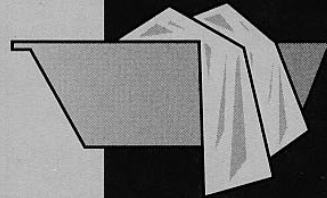


Volume 48 • Numbers 1 and 2
Winter and Spring 2003

Brethren Life and Thought



Brethren History

*A Quarterly Journal Published in the
Interests of the Church of the Brethren*

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Abraham Harley Cassel's Letters to His Family

John Baugher Bryer

Introduction and Background

Following his retirement as president of Elizabethtown College, A. C. Baugher (1895–1962),¹ hoped to publish a book about Abraham Harley Cassel (1820–1908), the noted nineteenth-century antiquarian from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Dr. Baugher was married to Cassel's great-granddaughter, Ella Cassel Booz Baugher (1898–1987). The primary sources Baugher used were previously published works, family anecdotes, and personal letters from Cassel to his wife, Elizabeth Rhoades Cassel (1823–1900). Though he amassed the "second-largest private library in the United States,"² information about the period of Cassel's life during which he traveled widely to acquire books remains somewhat elusive.

A number of Brother Cassel's personal letters to his family while traveling on one of his trips in 1858 in search of books were made available to the author [Baugher] through the kindness of Sara C. Shisler, a granddaughter of Abraham Harley Cassel. Excerpts from some of these letters and a full reproduction of several others will give a good picture of his devotion and love for his family. The salutations used in his letters reveal his fondness for his family and an affectionate humor.³

Sara Cassel Shisler's assessment of the letters characterizes the dichotomy between Cassel's public and private personae.

This morning I finished reading Grandfather's letters. I think (as you said yesterday) that the letters reveal a side of his nature which his public life did not reveal. To people in general he appeared almost one hundred percent an intellectual, but his letters reveal a great appreciation of nature, a spiritual response to life, and a sentimental (the right shade) attitude towards his family. Also an aesthetic sense which is seen in his appreciation of beautiful houses, furnishings, etc.⁴

Dr. Baugher's untimely death in 1962 precluded completion of his important work. As part of doctoral research efforts in 1966, Dr. Mar-

lin L. Heckman, librarian at the University of LaVerne, made inquiries to Mrs. Baugher regarding possible access to Cassel's private correspondence. Unfortunately, and uncharacteristically, these requests were rejected in anticipation that her family would someday publish the letters. She wrote: "At present time I am not interested in giving this information. Our family is interested in maybe finishing the study at some future date. . . ." ⁵

Dr. Baugher's draft manuscript remained in his widow's possession until her passing in 1987. Their daughter, Kathleen Baugher Bryer (1928–1992), the author's mother, made the manuscript available to her son with the intention to both protect and pass along the information in the hope that someday it would be published. Thirty-eight years after Dr. Baugher received permission from Sara Shisler to publish the letters, this author enlisted the assistance of Dr. Donald F. Durnbaugh, Juniata College archivist, to finally bring his grandfather's effort to fruition.

The letters are presented chronologically. The first section contains a single 1850 letter to home from Ephrata, Pennsylvania; a second section presents a contiguous series of thirteen letters written from August 20 to September 6, 1858, while on a trip through Pennsylvania and Ohio. The third section includes three letters from an unknown year as Cassel chronicled a trip to the Midwest. The final section contains a single letter from January 8, 1866, although it is not a letter to his family from the road.

The author had the opportunity to compare one of the transcriptions done by Dr. Baugher with the original letter in his family's possession and found it to be true to the original with regard to misspelled words and improper punctuation. The other transcriptions presented may be of equal quality, although this could not be verified since the disposition of the original letters is uncertain. ⁶ These transcriptions are intended to be exactly as Dr. Baugher produced them in his unpublished manuscript. Regardless of whether there may be slight variations between the transcriptions and the originals, the messages and themes are unmistakable, consistent, and revealing.

This publication represents fulfillment of A. C. Baugher's wishes. More importantly, the letters illuminate for scholars a period of Cassel's life about which precious little is known. It is hoped that this newly available information will benefit those wishing to form a more complete understanding of this important man's life and work.

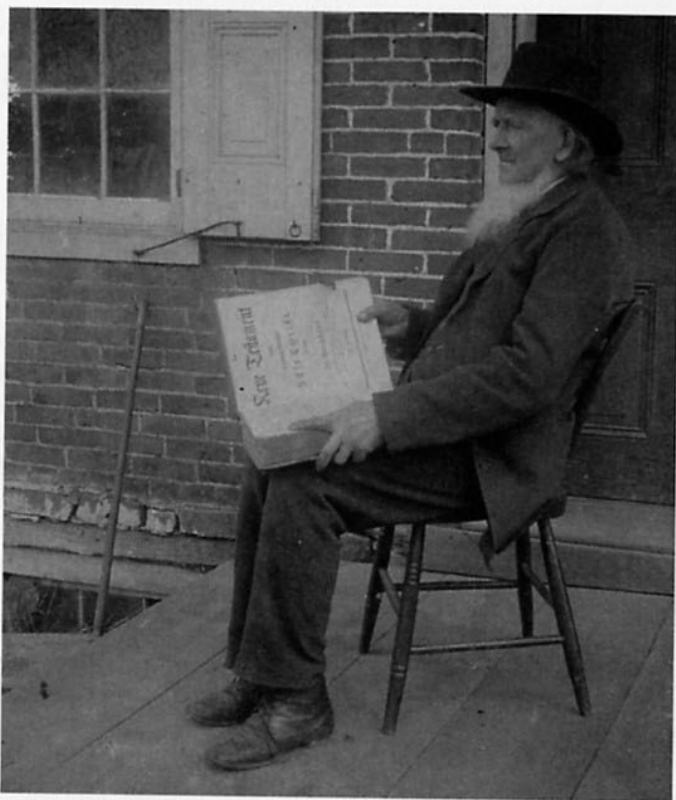
Letter Home From an 1850 Trip

The October 8, 1850 letter was posted from Ephrata, Pennsylvania, as Cassel's travels took him to Lancaster County with "Brother Samuel."⁷ Weary from illness, Cassel relates timeframes for his return home:

Ephrata Lancaster Cty October 8th 1850

Beloved Companion Father Mother Sisters & Children⁸

I enclose a few lines to let you know how we are coming on in our journey we have had about $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen Meetings and have seen many Brethren and are in perty good spirrits thus far Bro Samuel has taken Cold and is perty hoarse and myself has not been well but am getting better now. O how I long to see you or rather that you might be with us for my mind is a great deal with you more so than ever it was when absent and especially dear little Sissy's Image with her little smiles is ever before me little Henry & Yellis as well as your Beloved Self occupy not only a small portion of my hearts most tender affections but so much of it as oftimes to disturb my celestial enjoyments but be all verry earnest in you prayers to God for my protection and preservation that I may again be permitted to behold your faces this side of the grave And unitedly serve the Lord with more earnestness than ever we did I hope you will be ready to forgive me my many failures and shall try with me to do better in future should we be spared Oh Mary and Anne try to be right-zealous and fervently engaged in the work of the lord whose service merits such a rich reward Our dear Brother David Gerlock⁹ is lying at the point of Death by all appearance and Brother Peter Holabush¹⁰ is dead which you may perhaps have heard already The principle reason of me writing is that you may not be to much Disappointed if going to the [New] Jersey should not come to pass as it dont seem at all likely that it will after trying all our best for the Brethren have made appointments untill Thursday evening yet up at Jonas Kurtzes¹¹ which is at least 45 if not more miles from home which you see is rather more than a days journey. so that if we would even try to get home on Friday it will be verry late in the evening but most likely we will not for the distance is rather to much for our horses and if we would get home at near midnight it would seem most to hard for me and the horse to start again a good while before day as we would be required to do for the Distance to Jersey is upwards of 30 therefore try to be resigned Brother Samuel also still thinks it his duty to go to Coventry & especially since Bro Holabush is gone so we may perhaps not come home till Sunday evening if I accompany him there if not we will try to come yet on Friday night sometimed Therefore make yourself not to certain



Abraham Harley Cassel (1820–1908) with a prized Sauer Bible from his collection, ca. 1900.

neither to uncertain about the Jerseys_my pen is so miserable and my opportunity such that I cant well write more at present My love and my hearts most tender affections to you all Father Mother wife & children Anne & Mary & whoever may inquire after me

Abraham H. Cassel

Letters from His 1858 Trip through Pennsylvania and Ohio

Of particular interest are the following 13 letters written during an 18-day portion of an 1858 journey through Pennsylvania and Ohio. In an April 2, 1858 letter from Cassel to James Lenox,¹² Cassel revealed plans to travel west on a four-week journey to locate books.¹³ Later response to Lenox on September 27, 1858 indicated that his trip was not particularly productive and that his plans were to make " . . .



Cassel married Elizabeth Rhodes (1823–1900) in 1843. Six of their eight children survived into early childhood.

an extensive tour over the older settled parts of the country in quest of such matter as soon as I can get the time to do so."¹⁴ Most likely, the letters given below were penned during the four-week trip through territory viewed as unsettled by Cassel. The letters detail his activities as his journey took him through Pennsylvania, into Ohio, and finally home through Virginia by rail, presumably.

City of Lancaster, Lancaster County,
August 20, 1858

To The Lonely Cuckoo at home

Thinking you will be very anxious to hear from me again . . . And I also having an excellent oppertunity for writing to day in Bro Jacob Reinholds¹⁵ Coal Office I accordingly embrace it. I arrived at Phila

about 7.0 clock in the Mornings train from Norristown. then tended to that Package for Mr. Lennox Then fixed my Matters with Dr. Fronefields,¹⁶ collected my Interests and stock dividends from the Mem's Canal and City Loan¹⁷ . . . Had the Remarkable good luck for getting every penny that was due me, besides what was deposited for me with Fronefield, so that I have money plenty . . . Went to Millers where I partook of an extra-ordinary good Dinner, after Dinner to Mr. Sowers¹⁸ and then left with the 3.0 clock train for Lancaster . . . But such a kind hearted and accomodating Conductor I never met with I shall have a good deal to tell about him. when I have opportunity. . . . The fares are also Considerably Reduced so that my journey is not likely to cost as much as I had expected . . . Be perfectly easy about me and make yourself no trouble. that I am alone For I am right well. and enjoy excellent spirits and have plenty of Company. both Ladies and gents appear to be Interested in me, so that I enjoy myself very well wherever I am . . . I arrived at Bro Reinholds about 7.0 clock last evening. their supper was over but in spite of all my Resistance they would prepare me yet one . . . But as I would not permit them. they treated me with a supper on Watermelons and Cantelubs. that I am shure neither you nor I ever seen such a one before. he bought it from the cars brought in from Baltimore. and was a full load for such a little woman like you to carry . . . I never was more surprised than when I came to Brother Reinholds house . . . you never seen such a larger Family establishment in Phila having fine Papered Parlours Setting Rooms Dining Rooms [*illegible*] in number and 2 verry accomplished fine young Daughters draped like Phila Ladies and so are also the smaller ones, and himself is an excellent and verry accomplished Man. In short I think he is a Brother after the 'Heart of Both God and man if such a thing is Pofsible to be He took great Interest in me both In my conversations, as also in his walks with me. through the town to show & tell me the Interesting Sights thereof. . . .

Note By . . . I seen Saml Rhoads¹⁹ in Norristown he says mother is with Silas Jenkins this good while already & was well as much as he Knew

Remember me to daddy and Mommy—to Mary and all the children . . . tell little silly and Manda that their Pappa is often thinking about them & that they must be good children & not quarrel

I remain your Loving Husband

A. H. Cassel

§ § §

Ephrata, Lancaster Co August 20

To the lonely one at Home

I met the Committe Brethren from the west²⁰ . . . who not only Kindly Invited me to go along but in a manner prevailed upon me to do so I

therefore accepted the offer and went along in a Private conveyance and at Bro Reinhold's expense The Distance is 16 Miles through the most beautiful parts of country that Eye has ever seen. You cant Imagine the Farms The Buildings The Corn Fields etc which I have seen on the way. and such a Beautiful day with a nice cool western Breeze which added greatly to the delight Indeed I can scarcely tell my feelings at beholding so much of the goodness & Richness of the Almighty Providence which not only governs the world but as it were takes charge of the smallest concerns of Man! oh my soul forget not his Benefits . . . I cant begin to tell particulars of the Committees affairs for they are to many & to Intricate But I can tell you that I have heard and seen wonders already and expect to see & hear a great many more before I leave this place . . . I have not been to Samuel Harleys yet But expect to be there either this or to morrow night I have no time to write more at present for I am Kept to Busy²¹

I remain yours with my tenderest Regards
Note . . . the first letter I wrote from Phila. I had Intended to send with the Huckster but he was gone already before I got to the Tavern . . . did not think it worth while to pay Postage on it from Phila So I took it along to send from Lancaster and now poke this one in too so as to make it to be worth 3 cts Postage in full & must now send it at once or it will get more than Legal Weight

Remember me dearest

§ § §

Columbia & Marietta August 23rd [1858]

To The Dear ones at Home

I again take up my pen to inform you of my Progress . . . I have been travelling on foot & private conveyance ever since last friday. I went far out of my way over to the furnace mountains to the oar smeltings and Seen some of the greatest wonders that Nature or Art can show . . . I have also been through the Beautiful country from Mount Joy over to Columbia and thence along the Susquehanna up to the Marietta to where the other Branch of the first Cassels settled after their emigration to this Country²² . . . I found a good many of them. But oh I tell you they are a verry diffirent kind of Cassles from what we are. they are wealthy and verry Intelligent & got so big & so high up in the world that but verry few of them are Farmers or tillers of the ground as their Reverred Ancestors where. yet they cherish the Highest Respect for them And were verry eager to have all possible Information from me concerning them I found one verry old one Named Henry most 90 years old²³ . . . He I think is a Man purty near to my own heart a verry pious menonist but the most of the others belong either to the Winebrenners²⁴ or to the United Brethren²⁵ . . . they are just now hold-

ing a Camp Meeting . . . I was there last night . . . But I can say no more about it at present that that it was in many Respects the most wonderfull campmeeting I ever beheld I am Now Waiting for the cars at Columbia for Harrisburgh I should forever Regret if I had not come hear to Columbia for there is the grandest and most Romantic Scenery here than can be witnessed any where in our Country in So small a compass Truly the God of Nature is a great God & Almighty are his works in every aspect . . . and the awful Grandeur therof surpasses all Immagination The cars are most here and I must close . . . I am right well & enjoy excellent spirits with a good appetite the most I have to complain of is I have no time for sleep . . . I hope you are right well too & can sleep as well as ever . . . I think it is long already since I left Home and would give a good deal if I could hear from Home as frequent as you are Hearing from me . . . But notwithstanding that I am a little home sick I still dont think that I shall be able to come sooner than the time specified . . . From Harrisburgh I shall take a trip over the Lebanon Valley Rail Road to the Lebanon & Kittaning Mountains & to see Mr. Rupp²⁶ at Jones town. then I think I shall get along faster I remain your loving Husband Rember me to dady & momy to Saml & Mary and tell all the children about their Poppy and I shall

Remain yours
Abraham H. Cassel

§ § §

Harrisburg, August 24th A D 1858

Dear ones at home

In great haste inform you that I have arrived safe at Harrisburg the great Capitol of our state. But although I was well received by the great men there, yet I was never more disappointed with any place than with Harrisburg. For instead of finding a large & splendid city full of righteousness & justice—it is a miserable place. I could not find words to express my abhorrence of the place. No wonder that Mr. Rupp did not wish to stay there & that there is not even a single Bro in all its vicinity for although it has a splendid Capitol & many very Elegant Buildings it is but a Brothel—a place of Infamy & incest and of the most uncontrolled Lasciveousness in all Christendom. I will in Charity hope that its equal may not be found within the Bounds of Civilization. I have counted no less than 18 or 20 Whore Houses within sight of the Capitol of Justice & whores are walking about the streets in Broad day Blinking with their eyes & trying to entrap the unwary stranger. I had but a narrow escape from infamy myself. In short it is a high place of the most abominable wickedness—a twin sister of Sodom & Gomoroh & am astonished at the long suffering & forbearance of a righteous

God that he did not long ago visit with the same destruction. I hasten away from its unhallowed precincts. (The cars are just about ready to start for Lebanon & I expect to get to my friend Rupp tonight yet. The Lord be with you and keep your hearts & minds filled with the rich consolations of his ever blessed Gospel & let your heart be perfectly easy about me for I feel that the Lord is with me & am therefore quite easy & submissive.

Yours very truly with

Tender regards
Abrm. H. Cassel

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I. D. Rupps Jonestown Lebanon Co. August 24th 1858

To the Hen & her Chickens

Beloved ones at home I take up my pen again to let you hear from me. I left Harrisburg at 2. Oclock on the Lebanon Valley Rail Road for to visit Mr. Rupp which took me to within 8 miles from his Residence. There is a stage running daily till nearly to his Residence but I missed getting a passage on it so I had no alternity but either to walk it or to lay over till next day. They would hardly leave me walk for they said it was a very dreary Road through the mountains & hard for a Stranger to find with out a guide. Night might overtake me etc. But I was bent on going & did go. Walked about 2 miles when I was so lucky as to meet a plain looking oldish man with a load of Bags on his wagon. Thinking by his appearance he might be a Bro. So I made myself acquainted with him but he proved to be only a River Bro²⁷ but Kindly took me on his wagon although heavy loaded with whom I rode more than . . . the way. For which I was very glad for it is such a hard road to walk that I would scarcely have stood it. But still I had the hardest part of it to accomplish yet & alone. And for the sake of making the distance shorter I went right over the great Bunker Hill Mountain where I had nothing but a foot path instead of going around it by the Road. But however I arrived safe & had the good luck to find my friend Rupp at home and greatly rejoiced to see me. Indeed he made so much fuss with me that I was quite abased. Called his wife that Mr. Cassel from Montgomery of whom he had told her so much had arrived. After being through with her he called his 3 daughters (fine young Ladies) & introduced me to each of them & then to his students.²⁸ Meanwhile an extra supper was prepared for me & then he took me upstairs in his Library where we were till 12 o'clock at night. But that is beyond all conception what I heard & seen while with him. In short it was about one of the happiest days I ever had & will remember for all the toil it took to get there. To Morrow I shall leave early to pay a visit to

the Rev. John Winebrenner²⁹ the founder of the Winebrenarian Society & then I shall probably go on to Foutz Valley in the Tuskarorah Mountains to see our Bro Solomon Seiber.³⁰ I am right well & Remain your fond husband

A. H. Cassel

§ § §

Bro Solomon Siebers Foutzes Valley in the Tuskarorah Mountains
August 25th 1858

Dear ones at Home

I arrived here at our worthy Bros Solomons Siebers about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon after a somewhat weary travel But the loving, kind & Brotherly reception soon made me forget all my fatigue. I can't take time to describe you at present what kind of a man Bro Sieber is any more than that he is an eminent Preacher of the Gospel & "one of the Lords Excellent ones on earth"—has a very Interesting Family and is himself in every respect a very accomplished man & greatly rejoiced at being honored with a visit from me. Has 3 daughters as Interesting as himself their names are Isophenah, Addah, and Phiannah (accomplished names you will think for a Bro's daughters way up in the Mountains of the Wild Tuscarorah) But I tell you the world is different up here is these Mountains from what we think down there on our level plains. You can form no idea of what accomplishments & scholarships may be found here. The people live at ease and are a reading people & have the most splendid Parlours filled with all kinds of books, papers, and Magazines the like of which is seldom found in our Montgomery Co and even at this Bro Seibers is the most splendid fixed up Parlour that I ever seen among Brethern.

Thursday August 26th. This morning I meant to go back again to get on the cars for Mifflin to stop at Sells but he would not allow it. For he wanted to take me then with his carriage through the Mountains. I remonstrated that he was putting himself to too much trouble as they were busy hauling Dung but it was all of no avail. for he would bring in spite of all that I could resist. We are just about ready to start & expect to be at John Sells³¹ tonight. I am right well & hope this may find you the same. I am quite cheered up at beholding so much of the awful grandeur of the Almighty's Works as also at enjoying so much of the Dignity & Nobility of his Creature Man. Never had I such an enlarged view of his true greatness and so much desire to pattern after it as at present.

Yours etc in bonds of perfect love

A. H. Cassel

§ § §

John Sells Loss Creek Valley Friday August 27th 1858

To the Lonely Widdow at Home

Dear Mom and dear Children Father Mother & Sister

I have the pleasure of informing you that I have accomplished my journey thus far in good health and good spirits until I have arrived safely at my Uncle John Sells. They appeared to be very glad to see me and had a great many questions to ask me about the old neighborhood etc. They are all reasonably well except old uncle—he is quite miserable. His spells appear to get still harder & harder and happened to have a pretty hard one when I arrived. He gets so tight that he can't lay and must therefore spend his nights very lonesome and miserable on the couch and in his big arm chair. I was up with him until past 12 o'clock last night for company. Aunt Betsy is so afflicted with Rheumatism that she goes very stiff & lame but is still about her work. I intend to visit about the Valley here until Monday morning then I intend to take the cars again & go straight on to Bro Kurtzes³² in Columbiana, Ohio. It is raining right smart all day or I would be with old Daddy Shollenberger³³ by this time. I had intended to be with him for Dinner and with cousin Rachel Leidy³⁴ for Tea. Tomorrow is a great Council Meeting here in the valley on account of difficulties which have arisen in the church. I am kindly invited to stay and attend it but as it rains so fast which puts me back so much that I don't know yet what I shall do about it. I have heard and seen a great deal concerning churches and church mottoes of which I might write a very interesting letter but the boys & all have so much to talk and to ask as to leave me no time to write. Remember me in your prayers and strive to keep up love in the Bonds of Unity and Peace for I have seen plenty of the sad effects of the contrary where disunity and strife is predominating and the lack of confidence in each others Integrity is so prominent. I feel somewhat tired and weary of travelling & would greatly prefer to come home now for a while & then start again afresh if that could be so. But as it can't I shall not waver from my Intentions and Prosecute my journey if life and health permits as far my ticket which is paid for will take me. You need therefore not expect me until the lapse of 4 weeks from the time of starting.

I remain yours etc.

Abraham H. Cassel

§ § §

Patterson, Mifflin County, August 30th 1858

Dear Ones at Home

I again take up my pen in great Haste to inform you a little of what progress I am making with my journey. I arrived at Sells about noon on Thursday. Next day he took me to see old lady Shollenberger where

I was wonderfully well received. Indeed I was not proud but abased at the fuss they made upon my account They had 2 kinds of meat and then killed yet a chicken, besides many other things, which made supper so late that it was dark night before we got away from there.

Saturday Uncle took me to See Brother Boyer³⁵ & Aaron Leidys.³⁶ Bro Moyer is very sick with Dysentery. Afternoon to church where a man by name of Rothruff³⁷ preached a visitation Sermon. In the evening to meeting again where I heard a sermon that scarcely has its equal in Eloquence (Sunday Phillips took me over to Slasstown in the Brothers Meeting where I heard Bro Kaufman³⁸ & Smith³⁹ preach 2 good sermons. From Meeting Bro Whitman⁴⁰ took me a long for Dinner and after dinner took me up to Bro Daniel Liebers⁴¹ to stay all night so as to get nearer to the Rail Road.

There I got timely to bed for the first time since my journey. They appeared to be glad that I came, but for all had little to say. So that I began to doubt of being welcome. Therefore went to Bed soon & got up at 4. oclock this Morning without wakening any of the Family and walked about 2 miles before day to this place (Patterson) for to get on the cars without any Breakfast & no supper last night save a cold Bite & Tumbler of Water—just reached the cars in time for Pittsburgh.

I am still well but the country is very sickly. Dysentery is the prevailing sickness all over the west. I feel myself under the divine protection of an Almighty Power or else I should be afraid to prosecute my journey amid all the Dangers from within & without which is attendant with traveling and more especially at this season of the year.

My unfading Love to all & a big Portion of it to yourself

Abrm. H. Cassel

§ § §

Columbiana, Ohio August 31st, 1858

Dearly Beloved

After a long and tedious journey I have reached the abode of our dear Brothers Kurtz⁴² and Quinter⁴³ last evening about candlelight. Kurtz was very much relieved at seeing me and received me with *[illegible]* kindness, but Quinter unfortunately was not at home. He left on Friday already for a journey of about 170 or 200 miles and is not expected back in less than a week. Day after tomorrow Brother Kurtz is taking a journey of about 70 miles right on my way to hold a series of meetings and general lovefeasts. He is begging hard of me to accompany him. You may think that I would dearly like to do so, but it would make my journey about a week longer which I could not well endure, for home is beginning to get so sweet that I long to embrace it again.

I meet with dear friends everywhere who I am happy to see but

there is no place so sweet as Home Home sweet Home and no friend so dear as those of your own flesh. I would rather see you, the dear companion of my aching Boosom than any friend that I can possibly meet with. And my children too. It seems an age since I seen them, and must wait yet two weeks longer before I will see them if ever I shall think the time most long enough for them to grow big (I hope my dear Boy Yelles will still try to be good and faithful to his Master and Mistress—give him my Respects and tell him that his Poppa is often thinking of him.) Sarah I hope also will try to sweeten to disconsolate hours & try to make herself useful to you in every way she can & Silly also I will hope does not cry so soon but will rather beguile your lonesome hours with her witty remarks and Laconic expressions. And Manda, tell her that Poppa says she must not be so crabbit as she used to be but try and be a good girl so that her face will get right bright and purty till Poppa comes home to kiss it. And little Hannah, what I shall say to her it won't be right to omit the dear little olive Branch without giving her also a passing notice. You may love & kiss her for me for your passtime until I come again.

I think these are all and if I should have forgotten any you will please tell them to excuse me on account of not having seen them so long.

A great deal of Love to yourself & my respects to all enquiring

A. H. Cassel

§ § §

Bro Bicheleys⁴⁴

6 Miles west of Dayton Ohio

September 2nd 1858

To my Dear Lizzy and to the Little Chickens

I left Bro Kurtzes yesterday morning at . . . past 4 oclock with the cars for Christline which is a large and verry beautiful city. From there took the cars again for Columbus which you Know is the capitol of the state & indeed it is a capitol that there is perhaps none like it in the whole Union. But I can't take time to describe you all its wonders at present. From Columbus took cars again to Xenia a more beautiful place than that the sun perhaps has never shone upon. From Xenia took cars again for Dayton & arrived there about 5 oclock in the afternoon. I hunted up that John Haldeman⁴⁵ to whom Price Horning⁴⁶ had recommended me but he was not at home. & could find no other place that suited me to stay. I therefore started late as it was in the direction of Hornings with the Intention to go as far yet as I could and stop at any place wherever night would overtake me & so I got along unto this place about 6 miles west of Dayton where I was verry happy to find a Brother by the name of Elias Bichely.⁴⁷ But such a place I suppose none of you had ever seen with such a reception neither. If I were

not pretty well posted up in the different traits of human character, I would have been out of heart but so while I thought I had a right to consider myself as one of God's creatures I made my self bold enough to stay, but I tell you it was a tedious evening and a long night. & more I shall not say for the present. I am just writing this for pasttime whilst waiting for my breakfast and then I shall start again on my weary tramp towards Hornings from which they tell me I have yet 8 miles but I feel in good spirrits as the Day promises to be a very fine one. and have a prospect of a pretty good breakfast after it is ready once. I am still enjoying pretty good health and am thankful for being so near my journey's end. Breakfast is now ready & the Brother is in a hurry to get at work again so I must close.

Remember my kind respects to Father and Mother To Mary and who cares about me. I shall hurry towards New Lebanon in hopes of meeting with a letter there form my dear little wife at home.

With fond affection I subscribe myself

Yours etc.
Abrm. H. Cassel

§ § §

Price Hornings

September 4th A.D. 1858

Thanks be unto the Lord our God who has extended his providential care towards me an unworthy subject of his most indulgent mercies—For protecting me in all dangers—For sustaining my life & health & For bringing my long and tedious journey to such a safe & Happy terminus—It is with feeling of great Emotions & with tearful Eyes that my quivering hand records those sacred sentences. I would to God that you could but feel, and partake some of that which the Good Lord in his mercy has given me to feel (But I must hasten I arrived yesterday about half Eleven O'clock at Wm Hornings⁴⁸ took Dinner with them & left for to See Price about 4. o'clock where I was joyfully received & spent a verry happy evening he has a nice family and a verry fine Woman to say in few words I think she is about all that a wife could be desired to be for to make a Husband happy althoug she is not verry handsome but handsome is what handsome does—Price is so altered in his appearance that I would not have known him If I had passed him he is verry stout & fleshy to what he used to be—has his hair parted & verry long with a Big Beard & Round Coat and is as I Hunbly trust a perty good Christian. his Bro Daniel⁴⁹ is also a Bro with a long Beard—not a fashion Beard but a right Dunker Beard—The girls too are so altered that I would not have Known either of them especially Mary. She is a little bit of a pale thin wife I think yet a good bit less than my own dear little ones She has a Baby about 9 months old.

They have their Children all living close around them and appears to be a verry happy Family from the least to the greatest. It rains right smart today or else Price would have taken me out to see some of the friends. I think for all I shall see Bro Amos Prices⁵⁰ yet and Bro Jacob Gebhart⁵¹ & Isaac Cassels⁵² before I leave here the season is verry dry no fruit and a great deal of verry poor corn.

Each of the Children is requesting a seperate visit that I dont know till when I shall be able to leave here & I would also like to see & hear old Bro Nead⁵³—while I dont expect ever to see the west again I hope you will bear with me if I should tarry a little linger than expected. But that Southern way I intend to take is a strange & unknown Road to me therefore I can not say so precisely how long it will take. But live in hopes & in confidence that the Lord will take care of me & bring me safe home again

My Respects to all the Family I remain yours etc

A. H. Cassel

§ § §

New Lebanon September 5th 1858

To the dear ones at home
Beloved Companion

To employ a few spare moments I take my pen again to inform you of my further progress since my last letter. Yesterday it cleared up nice about noon, then Price took me to see his sister Elizabeth (Jonas Warbels)⁵⁴ from there we went to Bro Jacob Hepners⁵⁵ (The young man who was in with Price) took tea there, then he went Home and I went to his Bro Daniels over night. Next morning I went to old Hennings⁵⁶ again where he met me with his Horse & Buggy to take me to his uncle Isaac Hornings and to Johnstown to see some of his cousins, then home with & spent the afternoon very agreeably with him. Had a great deal of music & then went to His Sister Marys for tea (Israel Gilberts⁵⁷) and from there back again to old William Hornings again over night & took my final leave of them

Walked up to Prices to take me to Bro Peter Neads Meeting⁵⁸ about 10 or 11 miles from here from there we expect to go to Isaac Cassels and Perhaps to Amos Prices and from there I shall turn my face home-wards again, but as I said before I don't know what kind of a passage I shall be able to get & consequently can fix no time when to be back, for I shall have at least 900 or a 1,000 miles to travel yet before I reach the favored spot of my happy abode.

forgot to mention that I was also to see our old neighbor Henry Brown who used to live on the Hill where George Hartmans⁵⁹ now

live. He was so glad that he was quite lost in love & joy at seeing me and hearing once again of his dear old neighborhood. They understood that I was leaving this vicinity this morning so he came to Hornings last evening to have a little more of my company yet & so did also Mary & her Husband and several other Brothers, so that we had quite a time together there until a late hour in the night. Slept well and arose better this morning than I have been for several days past

The weather was so unusually hot & sultry for part of last week that I could scarcely stand it in this southern climate. But it is now pleasant and cool again. I received your welcome letter yesterday about noon. You made no mention of my letters how many you received, which made me fear they had not all come to hand. I wrote at least 12 altogether.

My fondest and most endearing love until Blest with each others presence

A. H. Cassel

§ § §

Miami City, Ohio September 6th 1858

To the dear ones at Home

Beloved having a spare moment again I will devote it to inform you of my still further progress. Sunday Price took me to Salem to Peter Neads Meeting in the Bear Creek Church Had a very good meeting After meeting we went to Isaac Cassels from there to Samuel Kinseys, a Brother-in-law of Peter Neads.⁶⁰ From there to Peter Neads. He is a very interesting Man in Private Conversation. From there to Amos Prices where we were received with extraordinary kindness. Amos went along with us and staid with us over night here in Miami near Dayton & today me and Price have been walking about this enterprising city viewing the Public Buildings, Manufactories, etc. He left me to go home at about 3 o'clock with a sad & heavy heart on both sides for parting went very hard for I believe that my company was very dear to him & he was all to me that I could Reasonably expect.

I shall now set off from Dayton to night at 11 . . . o'clock for Virginia which will no doubt be a very long and tedious night but I could not well make any arrangements otherwise so as to reach Cumberland in the desired time. I have travelled over a vast extent of Territory in every Kind of conveyance but have now set my face in a homeward direction again—and oh what would I rather see than the smoke oozing out of our dear old chimney top at home and partake of a good dish of soup or a Plate full of Beans & Potatoes for I can hardly stand it any more with such diet as I am continually getting my longings after vegetables are so great that it greatly adds to my home sick. Potatoes are very scarce. I have had none yet since I am in Ohio except a few sweet ones

I am right well by day but have these several nights been so bad with my night mare hauntedness that I could hardly stand it and had no dear Lizzy to press to my side to ease it and no sleepy wife to tease to forget my misery which makes my nights very long although I get to bed very late. I have been eating some fruit today which I hope will make me feel better. I am at present 872 miles from home but by tomorrow this time I expect to be about 300 miles nearer if I have luck to get along safely. You may believe me that I am very anxious to get home but while I am also anxious to see as much of the world as I can for the same price I think it would be folly for me to hurry so much as not to see all that my money pays for otherwise. Or if I could save any thing by hurrying straight through I would do so. You will therefore bare with me and wait for me a little longer & love will be so much the stronger.

Your etc. with respects

Abrm. H. Cassel

Letters from Trip to Chicago

Cassel penned three letters from a trip that took him to Chicago in an unidentified year.

[2nd letter]

Altona West Pa. May 3

Took the Fast Express and flew at Lightnings Speed and have now reached Altoona the greatest manufacturing place of Iron Machinery in the U. S. Am writing whilst the others are taking their repast I am feeling about as well as can be expected after traveling all night without a bit of sleep. And what is worse, without coffe or anything warm in my stomach today yet My next will be from Pittsburgh.

I am yours

Abrm H Cassel

§ § §

[3rd letter]

Pittsburgh May 3rd Evening

At length we have reached that dingy dark & dirty city of Pittsburgh way over on the other side of the great Allegheny & Kittany Mountains and feel quite relieved in my mind for it is so dangerous to pass them that I was afraid to undertake it but thank the Lord we are safely over them. It makes a person feel perty queer to be winding through dark ravines & short curves 1300 ft above the surrounding level but I have no time to write more so I bid you an affection adieu

Am yours as ever

Abrm H Cassel

§ § §

[4th letter] Columbiana Ohio May 4th
To my dear wife & much beloved children

This evening I had my first supper since I left home with my dear old Brother Kurtz but unfortunately he was not at home so I and his son Henry⁶¹ went to see Bro James Quinter where we have spent this evening. I was very sorry that the old Bro was not at home but still I was well received and well entertained by all them. We were awhile in the Printing office then we had Worship and now they lighted me to bed but I thought I would write these few lines first before I retire. Although I did not sleep a bit last night—I traveled all night and am now 458 miles from home over on the other side of the big mountains and the wide Rivers—Susquehanna and Ohio. My next letter will probably be from Chicago. If I am so happy as to reach that place.

This is now the fourth letter that I wrote you and they all amount to nothing My poor heart feels a good deal and would give vent to Lancaster if I had time but it is late already and I am so sleepy that my Eyes fall shut whilst writing and must start again at 4.oclock which gives me but little time for sleep

So good night I hope you may all rest well and I will try to do the same if the Good Lord grants it Therefore good night to you all

Abrm H. Cassel

Letter in Response to a Research Request

“Unlike many collectors, he was generous to a fault in making his collection and specialized knowledge available to other people.”⁶² “The following letter is evidence of the respect in which Brother Cassel was held as an authority in Biblical study.⁶³ This is included as a previously unpublished letter which, though it is not to his family, illustrates Cassel’s more public side.

Harleysville Pa. Jan. 8/66

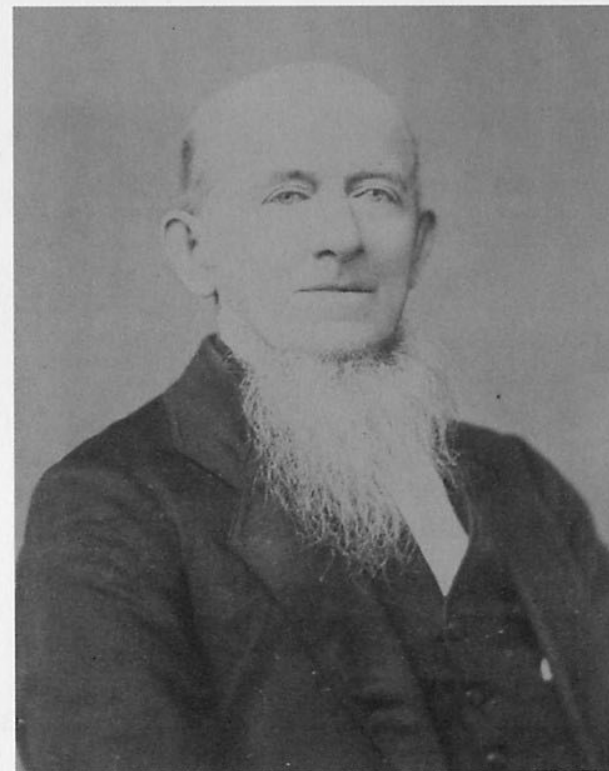
Dear Bro.

I received your little note in due time with your Christmas Hymn enclosed for which please accept my grateful thanks

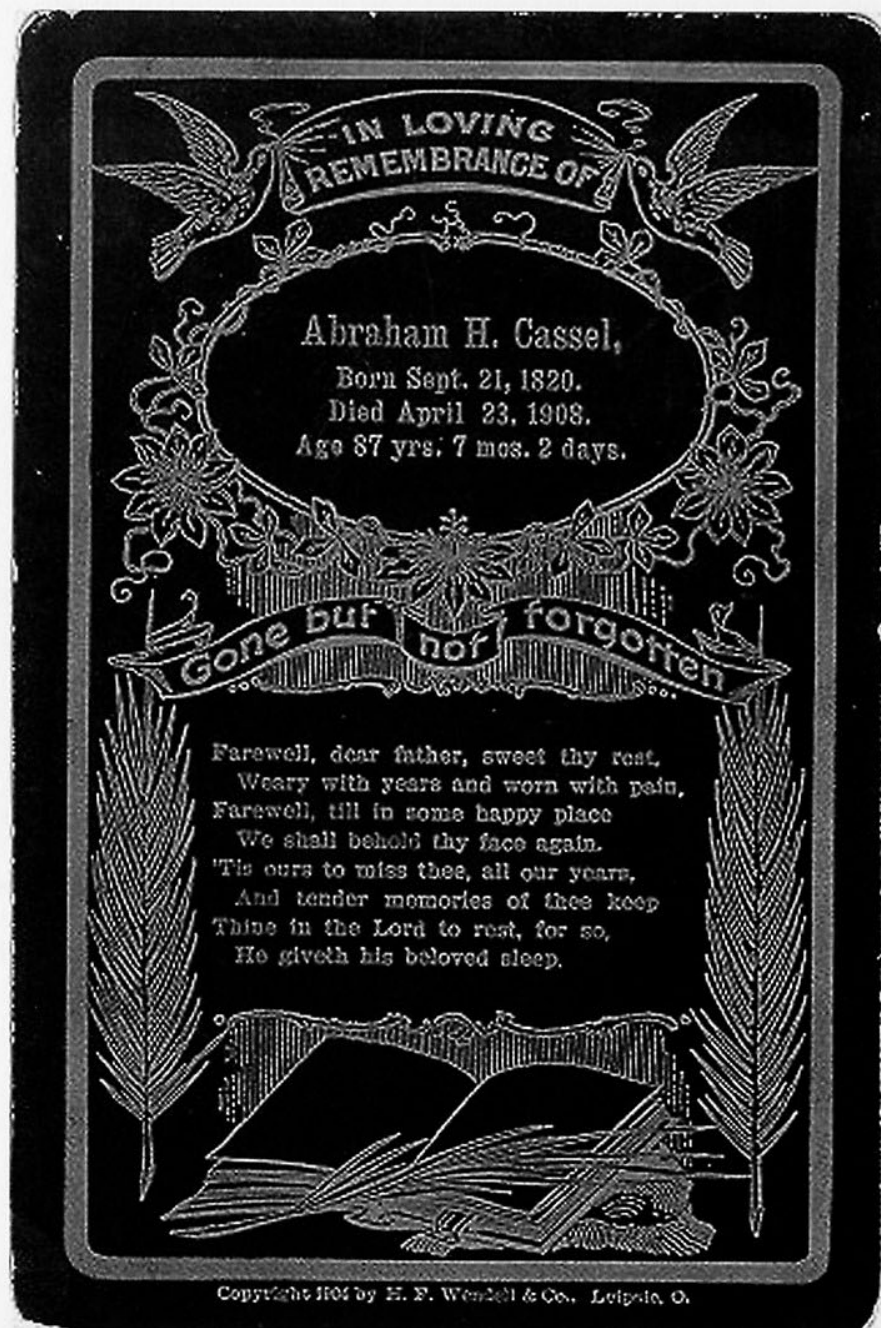
In regard to commentaries I would say, For Exegesis Bensons⁶⁴ is the best. But for Practical or Devotional purposes Henrys⁶⁵ is far superior to all the commentaries in the English Language, and is the only one that I would think worthy of a place in the Closet. I have heard several that read it through on their Knees, but for occasional Reference it is not so well adapted as Bensons. while it dont comment verse for verse as that does, but generally takes a whole Paragraph often

times, the entire contest, of a subject for a text, and then elucidates it in Homiletic style, which I would also think the most preferable for a minister. But if you can spare the means I would say get them both, and you will have a vast storehouse full of religious Knowledge, and dont think that you would ever rue the cost of them.

Among German Commentaries I know of none better than the Berlinburger⁶⁶—the text of which is original, and generally excellent, but the comments are often rather mystic. But I value it highly, because, our ancient Brethren contributed largely towards it, and have even held it in very high esteem, and it is also the only one that countenances the truth, so entirely to our views. In the Prophetical part also, it is far seeing, and perhaps nearer the truth than most other commentaries are. For in that respect they are all “behind the time” and



Abraham Cassel as a young man; after briefly teaching school he took over management of the family farm near Harleysville, Pennsylvania.



Memorial Card issued at the time of Cassel's death in 1908.

much as I value them I am honest in telling you that very little true Knowledge of the Prophecies or of the events yet future can be gained from the Best of them.

Henry's is in 6 vols. Bensons in 5 and are about alike in price. But the Berlinburger is much larger and it getting very scarce. I knew of several that brought from 25 to 30 cols on Public Vandue. But I have a perty good one that I would sell for a great deal less because I have two. I have also an extra copy of Gottfried Arnolds Kirchen Historie⁶⁷ in 3 very large Folios that I would sell cheap besides other rare & valuable works much below ordinary prices.

In haste,

I am Fraternally yours
Abrm H. Cassel

Acknowledgments

The efforts of Dr. Donald F. Durnbaugh, Dr. Marlin L. Heckman and others to chronicle and assess the life and works of my great-great-grandfather are sincerely appreciated. The fruits of their labor not only help scholars, but, on a more personal note, they afford Cassel descendants the opportunity to look back with clarity whence they came. The author wishes to express sincere thanks to Dr. Durnbaugh for his wise counsel, his extensive help with historical references, and for assistance with bringing this labor of love to completion.

Notes

1. Ralph W. Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College, 1899-1970* (Elizabethtown, Pa.: Elizabethtown College, 1971), 174-233 ("Administration of A. C. Baugher, 1941-1961"); *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (Philadelphia/Oak Brook, Ill.: Brethren Encyclopedia, Inc., 1983-1984), 95.
2. J. N. Rhoads, *A Thunderstorm* (Philadelphia: Ferris & Leach, 1904), 46-47. The most complete study of Cassel is Marlin L. Heckman, *Abraham Harley Cassel: Nineteenth Century Pennsylvania German Book Collector* (Breinigsville, Pa.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1973); see also S. R. Zug and others, eds., *History of the Church of the Brethren in Eastern Pennsylvania* (Lancaster, Pa.: New Era Printing Co., 1915), 299-301, and Guy R. Saylor and others, eds., *History of the Church of the Brethren, Eastern Pennsylvania, 1915-1965* (Lancaster, Pa.: Forry & Hacker, 1965), 292-301.
3. A. C. Baugher, unpublished manuscript, 14.
4. Sara C. Shisler, Souderton, Pa., to A. C. and Ella Baugher, April 13, 1961.
5. Ella Cassel Booz Baugher to M. L. Heckman [May 5, 1966].

6. The original letters are probably in the possession of Isaac Clarence Kulp, Harleysville, Pa.
7. It is not clear which "Brother Samuel" is meant here.
8. Cassel was the youngest of four children of Yelles Cassel and Mary Harley Cassel. He married Elizabeth Rhoades (1823–1900) in 1843; they had eight children, six of whom survived early childhood. They were the son Yelles (1844–2/16/1913) and five daughters: Sarah (1848–1939), who married Daniel Booz (1846–1924); Priscilla (1854–1857), who married Levi Stauffer (?–?); Amanda (1855–1944), who remained unmarried; Hannah (1858–?), who married John Shisler; and Rosalinda (1861–?), who married Daniel P. Young. See on this Heckman, *Abraham Harley Cassel* (1973), 124–125.
9. David Gerlach (1809–1879), was a minister in the White Oak congregation; see *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1633; Zug, *Eastern Pennsylvania* (1915), 369ff., esp. 428. Gerlach was one of Cassel's correspondents in the 1860s and 1870s (Cassel Correspondence, Beeghley Library, Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania).
10. Peter Hollowbush (1805–1872) was a minister in the Coventry congregation, but his death date in 1872 makes it impossible that he is to be identified with the "Peter Holabush" mentioned by Cassel, *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1659; Zug, *Eastern Pennsylvania* (1915), 212ff.
11. Not identified.
12. Heckman, *Abraham Harley Cassel* (1973), 131. On the Cassel/Lenox connection, consult Marlin L. Heckman, "James Lenox and Abraham Harley Cassel: A Nineteenth-Century Vignette," *American Book Collector* 19 (November/December 1982): 14–22.
13. A. H. Cassel to James Lenox, April 2, 1858 (Cassel Correspondence).
14. A. H. Cassel to James Lenox, September 27, 1858 (Cassel Correspondence).
15. Jacob Reinhold (1815–1885) was a minister in the West Conestoga congregation; Zug, *Eastern Pennsylvania* (1915), 329ff.; *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 2043. He corresponded with Cassel in the 1870s (Cassel Correspondence), especially concerning a disciplinary problem he had with other local church officials. Reinhold published his side of the dispute in the pamphlet *A Report of Certain Proceedings of Bishops and a Portion of the Members of the German Baptist Brethren, Concerning Certain Charges, Brought Before the Bishops, Against Jacob Reinhold; And the Reply of Jacob Reinhold Against Those Proceedings* (Lancaster, Pa.: 1875).
16. There was frequent correspondence in the 1850s and 1860s with a Charles Fronfield (of the "Fronfield and Co., Chemists and Pharmacistists" of Philadelphia) dealing with investments that Fronfield was making on behalf of Cassel (Cassel Correspondence). Of interest is also a Dr. Fronfield mentioned by Cassel in an interview with Elwood Roberts, "Abra-

- ham Harley Cassel," *Norristown* (Pa.) *Weekly Herald* (January 6, 1896): 2. Cassel earned money for books on Sundays by "... picking cherries for neighbors, grubbing roots and gathering herbs for Dr. Fronfield for which he paid me treble their value because of the laudable use I made of the money." Baugher (p. 5) refers to Dr. Fronfield as Cassel's family doctor.
17. "One of the means Cassel used for investing money was through personal loans and mortgage loans to individuals," Heckman, *Abraham Harley Cassel* (1973), 132.
18. Charles G. Sower (1821–1902) was a successful book publisher in Philadelphia and frequent correspondent with Cassel, who supplied him (see Cassel Correspondence) with much information for Sower's *Genealogical Chart of the Descendants of Christopher Sower, Printer, of Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: C. G. Sower, 1887). For a biographical sketch, see *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1207.
19. Samuel Rhoads was Cassel's brother-in-law (Cassel Correspondence).
20. The 1858 Annual Meeting (Art. 59) of the German Baptist Brethren responded to a request for a committee to visit the Conestoga congregation by appointing John Glock, Samuel Harley, Jacob Hollinger, and Peter Long—H. D. Davy and James Quinter, eds., *Minutes of the Annual Meetings of the Brethren . . .* (Dayton, Ohio: The Committee, 1876), 223.
21. Samuel Harley (1820–1896) later became a minister and elder of the Ephrata congregation—*The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1645; Zug, *Eastern Pennsylvania* (1915), 338, 646. He frequently exchanged letters with Cassel (Cassel Correspondence).
22. Daniel K. Cassel, *A Genealogical History of the Cassel Family in America . . .* (Norristown, Pa.: Morgan R. Wills, 1896).
23. This person has not been identified.
24. The denomination Churches of God (General Conference) was organized in 1830 by John Winebrenner (1797–1860), formerly a pastor of a German Reformed Congregation. In its earlier years it was known as the General Eldership of the Churches of God in North America. For a brief sketch and relevant literature, see *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 309.
25. The United Brethren in Christ emerged from a revivalist movement around 1800 under the leadership of the German Reformed minister Philip W. Otterbein (1726–1813) and the Mennonite Martin Boehm (1725–1817). For a brief sketch and relevant literature, see *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1289–1290.
26. "Mr. Rupp where he visited was in all likelihood Reverend I. Daniel Rupp a noted historian of the then Reformed Church." A. C. Baugher; unpublished manuscript, 17. For a biographical sketch of Rupp (1803–1878), see George H. Genzmer, "Rupp, Israel Daniel," *Dictionary*

- of *American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1935), 16: 225–226. Besides providing Cassel with letters of introduction, Rupp was a frequent correspondent of the Harleysville antiquarian, often inquiring about mutual research interests (Cassel Correspondence).
27. Long known as the River Brethren, the Brethren in Christ originated about 1780 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The leaders were largely Mennonite, but the emerging group sought baptism from the German Baptist Brethren. Although this was denied, the movement borrowed some Brethren practices. For a brief sketch and relevant literature, see *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 188–189.
 28. In 1827, Rupp married Caroline Aristide, daughter of a French physician; they had five daughters and three sons. For many years Rupp was a schoolteacher; this explains the reference in the letter to students.
 29. Winebrenner had baptized Rupp while the former was still a minister of the German Reformed faith. For a biographical sketch, see George H. Genzmer, "Winebrenner, John," *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936), 20: 384–385.
 30. Solomon Seiber (fl. 1860s) was a minister in the Lost Creek congregation, *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), p. 1762; J. Linwood Eisenberg, ed., *A History of the Church of the Brethren in [the] Southern District of Pennsylvania* (Quincy, Pa.: Quincy Orphanage Press, 1841), 145.
 31. John Sell was a correspondent of A. H. Cassel from 1850 to 1862 (Cassel Correspondence).
 32. Henry Kurtz (1796–1874) was a pioneer Brethren publisher; A. H. Cassel supported the initiation of his controversial periodical, *The Gospel Visitor* (1851ff.), and frequently contributed articles. For a biographical sketch, see James H. Lehman, "Kurtz, Henry," *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 711–712, and D. F. Durnbaugh, "Henry Kurtz: Man of the Book," *Ohio History* 76 (1967): 115–131, 173–176.
 33. David Shellenberger (fl. 1850s) was an elder in the Lost Creek congregation, *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1766; Eisenberg, *Southern Pennsylvania* (1941), 59.
 34. Not identified.
 35. Not identified.
 36. Not identified.
 37. John Rothrock (1819–1860) was a minister in Mifflin County, Pa., *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1756.
 38. Solomon Kauffman (1827–1899) was an elder in the Lost Creek congregation, *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1673; Elmer Q. Gleim, ed., *Change and Challenge: A History of the Church of the Brethren in the Southern District of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Southern District of the Church of the Brethren, 1873), 195.
 39. Ezra Smith (1825–1893) was an elder in the Lost Creek congregation, *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1774.

40. Not identified.
41. Not identified.
42. See note 32.
43. James Quinter (1816–1888) was associated with Henry Kurtz in the publishing of *The Gospel Visitor* and other ventures; he later became the senior editor of subsequent Brethren periodicals and was recognized as one of the foremost leaders among the Brethren. For biographical information, see Mary N. Quinter, *The Life and Sermons of Elder James Quinter* (Mt. Morris, Ill.: Brethren's Publishing Company, [1891]) and Earl C. Kaylor, Jr., "Quinter, James," *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1076–1077.
44. Not identified; the family name was probably later spelled "Beachley."
45. A John Halderman (fl. 1800s) was one of the first Brethren settlers in the Twin Creek district of Southern Ohio, Jesse O. Garst, ed., *History of the Church of the Brethren of the Southern District of Ohio* (Dayton, Ohio: Otterbein Press, 1921), 165.
46. The Horning family was prominent for many years in Southern Ohio, especially in the Lower Twin and Eversole congregations, see Garst, *Southern District of Ohio* (1921), 56ff.; *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1663.
47. Not identified; see note 44.
48. William Horning was one of A. H. Cassel's correspondents (Cassel Correspondence).
49. A later Daniel Horning (1884–1964) was a Brethren missionary in China, *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 1663.
50. Not identified.
51. Not identified.
52. Not identified.
53. Peter Nead (1796–1877) was one of the leading churchmen among the Brethren in the nineteenth century. His doctrinal writings prompted many conversions. For biographical description, see Fred W. Benedict, "Nead, Peter," *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 919–920; D. F. Durnbaugh, "The Life and Diary of Peter Nead," *Brethren Life and Thought* 14 (1969): 196–223; Garst, *Southern District of Ohio* (1921), 526–527.
54. Not identified.
55. Jacob A. Hepner (1828–1898) was active in the Wolf Creek congregation and in publication work—Garst, *Southern District of Ohio* (1921), 122, 313, 474.
56. Not identified.
57. Not identified.
58. This was the Bear Creek congregation; later Nead was active in the Lower Stillwater congregation, *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 102, 319; Garst, *Southern District of Ohio* (1921), 86–97.
59. Not identified.

60. Cassel erred in this identification; Samuel Kinsey (1832–1883) was the son-in-law of Peter Nead. He is best known as the first editor of *The Vindicator*, a periodical which presented the point of view of the conservative branch of the Brethren, which later organized as the Old German Baptist Brethren. For biographical information, see Jerry A. Filbrun, "Kinsey, Samuel," *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 696. Cassel exchanged letters with Kinsey, primarily about books. In a letter of Jan. 14, 1867, Kinsey wrote to Cassel: "Father Nead remembers you, and myself also from seeing you different times, especially at our late Annual Meeting" (Cassel Correspondence).
61. Henry J. Kurtz (1840–1920), the youngest child of Henry and Anna Catherine Loehr Kurtz, succeeded his father as publisher of *The Gospel Visitor*, co-publishing the journal for a time with James Quinter, before selling his interest in 1873—James H. Lehman, "Kurtz, Henry J.," *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 712. He wrote frequently to Cassel, mainly about book orders (Cassel Correspondence).
62. Donald F. Durnbaugh, "Abraham Harley Cassel and His Collection," *Pennsylvania History* 26 (October, 1959), 340.
63. A. C. Baugher, unpublished manuscript, 20.
64. Joseph Benson (1749–1821), a Methodist minister, wrote the multi-volumed set, *Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments . . . with Notes, Critical, Explanatory, and Practical* (New York: T. Mason and G. Lane, 1839), originally published in England (1808–1810).
65. Matthew Henry (1662–1714), *A Commentary on the Holy Bible: With Practical Remarks and Observations* (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, ca. 1830), six volumes, first published in England (1708–1710); see also his work, *An Exposition of the Old and New Testaments* (New York: H. C. Sleight, 1833), three volumes. Henry's commentaries are still available in print and on the Internet.
66. The Berleburger Bible was the production of Radical Pietists residing in and near Berleburg, Germany. Eight folio volumes published between 1726 and 1742 in Berleburg contained new translation and extended commentary. Cassel and other earlier Brethren writers believed that the Brethren had contributed to this massive enterprise, but this is not accurate. The early Brethren were not biblical scholars and had left that area in 1720, before the project began; some Brethren in the colonial period owned copies of the set. An article describing this Bible, with extensive bibliographical citations, is Donald R. Hinks, "Berleburg Bible," *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 120–121.
67. Gottfried Arnold (1666–1714) was a leader among the Radical Pietists, known for his scholarly publications. His major work, the *Unpartheiische Kirchen und Ketzerhisteioe (Impartial History of the Church and Heresies)*, first issued in 1699–1700, was a major source for non-conformists and

was known and used by the early Brethren. For a brief review of Arnold and his studies, see Peter C. Erb, "Arnold, Gottfried," *The Brethren Encyclopedia* (1983–1984), 57; a recent major monograph on him is Peter C. Erb, *Pietists, Protestants, and Mysticism: The Use of Late Medieval Spiritual Texts in the Work of Gottfried Arnold* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1989).