

Sunday

Mount Joy – January 14th 1866

Beloved Sister in the Lord:

It is with pleasure, that I again take up my pen to address you by letter, in response to your kind letter of Nov. 5th; and according to my promise made at your request, on the last day of the "Old Year": when with tender feelings, we took the parting hand....and bade each other an affectionate farewell. I "supped" - and tarried a few hours with bro. John Shenk; and arrived "safe at home" late in the evening of the same day; well pleased with "my visit". If there was any thing which I regretted on my way home: it was that we did not stay at the "Omish meeting" until the repast was over - that however was a matter of the least importance - and would have been accomplished too – had I agreed to your suggestions at first.

Dear sister: I remember her with feelings of gratitude; the love which you manifested to me - And I return my warmest thanks to you, your brothers, parents and all, for the kindness shown me. I reckon your brothers received the paper with poetry enclosed which I sent them since.

It is truly "a call to the young" - by one of our ablest Ministers, - John M. Brenneman. I rejoiced to hear that your bro. Levi took heed to the "call of grace" - by which we too were called – may he have his sins forgiven - and be babtized [sic] by the Holy Spirit. May he build up his faith on a good foundation, of which Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone. May the Lord give him strength sufficient to his day – and preserve him in all the temptations and trials: to which the Christian is subject to, in this unfriendly world, and may he be crowned with everlasting life. A Christmas and New Year have again passed by,

while many have passed their graves -

Since we have been spared to commemorate the birth of our blessed redeemer, and to enter upon another "New Year" let us well consider the love, patience, and goodness which God our Heavenly father has bestowed on us - and by the aid of his good Spirit, let us so live, as to be worthy of being called his children - "let us love him because he first loved us" - the love of God in the heart is that principle which will continue to exist after faith and hope have ceased - even forever- let us love each other as becometh the children of light, The "Herald" has come - with its New Year's greeting - and words of warning & instruction. In your worthy and interesting letter, you made remarks about some members who are opposed to the "Herald of Truth," and that we should try the spirit that opposes it. But when we take into consideration the lamentable fact that we, the old Mennonite Church are far from being of one mind, as we should be, we can hardly wonder that some

differ from us in regard to having the Herald. It is true if the Herald be not conducted properly it may do mischief - We should remember the Editor in our prayers, that the Lord may endow him with wisdom and understanding, that it may be the means of doing good.

This forenoon we were in meeting near this place. The bre. John Risser and John Stauffer who were with us over night - preached text Luke 19, 41-43. On last Thursday - a minister from Virginia by the name of John Evers - had preaching - his text 1st Cor. 6, 19-20. he is an able speaker. He had been to black horse, Herrs, Paradise & around today word was brought to meeting that John Overholt died on Friday night very suddenly - lived about 13 miles north from here - was formerly a preacher but had been silenced for the last few years - will be buried on Tuesday 16th. Last Sunday Bro Christian

Franck near Liti[t]z was buried. He was sick but a short time – sudden deaths are becoming more frequent than formerly - They are loud callings which should be heeded by all – how necessary it is that we be ready – have our garments clean and we at the coming of the Bridegroom be prepared to enter in with him into the mansions of Bliss. May the Lord bless us with his good spirit and bring us to a happy end. That these imperfect lines and broken sentences may find you in health as they leave me is the wish of
Your devoted brother: Christian K. Nissley

Mary Ressler

[along the right and left edges of the last page]
I forgot to ask you where you intend to go part of this winter
How often do you come to Lancaster and where do you stay at?

On Thursday a sister by the name of Elizabeth Ebersole from near Chambersburg was with us

Mount Joy, Feb. 27th 1866.

Beloved sister in the Lord;

Your heart cheering, and beautiful letter of the 28th ult. came to hand one day after mailed – Oh! How I feel, “at home” while reading a letter from one, who cherishes the same feelings – and sentiments, and is influenced by the same spirit – and actuated by the same motives – I believe we entertain friendly feeling toward each other; and as we claim to be imbued by the Holy Spirit of God, it behooves us to walk in peace, and love toward one another – “for God is love” – and to love God above all other things, is our greatest, our highest Obligation – to serve and glorify him our chief duty and it is the evidence that we do love him – Christ says: “If ye love me ye will keep my commandments”

Dear friend: There is a wide difference between carnal, and godly love – parents often indulge their children through motives of carnal love – formal ministers practice the same indulgence, lest they should irritate their hearers – we perhaps are very delicate sometimes, in addressing a friend, concerning things pertaining to its Eternal Welfare. It is said, “These are our best friends who tell us of our faults and teach us how to correct them, not those, it seems, who applaud us in everything we do. This character is displayed in the attributes of God – our blessed Savior, while here below – often reproveth his disciples, yet he loved them, he severely rebuked the unbelieving Jews, in order that they might become penitent, and be saved. He once said where is a father that loveth his son, and chasteneth him not? If we have love one to another – the effect is we think well and often of each other And are careful not to speak or do

[along the left side:

“Praise all things hold fast that which is good-“]

anything that will displease the other &c.
Our dear Savior said – “greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for his brother” - It is love that moves God to call us – that we may see and feel our sins and danger and repent and be accepted of him – then if our love is deeprooted his “yoke is truly easy, and his burden light” - Dear friend: it gave me pleasure to learn that the “gift” was acceptable and interesting to you – in making The selection I thought it would be such – I am in the course of reading the “Life of Christ” it is so good, I reading it in the hearing of Sister and others – it is truly affecting, to read how much good he done, and how much he suffered Even before he was offered up a living sacrifice. On Saturday the 20th of Jan. I was at a funeral in Petersburg – Emanuel Stauffer who died of Consumption at the age of 21 yrs & 11 mos. was buried on that day – Bro. Amos Herr preached an able sermon – he selected for his text Isaiah 40 c. 6.7.8 verses – the meeting house did not contain all the people present-

On Tuesday night the 20th inst. we had the pleasure of entertaining our dear Cousins John L. Kreiders – they will soon have to prepare for moving: down to Drumore. On last Saturday 24th I was to Lancaster had proposed going to New Holland by Stage from whence a young friend by the name of Christian Musser had promised to take me to Weaverland on Sunday – at Mt. Joy I received a note that he had to leave home on that day – and as he would like to see me I should come in two weeks if it would suit but that there would still be some one there to take me if I would come – as it rained so much when I was at Lancaster I returned home again by car in the afternoon – perhaps I may try it again in 4 weeks, if I am spared. Yesterday Eve. between The hours of seven & Eight we distinctly heard the window quake near our side – we thought it was a foreboding of some event- Today I heard that a furnace exploded near Middle-town where 17 persons were killed – it is truly shocking to think of it – my dear friend let us be

ready – having oil in our Lamps – Pray for us—

Grace be with you – amen

- our devoted Brother C. K. Nissley

Mary Ressler write again at your convenience

[along the left side of the page

Barbary greets you – wann sie dich schon nicht kennt

[=even though she does not yet know you]]

[along the right side of the page

I am usually well excepting a slight cold – hope you are

all well – Thank you for it Poetry]

"Sunday Eve."
Donegal, Oct. 21st 1866.

Beloved Sister in the Lord:

I received your worthy and affectionate letter of the 2nd ult. In due season – which was indeed a welcome and interesting messenger – I hardly think my letters worthy the high estimation in which you hold them – yet it is a comfort to me to learn that "you have never found any thing in my "respected letters" that you thought was not in accordance with the Gospel", and It ever cheers and encourages me in my weakness, to know, that my efforts are highly appreciated by my correspondents. You say – "A written word is worth more, and stands firmer than a spoken word – Then ought we not to be cautious of what we do write?" Yea! And I have often thought, O! how important and weighty a matter it is: It bears witness while we live, and Speaks while we sleep in death.

I beg your indulgence for my delay – Two weeks ago, I was going to write, but then we attended Sacramental Meeting at Bosslers, from there to bro. Jos. Rissers - Then preacher Frantz of York Co. was with us over night – on Sat. Eve a week, we went up 7 m. from home to bro. Abrm. Martins one mile above Bainbridge On Sunday Morn, we all went to meeting, 3 mls., at Goods, where we expected to witness a marriage between a young brother and sister, Henry Landis and Hettie Longenecker, but in this we were disappointed – for they had repaired [sic] to Bishop P. Ebersole early in the morning, where they were invited in the bonds of Matrimony, and then went to meeting – Peter Ebersole selected for his Text Mat 22, 1-14. After the services the young pair thankfully received the best wishes of their friends (we among the number) we went to bro. David Millers and on our return home we had three visitors [sic] from Canada who stayed with us over night –

On last Thursday Eve. Bro Gabriel Bear brought to us two ministers from Canada, who had just returned from Virginia. Yesterday they had meeting at Rissers, and today with us – Bro David Sherk expounded John 17, 3. And Bro George Smith expounded James 4, 17. “Denn wer da weisz Gutes zu thun, und thut es nicht, dem ist es sünde”. He set forth several comments of our Savior in an Earnest manner, an[d] said if we know them, and do them not it is sin – and every time repeated what the prophet Jeremiah says - : “The Soul that sinneth it shall die.” I confess - they preached powerful sermons, such as I have not heard for some time – May the Lord grant his blessing to it. Tomorrow they will preach at Kauffmans, Tuesday at Hess’s, Wed. 24th at Indiantown 25th at Bowmansville, 26th Weaverland (do not fail to go and hear them) 27th Stumptown, Sun 28 Mellingers, 29 Herrs 30, Millersvill[e], 31st Habeckers, then Sherck will go to York Co. and Schmidt to Bucks Co.

By a letter from Henry M. Shenk I learn that on Sunday the 7th inst. Jacob Ranck and wife Hettie Herr Elias Herr and wife, Lizzie Leaman were bap**t**ized [sic] – May the Lord have bap**t**ized [sic] them with his Holy Spirit and may they be his true and faithful servants – did you hear when Cous. Tobias Hersheys are to be bap**t**ized and whether there are any more with them?

(or a copy of it)

Enclosed I send you a letter=which was written to Sister Anna Ebersole (a neighbor) Mary M. Root was a (young) sister for some years.

(formerly)

I have several letters from her – for the last year or two she was a cold backslider – got a liking to some meeting, Evan**j**elical [sic] I think- & got religion as she thinks One of her brothers is a member of that sect, her parents belong to our church She has changed her plain garb - for those more fashionable her new brethren tell her this does not matter – A.N.E. wants one to help her answer the letter – now what Would you think would be proper to write, it has given me

much food for reflection for the last two weeks –
enclosed

Please return the letter – I wish to keep this copy for future
reference - and let me know your mind soon, (copy it too)
we are usually well – except I had a cold these few weeks
my eyes were sore I could not read and write much –

It is reported that the Cholera is in Lancaster – may it be the
means - of leading many to call upon the name of the Lord
Dear sister, Let us search the scripture – and pray God for his Holy Spirit
and Let us obey Him – serve and Love Him with all our hearts. Amen.

I remain your loving brother

Christian K. Nissley

To Mary Ressler

Write again

[On the right side of the page]
Thank you for the Poetry

[One the left side of the page]
I thank Henry Andrews for his best respects – return him a friendly salutation –
I thank you both for the kind invitation

“Sunday Eve.”

Mount Joy – December 9th 1866

Beloved Sister in the Lord:

Your very worthy letter of Nov. 3rd is at hand – thank you for the love and wise counsel contained therein.

We are all enjoying our usual bodily health, although I was afflicted with a sore eye for several weeks, which is again restored “whole” as the other. I sometimes feared it might become permanently injured, and I began to think how sad it must be to be blind. No wonder that those cried out with a loud voice: Thou Son of David have mercy on us”. And when Jesus asked Them what he should do for Them, They answered That we may receive our sight – and how they rejoiced and praised the great Physician, when they were healed – Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior is the same yesterday -

today and forever – his Ear has not become thick that he cannot hear, and his Arm has not become short that he cannot help all those who come unto Him aright with an humble heart and contrite spirit feeling their infirmities and the need of a Savior – crying and praying unto Jesus for help until he sees fit to apply His never-failing remedy – and it is not unreasonable to say, that we should, may, and must feel and know that he has heard and helped us – Then it is our highest duty to thank. praise. glorify and follow Him – yea! To love and Serve Him in this life; and in that which is to come But we are weak – Our minds are in danger of being engrossed with worldly care, our Thoughts and affections are apt to cling to the vanishable things of time,-And our

hearts are prone to wander away from
the true and the living Gods – we have
a Self to deny – and a mighty enemy
To conquer: Lord grant us grace, Amen.

Dear Sister: Your answer to my request
Concerning M. M. Rutt's letter was so satis-
-factory, that I did indeed not repent
of having sent it to you – as it so fully
accords with my own views – You would like
to have a copy of the answer – which I would
willingly give you if I could,, A. N. E. very
earnestly requested me to answer the letter,
but which I declined for certain reasons,
and gave her directions how to write –
I stated we should guard against rash
judgement - and prove the spirits – that
a tree is known by his fruit - that without
the new birth – praying singing and observing
the outward ordinances are all in vain,
that this is a point which is too generally
winked at in this our day – that if she
found the Savior she must become willing
to deny self, and follow him through evil
as well as through good report – and in fact
I do not remember all my statements which
I gave her, before I received your letter.
And I have not since asked A. E. what she did write.

Yesterday Father and young pre. Jacob N.
Brubaker dined at Bishop Joseph Burkholders
but Burkholder was absent from home on a visit
to Adams Co. [Pa.] They supped with Bishop Ben. Herra
and lodged at Amos Herra – he went with them
this morn to meeting at the Black horse – there they
seen Cous. John Kreider and Ben. Andrews, and
learned that Henry Andrews is sickly – The[y] dined
at Amos Herra – and Father returned home at 7 o'clock
Bro C. F. Hostetler is in Illinois – his occupation is
farming- by referring to the April "Herald" of '65 you
will find the death notice of an Elias Snavely (Deacon)
a few weeks after his death – C. H. came into that neigh-
-borhood and the widow requested him to abide there
to manage (and work on) the farm which he did

until the present time. I received a worthy letter of him on the 18th of last month – and by what he writes I expect him ~~him~~ home shortly – I expect you conjectured who sent the marriage notice of H. Landis and Hattie Longenecker - we expect them to visit us on next Saturday, or from meeting on Sunday – we attended two weddings this fall – one was that of Cous. Rebecca Nissley (to Jacob Mumma (who several times visited Anna Herr) They visited us today – I contemplate sending to the “Herald” a sermon which I registered some three weeks ago – I received an interesting letter from Bro. Funk some time ago in which he urged me very much to write articles for his Herald – and I think indeed you ought soon to write something again I sent some 8 or 9 subscriptions to him of late – so the Subscription Simon J. Ressler your brother’s should it not be A the middle letter? What was his wife’s first name? Can you inform me where I can get such a “Spiritual Labyrinth” as you showed me? Enclosed I send a riddle – what does it mean? – and state whether you think there is more sense than harm in a thing of this kind. (a riddle) I think of going to Lancaster on Wednesday the second day of Christmas if I am spared and well, I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year – May we realize a lasting benefit from a proper celebration of these days in the fear of God. Dear sister I am as ever your loving and well wishing

Brother in Christ

Christian K. Nissley

Mary Ressler

write again

[along the right edge of the last page]

My sore eye was caused by a particle of matter which could hardly be removed from the eye

[along the left edge of the last page]

The eye water you recommend is good – I use it and have when I was from 8 to 10 yrs. old-

HERALD OF TRUTH - Volume IV, Number 7 - July 1867, Page 112

Just as we are ready to go to press, the MOUNT JOY HERALD brings us the sad intelligence, that our much beloved friend, Bro. **CHRISTIAN K. NISSLEY**, son of Pre. Peter Nissley, of East Donegal Township, Lancaster Co., Pa., died after a short illness on the 26th of June, at the age of about 25 years. We deeply deplore his early departure, and our hearts are filled with sadness to think that we shall meet him no more amid the scenes of toil and care here below; but we mourn not as those who have no hope; for there where sadness, and sin, and death, and sorrow, and mourning, can never come, we hope to meet again.

GOSPEL HERALD - Vol. XXVIII, No. 28 - October 10, 1935, p. 608

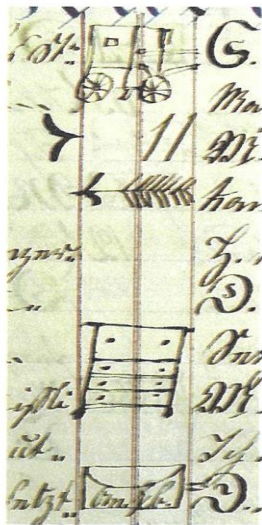
Beutler. Mary, daughter of Martin and Magdalene Ressler, was born July 2, 1843, in Lancaster Co., Pa., where she grew to womanhood. She united with the Mennonite Church at Strasburg in 1860. In the spring of 1873 she came to Elkhart Co., Ind., to keep house for her brother, Levi Ressler, after the death of his first wife. She was united in marriage to Bishop Jacob A. Beutler, April 16, 1876, since which time she has been a member of the Holdeman Church. To this union were born 3 children: Levi of Bloomington, Ill.; Magdalene Hartzler of Wakarusa; and John, who died Jan. 2, 1903. There are also 3 step-daughters: Rebecca Horst of White Cloud, Mich.; Mrs Sarah Herner of La Junta, Colo.; Mrs Martha Davidhizer of Wakarusa; also a step-daughter-in-law (Mrs Mary M. Beutler of Wakarusa). There are 7 grandchildren, 10 step grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, and 14 step-great-grandchildren. She was the second of a family of twelve, of whom now only three remain: Anna Aument of Lancaster, Pa.; Amos Ressler of Ronks, Pa.; Jacob A. Ressler of Scottdale, Pa. During her life she was usually of vigorous health, and only within the last year the usual vitality broke. Until April 11 of this year she made the trip daily to and from her room upstairs. On this date an attack of influenza with other complications confined her to her bed until Sept. 9, when her spirit left for her long wished for heavenly home; aged 92 y. 2 m. 7 d. It would be hard to summarize this life. Memories of her will live with those who as children listened to her telling Bible stories; with those who for years sat in her Sunday school classes; with those who have never known home without grandmother; with those of us to whom she has been a mother and sister and kind neighbor and a consistent Christian example. Her highest thought in life was to walk with the Lord and to be found in Him. Funeral services were conducted at the home by Bro. J. B. Hartzler of Smithville, Ohio, and at the Olive Church by Brethren E. F. Hartzler of Marshallville, Ohio, and Silas Weldy, her pastor. Text, Job 16:22; Luke

24:29. The thought presented was "Fellowship with the Lord." Thus were laid to rest the remains of one much used of the Lord, and one whom the church can ill afford to do without.

See below for related 2016 book by Gerald L. & Grace A. Kraybille (Dillsburg, PA) and Muddy Creek Farm Library (Ephrata, PA)

Journal of Christian K. Nissley

East Donegal Township,
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania



January 1, 1860–March 30, 1867

*English translation of the original German manuscript
by John B. Martin and Amos B. Hoover*

On the Death of a Brother,

An Acrostic

Christian has gone on and left us behind,
He was beloved, and gentle , and kind,
Rejoicing he traveled his pilgrimage here,
In duty to God, in love, and in fear;
Short was his life, his journey soon trod;
To heaven he has gone to rejoice with his God;
In youth he already his Savior did seek,
And strove all his laws and his commandments to keep,
Now, my young friends, let us travel like him,

Keeep ourselves from all danger and sin,

Never give way to our own will or lust,
In Jesus the Savior we'll put our trust;
So that after death we our brother can meet,
Sing sweetly with him, in that home so complete,
Love will there not cease, nor saints have to part,
Eternally happy, they'll dwell one in heart,
Youths, then come and we'll serve the Lord,
 That there we may meet in sweetest accord.

Acrostic published in the Herald of Truth, page 116, on August 1867.

This acrostic was written by Mary Ressler, who had promised to give herself in marriage to Christian. She resolved to remain single after his death, however eventually yielded in 1876 to the third request of Bishop Jacob A. Beutler, from Indiana, as a divine call to marriage.