

Jeffersonville, N.Y.
Oct 3, 1918

Dear Henry!

Your letter of the 21 Sept. received and I am sending you a note to sign, as we are living on our interest of our Stock in the business. I must make it 6%. I hope you will agree with me on that. We can not charge the Boys with Rent of 200 D. on the upper store. They must compensate me in a different way and raise my income some other way as we can not even sell the Store Property in order to keep opposition away from them and they are making big money now of my capital. I expect we will make satisfactory agreement.

We have not settled with our Insurance yet, and if we get it all 1600 D. we consider we have not lost much as the Remainder, as the Building can be repaired, and the lot ought to be worth from 1000 to 1200 D. and Mama has been willing to sell it for 2500. Joe is on his Vacation, to day they have been to Honesdale fair, to morrow they intend to go to Binghamton and take Mama along, if it is not far from Afton they may stop to see Leal from that they may go to see the great Ashkon Dam in Greene Co. what supply New York City with water.

Hope we will have nice weather. September has been a miserable month, cold and lots of rain, it has not been nice since, we can have only 1 day nice, then it rains again. It has cleared up to day and we hope for some good weather coming now, Indian summer ought to come along soon. I am glad you to come into a nice country and nice Climate, Walter is now located in Browning, Mont. He praises that country too, but expects very cold weather in Winter. He seems very much pleased with his position, we will not easy forget your addresses--Brownville--Browning--only a Thousand miles or more apart and far distant from us, but our thoughts fly across the continent like lightning from one the other of our dear Boys.

Well I hope you have success in your new place and be able to better your financial condition and get a good Bank account.

I hope this will find you well I am with love and best wishes

Your
Papa

Jeffersonville, N.Y.

Dec 15, 1918

Dear Henry & Leal!

Christmas is near, I hope it will bring us All good cheer. There will be good Cheer for the parents whose Boys come home or on the way to return from the camps or overseas and over the Peace in the world, we All of us ought to feel happy & thankful that the war and influenza has not hurt us. I hope this will find you well and happy in your new home and the dear little children with their Daddy.

There is a split in our business now. Joe wants to get out of it. Clarence Royce wants to work for us again, he is tired of his show business and Joe says there is no Room for him, when Clarence is around. Clarence wants to get married to Minnie Wilfert and he is fishing for a partnership in the business with his brother in Law Otto. There was not the best of Harmony between Joe, Otto and it may be the better for both of them as there is no pleasure to work together in Disharmony. Joe is in good spirits and hopes to better himself in some good position.

We are having miserable weather here now warm rainy & damp very unhealthy weather and there are a good many people sick around here and Kenoza Lake. Young Ney Neuberger died in France of sickness a few weeks ago, his folks had a letter form him, expecting to be home at Xmas. Young George Müller, son of John Müller, died in Kenoza Lake 31 yrs old Influenza patients generally get over their sickness.

How is little Jean, and that dear little Boy Gregory. I admired him as the best little boy I ever seen I suppose he can stand up now and trying to walk. I hope Santa Claus will be good to you we invited Joe & family for Xmas and they will give us a nice big Duck to roast hope we will All have a good appetite, I think it is about the nicest fowl to eat.

Hoping you will have a nice time on the Holy Days and that we All stay well.

I send a Kiss to little Jean tell her it is from Papa in Jeffersonville as she called me Papa the worst of it was I could not understand her language very well.

With love to all of you

Papa

Jeffersonville, N.Y.
Dec 26, 1918

Dear Henry & Leal!

“A happy New Year” as this will reach you about the time when the old year steps out. I hope it will be a Happy New Year for the whole world as new year of Peace for all. I hope you had a pleasant Christmas and will have a pleasant time New Years. We are all anticipating a happier New Year than Christmas at that time there was no Peace among our Boys but yesterday they concluded Peace each of them are satisfied with the agreement Business is good and we hope it will remain good we are hopeful for another good year.

We have no winter here yet no snow, mild weather a green Christmas, but we will get our share before spring I think.

I hope we will All remain in good health and all be together another year.

Papa

Jeffersonville, N.Y.
Jan 2, 1919

Dear Henry!

This is the first Day of the year 1919 on which we should try to start with good resofls, which I am glad to see your intentions in your letter to pay off on your debts and you will no doubt, be able to do so, as you do not live extravagant, and earning a big salary but we must say it has surprised us immensely when you tell us the amount of your debts.

Expense eats up Profits, we find it so in our business, it is the greatest Job in Mercantile business. The explanation of Business is “Science of Oeconomy” a very good Science to learn, we know you are no spender, no gambler etc. Your Expenses must have brought you so deep in debt, and as you have really not lived over your income, I hope you will be able to pull yourself out of debt.

Mama and myself are always worrying about debts, I have enough to live on the interest for a simple life, but as I am on the Books in the Store, I am always trying to get rid of borrowed money and it is a hard tussle, the Boys are not worrying so much, they did not have to start with nothing like me, they started work on Papa’s Capital. I started and laid the foundation but little Credit I get for it.

The Boys have made Peace and stand harmoniously. Clarence Royce will start the K. L. Store and marry Minnie Wilfert. I am confident they will make a success of it.

Joe stays here in Jeff. They are doing a fine business, we have a large stock on hand of goods bought cheap earlier and also of goods at the high price and we will have an outlet of them in the K. Lake (store), so I hope they will work together in Harmony. I put my foot down and protested against the dissolution. It would have crippled the business and they came to their senses.

I am sending you the biggest part of your need, you can pay that on account of the note. I would have none, I spent 250 D. on Liberty loans and let Walter have 100 D. and the business is short of money at this time. I am just thinking I may have a business proposition for you, I am going to take at least 500 D. a year out of the business now, you may have a Chance to place some money for me there at a high interest and good Security through some reliable Trust Co. or Bank or there may be some valuable stocks to get there. It is hard to get more than 5% here on Mortgages and some of them not very desirable so investigate and let me know. The best time would be in Summer time when business is flush. The Boys would like to reduce my investment and so would I as they can't give me no security. There is always unforeseen Danger--fire, deaths in the family etc.

Your letter is very interesting and I understand the most of it. I think endurance is a great thing to have and I think the longer you can stay in one place where you are doing well, the better for you as the moving around is too expensive and you are sometimes disappointed in your betterment. I let you have the money at 6% on a note.

We are having very unseasonable weather. The Thermometer 40, grass is green yet, no snow yet, very little frost, very unhealthy weather. Miss Libbie Cailli died in New York a few days ago, Influenza is here, the most of them are getting over it. Ed McDermott was very sick. School was closed and is yet. 3 of the Teachers had the flu. Robert McGinn is very sick now, we are not feeling well at all.

I hope this will find you All well and happy and I wish you All "A Happy New Year." Kiss for little Jean from Papa in Jeffersonville and Kiss for Baby Gregory with love to you All

Papa

(Back page of same letter):

Jan 3

Henry I am sending you	
Cashiers check of	250.00
	150.00
your check of-----	27.50

	427.50

that is all I can scrape together now. In December I paid off on Mortgage on the K. L. store 700 D. and bought 250 D. in Liberty loans, I hope you can pay off, and reduce your debts to relieve you on paying interest and soon be able to invest

some of your own money there at 8-10%. I see you dated your Check Jan 1918.

Jeffersonville, N.Y.
Feb 3, 1919

Dear Henry!

In answer to your letter of Jan 17, would say it is perfectly satisfactory to me, to allow you 10 D. for the Muff on your Bill of the firm. The affair was some Joke to Mama and all of us in the way she got what she was wishing for and greatly in need of. As Otto had not told me of a letter he had, intending to sell the Muff for Leal and Mama regarded it as a Xmas present, suspecting it had been Leal's and that she did not need it in the warm climate and we can consider it as such now, for the price of it.

Your arctics have not been sold or used yet, as we have no winter here, we have no snow yet, and weather like spring, we have a big stock of Rubbers, felts and all kinds of Rubber footwear on hand but no sale from them. I would have written you before this, but we have been busy with taken Inventory and influenza sickness with Otto & family could not finish the Inventory until Otto could get around to get the prices & estimates of some of the goods and I could not balance the Books until last Saturday the result of the business for last year was good the Boys are well satisfied and Joe is more optimistic.

In regard charging you 6% on the 550 note I will not do it, I was glad to help you, when you needed it. Mama is writing at this moment to you also and as I am getting sleepy I will let her tell you more then I can think of now.

Hoping you are all well and to hear from you again soon I am with love to you
All

Papa

(Back page of same letter):

4/1 - 19

Dear Henry & Leal!

I send you my heartiest Congratulation on the arrival of the little Boy Henry take the enclosed to start him a Bank account.

Papa

Jeffersonville Feb 4, 19

Dear Henry & Leal

We received all your letters & hope that your cold did develop into the Flu. Jeffersonville has had its share. Otto & family are out again. Otto feels rather weak yet he was the sickest of the whole family. Joe & Mary were inoculated & escaped so far with a severe cold. Charley had it quite bad but is better.

I could not stay away when there were 6 in bed & Mrs. Wilfert up nights with them. I tried to do my little bit in the day time & thus far I have escaped though I have felt far from well, those terrible headaches every morning but I think good hot water & Acurmes Bengere (?) usually give me relief about 9 in the morning so I try to bear my Cross patiently knowing so many others have worse to bear. Aunt Mina has not felt so well either she had a dizzie spell & fell on the floor a few days ago. I think her heart is getting weak like grandfathers did.

Enclosed you will find a 5 dollar bill which I wish you to Deposit in Gregory's name on his 1st Birthday to draw Compound int till he is 21, a nest egg for his future. I noted all the Birth days in a little book but I cannot find it to night but I think it is this month so I send it now. His is too young to appreciate it so I will not send anything else this time hoping he will grow up to be a sturdy & honest man like his father and grandfather. I suppose he walks now & keeps your Leal busy keeping him out of mischief.

This Winter has been remarkably mild. No Snow & very little Ice. People are beginning to wonder where they can get ice for the summer. It suits me well enough. I hate such cold weather.

Walter wrote awhile ago it had not been very cold in Montana either. His address is Browning, Montana Reclamation service. Rev Stadelmanns address is 1660 W Edgewotts St, Philadelphia, Pa.

We have a very nice young Minister but his troubles seem to be beginning allready to They have a young baby of 2 weeks & now his wife had to be taken to the hospital to be operated for appendicitis. They like Jeffersonville very much & I am very sorry for this trouble which has come to them.

Mr. McGinn is still sick & has 2 nurses. The boys Joe & Otto are well pleased with last years business & I think better satisfied to stay together as they should to the burden of such a business is alltogether too much for Otto to carry alone & I hope during his illness he reflected on the fact how good it is to have some one to rely on when unable to be there himselve Poor Sunny as we call him had to shut up his store when he & his whole family & also his girl clerk had the flu. If they take care of the business there is enough for 2 & if Clarence can make the Kenoza Lake store ----- so much the better--anyway I am glad things are settled for awhile in these unsettled times I would not like Joe to be looking for a job. I shall be glad to hear from your friend in Chicago & if I could make a Sale so much the better as I am getting old & every year the infirmities of

age take a stronger hold of me I would like a Mortgage of 2000 or more on the property so that if a man lived on one floor & rented the other it ought to be enough to pay for it. I am asking 4000 for it but if I could sell it direct without agents fee would do better. Perhaps he might find a buyer for me hoping this will reach you safely & that all are well I remain as ever with kisses to all especially my baby boy.

Your loving
Mother

Jeffersonville, N.Y.
Feb 9, 1919

Dear Henry!

I hope this will find you and Leal & Baby well and that you will let me know how they are shortly so we do not worry.

Otto is gaining strength again but feels weakness yet in his heart, he is called on the Trial Jury to Monticello, to go to morrow but he thinks he can be let off through the help of Judge Smith, who has always been my friend and George Hunkt our Sheriff. Our business needs him home very much as we must prepare for Spring trade and open the Kenoza Lake Store for Clarence Royce, intend to start three about March 1.

The days getting amicably now and Everything is working satisfactory the earnings in Profits of last year have gone "over the top" and the Boys will have to pay some Income Tax. I wish you would not let on that I told you we may have to loose this coming year when prices are falling we need the annex of Kenoza Lake Store now to work off our high priced goods. I have the best of hope that Clarence will succeed to make it pay, we have given him a good offer and he will do his best to save the 6000 D Property.

We had a sad lost yesterday our pleasant, our good Lawyer Bob McGinn died after first having the Influenza and the last Pneumonia yesterday morning on my way to the Store I heard he died the night before at 11 P.M. and at 11 1/2 o'clock we went to the funeral service in the Catholic Church and at 11 P.M. the same day his body was sent to Callicoon Depot to his home. The flu has been pretty bad here lately Aug Neuberger, bl. Segur wife and child and Mrs. Neuberger was laid up all except old Mr. Neuberger, it seems to attack most Everybody in some form Joe had an attack but kept on his feet luckily for the business.

Mama complains also, she has pains all over her, she says many one would go to bed as sick as she feels, Aunt Mina is complaining also I am holding out good and feel as good as I can expect in my age. The weather is beautiful no snow, sunshine every day like Spring weather people are anxious to get Ice, Had a letter from Walter he writes they have fine weather there, only 3 days in January 7 below Zero but all this fine weather seems not to be healthy.

Hoping to hear from you soon I remain with love to you All.

Papa

(Wilhelmina Weber died 15 Mar 1919 in her 75th year.)

Jeffersonville April 6th, 19

Dear Henry & Leal

Am glad tpo be able to inform you that Papa is better again but feels weak yet we took a walk today together & both came home so tired that we are not good for much letter writing tonight we only want to see Mrs. Diehl & from there to Docs house buy found them out the day was lovely for an auto ride so I suppose they took advantage of it. I am sending you a check of 50 D. for Jean & Otto's receipt for 300 for you. Send me in your next a receipt made out to Eliza Meyer for the same. Aunt Mina had 200 dollars in Our Bank which we have difficulty to get having no order with Aunt Mina's signature. We may have to have an administrator a[ppointed & then I may have to give an acct of all she possessed so I am asking receipts from all the boys. Do you know if a report has to be sent in to the government even if the sum is not large enough to collect inheritance tax? & how large a sum is exempt from taxation the

1/18/20

Dear Henry & Leal

This is a rough day cold below Zero the Wind playing with the snow and the cold driving in the House so we can hardly get it warm & comfortable by using lots of coal I wish we were in Texas.

I hope you had a good year and are happy the Boys had a big year and are happy the Kenoza Lake Store has been paying fine and makes a good Annex our Store here has been doing just as well.

I don't know what to write about just now as Mama has written a long letter we are now hoping to hear from you again from the sunny south to hope for the July and a little short summer here and we are looking for a letter from your dear wife Leal also I suppose her little Darlings keep her very busy.

Hoping this will find you All well & happy I remain with love to you All

Papa

Jeffersonville, N.Y.
Apr 25, 1920

Dear Henry & Leal!

We were surprised a few days ago to receive a large Box from you, and on opening it we found the nicest Pecan Nuts, 3 separate bags one for Otto, one for Joe and one for us. We was delighted as they are the best, we ever eat, Thank you for the same! If we can buy some, a Bag of 200-300 for Christmas Otto will likely like to get some through you, giving you a good price for some according to New York market quotations.

I read the letter you wrote Otto and saw that Leal & children came back home, and had a nice trip. I hope they are all well & happy now.

We are not alltogether out of this horrid winter yet, large snow drifts not all gone yet and cold air yet, trees are beginning to bud, poor Maple syrup season, a friend told me he had bought one gallon for 3.50 D. Potatoes bring 3.00 a Bu here now we are paying 40 ¢ a doz for Eggs now, but could not ship them for the last 2 weeks, we sent some to N.Y. per auto truck and some per Parcel Post on a/c the Strike.

Jews are crowding in, on our town now. Chas Wilfert rented his big house to Jews this summer for 800 D. The Yager store is running by a Jew, and they will have a Butcher shop for Kosher meat, Simon Dich sold his house but not to a Jew. The Grangers bought the old school house for 450 D. and they will put up a Hall Building on the lot and cellar of Beckers Drug Store.

Otto has resigned as Justice and John Glassel is put in again. Otto went to the City with his new Car to see about Sugar which is very hard to get, he succeeded to get

about 1/4 what we need promised. Rose & Dorothy went along and they seen Gus & family, they are all well in their new House. Gus bought another House on Speculation. Houses of living Rooms are in great demand around New York and Gus generally does well on his speculations. Business is good with us, and we hope it will be this summer. I see in the paper that Rufus Malthy is out again on 1000 D. bail.

We are going to vote for Hoover if he gets the nomination or if he runs. Both Political Parties are rotten. I rather vote for a good business man, than for any of the old parties. Clarence & Minnie are doing a fine business at Kenoza Lake and the Annex is paying fine for us and for Clarence.

Hoping you are doing well in your Profession and that you are All of you well & happy I remain with love to you All

Papa

(H. A. Meyer suffered a stroke and died 9 July 1920 in his 78th year.)