= right side of p. 7 of PDF 056)  
Included in letter dated Aug. 29, 1868 to Henry Meyer from Carolina

Lieber Bruder Emanuel und Familie  
E Ich habe schon lange nicht von  
Euch gehört Ich weis Wirklich nicht was  
Ich darüber denken soll. Ich hoffe daß  
Ihr Euch alle des besten Wohles zu  
Erfreuen habt was doch bis jetzt das beste  
ist. Nun lieber Bruder wie gehen die Geschäfte  
hoffe daß es bald besser kommt was ich nun  
dafür bete. Wirklich haben wir jetzt sehr  
warmes Wetter hier aber Gott sei dank  
doch Gesund und hoffe daß es auch so bleiben  
wird. Nun was machen die Kinder Ich denke  
Henri wird unberufen recht groß sein Ich  
wäre Wirklich begierig die kleinen zu  
sehen. Nun was gibt es sonst Neues  
bei Euch hier hat **man** keine Neuigkeiten  
Ich denke Onkel wird Euch öfters  
besuchen. Ich habe schon lange kein  
Brief von Ihm gehabt. Nun dies ist  
alles für heute Nun lebet recht Wohl und  
seit begrüßt und geküßt wer das Wunsch  
ist Eure Schwester und End

C Mayer

hoffe baldige Antwort

Dear brother Emanuel and family,  
E, I haven't heard anything from  
you all for a long time. I really don't know  
what I should think about that. I hope that  
you are all enjoying the best of health,  
which is what's definitely been best so far.  
Now, dear brother, how is business?  
I hope that it's getting along better, which  
I am praying for now. Here, we really have very  
warm weather now, but are healthy, thank God,  
and I hope that it also remains that way.  
Now, what are the children doing? I think  
Henry is probably quite big. I would  
be really curious to see the little ones.  
Now, what else is new  
at your house? Here, there is no news.  
I think Uncle probably visits you  
rather often. I haven't received any letter  
from him for a long time. Now, this is all  
for today. Now farewell and  
may you be greeted and kissed. The one who  
wishes that is your sister and aunt,

C Mayer

Hope for an answer soon.

Letter #5, p. 1 (= p. 8 of pdf 056)  
Letter dated October 28, 1868 to Meyer brothers from A Levy

<p>Bayou Sara October 28, 1868</p> <p>Msr E Meyer &amp; Bro Dear Nephew befor ich weg ging fon Jakson habe ich noch vate <i>[nale?]</i> mit <b>H Reinberg</b> geschkt habt ihr die erhalten Sendet mir Antwort hier her by entfang <i>[Empfang]</i> dieses[.] Neues nichts als heite Kahl ich zurück von NO[.] habe der elles mahl <i>[Mehl]</i> verlassen Greed <b>E...tit</b> meint mit dir Meyers Herrly gruss an all A Levy schreibet mir Antwort by dieser Mail</p>	<p>Bayou Sara, October 28, 1868</p> <p>Mr. E. Meyer &amp; Br. Dear Nephew, Before I left Jackson I sent some more <i>[cotton? nails?]</i> with <b>H Reinberg</b> Did you get them? Send an answer to me here when you get this. No news except I came back from NO <i>[New Orleans]</i> today. I left flour for Alice. Greet <b>E...</b> <i>[Emanuel?]</i> [...] and the Meyers Cordial greetings to all A Levy Write me an answer with this mail.</p>
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Letter #6 (= p. 9 of pdf file 056)

Letter in English dated December 8, 1868 to Henry from cousin Emanuel Levy

Galveston December 8, 1868

Dear Cousin Henry

[hole] ... take the opportunity to write to you these few

[hole] ... to let you know that our family is

[hole] ... ing best of health, And I wish the

[hole] ... to yourself, Pa & Caroline received

[hole] ... tter from you by last mail, Caroline

[hole] ... t the ball last night till about twelf

[hole] ... with mr Louis Block, I would like

[hole] ... here in Galveston Texas, We are doing

[hole] ... ll bessiness to day, but yesterday (Saturday)

[hole] ... was a nice time, A fire broke out

of the rear, on mechais Street A wholesales

drug shop & Stamp revenue Officem

this druggust was insured for \$30,000

dollars, & Angell Mr bloch brother He was

most [almost] killed yesterday he is a firman

belongs to Hook Ladder No 1 fire company

no more news

yours,

Eml [Emanuel] Levy gr

..er

Sam Smith

Letter #7, p. 1 (= p. 10 of pdf 056)


Letter (draft of letter) dated December 19, 1868 to A. Levi Esq. from E. Meyer & Br.

Clinton December 19. 68

A. Levi Esq  
New Orleans La

Dr. Sir.

Herewith we take Pleasure  
advising you of Shipment of one *[hole]*


bale Cotton marked  net weig[ht] *[hole]*  
(500) five hundred lb.

Please take the Draft favor Henry  
Jones col'd for \$40<sup>00</sup> of wich we  
advised you yesterday. will not  
be presented at your House, we  
paid the dft ourselves.

Letter #7, p. 2 (= p. 11 of pdf 056)

Pencil draft of same letter as above, on back side of letter dated December 19, 1868 to A. Levi Esq. from E. Meyer & Br.

Herewith we take Pleasure advising  
you of shipment of one (1) Bale

Cotton marked  weighing net (500)  
five hundred lb.

Please take notice that the dft [*draft*] of  
wich we advise you in our of yesterday  
favor Henry Jones Colil well not  
be presented at your desk.

We've paid the dft ourselves.

~~We~~ You will please send us forthwith  
100 yd Baling [*wire?*] & A Bundles from this.

We were present at the festival  
of your Son's youngest born  
accept our Congratulations

We Remain yours Respectfully

E. Meyer & Br.

[*crossed-out text:*]

~~we were present at the circumcision~~

~~of the young Levi Please also taot part~~

~~at the Laspsf given. Please accept~~

~~our congratulations.~~

Letter #8 (= p. 12 of pdf file 056)

Letter dated November 2 [no year], to Emanuel from A Levy

<p>November 2 Jack[s]on Dear Emanuel da ich hier bin und Kaufe noch mahr wen es dier meglich ist So komm morgen hier an (um?) 6 Ohr must du find (hier?) Sein ich will dich sehen an. war Barli klar ich gehe morgen aber nach haüße so das du um 6 Uhr hier bist dein Unkel A Levy</p>	<p>November 2 [no year], Jackson Dear Emanuel, Since I am here and am buying yet more, if it is possible for you, then come here tomorrow. You must be here at 6 o'clock [a.m.]. I want to see you. Was Barli clear? [was barley OK?] I'm going home tomorrow, though, so you need to be here at 6 o'clock. Your uncle A Levy</p>
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