

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DISTRICT COURT  
EXHIBIT BOOK OF LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

V. 3

OF

STATEMENT OF FACTS

(papers pertaining to the Bricker Family)

THE BRICKER PAPERS

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These photostat copies of letters are bound in a heavy cardboard binder. On the front of the binder in long-hand is written:

No. 17,500

KEYSTONE MILLS COMPANY

VS

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF

A. J. DAVIS, ET AL

In the District Court  
of Montgomery County  
Texas April Term AD 1934

EXHIBIT BOOK OF LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

Volume No. III

of

Statement of Facts (Copy)

June 25th 1934

/s/ Lester K. McGuire

July 2nd, 1934

/s/ Lester R. McGuire

These records were copied from a book rescued from the Sheriff's Department by the Montgomery County Historical Commission. These are records of the District Court. Permission granted Montgomery County Genealogical & Historical Society, Inc. to publish.

Affidavits

STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

I, Joe Hess, official shorthand reporter of the 9th Judicial District of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing Volume of the Statement of Facts and being marked Volume No. III, together with Volume No. I and Volume No. II, contains a true and correct statement of all the evidence, including all Exhibits and Documentary Evidence and Depositions, introduced on the trail of said motion on the above entitled and numbered cause before his Honor, J. L. Manry, Judge of said Court.

Witness my hand on this the 13th day of June, A. D. 1934

/s/ Joe Hess,  
Official Shorthand Reporter,  
9th Judicial Dist. Court of Texas

=====

KEYSTONE MILLS COMPANY, ET AL	No. 17,500	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
VS		MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF A. J. DAVIS, ET AL		APRIL TERM, A. D. 1934.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED that the photostatic copies included in this Exhibit Book of Letters and Documents, marked Volume 3 of Statement of Facts, attached to Pages 1 to 99, inclusive, are true and correct copies of exhibits and evidence offered on the trial and hearing of the motion for new trial and Bill of Review and supplemental petition therefor, and by agreement accompany and are made a part of the Statement of Facts in this cause.

/s/ Baker Botts Andrews & Wharton  
W. R. Hill, J. R. Hill, John C. Randolph  
Taylor & Hughes & R. E. Schnider  
ATTORNEYS FOR ANNA B. BRICKER ET AL, DEFENDANTS

W. N. Foster, et al, by J. C. Hardy Jr.,  
ATTORNEYS FOR KEYSTONE MILLS COMPANY, PLAINTIFF

W. N. Foster et al by J. C. Hardy Jr.  
ATTORNEYS FOR W. N. FOSTER, INTERVENOR

T. T. Foster, et al, by J. C. Hardy Jr.  
ATTORNEYS FOR SUN OIL COMPANY, INTERVENOR

J. W. Strode  
ATTORNEY APPOINTED BY THE COURT TO REPRESENT DEFENDANTS CITED BY PUBLICATION

June 30th 1934

Approved: /s/ J. L. Manry, Judge Presiding

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Letter from John Bricker to Father & Mother Oct 23, 1807

#1

To: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Lancaster County  
Warwick Township

Philladelphia      October the 23rd 1807  
Dear Father & Mother

I Take this oppertuneity to let you now that I am Well at presant and I hope that these few lines will Find you in the same condision and I wander how Dear Brother David is I want to now how he is badley The Bill was firgot quite in tirely I had told C. W. Berhill if we would send for the crate that he Should send the bill along with the porter but it Seams he had firgot as well as my Self, And I have rote up to Peter Bricker last tuesday With C. W. Whitehill and C. W. Whitehill he told me That there ware all well as far he did now when he did leave home, and all this nuse [?news] that I can Send you good or bad that is that I seam to like this Place middlin well as so far and last saturday Evening bad nuse happoned the cry Fire was and They out with the Ingive and began to tare it about And there ware one boy killed ded [?dead] on the spot And there ware two (paper town) badley the one had his two Legs broke and one arm broke and the other had a leg or A arm broke and I herd that the one had died And I belief that there ware no fire or if there was thereire was not much.

/s/ John Bricker

I Remain your Son John Bricker and I want a Answer as quick as \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_

[This letter copied as written]

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Letter Peter Bricker, Jr. to Father June 19, 1808

#2

To: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Merchant  
Whorwick Township  
Lancaster County

Harrisburgh June 19, 1808

Dear Father

I Embrace this oppertunity to Inform you that I have not been very harty  
[?hardy] last Tuesday I got Bled and I think I am pretty clere of this Spell  
of sickness. I received A letter from John And he is riting of comming Home  
in A Couple of Weeks And I will not Meet him In so Short A time ther is  
Nothing Peticular her abouts Onely that Snyder Will be Govenor And we had a  
very Sivel [?Civil] Fair this year Here Inclose a letter that I got in the  
Post office And I expect a letter and and some of the Piticulers of this  
Letter Nothing more at Present

I remain yours,

Peter Bricker, Jr.

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Letter Troutman & Eckert to Peter Bricker Dec. 19, 1815

#13

To: Mr. Peter Bricker, Merchant  
Lancaster County

Philada Dec 19, 1815

Mr. Peter Bricker

Bot of Troutman & Eckert	
1/2 Bbl Brandy (4th Proof)	41.25
1/2 Barrel ?Ferd	1.75
2 boxes Raisins \$5.00	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$53.00

Sir:

Your letter has come to hand with \$103. of which a ten Dollar note is a counterfeit which you will receive enclosed, and some of the rest is 12-1/2 percent under parr, and some want take the Clarksburg and all those that are issued by companies and payable out of joint funds at all, but we took \$88 at 10 per cent and the \$5 Richmond is at parr; - Lancaster Borough & Columbia notes are 5 per cent under parr and Marietta, Harrisburg, Carlisle, Swatara and Chambersburg are 8 to 9 percent under parr and all those this side of the Allegheny Mountains are the same, excepting those payable out of joint funds and all beyond the Allegheny mountain are 10 percent under parr.

You have ordered some Brandy, which you will receive, but the last 4th proof cannot be bought here under \$2-1/2. We have none of the Tum nor Spritis at present, nor could we get any good in time, but we shall have it in a few days, and will furnish you then with pleasure.

Remain Yours Respectfully  
Troutman & Eckert

Letter Troutman & Eckert to Peter Bricker Jan 29, 1816

#14

To: Mr. Peter Bricker, Merchant  
Near Letiz, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Jan 29, 1816

Mr. Peter Bricker  
Dear Sir

We embrace this opportunity of giving you a little information of our present market Particularly of County produce.

Grovers have not varied much since our last statement to you. Sugar 20 to 21\$ Coffee 26 to 29/100 S. H. Molasses 1.15/100 Lump sugar 40/100 Sugar candy 50/100 Pepper & Alspice 35/100, Madder 35/199, B. Indigo \$3, Copperas 4-1/2/100, Alum 10/100, Brimstone 10/100, Ginger 50/100, Chocolate 28/100, Logwood 4-1/2/100, Juniper Berries 10/100, Brandy 4th proof \$2-1/2, Lisbon wine #2 to 1-1/4, Spirits (3%) 165/100, N. E. Rum 120/100.

Butter in Kegs 22/100, in tubs 23 & in lumps 24/100 it is not much in demand at present and it is our opinion it will be lower perhaps to 20/100, Lard 16/100, Tallow 18/100, Beeswax 35/100, Flour \$8.75, Rye whiskey 70/100 on the rise, Flax seed 1.25/100, Clover seed \$9.25 it is our opinion that it will be to about \$10. in a few weeks.

Western money is a little better, Reading, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester & Norristown notes are at parr, but we don't know how long it may continued. Lancaster & bridge company notes 5%, Marietta, Swattara, York, Harrisburg & others about that distance 7%, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Milton, Juniatta 8%, Pittsburg, Ohio, & Kentucky 9%.

We have dull times here at present and some \_\_\_\_\_ people are failing here, and money is very scarce general through the city, and it had given us a touch too and we have some heavy payments to make this week and next; and if you have some money a laying by you and if it is convenient to you to send us some we would take it as a particular favour, but we hope that you will not take it as an offence for I was afraid of taking such liberties as we are not in the habit of doing so, and would not now if necessity did not require it. Sooner than any offense should be taken we would wish you to omit it.

Any information you will want we will give you with pleasure.  
And remain Respty Your Friends & Hum Servts.

Troutman & Eckert

Mr. Peter Bricker  
N. B. New York notes 4% above parr  
Special 12 & 14%

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Letter John Bricker to Father & Mother Jan 25, 1818

#3

To Mr. Peter Bricker  
Near Litiz, Lancaster Co. Penna.

Miami Jan 25, 1818

Dear Father & Mother,

I take this oppertuneity to let you now [?know] that I am well at present and hoping that these few lines will find you in the same state of helth now I will give you A short list of the road that I have came from there to Pittsburgh left that the 30th of November took waughter in a large kealboat and landed at Sincinata the 19th of December we had bad luck for we was cast on A sand bar and froase fast in the ise [?ice] and lay there for days and four nights they was obliged to unload the boat and then get betwean forty and fifty hands to cut ise and prey [?pry] the boat of [?off] but we was well of at all for we had plenty of provising and a good stove and plenty of wood - from there we had A good pasage for the weather be came warm and the weather and the river rose considrable, December 24th I arived at unckles John and brother was there and all of the People in good helth and remains so yet Peter has, soal [?sold] out and intends to remain these parts I shal remain in these parts this sumer - the prise [?price] of grain is, weat [?wheat] 75 cents - Rey [?rye] and Corn is 50 cents per bushel.

No more at Present but remain your - John Bricker

My thanks to all that asks for me and I would wish Sophia would let me now of the nabers.

Letter John Bricker to Father & Mother, Apr 25, 1824

#82

Envelope: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Lancaster County  
Livits Post Office  
Pennsylvania

Postmarked: June 30

Written on back of the envelope: Daniel & Jesse ?Romily  
Daniel is a chiller  
and Jesse a Shoemaker  
Jesse was raised in Maryland  
& Daniel in Penna.

Letter:

Texas, April 25th 1824

Dear Father & Mother

I have received Davids letter Dated April 23rd 1831 Nothing strange in these partes at present but the revelutions and the despute of the Colonies and I think it will be settled in A short time if settled to my notion I shall remain in this place for my intres is at least Twenty two Hundred Ackers of land and expect to have as mutch more as soon as the Colonies is decided -

I am well at present and hope you are all the same state helth  
If you send aney Letters direct them as directed post paid

New Oliens Post ofise  
Texes Sentefillipia

No more at present but I remain yours  
John Bricker

Letter John Bricker to Father & Mother, Jul 17, 1827

#4

To: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Lancaster County  
Lititz Post Ofis  
Pensylvania

Teas [?Texas] Austings Coloney Sent Philipe  
Austing Brases Jul 17, 1827

Dear Father & Mother

I take this oppertunity to let you all now that I am well at present and hope that you are the same -

I am here and I have the oner [?honor] in this coloney that I have started the first mills here I have built them for Mr. Cumings I would wish to here [?hear] of that part of the world and would wish to now if you would asist me if I return to see you - -

I shall remain in this part of the globe for som time yet for I have a quarter of A League of land that is one mile and a half square, I wish to do something with that as soon as I can no more at present I remain your son

John Bricker

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker Apr 23, 1831

#5

To: Mr. John Bricker  
San Filipe del Austin  
Austin's Colony  
Province of Texas

Warwick, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Apr. 23, 1831

Dear Brother, If you receive this letter do not suppose this to be my first efforts to send you of Letters I have wrote you several since the receipt of yours dated the 17th of July 1827, the only one that we ever received of you since you have gone to the South. I wish to write an answer to this to let your anxious Parents know how you are. FATHER has been very poorly these 3 years he is hardly able to go about any more and was bed fast the greatest part of last winter. Mother enjoys tolerable Health.

We that is Sophia her husband and myself kept a stove at the Turnpike in the house that we formerly lived in belonging to John Bricker we sold it out last spring Sophia and her Husband moved to Fathers as he was not able to attend to any business any more, and I started to the west on the 3rd day of June I staid with George 2 days he lives 2 miles to the East of Pittsburg in Lawrenceville his Family consist of 7 children now I then went down the River to Cincinati from there I took of North west course to Delphi in Carroll County, Indiania where Peter now lives, Delphi is the county seat of Carroll County and is situated on the East Bank of the Wabash River 20 miles from LaFayette, 21 from Logansport about 180 from Troy Ohio and 370 from the mouth of the Wabash following the River

Peter has 2 boys and 2 girls his family had all been sick last summer before I left Theres a man by the name of Robeson has a mill there and is Peter's nearest neighbors he says you done work for him in a mill on ?Made River, in Ohio where he formerly lived

John Lenon lives within 8 miles of Peter Daniel, Thomas and Michel are in that neighborhood.

Daniel came along in with me to Troy we started on the 28th of August and came to uncle John Knoops, where I was sich the 5th of September being the same day I came there, I was sick the greatest part of the time I was there, which was 3 months, Aunt ?Saunders was very poorly while I was there, Uncle Benjamin Knoop sold off his ?Pack and broke up housekeeping, his wife died about 3 years ago. Sophia was married while I was there and Jacob was married about a year ago. Jacob was in here with us in the summer of 1829. William Saunders sold his mill and has moved on his old place again. John Knoop's daughters are all married. ?Dimmick ?Latin built a chopping mill for him last summer. Benjamin Saunders was at home last winter but is gone to the South again. Old Grandmother Lenon did last winter.

The canal from Dayton to Cincinatti is doing great business--- (several words unreadable - paper creased when photostated) a canal from Fort Wayne to the head of \_\_\_\_\_ Boat navigation, on the Wabash the Wabash is navigable higher up than where Peter lives. I find the western county to be sick generally a man that has an overstock of cash can lay it out to greater advantage than here but a man with a small capital can not do much there. and the people can no more than live there, and that we can do here times are getting better again here. Railroads are taking the preference to canals here and ?bid fair to exceed them in every \_\_\_\_\_ part of the Philadelphia and Columbia mail roads is to be finished early this season the distance will be 88 miles and they intend to go it in one day with ?folded waggons pleasure all to go and return the same day The Schuylkill River is

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker Apr 23, 1831

made navigable 108 miles the union canal by Lebanon is completed these 2<sup>r</sup> years the Conestogy is navigable to Lancaster and Internal improvements is going on with rapid stride.

I still remain your affectionate Brother  
David Bricker

Peter Bricker, License, Merchandise

#13A

May 10, 1831

Lancaster County  
No. 65

Peter Bricker has paid to me for the use of the Commonwealth ten dollars, no cents, which entitles him to wholesale or retail foreign merchandize and liquors, as a wholesale dealer or a retailer of foreign merchandise and liquors, or the Eighth class, within the county of Lancaster, for one year from the first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty one.

\$10.00 license  
.25 Certificate

\$10.25

Lancaster, May 10th, 1831, Peter Bricker, Warwick Township  
/s/ John H. Duckman, Treasurer of Lancaster  
County.

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker, July 30, 1834

#6

To: Mr. John Bricker  
San Felipe de Austin  
Texas  
via New Orleans

Warwick July 30, 1834

Dear Brother

We received your letter of 25th April 1834 with sorrow I inform you of the deaths and sickness we had in our family since last February. William Knoop came in from the state of Ohio last winter and was taken sick here on the 27th of February I was taken on the 2nd of March but was able to be up on the 6th in this evening of that day Hiram Sophia's youngest son was taken ill with the scarlet fever and in the evening of the 7th Cyrus the oldest was taken ill with the same complaint. Hiram died on the 12th at 2 o'clock 25 minutes in the morning and was buried on the 13th at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Cyrus lingered longer and at one time during his illness we had faint hopes of his recovery the fever seemed to have left him but an inflammation in his right Foot raised the Fever again and he died on the 23rd at 2 o'clock 5 minutes in the morning and was buried on the 25th at 1 o'clock in the forenoon. Cyrus Reuben Deihm was born the 2nd September 1826 and departed this life on the 23rd March 1834 aged 7 years 6 months 20 days.

Text of his Funeral Sermon 4th Psalm 8th verse. Hiram Evan Deihm was born the 6th of February 1830 and departed this life on the 12th March 1834 aged 4 years 1 month 6 days, text of his Funeral Sermon 23rd Psalm 4th verse The Funeral Sermons were delivered by the Reverend McBates. The last offices paid to the dead are only usefull to the living, and we ought to consider every solemnity of this kind as a summons to prepare for our approaching disolution.

They were both very promising children their Parents are now bereft of their only children the[y] had, their old grandfather is inconsolable for their loss. It was very hard for us all to lose them though we may console outselves that they are in a better state than those they have left to mourn their loss.

We are all well again and have been so far some time. William has wrote that he arrived safe and well at home he was sick here that he was confined to his room 6 weeks. Father & mother were desirous that I should write you their births and of their Family so that you could see the ages of any of the Family you was desirous of knowing.

Peter Bricker was born 1st Oct 1764

Eve Magdalena Bricker was born 1st July 1765

George was born 2nd Feb 1787

Peter was born 26 Sep 1788

John was born 30 Jan 1791

Sophia was born 26 Oct 1800

David was born 14 Feb 1806

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George has 8 children living his oldest daughter was married her husband died last spring his family was all well by the last account we had of them he lives at Pittsburg Alleghany County Pennsylvania Peter has 4 children he and his family were all well by the last account we had of them helives at Delphi Carroll County Indiania. Sophia had only the 2 boys who died. Old Barbara Lees died a weeks ago. Old Mother Lenon died about 2 years ago in Ohio. Michael Lenon died at Delphis Indiania about the same time his Mother died.

David Lenon was married in the winter of 1833, and lives near

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker, July 30, 1834

Delphi Indiania.

Theodore Saunders' children are all married were all well by the last account Benjamin Knook has sold his farm & lives with one of his sons his son Michael has moved into the neighborhood of Wapocanetta. Peter is in Galenea and the rest are in the neighbourhood of Troy John Knook's daughters are all married and his sons are all single yet I seen George and Michael Mose lately they were well and send you their best respects - Michael is single yet. Graves Family were all well the last we heard of them.

We had a very open warm unhealthy winter the Spring was very cold we had a very hard frost the first week in May, the Rye was injured and in some places entirely destroyed the Fruit is entirely destroyed. Peter wrote that they had cold weather about the same time the wheat was froze on the prairies but in the woodlands they will have a tolerable crop. Knoops write that the wheat has suffered very much with them on account of the cold weather in May, we had a very warm and dry summer the Thermometer has ranged higher here this summer than it has these 30 years it has ranged from 90 degrees to 100 degrees for nearly 2 weeks in the shade.

We have accounts of the Cholera being at Quebec in Canada Cincinatta Ohio and Beaver for this State if this oppressive heat continues on it will spread over the county very rapidly People do not seem to be so much afraid of the Cholera as they were when it broke out in the county first

The death of Lafayette has caused a marked sensation throughout the whole country funeral processions have been in all the principal Towns to his memory

One of our neighbours wished me to write to you to make enquiry for 2 young men brothers to her which she thinks may have gone to Texas as they were in New Orleans the last she heard of them her name is Ranch (or Rauch) their names are Daniel and Jessee Romcich Daniel is a miller by trade and was raised in Pennsylvania. Jessee is a shoemaker by trade and was raised in Maryland if you can hear of them I wish you would write in your next letter.

We were all glad to hear of you health and welfare not having received an answer to the letter I had wrote to you we had concluded that we could not send it where you was or that you was dead and we concluded not to write till we would get a letter from you I wish you would write to us on the receipt of this letter do not wait as long as with the last write us a description of your country If you do not think yourself competent to write a description of it get some person to write it for you I would wish to have the following description viz: Face of the County soil Productions Climate Government etc Prices of Lands Distance to New Orleans by land water in what you trade there etc if you have regular mails if you do not write this all write something of it next time you write if we had a good description of your Country there would certainly be a great many of our young mechanics to go there some to stay and some to see the Country.

The same time I mailed this letter I also mailed newspapers which I hope you will receive with the Letter I wish you would send me some of your news papers if you have any English published there or subscribe for one of your papers in my name pay the paper & postage on it to New Orleans give the printer the directions to put on them give them to him Correct send them six months if you do this I will subscribe for a paper in your name and send it to you for six months in return there is a printer in Lancaster would wish to exchange with one of your printers be particular not to write or have anything more wrote on the papers than the proper directions as the law is very strict in that respect in the States now I have known letter postage charged on a paper having had I am well wrote on the inside with a



Letter David Bricker to John Bricker, July 30, 1834

lead pencil. Direct your letters or papers as follows

David Bricker  
Litiz  
Lancaster County  
Penn.

Nothing more at present that I still remain your affectionate  
brother

David Bricker

Just as I am closing this letter Father & Mother say I shall  
give you particular injunctions to write soon. By the papers today I see  
you have a revolution in your Government again you have them as plentiful as  
Huckelberrys were here last year we had none this year they were all froze.

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#83

Envelope:  
Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz, Lancaster County, Penna.  
Postmarked: Delphi, Ind. Nov. 30

Carroll Co., IN, Nov. 28, 1836

Dear Brother

I received your Letter Dated Novr. 1 I was sorry to here that Father was so much afflicted but the corse of nature our parents Cant be Long for this abroad here Below--If I mistake no I wrote that I sent A Letter to Texas, and Received answer I will send you a cobby in full

Columbia August 6

Dear Sir

I found a Letter in the office of the Yesterday Telegraph directed to John Bricker who was shot by the Mexican army at San Felipe on the first of April Last he was killed by a Grape Shot which passed through his head this was Eleven days before the memorable battle of Sanjacinto I have been Personably acquainted with your Brother for about Ten years but what his Circumstances is at the time of his death I am unable to say I presume however that he has Land which is Now Valuable I will enquire into his affairs and let you know the result but the convayance of letters from this Cuntry to yours is very uncertain This cuntry is in a flourishing Condition I think the war will soon be ended ?we have A fine Cuntry and will ear Long be well settled

Yours Respectfully  
Thomas H. Borden

I have not answered Mr. Borden's Letter in hopes he will Send on ere Long If you think proper to send a letter to Texas Plese to Let me Know if I Dont get one before may I shall rite. The Canal is let out to Lafayette that is the hevey sections and thay are making greate progress Propperty is on the rise naked Town Lots Selling from One Hundred Dollars to five without aney Improvement thare is A Town Laid out on the other side of the river opposet Wells Ripple Merkall Kindal & Co Proprietors thay have named it Pittsburg. Produce is selling high Beef from 4 to 5\$ per Hundred Pork \$5-1/2 to 6 wheat \$1,122 Corn 25 Oats 25 Potatoes in the fall 25 per Bushel almost Every farmer raised with an expectation of selling to the Irish, that in the spring thay can be bought at the same price thare was a greate Deal of corn frosted in the fall some crops one half is soft we have raised wheat and corn that will Last to the next crops comes The Lenon's are all well every time Daniel sees me he makes enquiry Concerning you, his Evil is agrowing on him. We have had Snow in Oct. this month Coniderable of snow & Rane at this time the Roads is almost impassable on account of Ice-- I Have made no calculations concerning the money that you proposed Sending although it would be acceptable at all times.

We are all well at present Jane Ann is well of the Phthsick she Caught the Hooping Coughf the Latter part of Summer which Cured hur we garded against the Hooping coughf as we concluded boath to Gether would take hur off since some of the neighbours says the Hooping Coughf is a certain cure for the Phthsic thare was no sickness Last summer in famley. Thee boys is gowing to school William learns very fast John midling I have quited Taning for a wile to John is able to work at it as it Dont agree with me farming agrees better Your advice is not to move perhaps it is a good one but what is the use to Live in a cold Clime when we can have a warmer one, for my part I am not like

the greenlanders thinking that this is the best cuntry. although this is very  
fertile cuntrey but the Winters is two Long-- I seen A Map of Texas if it is  
not Exagurated it must be a fine Part of the world Some parts very well  
wattered and the best of all (for Health) Mountains--

Yours Respectfully  
Peter Bricker

Peter Bricker Will

#12

15 Jan 1837

Will of Peter Bricker

In the name of God. Amen! I, Peter Bricker of Warwick township Lancaster County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania am old and sick in body but of perfect & sound mind, memory & understanding thanks be to Almighty God for the same, Do hereby make this my last will and testament in manner following thast [sic] to say: First, I recommend my imortal [sic] soul into the hands of my Creator who gave it to me and my body to be buried in a decent & christian like manner at the direction of my friends & Executors, but as touching such worldly estate with which it has pleased God to bless me I give and dispose of the same as follows, viz:

First, I give and bequeath unto my dear wife Magdalena the sum of four hundred dollars, lawful money which shall be paid over to her by my Executors as soon as convenient can be done after my decease, for her uncontrolled use, to her and to her heirs & assigns forever. I also give her her full choice of all my house & kitchen furniture, and one cow if she chooses to take the same for all which articles no charge shall be made against her.

Further, I give and bequeath unto my son in law, Jacob Dhiem and my son David Bricker all that tract of land with all the appurtances whereon I now live, with my lots in the town of Warwick, and that tract of woodland which I lately purchased of the administrators of Henry Sahm, decd, to hold to them jointly, for the full end & term of the natural life of my said Magdalena but no longer. Subject never the less to the following reservations and restrictions - They shall give and allow to my said wife Magdalena the South Eastern room of the Second story, as her widow seat during her natural life with free ingress, egress & regress to the same. They shall also find & provide my said wife with the necessary victuals suitable for her & for her age well prepared either at their own table or brought up to her own room; They shall find & provide for her the necessary firewood & candles, delivered by them to her room, ready for use, and shall in case of sickness nurse her in such a manner as will suit for children towards their mother - of the wood lot, hereingiven to them, they shall not be allowed to cut more wood away then is wanted for firewood for their own use & for the use of my said wife, and for making posts and rails for keeping all said land under good fence, unless in case that the ?topswood in making rails & posts would be more then necessary for firewood, in which case they may sell such overplus for the benefit of my estate. And they shall as much as convenient, cut all wood so by them to be used at one place and shall keep it afterwards well enclosed so that the ?sprouds thereof may be saved.

Further it is my will that of all my personal property a true inventory shall be made agreeable to law, and I hereby give power to my son in law Jacob Dhim & my son David Bricker to take out of my personal Estate, at the appraised value thereof all such articles as they choose, be it merchandise, household goods or any other article, provided that my said wife shall have made her choice first.

Further it is my will that my large german bible shall be left in the possession of my said wife, and after her death I give and bequeath the same to my son David.

Further it is my will that my executors shall not be compelled for a final settlement of my estate, before two years after my death shall have fully expired. And they shall allow interest for all money kept by them in use belonging to my estate, over and above the sum of one thousand six hundred dollars in the whole, at the rate of three per cent per annum untill

Peter Bricker Will

the time of settling my estate.

Further shall my Executors always keep all the improvements of my real estate, in good and sufficient repair, on account of my estate.

Further it is my will that my executors shall as soon as convenient after my decease pay all my lawfull debts, funeral & other expenses and after having ascertained the clear balance, and the advancements given to several of my children, which are entered against them in my book added they shall divide the same in five equal shares, and I give and bequeath one share thereof to my son George Bricker, one other share to my son Peter Bricker one third share unto my son John Bricker, one fourth share unto my daughter Sophia, now intermarried with Jacob Dhiem & the last share unto my son, David Bricker. But as I have for some time had no notice of my said son John, I therefore do not know whether he is yet alive or not, I hereby order and it is my will that my executors shall keep his share in their hands and that they shall pay the same over to him or to his heirs, lawful children, at any time within six months after the same shall have been demanded, provided that demand for the same shall be made before the twenty fifth day of April, A. D. one thousand eight hundred & forty nine and if demanded within that time they shall pay him interest at the rate of three per cent per annum. But if no demand shall be made before that day my executors shall divide his share with interest as aforesaid among the remaining four children or their heirs and each of them shall give a bond for his share thereof to my executors conditioned for the payment of the same to the said John within six months after demand shall be made for the same by said John or his heirs, between the said day and the twenty fifth day of April A. D. one thousand eight hundred & sixty nine, without interest, and if not demanded before that day his or their claim thereof shall be totally forfeited.

Further, it is my will that after the death of my said wife seven good & disinterested men shall be chosen, and for that purpose my son in law Jacob Dhiem & my son David Bricker, in their own behalf, and my two friends & neighbours Christian H. Rauch & John Bamberger Senr. or the survivor of them in behalf my remaining three children shall meet for the selection of said seven men, who shall value and appraise all my real estate, at which appraisement I give the same or any part thereof unto my son David & to his heirs & assigns forever, But in case of his refusing the same or any part thereof I give & bequeath the same or such remainder unto my son in law Jacob Dhiem & my daughter Sophia & to their heirs and assigns forever. And if he should also refuse the same or any part thereof then my Executors shall sell the same by public vendue, and execute a good and sufficient Deed of Conveyance for the same to the purchaser thereof. And in every case it is my will that then the full share coming to my said John if then not demanded shall be charged & created as a lien on said real property until the said twenty fifth day of April A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty nine, on which day the same shall be divided as aforesaid with interest at three per cent per annum to be refunded as aforesaid, proved the same shall not before that time have been demanded by my said son or his heirs, And the release then to be executed my my remaining four children or their heirs & assigns, shall at all times be a complete and sufficient bar against my said son John or his heirs in favour of the owner or owners of said real estate.

Further I do hereby nominate & appoint my said son David & my son in law Jacob Dhim to be the Executors of this my last will & testament and lastly I do hereby annul and make void all other last wills and testaments heretofore by me made & do hereby declare this and no other to be my last will and testament.

In witness whereof I have the said testator have hereunto set my hand

Peter Bricker Will

& seal this fifteenth day of January one thousand eight hundred & thirty seven.

/s/ Peter Bricker

Signed, sealed, published & declared by the said testator to be his last will & testament in the presence of us, who have hereunto at his request and in his presence & in the presence of each other subscribed our names  
Jacob Neaveling  
Christ. H. Rauch

Lancaster County. I certify the preceding to be a true copy of the original, remaining in the Register office of said county. Given under my hand & seal of said office the 26th day of April, A. D. 1837 /s/ Rud. F. Rauch, Depty Regr.

=====

26 Apr 1837 LANCASTER COUNTY, SS.

By the tenor of these presents, I H. Mehaffy, Esquire, Register for the Probate of Wills, and granting Letters of Administration in and for the County of Lancaster, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Do make known unto all men, that on the day of the date hereof, at Lancaster, before me was proved, approved, and insinuated, the last will and testatment of

Peter Bricker, late of Warwick township, Lancaster County, deceased, (a true copy whereof is to these presents annexed) having whilst he lived, and at the time of his death, divers goods, chattles, rights and credits, within the said Commonwealth, by reason whereof the approbation and insinuation of the said last will and testament, and the committing the administrations of all and singular the goods, rights, chattles and credits which were of the said deceased, and also the auditing the accounts, calculations, and recordings of the said administration, and a final dismissal from the same to me are manifestly known to belong, and that administration of all and singular the goods, chattles, rights and credits of the said deceased, any way converning his last will and testatment, was committed to

David Bricker, Jacob Dhiem, Executors

in the said testament named, they having first been duly qualified, well and truly to administer the goods, chattels, rights and credits of the said deceased, and make a true and perfect inventory thereof, and exhibit the same into the Register's Office, at Lancaster, in one month from the date thereof, and to render a true and just account, calculation and reckoning of the said administration, in one year, or when thereunto lawfully required. And also that they will diligently and faithfully regard, and well and truly comply, with the provisions of the act of Assembly relating to collateral inheritances.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at Lancaster, the twenty sixth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven.

/s/ H. Mehaffy, Regr.

#89

Obit of John Bricker, Philadelphia Saturday Courier

TEXAS - APPROACH OF THE MEXICAN ARMY

Advices from Texas inform that the Mexican army was pressing towards the borders of the republic. Gen. Houston was to leave for the army in a few days. His health is rapidly improving. General orders have been issued from the War Department, advising the public of coming danger, and calling on them to be prepared to meet the invader.

The indians still continue to commit depredations. A Mr. Harvey, his wife and son, of Robinson's Colony, twenty five miles above Tenoxtitian, east side of the Brassos were found dead and scalped in his own house. His daughter, eight or nine years old, was carried off by the Indians.

OBITUARY

John Bricker, son of Peter Bricker, of the neighbourhood of Litiz, Lancaster county, Pa, deceased, was a resident of Texas for the last ten years and fell in an engagement with the Mexican army at San Felipe, Texas, on the 1st of April 1836 by a grape shot passing through his head, - but his friends have but now ascertained the intelligence of this fate.

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#91

Copy Lancaster German Newspaper, Jan. 24, 1837

[vw. Could not find the Bricker name]

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#96

Peter Bricker, Jr. Bible - a Picture of a woman - unnamed.

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#97

Photo of John Bricker's Pocket Book

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Letter Peter Bricker to David Bricker Aug. 28, 1837

#10

To: David Bricker  
Litiz, Penna.

Delphi Aug 28, 1837

Dear Brother

I received your letter of July 25 and I was happy to hear that you all enjoyed Health I and children have enjoyed our health this season but dont know how long it may continue the People in this section of the country have enjoyed tolerable health

According to your letters you think hard of me wanting a favor if I mistake not I rote for you to asertain how much thare would be a coming tome (but it had no reference to John's portion) and if you could send me part but at the same time to keep back plenty to pay the intrest if you had to Borrow it if you did not under stand me I will give it in other words that is If you will confer a favour on me, to asertain how much is comming to me out of the Personal property to send it to me but at the same time keeping back a certain portion to pay the Intrest for two years and likewise as much as you think thare would be necessary for loss of thare should be any. thare is no doubt in my mind but thare will be some bad debts that will not collected shortly if ever. as the will makes provison that you have two years to settle up the Estate (that is the Personal property you are at liberty to make use of the Funds for that length of time for your own benefit for that reason I say keep back the Intrest for two years - three per cent is very trifling to what 50 or 100 per cent would be) You mention in your last letter to be careful about Purchasing Land that speculation must and will come down that is come to pass but the Land that I want is Congress Land Thare is Land to be in Market shortly at the Falls of ?Roekevis Likewise at the falls of the Kankahee river's which is from 40 to 60 miles from this place - For your next letter plesse to let me know how many lots of Land belongs to the Estate and what you would suppose they would bring if put up at Public Sale and if you whare to purchase my Intrest

I am willing to take seventy dollars for one hundred that is if I can get the cash shortley or if you don't want it perhaps you can sell it to a nother person. And if you comply with one or boath of the requests Deposet the money to my credit in the City of Philadelphia, the merchants dont like to stop and collect on thair way If complying with the above I will sign A Release at any time -

I sent a letter to Texes in said letter I whished to know all concerning John's affairs and if he had A family but received no answer as yet thare is no doubt in my mind but he is dead but wether he was married or not that is to find out but it is my candid opinion he was not But that will not justify you in making A distribution of his portion till asertained by the seal of Texes if I receive an answer I will let you know and you can correspond with the person to your own satsifaction or if you would wish me to answer the Letter in form me in your next letter and I will try to have it don in a legal manner

You can in form Mother I should like to see hur likewise all of you but I don't know how that can be a present but I must confess my inclination have been strong for Three years of paying you a visit but when I think of my little famley all is blasted for if I was to leave them and aney thing to befall them I could not forgive myself, but if I am speared I am in hopes or paying you all a visit for the time is coming that thay will be able to take care of themselves

Plesse to let me know shortley and if you comply in part or all it would be best to give my hand riting at the Bank it would be a bar



Letter Peter Bricker to David Bricker Aug. 28, 1837

against Defraud as there is not maney that signs thair name as I do and by  
so doing I will run all risks and be satisfied The crops has turned out  
past all Expectation

Nothing more at present but I and children send our best  
respects to you all

Peter Bricker

Mecuman Hunt to James Buchanan 17 Oct 1837

#84

Envelope:  
Honorable James Buchanan  
U. S. Senate  
Lancaster, Penna.

Washington City  
17 October 1837

Dear Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterdays date together with a note of inquiry from Mr. David Bricker, of Lancaster County, Pa, and the appended copies of letters. I am not enabled to communicate information sought by Mr. Bricker, but it gives me pleasure to refer him to Cap. Mosely Baker, now a member of congress in Texas under whose command his brother fell. Cap. Baker is a Lawyer of distinction, who will, doubtless, respond promptly to any communications which may be written to him upon the subject. I will forward the note of inquiry to Cap. Baker and desire him to write to Mr. Bricker fully upon the subject.

I should have been much gratified to have seen you before your departure from the City, and regret that your time was too much occupied to enable you to afford me the pleasure.

I have the honor, to be, your Obt. Ser.  
Mecucan Hunt

To Hon. J. Buchanan  
U. S. Senator of PA

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Letter Peter Bricker to David Bricker, Dec 19 (?1837)

#65

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz Lancaster County, Penn  
Postmarked: Delphi Ind Dec 19

(It appears nearly 3 inches have been cut from the top of this page)

...you seem to be on    ?    nettles in your letters the Last I rote to you is A sufficance Barrier if I had not received that note likewise this. that I received. I should have rote sooner but looking for A letter from Texas. Thare is A Mr. Milroy that is A Col. in the Texan Armeey out north of this place and if I can see him on his return I will trye to get him to make enquirey concerning John's affairs. Col. Milroy was at the taking of the Mexcian armey.

We have had a verrey Plesent fall the corn crops verrey good corn 25 to ?3-1/2 cents per Bushel & wheat 1 dollar the Emegration will keep up the price of grain for several years to come. thare is Elevant stores & seven grovery's in Delphi and more Expected in the spring - I and family enjoyed verrey good healtht but have added one to the number which I never thought of tohere of Late Catherine thought she had verrey hard times and I was some what troubled thinking she would Leave me the first chance she got Let it be good or bad but she and her stepmother hits it very well and all seem to be well. Satisfyed with the change. Her name was Elizabeth Winders, an old maid -

(Top of page cut off)

.... nothing more at present but remain  
Your affectionate Brother  
Peter Bricker

Letter George Bricker to David Bricker (?1837/38)

#75

[This letter not dated, but probably written shortly after John Bricker's death. vw]

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz Lancaster County  
Penna

Postmarked: Single letter, Pittsburgh Oct 14

Dear Brother and to all the rest of you

I should have rote sooner but we being strangers in this country I could get nobody to back the check and having business at Pittsburgh I thought I might as well draw it there and send you the recpts from there and if was a long time coming to hand or I should have wrote soner [sic] and am sorry that is has turned out as you have stated to us among yourselves though it is no more then I exspected when you wrote that you had desolved partnership and is for our helth it is but poor at present with the fever and ague I have had it Mary & her husband has it S. Sophia & her husband has it David & Ebert & Peter has it though those all geting [sic] better it is not alone here fore I believe it is in all the western country there is very few deths [sic] in this section of the country we rec'd a letter a few days ago from Pittsbgh that in a small nieighborhood nere (?near) ware (?where) we lived that there was 100 berried (?buried) in one week and Margaret was to see Lucinda Cousin and she says she wouldnt go back to live there on no account that she likes the country so well it is a butifull [sic] country and every thing plenty onley money frut (?fruit) of the best that ever I saw any place of all kinds and as plentiful as any place rents is high and Land is high inprice Land from \$7 to 100 an acre acording [sic] to the situation of the place and there is few storekeeps but get rich with keeping country stores counting people are fetching things in and geting there grocerys and other articles for winter there has passed as hig (?high) 550 waggons in one week loded [sic] let us know. and we are still of the notion that you would like this country very well. and if people are living here 1 year they are not so subjack (?subject) to the fever & ague I wish you would let me know what you ?carculat (?Calculate) to do with that afairs [sic] of John Bricker Decd in Texas as I think there migh (?might) somthing [sic] be don [sic] to some benefit to some of us and dont let it be an unsettled affair wille (?while) we are all to fore yeat [sic] will be a lighter matter to do a when it comes in to other hands nothing more but

Remain your affectionate  
Brother George Bricker

Letter David Bricker to W. W. Shepherd Jan 13, 1838

#85

Litiz Lancaster County Penna  
January 13th 1838

Dear Sir:

I yesterday received your Letter dated the 1st December last relating to my Brother's affairs, the first account we had of his death was in February 1837, by a Copy of a Letter which my Brother Peter Bricker of Delphi Carroll County Indiana received from a certain Thos. H. Borden of Columbia Texas afterwards he received another from Isaac L. Hill corroborating Mr. Borden's Statement and Stating that he Mr. Hill had Served with him under the command of the Honorable Mosely Baker none of the writers of those Letters say any more about his property than that they suppose he was possessed of Land that they would make enquirey and write him the result. Peter not receiving any further information requested me to try to obtain information so as to enable me to settle up my Father's estate of which I am one of the Executors which we can not as without first ascertaining if he (John) has left heirs there or not and as a matter of course if has left no heirs to see that Mother who is next heir here should be possessed of the Property if he left any or the proceeds thereof if sold and an overplus left.

You gave us but a short time to consider so important a subject I do not know if any person that I am acquainted with that is going to Texas neither do I know any person there that sould become agent to locate his claims and settle his Estate and if I could get an agent I can not send on the money by mail except risking the loss of it, these are matters which can be arrainged in a further correspondence.

I would therefore pray of you to locate his claims if you can postpone the sales of them as by locating them they will certainly become more valuable write on the receipt of this what you suppose them to be worth, if he left any other Land besides those claims in his last Letter he worte home he stated that he was possessed of Land If he left any heirs there if he was married of which we have not been informed that he was or was not.

If I can arrange matters here that I can leave home I will come to Texas myself next Fall leave home at present I can not by no means.

Very respectfully your Obedient Servant  
David Bricker

Letter George Bricker to David Bricker Sep 29, 1838

#9

To: David Bricker  
Warwick, Lancaster County, Penna.

Laurencevill Sep 29, 1838  
Dear Brother

As you have not wrote tome concerning the affairs in Texas since I wrote last I thought my bisness to write to you to git some infermation concirning that bisness and how you are coming on with your other bisness as I would wish to know something of it if is exseptable to you And for times and sesons I can hardly write it apers more like a Famine in this western country than aney thing eles the druth has ben sever all summer and on to the present time or crops is nothing bag flower is seling at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per hundred corn there is non to be had petates \$1. to 1.12-1/2 per bushel oats 50 to 75 cts per bu. garden vigitels there is non to mention we have planted 300 cabag and I know we will not have 1/2 barrel pickled cabag hay \$19 to 20 per tun beaf 7 to 9 cts per lb. pork 10 cts per lb. bacon 14 to 18 cts per lb. the frost ripend the Buckweat and a grate dele of corn and for 28 years past I have not sen less water in the Alaghena River as the present.

we have ben trying to git things answerable to go to the country to live this some time but I expect we will have to part with one cow and a couple of hogs we can try it eny how and I think we can live better if God spairs us and for helth we have no reson complain all till Henry and he is lingering with his old complain and he is more charge chen the 3 lest of the family a few days a go we ghough he would leve us we though he would not servive eny time he semes to be giting better

we can hardly leve him out site but one ore the other must be with him

I wis you wald leve us know how you are in helth Mother & Oliver is I have laid up 100 bushel ?Cole \$7. & tun of hay at market price I wish you to write as quick as possible

I remain yours  
George Bricker

Unsigned letter to Cyrus Joy (after 1838)

#7 This letter most probably is from David Bricker (Brother to John Bricker)

To: Cyrus Joy, Esqr,  
Matagorda, Texas

Sir

In accordance with the advice of the gentleman in attendance in your office during your absence I address you by letter on the subject of my call at your office.

I had the misfortune to lose a Dear Brother who had resided in Texas in an engagement with the Mexican Army at San Felipe on the Brazos [?Brazos] he had been a resident of Texas for about 12 years previous to his death the first information I received of his death was in February 1837 which was by a letter from Mr. Thomas H. Borden of Columbia, Texas and the fact was further corroborated by the receipt of a Letter from Mr. Isaac L. Hill who served with him in the same company under the command of the Honorable Mosely Baker receiving no answer to my letter making enquiry concerning his affairs. I had a note of enquiry and \_\_\_\_\_ of Letters put into the hands of the Honorable Mr. Hunt Texian Minister at Washington by the Honorable James Buchanan of Penn - in January 20th 1838. I received a letter from Mr. W. W. Shepherd of Montgomery stating that my Brother had been in his employ for a year previous and at the time he went into the Army of Texas and think he had taken out Letters of Administration on his Estate that he had been informed by the Honorable Mr. Baker where his relations resided that he did not know where to write for he should have written sooner than he would proceed in one course of law to sell his land claims in 2 months from the date of his letter which was dated Dec 1, 1837.

I should have gone on to locate his ~~cl~~aims but the time set being too short as I received it only a few days before it was up, I wrote on to him if he had not sold all that I would come on myself but received no answer but again received a letter in December last dated August 28, 1838 stating that the Administration Acct had been opened at Washington and that Josiah O. Crosby was appointed to represent the absent Heirs and there were still some of his Land claims unsold.

I would therefore wish you to ascertain if there will be a balance left of his Estate and in what manner the Law of Texas will make a decision thereof if the Mother is still living if he has Land Claims what course \_\_\_\_\_ persued for the location thereof and any other information that you may consider necessary for the Settlement of his Estate write to me on your return to Phila. and I will call to see you All the Family tender their sincere thanks to Messrs. Borden and Hill for their information of his death etc.

I think it very strange that Mr. Shepherd the man he lived with last did not write to us soon after his death for he can not \_\_\_\_\_ me that he did not know where my Brother was from and where his Parents resided. He certainly had no reason to be ashamed of our Family here and left in no other account than a desire to see the country Certainly the Heirs of a man who has sacrificed his life in the defence of the Republic ought to be entitled to his property if any is left and ought to be dealt with justly

As I am perfectly satisfied from a consciousness of the respectability of his family & Parents Nothing could have induced him to conceal their name or abode. He left merely with a desire to see \_\_\_\_\_.

*Letter ends here.*

Account of Executors Peter Bricker Estate Feb 12, 1839

#16

1853 Exemplification Administrators Account Peter Bricker, Deceased.

The account of David Bricker and Jacob Diehm, executors of the last will and testament of Peter Bricker, late of Warwick Township, Lancaster County, deceased. Supplementary to their for Account, as follows:

The accountant charge themselves with the Balance appearing in former account exhibited February 12, 1839 amounting to \$ 3117.42  
Also with the following sums since received of which part there of they had credit in former account:

Book debt of:

Daniel Hartford	\$ 1.23-3/4	
John Kissinger	3.00	
William Wallace	4.72-1/4	
Samuel Stark	10.00	
John Enok	4.92-1/2	
Jacob Neaveling	7.50	
William White	1.26	
Michael Frank	4.75	
John Long	10.18	
Henry Keal	5.50	
Mary Blasterer	6.37	
David Whitmeyer	8.67	
J. Garver	<u>5.20</u>	73.31-1/2

Dividend of a Lot sold in Warwick. Notes of:

Peter Platt	5.60	.70
Jacob Neaveling	40.00	
John Brian	30.22	
Fredk Keller	<u>7.66</u>	83.48-1/2

Received for Posts, Rails, Wine	88.12
Received Rent for 3 months @\$100	41.66
Received Interest on \$2434 at 7 months	74.23

Valuation of Real Estate accepted by D. Bricker	2545.00
	=====
	\$ 8023.93

Exhibited into the Register's Office of Lancaster on the 15 day of Feb A.D. 1853 by David Bricker, Jacob Diehm Affirmed & subscribed same day & year /s/ Jos. E. Wrenfried, Dep. Reg.

The Accountants pray a credit for the following payments:

1840	Cash paid:	
Jan 23	1. Thomas Sands for a pump	\$ 12.03
Feb 14	2. Christian H. Rauch, Costs	2.42
1841		
Jan 11	3. John Whitcraft, work	9.00
1842		
Feb 17	4. John Brubacher, log & Hauling	4.17
1843		
Mar 12	5. George Ruhl, hauling wood	.75
Mar 27	6. John Whitcraft, repairs	5.25
Apr 29	7. Jacob Graver, sawing	.96

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Account of Executors Peter Bricker Estate Feb 12, 1839

Oct 25	8.	John Enok, Road tax	.32
1844			
Mar 15	9.	Henry Pickert, Planks	2.07
Mar 27	10.	John Whitcraft, pump floor	1.69
Dec 21	11.	John Imhoff, Horse trough	1.75
1845			
Nov 12	12.	John Hernberger, making fence	.75
Dec 13	13.	Thos. Sands, repairing pump	1.00
1846			
Nov 21	14.	Wm. Muecke, Cellar wall	.62
Dec 7	15.	J. B. Tshudy, Shingles	1.25
Dec 7	16.	Jac. Kissinger, Hauling scantling	.63
Dec 10	17.	Carl Stark, repairing pump	.50
Dec 11	18.	Abm. F. Miller, work	9.00
Dec 21	19.	M. Maile, Chimney	3.00
1847			
Jan 20	20.	J. Grosh & Son, Lumber	63.07
Apr 9	21.	W. Edelman, work	1.00
Oct 1	22.	George Mayer, Iron	1.16
1848			
Jan 10	23.	John Imhoff, work at house	15.96
1849			
Jan 10	24.	James Micksh, work at house	16.87
Mar 29	25.	Daniel Hartford, making posts	6.46
Jun 25	26.	George Ford, counsel	5.00
Jun 25	27.	Pike & Zentmeyer, painters	24.80
Aug 7	28.	J. S. Gable, Lumber	5.63
Aug 30	29.	Jos. Busher, hauling	2.50
Sep 1	30.	Jacob B. Tshudy, planks	1.48
1850			
Jan 6	31.	Math. Maily, plastering	14.00
Mar 7	32.	Jacob Graver, Bricks	2.62
Apr 10	33.	Jacob Shitz, hauling	3.00
Apr 13	34.	John Imhoff, Lumber & work	8.56
Jun 25	35.	William Muecke, Board	1.44
Aug 21	36.	E. Eby & son, hauling	.50
1851			
Mar 13	37.	Jac. Shuetz, hauling	5.25
1852			
Feb 9	38.	Adam Sharp, repairing pump	1.12
Mar 11	39.	Jacob Shitz, hauling rails	1.50
Aug 21	40.	Henry Frank & others, appraising Real Estate	5.25
Sep 1	41.	John Whitcraft, work & boarding	60.00
1853			
Feb 14	42.	Chr. H. Rauch, appraising	3.00
Feb 14	43.	Tavern bill	1.25
		Retained by David Bricker, a book debt due him	50.26
		Retained by Jacob Diehm, a book debt due him	9.75
		Cash paid for stating this account	5.00
		Cash paid Attorney, assistance in passing this account	9.00
		Commission allowed to accountants for attending to estate since 1839	30.00

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Account of Executors Peter Bricker Estate Feb 12, 1839

Balance remaining, contained in the following items:

In the hands of George Bricker, his share		
of former balance	1023.48	
Jno Bricker's Share, who is dead, distributed		
among other heirs	1023.48	
David Bricker's retained his share	1023.48	
Jacob Diehm retained his share	1023.48	
The remainder now in hands of accountants	<u>2491.94</u>	7609.34
		=====
		\$ 8023.93

Lancaster County

I certify the preceding to be a true copy of the original as exhibited into the Register's office of said county.

Given under my hand and the seal of my office at the City of Lancaster on the 26th day of February A. D. 1853.

/s/ Jos. E. Wrenfried, Dep. Reg.

Memorandum - Power of Attorney 5 April 1839 (or 1859)

#78

Warwick 5 April 1839 (or 1859)

I received your favor of the 5th April ?39 we the heirs of John Bricker my two brothers George & Peter, sister Sophia and myself have authorized Mr. Jacob Knoop of Troy Miami Co. Ohio by Power of Attorney to settle his estate I write this that you need not doubt his authority obliged to you for you \_\_\_?\_\_\_ attention to my last letter would be pleased if when you come on north you would call to see me.

(unsigned but evidently written by David Bricker. vw)

Letter John Bricker to Uncle David, Aug 4, 1839

#73

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz  
Lancaster Co. PA  
Postmarked: Delphi Ind Aug 6

August the 4th 1839  
Dear Uncle

After my respects to you all I wonce more Embrace the oppertunity of Informing you that I am in good health & likewise Fathers family. & I hope that these few lines may find you & all our friends Enjoying the same blessing I received your letter of the 21st of February & was truly gratified to hear that you were all well & a doing well Dear Uncle I hardly know how to Excuse my self for my negligence in not answering your letter long before this time but I was a waiting for Father to write which is the cause of you not receiving an answer long since Dear uncle that is all the excuse I have to offer you this time but I hope that I shall do better for the time to come

Times are pretty much the same that they were when I wrote my first letter with some few Exceptions there is no sickness of any consequence this season as yet & I dont think that money is quite as plenty as it was

Dear Uncle I think it would be a benefit to your health if you would pick up resolution Enough to pay us a visit this fall & look at the country

the notice or report you seen in the papers concerning the fire in Delphi was not so bad as it was represented ther was only one block of buildings consumed

We have very heavy wheat & oats crops the best I believe I ever seen the crops of corn looks very promising at this time from all appearances I have an idea that produce will not be so high as it has been

Tomorrow our Elections for representatives for Congress & State Legislature takes place the Contest will be midling close between the two parties

Dear uncle this letter is not as long as I would wish it to be oweing to the many different notions & thoughts that is in my head at this time I can do nothing more at this time than subscribe my self your affectionate nephew

until death  
John Bricker

[vw. This John probably brother to W. H. Bricker]

Letter W. W. Shepperd to David Bricker Nov 19 1847

#86

Envelope:  
David Bricker, Esqr.  
Leitz, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania  
Postmarked Montgomery TX Nov 26

Montgomery, Texas  
Nov 19 1847

David Bricker, Esqr  
Leitz, Lancaster Co.  
Pennsylvania

Dear Sir

I have written you many letters requesting you to come forward for settlement of your deceased brothers Estate - to which I have no response.

It is time that the Estate should be finally settled and I hope you will respond receipt hereof advise me in the ?pumisy. Our country is settling up fast - Land becoming valuable. Society good - The law of the land in full & peaceful effect - Security & prosperty enjoyed by every one - and a fertile soil to reward our labour - Let me hear from you soon - and your final determination - And if you will or not come and see the land located & secured to you as the heirs. Meantime please have my respects

W. W. Shepperd

Per C. B. Stewart, his atty special

P. S.

By our Probate law lands can be sold for taxes - I have gone on for years paying taxes, desiring to save you the lands of the Deceased - the ?Auditors of the Estate have their claims duly attached etc., and it is on your person to save the lands if you wish I have defend ?selling the lands in hopes that you would come forward and that you should have these lands, etc.  
In haste

W. W. S.

Cannot delay any longer

N. B.

In a short period foreign heirs will be limited from claiming, and the property escheated by the Government of Texas.

Letter Peter Bricker to David Bricker, March 29, 1848

#67

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz  
Lancaster County, Penn  
Postmarked: Delphi, Ind Mar 29

Delphi, March the 29 - 1848

Dear Brother

We received your letter of the 13. We were rejoiced to here of your wellfare. We have had our helths this winter and the people are generally healthy in this neighbourhood with the exception of those that have Pulmonary Deseases

You mention in your letter concerning Brother John's estate It is my wish to have it seen to The last letter I received from John he stated he was in possession of Two Thousand acres of Land and I understand all those that went in defence of Texas was entitled to One Section of Land. If he was in possession of that Land at his Death it must be valuable at this time of it Lay in Austine's Grant -

If you can ascertain the facts relating to it I would wish to know.

Brother John was in my Debt one hundred & fitty [?fifty] dollars lent money. and sent noats [?notes] for me to collect on Benjamin Saunders but they are under par.

Plese to inform me by Letter what Soldiers Land Certificates is worth in your parts

We had a very ?open winter not more than two weaks cold weather. Peaches are killed. Grane [?grain] Looks well. Wheat selling at 70 per Bu I am receiving the Lancaster union and tribune I am taking a nother paper and it is not necessary to continue it aney longer for it is filled with pattent medicene and others that is not very interresting.

Peter Mentzen lives in this neighbourhood he follow Farming & ?Cuppering when he comes to Town is fond of a Dram. he was Elected Magistrate But his judgement was not of the Best and he Resigned his Commishion.

Nothing more at the present But Remain your wellwisher

Give our respects to all Inquiring friends

Peter Bricker

P. S. We should like to here from you shortly

Letter W. W. Shepperd to David Bricker Dec 2, 1848

#87a

Envelope:  
David Bricker Esqr.  
Litiz, Lancaster County, Penn

David Bricker Esqr  
Litiz,  
Lancaster Co.  
Penn

Dear Sir

To letter of Geo. Ford dated Lancaster in enquiry touching Estate of your deceased brother, I made prompt reply

It appears to me unaccountable that you have so little interest in an estate situated in so healthful & fertile country - in so mild a climate where this day the Peach trees are yet full of green leaves - Do Sir come & see the country & then you will think some thing of the property.

Let me hear your ultimate conclusion at the earliest moment. Nothing but other engrossing business has prevented me from closing the Estate before now.

Very Respt. Your  
W. W. Shepperd

Montgomery December 2, 1848

Letter George Bricker to Dear Friends

#11

Cincinnati November 22, 1849

Dear Friends

I embrace this opportunity to let you know that we are all in a middling state of health at present all but my self and Margret and we cant expect any thing else though we all sen the effects of the cholrie I hed an attack of it I had the dire vomiting and cramp Margret hed the dire for 9 days William hed the dire and Marys family head hed it And got over it and yoused [?used] no medicen but such as we kept in the house different kinds of mixters the most we got out of the pothercaris shops the flux and small pox is ragin this fall in the city and the wether is very mild here and has ben reported that ther is 17 deaths of cholire in St. Luis last week

I would wish you would let me know how Mother is and all the rest of the relations is

David Bricker you wrote to me about John affairs in Texas and you would give up your clame to anyone that would go and see to it no person can do anything in it with out a powers a turney from you and Jacob Dehim and as there is a man going to that nabor hood I wish to know the mens names that has John bisness in hands as thes two men three weeks or there abouts and I will know in about 2 months how things will go and if there is nothing to be don the expence will be nothing of eny account I would wish you to answer this as quick as possible

I remain your --

George Bricker

I exspect that some of my own famley will go

[Editor: This letter probably written to David Bricker]



#17

Release #1144

Know all men by these presents whereas David Bricker & Jacob Diehm, Executors of the last will and testament of Peter Bricker, late of Warwick Township, Lancaster County & the State of Pennsylvania, Decd. have lately Exhibited in the Registers office of said County their final administration account taken on the said estate, showing a total balance in the estate of seven thousand and six hundred & nine dollars and thirty four cents, which were under the Direction of said will in to be equally divided & paid to the four children of the Dec'd, viz: to George Bricker, Peter Bricker, David Bricker & Sophia Diehm. Therefore know ye, that the said David Bricker & Jacob Diehm have after the death of said Peter Bricker, Dec'd, paid unto Peter Bricker, of Madison Township, Carroll County & State of Indiana, the sum of one thousand & twenty three dollars & forty eight cents, and they have afterwards paid unto him one fourth part of the named sum, then retained as the share of John Bricker, who is now dead, and they have now paid to him the sum of six hundred & twenty two dollars and ninety eight cents, making together one thousand nine hundred & 2 dollars and thirty three cents; Therefore the said Peter Bricker doth hereby fer [sic] himself, his heirs, executors & administrators acquit release & forever discharge them the said David Bricker & Jacob Diehm, their heirs, executors and administrator of the said balance of their account and the said Executiership & also of & from all legacies, Dues, Duties, Claim, which we, our heirs, executor or administrator shall or may have claim challenge or demand, of, or out of the said estate by virtue of the said last will & testament. In witness whereof the said Peter Bricker hath hereunto set his hand & seal. Dated the 24th day of May one thousand eight hundred & fifty three.

Peter Bricker

Sealed & Delivered in the Presence of  
E. W. Hubbard

Carroll Co. State of Indiana

Before me one of the Justices of the Peace in and for said county personally came the above named Peter Bricker & acknowledges the above release and for his act and deed & desired that this \_\_\_\_\_ may be recorded according to law. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal. Dated the 24th day of May one thousand eight hundred & fifty three.  
Erastus W. Hubbard, J. P.

Recorded in the Records office in & for the County of Lancaster in Record Book I, Vol. 8 Pages 514 & 515 Witness my hand and seal of office this 11th day of July A. D. 1855.

F. H. Miller, Recorder

Release continued:

Know all men by these presents, that whereas David Bricker, Administrator of all & singular the goods & chattles, rights & credits, which were of Magdalena Bricker, late of Warwick Township, Lancaster Co. & the State of Pennsylvania, Dec'd, hath lately exhibited in the Registers office at Lancaster, his administration account, taken on the estate of said Deceased, showing a balance in his hand of three hundred & thirty seven dollars and eighty nine cents, to be distributed among her four children equally, viz: to George Bricker, Peter Bricker, David Bricker, & Sophia Diehm, and the said David Bricker hath paid unto said Peter Bricker of Madison Township, Carroll County & State of Indiana eighty four dollars &

Release Peter Bricker to Ex. Peter Bricker Estate Jul 11, 1855

forty seven cents as his full share in said balance. Therefor the said Peter Bricker doth hereby for himself, his heirs, executors & administrator, acquit, release & forever discharge the said David Bricker of the said balance of account, and also of the said administration and also of all legacies, dues, duties, claim & demand whatsoever while we, our heirs, executors, or administrators shall or may, have claim, challenge or demand of or against the said David Bricker, by virtue of his being the Administrator of said Magdalena Bricker, deceased.

In witness whereof the said Peter Bricker hath hereunto set his hand & seal. Dated the 24 day of May A. D. One thousand eight hundred & fifty three.

Peter Bricker

Sealed & Delivered in the prescense of:

E. W. Hubbard

Carroll Co., State of Indiana

Before me one of the Justices of the Peace in & for said county personally came the above named Peter Bricker & acknowledged the above release & for his act & deed & desired that the same as \_\_\_\_\_ may be recorded according to law. In witness whereof I have here under set my hand & seal. Dated the 24th May one thousand eight hundred fifty three.

Erastus W. Hubbard, J. P.

Letter C. B. Stewart to David Bricker ?1859

#87

Dav Bricker, Esq.  
Leitz, Lancaster Co.

Dear Sir

Your favor of January 59 is at hand have not received previous letters.  
The 3rd League Jno Bricker was sold to pay his debts.

The 640 acre is unsold. I shall be in at Y city New York city  
in June or July next

When I write again write you so you may come over and learn all  
about it & so on

I am much hurried or would write more

Very Respectful

C. B. Stewart

#98

Pleas heed before the Law, Bernard F. Schersuerharn, Sole Judge of the Common Plea Court within and for the County of Carroll and State of Indiana, at a regular Term of Said Court, began and heed at this Court House in Delphi, on Monday the Twenty Seventh Day of September A. D. 1869 That Being the time & place fixed by law for holding said Court, and on the Fourth Judicial Day of said Term, the following proceeding among others, was then and there had:

In the matter of the  
Last Will & Testament  
of  
Peter Bricker, deceased

Probate  
Ex-Parte -

Comes now Michael Kite and produces and files in open court, the last will and Testament of Peter Bricker dec'd and which reads in the words and figures following to wit:

Know all men to whom these presents shall come. Greeting = That I, Peter Bricker, of the County of Carroll and State of Indiana do make and ordain the following as my last will and testament, in witness I have hereunto set Hand & Seal this 17 Sep 1867.

1st I will to John D. Bricker my oldest son the sum of Twenty Five Dollars  
2nd I bequeath to Catherine Evans my Eldest Daughter Six Hundred Dollars  
3rd I bequeath to my younger daughter Jane Ann Irwin the sum of Thirty dollars annually for the term of twenty years or during her life time not to exceed twenty years

4th I bequeath to my younger son William H. Bricker all the following land to wit: Situate in the County of Story and State of Iowa, The Southwest 1/4 of Section 20 Township #82 North of Range 23 west of the 5th principal meridian Also the South 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 13 in Township #82 North of Range 24 West of 5th principal meridian containing 20 acres more or less. Also all the personal property that I may leave at the time of my death - And I hereby appoint my son William H. Bricker as my lawful Executor who shall pay to John D. Bricker the sum bequeathed to him at my death also the sum bequeathed to Catherine Evans within six years from my death together with interest at five percent from my death until paid.

Also to pay to Jane Ann Irwin the sum of money as set forth in the above

In witness I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th Sep 1867

Peter Bricker

Attest: Michael Kite  
Jonathan Gillam

And asking that the same may be duly admitted to Probate and the said Michael Kite being first duly sworn upon oath declares that he was present and saw the said Peter Bricker sign his name to said instrument in writing as and for his last will and testament on the 17th day of Sept. 1867. And at the same time heard the said Peter Bricker declare said instrument in writing to be his last will and testament.

That said last will and testament was subscribed by the said testator -

Cover:  
Will of Peter Bricker Filed Apr 30, 1870

#74

The matter I have written to his brother to forward me the papers of his brother if he left any notations to the case if we find tht it will pay someone to us must go down to settle it.

[vw. This note not addressed nor signed but appears to be the same handwriting of David Bricker. "his brother" - probably refers to Jacob Knoop, brother of the deceased J.L. Knoop who supposedly went to Texas to check on John Bricker's Estate.]

Letter W. H. Bricker to David Bricker Jan 4, 1873

#18

Envelope: William H. Bricker  
Cambridge  
Story County Iowa

To: Mr. David Bricker, Esqr.  
Litz  
Lancaster Co  
Pennsylvania

Cambridge Story County Iowa January 14, 1873

Dear Uncle

Although it has been a long time since I have heard from you yet I have not for gotten you and I am ashamed that I have not written to you sooner. A man by the name of Grant living in Texas having heard of me wrote to me in regard to the Estate of John Bricker he says that he owned a considerable amount of Land in Texas the largest and best portion of which was sold by Administrater and is out of the reach of Heirs

He also sent me a copy of a deed signed and duly sealed with the county seal in which it appears that John Bricker, Philip Bricker, David Bricker, Jacob Bricker, Samuel Bricker, Mary Bricker, Wm. S. Kelly Easter, S. Kelly, Joseph Saddler and Margaret Saddler all of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania made and delivered a deed to the said Grant for the balance of the Lands of John Bricker of Texas

Grant wants me to let him know if I have any interest in said Estate or if we have any papers or letters from JohnBricker that would give any light on the subject if you have any please let me know or is there any means by which we can prove our heirship if you know the names of any of the administrators on the Estate let me have them it appears that there has been 3 administrators all of them gobbled what they could. Father had letters from Texas but he gave all of them to J. L. Knoop when he went to settle the Estate and I never heard from him since though Irtoe to him. He may have gouged a little and I am afraid to write to him. Let me know when and where Uncle John was killed and where his Land was situated and all other information you can give in regard to his Estate and if those giving Deed were Heirs of Uncle George.

Do you think it would be wise to risk a law suit for what we may be likely to get or what views have you in regard to the case if you want to investigate the case I will send you the papers of Mr. Grant the deed is all in due form and genuine if those giving it were authorized to do so.

We are all well and enjoying good health, my two oldest girls have been teaching school the rest of us are digging along as well as we can We have had a very cold winter frequently 20 degrees below zero. It seems makes me wish I was in Texas

Please answer as soon as you receive this Direct to Cambridge  
Story County Iowa

I remain your affectionate nephew  
W. H. Bricker

[Wm. H. Bricker is son of Peter Bricker Jr.]

Letter M. M. Grant to Dear Sir (W.H.Bricker)

#20a

Austin Texas Jan 21st 1873

Dear Sir

I suppose you have received before now a copy of a deed from the heirs of John Bricker Jr. to me for 3 tracts of land in Montgomery Co. Texas. Two only of which I have been able to secure the other (and the largest & the best) having been gobbled up before I knew of Bricker having any land in Texas. I had known Brickers family in my childhood, more than 50 years ago. And only took hold of the matter to save something for them. I knew the where abouts of one of his brothers had long been unknown to the family. Who had heard he had gone off with Jo Smith and joined the Mormons about 1825. I had twice been called on by men claiming to act for a Bricker living at Delphi Ind. who however never attempted to establish any claim. And I wrote twice to Delphi once to David Bricker & once to Henry Bricker but never received any reply. These were the names given me as claimants. But the Penna Brickers said they knew nothing of them.

Please inform me on what you base your claim as J. B. Jr. left no papers at all and none of those who came with him are now within reach of me except by letter. What was the name of Johns' father, mother, brothers & sisters, and the relationship he bore to you? When did he come to Texas? When did he die? Have you or any of the family letters from him while in Texas? Did he come as a soldier and if so do his letters say anything about the company he was in as to the Captain etc. If he came as a soldier he would probably mention his officers and the names of his Pennsylvania friends with whom he came and served. I have seen the man at whose house it was supposed he had left his papers if he had any but could hear of none. His tools etc. were sold by one administrator, his 1476 acre tract by another! His pay as a soldier collected by a 3rd and he said he was acting as agent for a law firm in Cincinnati. When I got the land the first thing I had to do was to pay \$53 back taxes and those I have paid since and the cost of keeping it from being confiscated during the war run up my expenses to \$550 gold for which the amount I have agreed to deed it back to the heirs.

M. M. Grant, Austin, Texas

Letter M. M. Grant to Dear Sir (W.H.Bricker)

#20B

Austin Texas Feb 13, 1873

Dear Sir

I received yours of 2nd inst. today. We cannot understand the matter about which we are corresponding without some further developments. At the time I took up the case it seemed perfectly clear to me that John Bricker was one of the family who made the deed to me. And I supposed there would be no difficulty in proving his identity now although two of the persons who came with him and could have proved it they are now dead.

Several letters passed between the lawyer of the heirs and myself before the deed was made but the proofs of their identify were recently sent back with my deed of reconveyance I never paid one cent to the heirs and the deed was only made to me to enable me to act more efficiently for them. All I did in the matter was done out of friendship for the family whom I had known all my life and was done to save a part at least of what John Bricker had left. You cannot think how much trouble I had to save the land from confiscation during the war as the property of northern men. I first heard of the Delphi Claimant at the house of John Knight an Indianian living 24 miles from Austin where I lodged one night. An old man was there who was trying to engage Knight to investigate the Bricker case promising to give him one half of all he recovered and who I believe told Knight he had bought out the heirs. Knight was a plain farmer and not capable of making the required investigation and engaged me to do it. I found there had been two or three administrators on the estate. The first administrator had collected his pay as a soldier, the second had sold his tools and 1476 acres of land mentioned in the deed, and the third was trying to gobble up the rest. I believe a brother of Mr. DeCordova had also something to do with it but had been shoved out some how wanting some authority to interfere. Knight directed me to write to Henry Bricker, Delphi, Indiana which I did twice but never got an answer.

Charles B. Stewart who had the case in hand said he was acting for a Cincinnati law firm, one of whom I think was Lytle. Some time after I took the case in hand. Another claimant came from Ind. called on Knight and said he was acting for David Bricker to whom I also wrote without getting a reply. Two firms of land agents have been looking into the affair since. One of them (C. R. Johns & Co.) for Indiana claimants. And Wheeler & Moore for a Pennsylvania man. Both gave up the job on finding the deeds to me. I examined the records at Brenham, but could find no irregularity in the proceedings under which the 1476 acres and the tools were sold and at this distance of time it would be perfectly useless to try. I have paid tax on the other two up to this time and have reconveyed them to David Bricker of Pennsylvania for himself and the other heirs of John Bricker for \$550 gold and had sent on the deed before seeing your letter ?son which seems will barely cover my outlays and not pay for trouble. I am neither a lawyer nor a professional land agent and repeat that all I have done in the case has been done out of sincere friendship for Bricker heirs and have held the land long enough and paid taxes to secure it to me against any claimant. I will honestly give you any assistance I can and I can give you as good an opinion on land matters as anyone and will do it without charge. I can give you no reference near you, but will say, I am an old man have been a church member for more than 40 years and ought to be honest at least.

Yours truly

M. M. Grant



Owen Bricker to Father & Mother Feb 15, 1873

#80

New Haven February 15, 1873

Dear Father and Mother

I received your welcome letters this week though they contained sad and bad news I was happy to know that all things were going on well at home and vicinity so well in fact that if we never see a cent of Uncle John's inheritance we will not starve or feel any the ?power but more of this hereafter. I will speak about my own affairs first, and then about others, on the principle of No. 1 which we see followed so much and so successfully frequently.

School began on Wednesday in our new and beautiful quarters with the advantages of a large increase in the Library and many other useful improvements necessary to the pursuit of study, which since I seen them. I wished they had been there when I came to enter, however, I am by no means sad that I am to be relieved the coming summer from the walls of Yale College taking with as much learning as I had time to lay hands on, and I may as well say that as yet I have never felt one pang of regret of my coming here but only the fact is to be regretted that my means did not allow me to apply myself closer to the curriculum of study; by all accounts I think the showing has been lately that a little more legal knowledge in our family would do it no harm no matter at what price it be purchased. (As the Klopp Case & Zera case.) If I will have an oppertunity to apply what I do learn is yet to be seen. I am not so very sanquine but have good hopes and know what I have to fall back on, my trade which with health is better than a small fortune. Among the improvements they have made on, which, undoubtedly is to my advantage, but which I regret a little. They have put an another hour for lectures and recitations and as 10 o'clock, this cuts up my mornings and demands my attention in studies, i. e., so that I am unable to do any work. You can see the result "no work no money." I am therefore about strapped and will have to quit without some assistance from other quarters comes in. I spoke about this when I was home, but consoled myself when I came back with the idea that I could push ahead as I was. I shall say no more about this than that a money order for \$50 would be very acceptable even now, as to complete the muddle we were obliged to buy some new books, all of which will however be of use to us in the future. I am living as close as I can and shall continue so to do as long as funds are so very low. You cannot attend to this to soon, the amount I estimated on when I was home will reach and I do not want it all at once. Let father send and make out the order and then write so I know who made it out.

About Mr. Beck I shall say nothing as I feel sorry and words cannot do any good, it was good that such a useful life lasted so long.

Now to come to the question about Uncle John. I am going ahead in the matter in this wise. I shall write to Cousin in Iowa and you do the same saying that I said I had written and he should give me the information wanted and tell him all you know in the case and that he shall do as he thinks best. I shall commence at the bottom of the ladder, and by the copy of the deed in the possession of William Bricker can find out the county in which the matter was probated or settled by the administrator. I shall then write to that county for an authenticated copy of the settlement of the estate of John Bricker, deceased, I suppose 1836, which will tell what has been done with the lands, etc., this may cost \$2 should not cost more. I dare trust no [one] else, but will also ascertain the address of a lawyer, this writing to a lawyer will however not be a safe thing to do at such a distance. The copy of the record will tell pretty near all we want to know, without going further,

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Owen Bricker to Father & Mother Feb 15, 1873

in which case should it be demanded ?sucessons since one should go down and see what could be done. But the above first. I shall write to William to write to Grant that the parties named are not the heirs. You can do a little better no doubt about this point. By the time we get the thing into shape I may be through and then will make the dust fly for some of them rogues down there. The sale of the land if there is any more should be stopped. If William Bricker wants to go down by all means let him go but with no power of attorney at present.

You speak about those Brickers in Westmoreland Co. Pa., this may all be so, but why if Mr. Knoop was down, could he or did he not ascertain the fact, I think you would better not say anything about the Westmoreland Co. parties till Mr. Knoop's coat-tails appear a little cleaner in the matter. He may have made a great deal of mischief in this case. If the sum at stake is small it will not be worth while to make trouble and expense if large we can get help same a Kloff. Don't write to Knoop. Has he any property to your knowledge, you would do well to write to Geor. ?Grime and tell him to do you the favor to spy a little but to keep all secret we may shut the trap in the night bird yet. There seems to have been very great negligence all along in the matter. Write soon. May God bless you all. Tell John to write. Give love to Annie, Alice & Sophia and friends. Your Son,

Owen

59 George St.  
New Haven

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin [Owen, s/o David] Feb 25, 1873

#19

Cambridge, Io  
Feb 25, 1873  
Dear Cousin,

I received yours of the 15th and without any more formal introduction will state that 3 of my children are down with measles and I am very busy and cannot give the time & attention to the business in hand that it should have under more favorable circumstances however, I will do the best I can

For two years past I have had a notice to emmigrate to Texas last fall there was a man came from Texas to this country with a drove of cattle I went to see him to make inquiry about the advantages and disadvantages of living in Texas I remarked to him that I once had an interest in Land in Texas but it had been so long ago that I supposed it had escheated to the State.

He assured me that Head rights always remained good I then commenced trying to find where Uncle John formerly lived I first commenced writing to county clerks in the south eastern part of the State but failed to gain any information

I then wrote to the Commissioner of Land Office at Austin He sent a transcript of the record stating that W. W. Shepherd, Administrator on the estate had located land certificates and received patents in the name of John Bricker for three tracts of Land - Headrights for 1476 acres, 640 acres & 320 (no headright) He also sent me a card of a Law firm in Austin I wrote to them to investigate the title to the above Lands

They sent me a transcript of the record of Montgomery Co. Properly certified by the Co. officers and sealed with the county seal showing that all of the above lands had been deeded to M. M. Grant of Austin, Texas in 1857 by the Westmoreland Brickers, on other deed shows that the 1476 acre tract was sold by administrator in 1851 The Atty thinks it is past redemption he also says that he understand that the 640 acres is worth \$4 per acre this is all that I have heard in regard to its value Enclosed you will find copy of 2 letters from Grant which I had one of my children to copy for me while I was looking after the chores the first he wrote to me asking a great many questions part of which I answered by asking others. I think that I have succeeded in drawing out some good points in his second, which you will not fail to see. I will here state that Mr. Grant DeCordova and Withers the Attys that I employed live in Austin Travis County I have not answered Mr. Grants last as I only received it yesterday if you have any suggestions to make I will be glad to receive them if they come in time.

I believe it will be best to keep quiet until we know what can be done for if all the heirs start out at once they will be likely to spoil our case for you know that large bodies move slowly so I want you to consider the propriety of keeping things to our selves for a while

I do not feel confident of gaining anything from the Estate, but I do think that our only difficulty (can not read - paper was creased when photostated)

I have a friend here who formerly lived near Troy Ohio I got him to write to a friend there to slyly enquire into the financial condition of J. L. Knoop (more unreadable words) \_\_\_\_\_ will be to prove our identify as heirs of John Bricker the laws of Texas require the oath of two disinterested persons who knew John Bricker and ourselves and know that we are heirs we can prove that we had an Uncle that went to Texas but that will not make our case clear by any means

If we can establish our heirship I think we can recover the

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin [Owen, s/o David] Feb 25, 1873

640 and 320 acre tracts by incurring some expense My plan is this I intended to go to Texas any how and if your Father thinks that we can prove heirship I will come and see him before I go If I should do so I will bring the original papers and correspondence for his inspection

I want to start east about the latter end of March or sooner if I can My affairs are in such a condition that if I go I must start in the Spring I would be very glad to have you go with me I want to take my wife with me to see her friends in Indiana if it is so that we can both leave home at once if I do so I will come back this way if not will go down the river to New Orleans thence around to Galveston Westmoreland County is on my rout east I will call on the Brickers and see what I can worm out of them They are either tools of Mr. Grant or are deceiving him

By the way I wrote to Mr. Grant to let me know if J. L. Knoop had ever meddled with the estate This is a point I want to know very badly

I have ceased correspondence with parties in Texas with the exception of Mr. Grant as I think that I have learned all that I can by writing

If you want to write to Montgomery Co Texas direct to Pleasant M. Yell, County Clerk, Montgomery A transcript of the record will cost about \$5 Nothing will prevent me from investigating the case unless we utterly fail to prove heirship I want your Father to interest himself a little on that point and let me know what the prospects are.

J. L. Knoop did have papers that would be of great importance to us but I am afraid to approach him until I get word from Texas Between you and me he has not acted like an honest man or a cunning rogue I forgot state that my oldest son is now in Texas he is north of Austin and knows nothing of our affairs I am not aware of having held back anything from you nor do I see why anyone should have any objections to my going to Texas as I certainly cannot compromise the rights of any of the heirs if I had a disposition to do so Note a word in regard to Captain Grant My opinion is that he is either a fool or thinks everyone else are you will see by his letters that his accounts do not pan out right (to use a California phrase)

My opinion is that he has made use of those Brickers to try to swindle the heirs and that he still holds the deed, which is good in the absence of a better claim, however, I have him in hand pretty well, and shall make all the use of him that I can I do not think we can learn much more by writing and one or both of us had better go and see this is my intention now but "the best laid plans of men and mice gang aft alee" as soon as I determine to start east I will let you know so that you can meet me at your Fathers. It may seem strange to you for me to go east before going south but if we understand each other on this point we will know how to work together to the mutual benefit of all interested You will excuse my penmanship on account of a crippled hand I dont claim to be any writer but if I do not prove to be a good talker people might doubt my relationship with any Bricker that I ever saw

I have written in a hurry just as I can sneak a little time from looking after the children

I remain yours truly

W. H. Bricker

Letter David Bricker to Daniel Knoop Feb 28, 1873

#8

Litiz, February 28, 1873

Dear Cousin

When I seen your brother Jacob in 67 he told me that he had secured 900 acres of brother John's land in Texas but the war breaking out soon after his return he had not been able to do any thing further more in the case, he did now as he promised give me information as to what he done afterward if he paid the taxes sold the land or anything else will you please give all the information you have and can obtain about it will be tahnkfully received if there were any papers left by your brother relating to the case

Send them to my by mail as soon as possilbe I want to add the information I can get with the book \_\_\_\_\_ delay as want to have the Estate settled my son Owen is going to Texas and will attend to the Settlement of the Estate.

Family are all well with the exception of myself have not been well for some time.

Hopeing this will find you in the enjoyment of health and every other blessing.

I remain your cousin

David Bricker

Daniel Knoop  
Casstown  
Miami County, Ohio

Memorandum (letter) by David Bricker (to W.H.Bricker) 1873?

#76

No heading - probably written 1873

I received your letter at the 4th February but was not well enough to answer it sooner. it was a gratification to us to have a letter from you although you delayed writing as long the information of your fathers death I got from your sister Catherine I would have written to you sooner I would have had ?journey directions.

We have to learned the loss of dear Daughter Sophia who died on 30 August 1870 aged 21 years 3 mo & 22 days She was on a visit to her brother Owen who was \_\_\_?\_\_\_ in business at Lebanon she took sick on Friday 23rd, died Tuesday 30 and was brought home and burried on Friday the 2nd of Sept. She qualified \_\_\_?\_\_\_ for teaching had been teaching time and \_\_\_?\_\_\_ seems to commence again her loss is a sad affliction We are all in a good state of health at present. John has a family of wife and 2 children is living with us he is in business at Lancaster but comes home every Saturday evening to his family and leaves on Monday morning (two lines here unreadable)

Owen was in partnership with a man in Lebanon in the printing business and published a newspaper but after his sisters death said he could not stay there Sold out to his partner and eventually went to New Haven Connecticut where he is working at his trade & tending Law School in Yale College

I have written to him about the Texas affair and he ought to undertake to settle the estate.

Where is your brother John is he still living

When you write again let me know what kind of a country you have how you like it have you timber water \_\_\_?\_\_\_ ?brickette coal rail road facilities navigable streams near where is your tract to price of land has \_\_\_?\_\_\_ a level or rolling country.

Now in regard to John Bricker's Estate that man Grant has been awfully deceived by those raskels of Westmoreland of this State I knew that Brickers there was a family of them there but no connection of ours there was one of them an officer in \_\_\_?\_\_\_ Cavalry Service during the war but was dishonorably discharged of which our Brickers can make a better showing they have all honorable discharges and some having been promoted Brother George & Children were all living in KY near Cincinnati Jacob Knoop that we had given the power of Attorney to settle Johns Estate is deceased and his family have remarried \_\_\_\_\_(unreadable)\_\_\_\_\_ have written to his brother to send me the papers of his brother I had left any relating to the case on our return when we had been to see you in /65 he said he had saved 900 acres of the Land and paying the taxes on it the war was breaking out when he was down he did not consider it safe to make a long stay

War was over when I saw him but he said that at time he knew nothing more about it (letter ends here not signed but appears to be the handwriting of David Bricker- vw)

Memorandum to Dear Cousin (David Bricker to \_\_\_\_ Knoop) Mar 1873

#77

Litiz Mar 1873

Der Cousin

I wrote to Cousin Daniel lately to give me some information if he had any about Brother Johns Estate but I received a Letter on Saturday from his son George that his father had died last October and referred me to you as your had administration the Estate of Jacob Knoop.

I would therefore wish you to send all information you have or can get me the papers of Jacob Knoop if he left any relating to my brother Johns Estate in Texas when I seen Jacob in /65 when were out with you he told me he had ?rescued taxes on 900 acres of land that he had secured of the estate the war breaking out soon after he had been to Texas there had nothing more been done in the case but if there was any further \_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_ he would inform me thereof he died soon after and I had no further information about it. we want to see if there is any thing left of the property that will pay to go to Texas to sell the land and settle the estate

now if you can find anything relating to the Estate or any information about Jacob costs and expenses and services will be paid if we can make anything out of it

William H. Bricker at Cambridge at \_\_?\_\_, Iowa has written to me lately that he had a ?Deed sent to him by a Mr. Grant form to sign it if he was an heir to John Bricker as he \_\_?\_\_ had bought the claim to John Brickers estate of a family of Brickers at Westmoreland in Penna now the are none of our connections and are no heirs to the Estate and \_\_?\_\_ an audacious swindle Grant \_\_?\_\_ will have we must therefore gather all the evidence we can to substantiate our claim

I have only two children living John & Owen. John his family a wife and two children and is living with us but he is in business at (letter ends here - probably another page - unsigned but appears to be David Bricker's handwriting. vw)

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle David (Bricker) Mar 6, 1873

#21

Cambridge, Iowa, March the 6th 73

Dear Uncle David,

I received your favor of the 26th ult and was glad to hear of your general good health and prosperty; part of my family are just recovering from measles our second girl is taking down with them the morning our youngest boy seems to be in a critical condition he had the measles and got along very well until last Sunday when he became very dull and stupid having considerable fever all the time the Dr is afraid he is taking scarlet fever

My oldest son has gone to Texas he left home on the 7th of last Jan. we have only had one letter from him he was 20 miles north of Austin it was his intention to go down near San Antonio but when he got to Austin the horse ?disease? was prevailing to such an extent that he could not get conveyance he therefore went out in the country so as to on less expence when he left home I was daily expecting papers from DeCordova and Withers the Attorneys at Austin that I employed to look after the estate of John Bricker my son, being desirous to know the situation of affairs therefore called on them, they introduced him to Capt. Grant he was rather favorably empressed with Mr. Grant who then commenced a correspondence with me a copy of which I have sent to Owen Grant says that he only took the case to serve those Westmoreland Brickers and if I can prove heirship he will be glad to help me to gain my rights he asks a great many questions

I have been very cautious in my correspondence with him only expressing strong doubts of the geniuneness of those Westmoreland heirs which I am glad to hear are no heirs whatever

he is desirous of knowing on what right I base my claim and what proof of heirship, I can produce and claims that he only wants to know so that he can the better serve my interests. I wrote to him that if he had paid taxes or spent money in legitimately protecting the rights of legal heirs he would be protected from suffering loss, he makes a loud profession of honesty which I am afraid is not what it should be I have made an effort to draw him out if I succeed will let you know. The whole transaction between Grant and those Brickers I believe to be a sham but when you receive the papers you can judge of that point as well as I can. I will send you all the papers that are of any importance in the case but I want them returned immediately as I may want to show them to the other heirs therefore do not keep them longer than it will take to copy them in the letters of my Atty you will find what proof of heirship is required by law of Texas let me know if you think we can produce such proof if we can I will come and see you sometime this spring if my family are so that I can leave them it is my intention to go to Texas this spring proof or no proof I have no preference who shall settle the estate but shall look after my interest when I arrive there I will be glad to receive any assistance any if you can give would be pleased to have Owen go along

Yours truly

W. H. Bricker

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Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle (David Bricker) Mar 7, 1873

#22

March 7, 1873

Having filled my sheet of paper last evening and this morning thinking of other things to write I will continue a while longer though from the effects of fatigue and loss of sleep I am in a poor condition to express my views in a very clear or intelligible maners you will therefore make due allowance. I am thankful to be able to write that our son aged 14 years is better this morning he rested rather poorly through the night he commenced the study of algebra at school this wnter frequently in his sleep he rehearses his lessons I am in hopes that he will get along all right the rest are all comfortable

In regard to Jacob Knoop I think that he acted strangely his bargain with father was that he was to have one half that he could make out of the Estate of Uncle John Brickers

Knoop bearing all the expence he told Father that this was his bargain with the other Heirs and Father agreed to it

I do not see that we ought to pay anything to his family unless he has paid taxes or done something for the advantage of the Heirs. There was a man ran away from Ohio indebted to my Father near three Hundred dollars for which Father held his notes when Knoop was out to Indiana he told Father that he knew where the man lived and that he was wealthy and the notes could be collected Father gave him the notes to collect but we never had any word from him afterward though I wrote to him urging him to report, this looks so though there was something rotten in Denmark and I for one will not be in favor of paying anything without a very clear account of his Stewardship I have ceased corresponding with parties in Texas with the exception of Mr. Grant I am still dallieing along with him trying to draw him out I dont believe it would be policy to make too much of a stir at present it might put persons on their guard and increase our difficulties the only points that I want information on are as to the value of the Land and the proof of our heirship

As I said before I want to go to Texas any how and I also have been wanting to pay you a visit on the receipt of this write and let me know what we can do in the way of proving our heirship if you report favorably I will come East as soon as I can delays will certainly increase our difficulties

witnesses are growing old, and I think that it is our interest to begin in earnest if we ever intend to do anthing

If I should come to see you I will call on those Westmoreland Brickers and see what I can worm out of them

I sent a copy of Grants letters to Owen he will probably forward them to you they will throw additional light on the subject

Write soon

Wishing you all health and prosperity I remain your affectionate nephew

W. H. Bricker

Remember my cripled hand and excuse my writing

[This handwriting is very readable - very plain. He just does not use punctuation marks. vw]

Letter Owen Bricker to Parents (David), March 8, 1873

#69

New Haven March 8, 1873

Dear Parents

I received father's interesting letter yesterday and found time to answer it this morning. I received several letters from Iowa [W.H.] which I'll send to you by this mail it seems as if Wm. Bricker means to go ahead in the claim and I am sure there is nothing to stop him, and so far I think he has done very well and I would not write to Grant or any one else till you see him as he promises to come East by April 73. And by all appearances can manage the whole affair better himself being it requires so much caution in the matter. I do not think there was much of a fortune in the land claim but I do think that the man Grant is \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ (?yaming) it fearfully and to a purpose Austin is about 2 or 3 hundred miles from the claim in Montgomery County and it is very doubtful that people should be wandering all over the state making "offers to settle claims" at so great a distance from the land upon the whole I don't believe Grant very much.

I am sorry I cannot be home when Wm. Bricker comes but it cannot be helped and I certainly knew nothing about the affair. I hope he may go to Texas. and clear things up even if we do not get any other benefit in the matter than knowing what has become of all the inheritance. We had no snow here on Monday and Tuesday but it was very cold this morning is the finest we have had this winter. Sleighing is splendid out in the country and the ice is about 6 inches deep on some of the streets.

It was very ?indescrit in Joe ?Wilman to come back so soon and I suppose he may cause some trouble by spreading the disease. Work is slacking up and I have plenty and more than I can do in my studies if I attend to them as I should so that I am busy on all sides. I expect the rest of the day arranging my case for Wednesday next and will make a good fight. and try to be successful.

I received a letter from John [brother] on Monday and was glad to hear from him. I know so little about the business he talks about that I cannot advise him much if any. I hope he may be successful as he has been at Lancaster though he has made but a short stay.

I have no news to write and you must content yourself with the letters I send with this one. I am glad to hear from home at all times. Give my love to all inquiring friends and neighbors. If winter don't break soon I suppose I can be of some assistance to you in haymaking and harvest. By all accounts the tobacco crop \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ slowly and the speculators are having things their own way.

Give my thanks to Tshudy for the ?Smull's manual he has sent me.

May God bless you all  
Your son

Owen

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle [David], Mar 9, 1873

#27

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz  
Lancaster Co. Penna.

Greensburg (PA)  
Mar 9, 1873

Dear Uncle

I arrived here last night all right and feeling well Those  
Brickers are living in Greensburg and vicinity I saw one of them he is a  
little hard I think I first tried to rake up relationship and got him very  
communitive his Father had several Brothers amongst them one John that  
went to Texas and was killed in battle he can not tell when or where  
when I asked why the other brothers of his Father did not  
claim their portion he seemed to be at a loss what to say. I called on the  
Atty that acted for them he thinks that they never established any proof  
of heirship they only acted on what Grant told them but from what I can  
hear I am afraid they will be [?not] able to prove anything

the Bricker that I saw had a son that has gone down to Texas  
and returned recently I asked questions about the land and many other  
things but he said he never asked him anything about it perhaps a little  
scare would do them good I write in haste so as to be in time for train

Your affectionate Nephew

W. H. Bricker

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Unsigned letter, Nephew, Mar 10, 1873

#71

Litiz Mar 10, 1873

Dear Nephew

I received goode copies of letters (my son Owen) you sent Owen. I wrote to Daniel Knoop about those papers of his brother Jacob to send me them if he could get them his son George answered me that his father died last October and Jacob widow and family were living but referred me to the administrator of Jacobs Estate William Knoop Troy Miami Co. of Ohio I wrote to William this morning before I had received Owens letter I requested him to send the papers of Jacob Knoop if he left any relating to John Brickers estate of Texas, by your letter I understood that you are coming east you would better stop with William if you can also ascertain of him where to find your uncle Geo Children when I was to see them in /65 they all lived at Brooklyn Kentucky opposite Cincinnati write to William if (letter stops here)

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin [Owen] Mar 10, 1873

#23

Cambridge Co. Mar 10, 1873

Dear Cousin

After reading your letter more carefully than I did at first I find that I misapprehended your meaning on some points which may call for an explanation from me which I am willing to give When we meet, which I hope will be soon Today I received another epistle from Mr. Grant which I copy and send to you for your information or edification or any other use you can make of it After acknowledging the receipt of my letter he begins thusly

You must not think the persons who made the deed to me imposed on me or that they would impose on any one All they knew about the Land they learned from me And all I did was done to prevent them from being swindled The proof of their right made by persons who came to Texas with John Bricker was satisfactory to me at the time Now I think there was two of the same name So far as the Westmoreland Heirs are concerned they have acted honorably and paid all I charged them \$550 in gold which is not more than will pay me what I expended in taxes and costs Should you establish your claim to the land secured for them I will give them 960 acres of land and assure you that neither they nor I will Try to keep you out of anything to which you are justly entitled As early as 1857 there were squatters on the 640 acre tract if there now you cannot dispossess them you have slept on your rights to long Our laws require suit to be brought against such persons within ten years unless the real owner is a minor and ten years occupancy unmolested will give them a good title unless the owner is a minor a married woman or non compos mentes To prevent them getting title by possession on ejectment suit must be brought within two years after a minor becomes of age a married woman becomes a widow or an insane persons becomes sane - you say that you bought of your Father (I never said anything of the kind) If John Brickers father lived two years after John without bring suit against squatters if there were any he may have had no title to sell you you knew of the land in 1854 I believe yet have never attempted to set up a legal claim. Can you prove yourself a minor or a widow or an idiot. I do not know that the locator was ever paid. Perhaps he might have authorized the settlement of the squatter which would make the matter worse

I never saw Mr. Knoop but have heard Mr. Knight speak of him

You see the necessity of getting the best proof that you can Get it and if you ever deem to have a good claim I will aid you all I can to get your rights At the same time I would prefer in your place to get the same amount of undisputed lands elsewhere

M. M. Grant

Now is not this transparent enough for an Idiot to see through it I will blow up Mr. Grant and then cease corresponding with him I have tried him on every other point and in my last I made a proposition to him to go in with me and try to swindle the rest of the heirs this was rather a bold move but I have got tired of his talk about honesty and concluded I would try his bottom I look for fun ahead I do not know anything about Mr. Knight

there was a Doctor Knight came from Illinois to Indiana and married in our neighborhood and then went to Texas

Father requested him to make inquiry about Uncle John Brickers Estate he wrote to us stating that he had heard of 15 or 1600 acres of land said to be of fair quality I received a letter from my son today he is in Austin, Texas and says he will remain there several months

I remain yours truly, W. H. Bricker

Write immediately

#24

New Haven 3/15/73

Dear Parents

I did not intend to write this week but have received another letter from Wm. Bricker which I enclose, he seems to be growing warmer & warmer on the subject, and I suppose will go down to Texas as soon as he can make arrangements; which is well enough if he can do any good, but no doubt he means business the way he talks. I received the enclosed letter day. The whole [?thing] may be a dodge of Grant to get a good price for some useless lands claiming that they were sold for taxes and the taxes must be paid which taxes may be worth more than the land is worth. Upon the whole I think the case is well mixed up by Grants statements of which no one can make head or tail more than they are seemingly untrue and not to be relied upon. And the only way to clear the matter up will be for Cous. William to investigate when he gets to Texas. I think he is sharp enough and if anything comes out of it then will be these who can see to the interests of the other heirs. If I was in another situation than I am at present I would not stop making my way to Texas along with him. but as it is I am tied fast till July and under ordinary circumstances would not like to go there if it would be necessary before fall.

Even if he was successful it would almost be necessary for some one to see that all things were fair and square as could be. Trusting persons even relations is fast going out of date.

Write to me as soon as you find time and give me all the news. I wrote to John today before I got this letter. The weather is growing pleasanter and the snow and ice fast melting pavements are in a dreadful condition. we have a U. S. Signal station at New Haven and can now see by the signal of any approaching storms. the sign is a red flag with black centre, which means a storm in 24 hours and is usually correct.

I suppose every person is beginning to look at their tobacco seed and start early in the season. The day is so fine that I can hardly remain in the house but for the mud under foot. I had a case at Moot Court this week and luckily won it.

Give my love to Annie Alice and all the rest and let me hear from you soon. I hope you are all well and may God continue his blessings.

Your son,

Owen

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Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle [David], Mar 27, 1873

#25

Cambridge, Iowa Mar 27 73

Dear Uncle

I received those papers yesterday long with your letter they was much longer on the way than any of your other letters which will account for my not answering sooner. I am thankful for the interest you are taking in our affairs and hope we will be able to make out a good case. we ought by all means to have the papers that Father gave to Knoop Father [Peter, Jr,] received a letter from Uncle John a short time before his (Uncle Johns) death and answered it immediately. a short time afterwards he received an answer from Isaac L. Hill in which he stated that Fathers letter had come into his hands and he knowing of Uncle Johns death took the liberty to open it he wrote all about the particulars of Uncle Johns death. Father gave Knoop all the letters and papers he had there was a man living in Indiana who was present when Father opened and read the letter. I think he will remember it though it would be better to have the original. I can testify to the above statements if my testimony would be admissible. It is my intention to start to Indiana in a few days and will not be here long enough to receive an answer from you therefore I want you to write to me at Delphi and let me know how you have succeeded with Wm. Knoop in getting those papers if he has not sent them to you it might be well for me to call on him and see what I can do though I do not like to have any thing to do with such men I want your advice on this point so tell me how you think I had better manage the case as you know them better than I do. If nothing unforeseen happens I will start to Indiana next week and stay there a short time and then go on to see you. I received a letter from Owen yesterday in which he says that it will be impossible for him to be at home when I come to see you which I am sorry to hear for it would be a great pleasure to me to see him along with the rest of you.

Direct to me at Delphi

I remain your affectionate nephew

W. H. Bricker

Letter Emma Knoop to David Bricker, Apr 13, 1873

#81

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz  
Lancaster Co. PA  
Postmarked: Troy O Apr 19

Troy, Ohio, April 13, 1873

Mr. David Bricker

Sir,

I write to you at the request of my Father (Sam [or Tom] Knoop) who has been sick for some time. He has been suffering from rheumatism and cannot use his right hand but we think he is some better now. He says to tell you that he examined all the papers left by Jacob Knoop but failed to find any concerning John Brickers estate in Texas. He has seen none of Jacob's sons since he received your letter and he promised to examine all the papers over carefully and let him know if he found anything concerning the Texas land. Father says he will write to you as soon as he gets able and give you all the particulars. The rest of the relations are all well I believe as far as we know and hope you may all be enjoying good health.

Very respectfully

Emma Knoop



Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle [David] Apr 22, 1873

#26

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Lancaster Co. Penna.

Delphi, Ind.  
Apr. 22, 1873

Dear Uncle

I received yours of 2 inst. It has been raining nearly ever since and is very muddy My wife & youngest child came with me we have got along very slowly visiting our old friends and neighbors on account of the weather I want to start to Ohio on the 25 I will not remain there longer than is necessary to attend to business I hope to see you sometime next week I wrote to Texas for information in regard to certain points of law some of the answers are very favorable to our case I will show them to you when I come. it would please me to see Owen but I can not go to New Haven and do not wish to interfere with his studies

The friends are all well I have written in haste and will have to close or be too late for mail

Your affectionate Nephew

W. H. Bricker

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Letter John Bricker to Father & Mother, Apr 25, 1824

#82

Envelope: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Lancaster County  
Livits Post Office  
Pennsylvania

Postmarked: June 30

Written on back of the envelope: Daniel & Jesse Romily  
Daniel is a chiller  
and Jesse a Shoemaker  
Jesse was raised in Maryland  
& Daniel in Penna.

Letter:

Texas, April 25th 1824

Dear Father & Mother

I have received Davids letter Dated April 23rd 1831 Nothing strange in these partes at present but the revelutions and the despute of the Colonies and I think it will be settled in A short time if settled to my notion I shall remain in this place for my intres is at least Twenty two Hundred Ackers of land and expect to have as mutch more as soon as the Colonies is decided -

I am well at present and hope you are all the same state helth  
If you send aney Letters direct them as directed post paid

New Oliens Post ofise  
Texes Sentefillipia

No more at present but I remain yours  
John Bricker

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker, July 30, 1834

Delphi Indianina.

Theodore Saunders' children are all married were all well by the last account Benjamin Knook has sold his farm & lives with one of his sons his son Michael has moved into the neighborhood of Wapocanetta. Peter is in Galenea and the rest are in the neighbourhood of Troy John Knook's daughters are all married and his sons are all single yet I seen George and Michael ?Mose lately they were well and send you their best respects - Michael is single yet. Graves Family were all well the last we heard of them.

We had a very ?open warm unhealthy winter the Spring was very cold we had a very hard frost the first week in May, the Rye was injured and in some places entirely destroyed the Fruit is entirely destroyed. Peter wrote that they had cold weather about the same time the wheat was froze on the prairies but in the woodlands they will have a tolerable crop. Knoops write that the wheat has suffered very much with them on account of the cold weather in May, we had a very warm and dry summer the Thermometer has ranged higher here this summer than it has these 30 years it has ranged from 90 degrees to 100 degrees for nearly 2 weeks in the shade.

We have accounts of the Cholera being at Quebec in Canada Cincinatta Ohio and Beaver for this State if this oppressive heat continues on it will spread over the county very rapidly People do not seem to be so much afraid of the Cholera as they were when it broke out in the county first

The death of Lafayette has caused a marked sensation throughout the whole country funeral processions have been in all the principal Towns to his memory

One of our neighbours wished me to write to you to make enquiry for 2 young men brothers to her which she thinks may have gone to Texas as they were in New Orleans the last she heard of them her name is Ranch (or Rauch) their names are Daniel and Jessee ?Romcich Daniel is a miller by trade and was raised in Pennsylvania. Jessee is a shoemaker by trade and was raised in Maryland if you can hear of them I wish you would write in your next letter.

We were all glad to hear of you health and welfare not having received an answer to the letter I had wrote to you we had concluded that we could not send it where you was or that you was dead and we concluded not to write till we would get a letter from you I wish you would write to us on the receipt of this letter do not wait as long as with the last write us a description of your country If you do not think yourself competent to write a description of it get some person to write it for you I would wish to have the following description viz: Face of the County soil Productions Climate Government etc Prices of Lands Distance to New Orleans by land water in what you trade there etc if you have regular mails if you do not write this all write something of it next time you write if we had a good description of your Country there would certainly be a great many of our young mechanics to go there some to stay and some to see the Country.

The same time I mailed this letter I also mailed newspapers which I hope you will receive with the Letter I wish you would send me some of your news papers if you have any English published there or subscribe for one of your papers in my name pay the paper & postage on it to New Orleans give the printer the directions to put on them give them to him Correct send them six months if you do this I will subscribe for a paper in your name and send it to you for six months in return there is a printer in Lancaster would wish to exchange with one of your printers be particular not to write or have anything more wrote on the papers than the proper directions as the law is very strict in that respect in the States now I have known letter postage charged on a paper having had I am well wrote on the inside with a

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker, July 30, 1834

lead pencil. Direct your letters or papers as follows

David Bricker  
Litiz  
Lancaster County  
Penn.

Nothing more at present that I still remain your affectionate  
brother

David Bricker

Just as I am closing this letter Father & Mother say I shall  
give you particular injunctions to write soon. By the papers today I see  
you have a revolution in your Government again you have them as plentiful as  
Huckelberrys were here last year we had none this year they were all froze.

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle [David] May 10, 1873

#28

Dayton, Kentucky  
May 10, 1873

Dear Uncle

I arrived here all right this morning and find the relations all well In looking over some old papers I found a written notice of the death of John Bricker son of Peter Bricker of Litiz copied from the Philadelphia Saturday Courier Saturday January 28, 1837 Volume 6 No. 305 The family do not know from whence it came; now if a copy of the paper can be found it will be good testimony in our case As we will be likely to have to fight our way through every thing that will help will be necessary therefore Please see if it can be found

it will certainly be better proof than those Westmoreland Brickers can produce unless they find false witnesses which I believe they are capable of doing but we must not leave anything undone that can be done to help our case

Cousin David says he has written twice to you but received no answer [vw: is he a son of George?] The friends here send their best respects to yourself and family

I shall always remember the pleasant time I spent with you and thank you and your family for the kind attention I received while there

Believe me your most affectionate nephew

W. H. Bricker

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Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle & Aunt, May 21, 1873

#29

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz, Lancaster County  
Pennsylvania

Montgomery, Texas  
May 21, 1873

Dear Uncle & Aunt

I arrived here last Friday and am well I have made an examination of the Estate of Uncle John and find that the 640 and 320 acre tracts are of no great value The 1/2 league is estimated to be worth \$5000 and is thought to be illegally sold An Attorney agrees to try to recover it for 20 per cent of its value at his own risk which I would rather given than to run the risk of being broke by the uncertainty of a law suit he also says that you are a competent witness provided you testify in open court but not by deposition unless you make a bonafide sale of your interest in the Estate he says it would be well for us to take depositions to prove the personal appearance of Uncle John

I saw a Col. Wade here who was well acquainted with Uncle John he says he was about 5 ft. 9 inches high rather strongly made would weigh about 165 pounds not entirely erect in carriage Spoke good English not quick of speech beginning to turn grey and usually wore a kind of half sailor dress long round about coat and heavy boots and of florid complexion If we can prove Uncle John to have been such a man it will be good proof of identity if it cannot be done in PA it may be in Ohio the case can not be tried before September Col. Wade and other persons here say that they believe the one third league was sold for the purposes of swindling the heirs as they do not believe that Uncle John owed any one a dollar I have not seen the 640 and 320 it has been raining and the water courses are swollen so that I cant go about very well I passed through the other it is tolerable good timber land a man who has just come in says that it is worth more than \$5000 The attorney says that it would be better for the heirs to sign a release to one or more of the heirs to bring suit for the reason that where so many are parties to a suit if a girl changes her name by marriage or one of the parties die it will frequently delay the case and sometimes cases are not decided for years on this account A power of attorney will not do to bring suit on I have made no effort to find any other property but will do so Unless there was part of the estate in Washington County the administration under which the 1/3 league was sold was illegal and I believe it was anyhow No one here knows anything of J. L. Knoop having ever been here nor has he paid any taxes I will not remain here long enough to receive an answer to this therefore write to me at Cambridge and give me your advice in regard to what you want done. If you want any further information from here you can address Col. Wade or John R. Peel, Attorney at Law, Montgomery I would write to Owen but I have forgot his P.O.

Part of this State is very fine but I have had a poor opportunity of judging as I passed through by rail  
The interest at stake here is worth striving for and we must do all we can to gain our rights

I will try to go through Washington County once see the condition of things there I send my best respects to John and Leady  
Believe me your affectionate nephew

W. H. Bricker

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle David, June 3, 1873

#30

Cambridge Iowa  
Jun 3, 1873

Dear Uncle

I arrived at home last evening in tolerable good health but rather tired I have made a thorough examination of the record here since I wrote to you (I should have said the records of Montgomery) and find that Taylor who bought of Administrator sold the one third league in 1856 for 2000 dollars

It was again sold in 1868 for 800 dollars and again in 1871 765-3/4 acres off of the east end was sold for 4059 dollars the Houston and Great Northern RR runs across one end of it, there is a saw mill on it cutting the timber off. the attorney thinks that the sale of administrator was illegal and we had better bring suit and attach the mill to secure damage for timber cut off the land I did not see the other tracts of land

they are not worth much the 320 acres is said to be the best land it is heavily timbered but remote from RR and markets there is so much timber that it is not valuable unless close to Rail Road. A man told me that there is a squatter on the 320 acre tract he has 18 or 20 acres cleared but has not been on it long enough to gain title the rest of the land is worth the improvement the land is worth about \$1.25 cts for acre. the 640 tract is about 6 miles from Rail Road all timbers I saw a man that says he is going to start a saw mill within 2 miles of it it may increase its value at present it would not sell for more than \$1.50 cts per acre

This is certainly a very low price for land but I have seen good land in this part of Texas fenced and once in cultivation now laying idle and over run with weeds the best improved farms can be bought for from 15 to 20 dollars per acre I would not live in this part of Texas on account of the water it is not fit for a nigger to drink by the way there is plenty of them here and they are a nuisance

J. L. Knoop has not been to Montgomery nor has he ever paid taxes on land this leads me to think that Uncle John had property elsewhere unless he had property in Washington County the last administration would be illegal on that account I did not find the papers in regard to the Adm. of Shepherd it will be some trouble to get them as there were several counties included in one. but John R. Peel will look after them there is nothing here on record but the transfers and the transcript of the proceedings of Crumplers sale of the 1/3 league and it does not state what it was sold for men here laugh at the idea of creditors waiting so long for their pay. Col. John R. Wade thinks that Shepherd owed Unle John at the time of his death. Mr. Wade will answer any inquiries you may make

C. B. Stewart is living J. L. Hill is still living I will give you his P.O. when I get my satchel from the R. R. We cannot take depositions without notifying other parties either by publication or otherwise Court will be held in Montgomery in September considering how much of our business has to be done by mail it will be necessary for us to be dillegent in preparing our case so that we are ready by that time Court is in session there now Mr. Peel had a great deal of business to prepare for Court and could not give as much time to our case as he desired as soon as Court is over he will hunt up everything that he can and let me know

I will inform you of every thing of interest as soon as I can

I could not get to see the 640 and 320 acre tracts on account of the high water besides there would have been difficulty in finding Mr. Wade surveyed them when they was located he said he did not believe that I

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle David, June 3, 1873

could find them without a great deal of trouble on the assistance of a surveyor; let me know how the discription of Uncle John I sent you agrees with your recollection of him and what you can learn from others I will write to the Knoops and Abner Robinson in Indiana and see what they recollect of him I would have stayed longer in Texas but I was sick two days and as soon as I got better I thought I had better lean out north I have got entirely well of my cough but need a little rest

Mr. Peel thinks part of the heirs had better transfer their interest to do few one or more of the heirs so as to make less parties to the suit where a girl changes her name by marrige or one of the parties dies it sometimes cause delay but this will be a matter of minor importance for future consideration

The original patent is on record in Montgomery it says 1/3 league of land deeded and patented to the heirs of John Bricker, deceased. Yet Lawyers differ in their opinions as to the right of Administrator to sell it I called at the Office of Mr. Crosby he was not at home Mr. Peel was highly recommended to me by P. M. Yell, County Clerk and others who travel on the square he will make inquiry in Washington County and other palces to see if he can find anything more that we are entitled to you can correspond with him and the will answer promptly do not fail to write soon

Yours truly

W. H. Bricker



Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle (David), Jun 21, 1873

#31

Cambridge, Iowa  
June 21, 1873

Dear Uncle

In my last letter to you I said I would give you the address of Col. Isaac L. Hill as soon as I got my memorandum book - it is Burton, Texas he lives in Fayette County but his P. O. is not in that county

C. B. Stewart is living he stays part of the time in Houston and part in Montgomery county I forgot to tell you that Col. Wade says that the Heirs of John Bricker are entitled to a certificate for 4428 acres more land he is very confident that he is not mistaken but the lawyer I consulted can find no such law I can get no answer from Brother John I have in his name as one of the heirs his interest will be looked after as well as our own and he will have to abide by whatever do I have been thinking that if we recover the 640 acre tract it would pay to start a saw mill and cut it consult the boys and see what they think of it If you see fit to assign your interest to them your testimony will be admissible by deposition otherwise it would be admitted in open court. I do not wish to dictate to you I am now giving facts for your consideration

Court commenced the week after I left Texas and on that account I have received nothing more from there If we bring suit next fall some of the heirs ought to go down and attend the trial. I do not believe that I could go but we can arrange this some other time write soon and let me know if you have any instructions to give or questions to ask

Your affectionate nephew

W. H. Bricker

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle David, Jul 17, 1873

#32

Cambridge, Iowa, July 10, 73

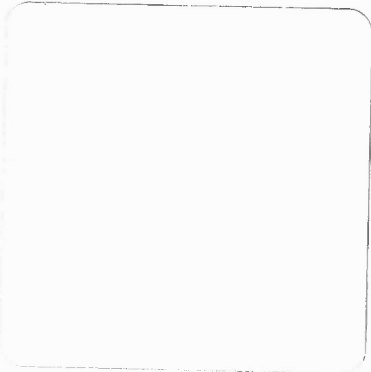
Dear Uncle

I have written three letters to you since I arrived in Texas besides 2 before I got there. I have received no answer to any. Why do you delay so long if you are dissatisfied with my proceedings you ought to let me know so that I can do otherwise. If you will go down to Texas and attend court to be held on the 2d Monday of September 73 I will be willing to bear one half of your expences [sic] I make this offer for various reasons. Your testimony would be of great value in our case and you as an interested party can testify in open court but not by deposition you can have an opportunity to ascertain the value of the estate and make arrangements for its disposal provided we recover you can also judge of my work. I made the best terms that I could under the circumstances. I have spent considerable time and money and do not want to stop now. I am willing for anyone else to take hold and do better than I did if they can. I think you can stand the trip very well. I left Lancaster on Thursday stoped [sic] over at Greensburg 12 hours stayed at Cincinnatti from Saturday morning until Monday evening and arrived Montgomery on the following Friday evening.

So you can see that it is not a very tedious trip. If you would go down it would save expence of taking depositions.

Where is Owen. I have not heard from him for a long time tell him to write. I remain your affectionate Nephew

W. H. Bricker



L.L.

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin (Owen Bricker) July 17, 1873

#33

Cambridge, Iowa, July 17, 1873

Dear Cousin

I received your favor of the 8th yesterday and was very glad to hear from you again I had written so often and received nothing in return for so long that I was afraid you was going to abandon the claims but your letter sets things right on that score you certainly had enough to engage your time with out writing letters

Now that you are through with your studies I hope that I can depend on your prompt assistance the reason why I made my last offer to your Father was because I was afraid he was dissatisfied with my proceedings or had ceased to take an interest in the case and knowing the necessitys of his cooperation I made that offer that he might have an opportunity to investigate I also want his testimony but if he signs a release to you I think it can be taken by deposition however if he wants to except of my offer he is at liberty to do so

Attorneys in Texas usually charge one half of what they recover in land claims An old Texas veteran showed me a letter he received from a law firm offering their service to procure papers and locate land for him in which they ask one half for their services

I believe I have written to your Father everything in regard to the case that I could obtain while I was in Texas There is nothing new from Grant and those other scoundrels When I came from your home I stoped a Greensburg and found there was one John Bricker living there on inquiry I found that he was one of the family that were trying to swindle us I got a boy to tell him to come down to the hotel When he came I tried to rake up relationships with him and thus obtained the pedigree of their family after learning his fathers name I inquired how many brothers he had he gave me the names of several and at last told about an Uncle John that was killed by Mexicans in Texas he could not tell when or where or anything else about it I then told him that I was looking after the Estate of Uncle John this seemed to set him back a little I asked him what proof of heirship he had he owned that he had none but Grant had worked up the case for them I then told him that they had given the names of other heirs that had as good a right to the estate as their family and I would like to know how they could deed it all away. he said that they tried for their portion but could get nothing he then said again that Grant had worked it up for them

I have been thus lengthy on this point so that you might understand the case as fully as I do and take any advantage that you can

Grant contradicted himself in his letter to me I called the attention of Mr. Peel to those letters and remarked that they might be of use to us he said by charging them with fraud we could do so I think we ought to make use of all the means that we can but it is out of place for me to dictate to a professional man there would be more propriety in your offering advice than there would be for me to do it Consider the case and do as you think but as the case has lain so long without anyone taking an interest in it And I have borne my own expense and have nearly as great an interest at stake as anyone I do not think my arrangements out to be interfered with unless there is a great probability of doing better or I have not done my duty - Nothing would please me better than to go with you to Texas in the fall but I think it will be out of the question for me to do so if we have a suit with those Westmoreland rascals my testimony would be of importance but we will have to do without it or continue the case

The cheapest quickest and best rout by rail to Montgomery is by way of St. Louis my fare was \$16.50 from Lancaster [PA] to Cincinnatti \$52.52 from Cincinnatti to Houston \$2.50 from Houston to Willis by

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin (Owen Bricker) July 17, 1873

Houston and Great Northern RR \$3.00 by hack from Willis to Montgomery you may probably go cheaper by taking a through ticket from Lancaster but I do not think you will go by Cinn. on western roads there is not much difference between first and second class tickets except in the price if there is Ladies enough to fill the best car you will be put in a car where smoking is allowed if you have paid for your first class ticket

If you go down to Texas you want to have your working tools in order and a certificate is well enough If you want to find the relations in Kentucky from Cincinnati cross on the Newport Bridge and go up the River to Dayton You will save by taking through ticket fare from St. Louis to Houston is \$52.05 only 20 cts less than from Cincinnati which is 340 miles further I am sorry to hear of your Mothers poor health Give my respects to Uncle Jacob and Aunt Sophia [Diehm] and all relations and friends I will send descriptions of those lands so that you can take release.

Yours truly

W. H. Bricker

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Unsigned letter, Nephew, Jul 21, 1873

#72

Litiz, July 21, 1873

Dear Nephew

I received your letter of this 10 ult on Friday and delayed answering till I had seen John Owen has left home last week he wrote to you when home. you accuse me of not answering your letters. I rec'd a letter from Cincinnati and from Montgomery and one from Cambridge and the 3rd of June in which you stated that you had just arrived home but that you would write in a few days again and state matters more particularly for which I have been waiting if you wrote I did not receive it my reason for not writing. I try to make my arrangements to go down although I think September the worst month for unclimated persons to go South and I think the \_\_\_?\_\_\_ and thats time (month) was a very (in my opinion) \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ the bargain with the atty was as good as can be expected you now I want you to inform me with must I have power of attorney to from the other heirs or am I only to appear as witness before the court in the case what of the Grant case What were your expenses from Lancaster to Montgomery what route did you take was it the best answer did your cousin \_\_\_?\_\_\_ give you any power to act for him where did you leave those letters I gave you must have them if I go down if you did not leave them there answer me give all further information you have and I will let you know if I can and will go for a certainty.

We are all well except my wife her health was bad since last winter she was hardly able to be about soon after you left but is somewhat better now John appears to be satisfied with his business at Middletown the most objection far from home

Our wheat and grass crops were very good wheat better than for many years, we had no rain since estimation which was the 1 of June until last Friday & Saturday when we had heavy soaking rain vegetation was amost \_\_\_?\_\_\_ if oats is it no account but corn and late potatoes may make a tolerable crop. the Tobacco will be a entire failure (letter ends here)

[vw: This letter is probably from David Bricker to nephew, W.H. Bricker.]

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle (David), Aug 2, 1873

#34

Cambridge, Iowa  
August 2, 1873

Dear Uncle

I received yours of 21 July I gladly accept your offer to go down to Texas to look after our interest there in fact I think it is almost indispensibly necessary to have your testimony

you can testify to the heirship of our family and Uncle Georges and I know of no one else that can you can also testify in regard to those letters they would be of little value without some one to vouch for their genuineness I left those letters with Mr. Peel We can not bring suit by power of attorney all the heirs must be made parties or release their interest to others

I received a letter from Mr. Peel the same day I received yours there is no new developments in the case he has sent to Brenham for an inventory of Uncle Johns estate and will forward to me as soon as received when I receive it will forward copy to you If you can find that Philadelphia Paper containing notice of Uncle Johns death it would be of great value in our case I sent you the number and date of paper from Cincinnatti. If you find any testimony that would be of use to us you had better write to Peel at once so that he can take the propper [sic] course to make it available give names of witnesses and what you want to prove

The best rout is by St. Louis there is not much difference whether you go by Cincinnatti Ft. Wayne or Indianapolis the connections are good by Cincinnatti. delay about 2 hours at Pittsburg. evening train from Cincinnatti arrives at St. Louis next morning stop long enough for breakfast. when you arrive at Sedalia Missouri do not go on the way train you had better wait for the regular and go through quicker you will save money by taking through ticket from Lancaster my fare from Cincinnatti was only 20 cts more than it costs from St. Louis it cost me \$16.50 cts from Lancaster to Cincinnatti \$52.25 cts from Cin. to Houston \$2.50 to Willis on Houston and great Nothern [sic] R. R. \$3 by hack from Willis to Montgomery

The Kentucky heirs are well pleased with my proceedings all that is necessary to gain 960 acres is to prove a better right than those Westmoreland rascals it might be well enough to call on one of them at Greensburg and pump him a little, his admissions to me would be damaging to their case Mr. Peel thinks the chance is good for the third League give my respects to Uncle Jacob and Aunt Sophia and to other friends and relations  
Your affectionate nephew

W. H. Bricker

Letter Peel & Rentfro to Owen P. Bricker, Aug 14, 1873

#46

Letterhead: Peel & Rentfro  
Attorneys at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

August 14, 1873

Owen P. Bricker, Esqr,  
Litiz  
Dear Sir

Your favor of the 4th inst is just recd and contents noted We can only approximate to the value of the lands after taxes, fees, expenses, etc.

The 1476 acre survey has been estimated as good price - to wit - at \$5.00 per acre - but as the excitement of the Rail Road wears off - it settles down to its true value - say \$3.50 per acre = \$5,166.00 - fees of \$1,033.33 = \$4,133 - The costs of Taxes suits & will not amount to above \$100 - Think anyway - in round numbers this tract will net the heirs \$4000.00 - and the 320 acre tract - will net the heirs \$250.00 and the 640 acre tract - will net the heirs \$600 - Thus making in all about \$4850.00 - Think not less or can be much over. The 320 acres lay in a very poor unsettled part of the county and cannot be worth much - being about 16 miles East of the R. Rail. The 640 is better & being nearer the Rail Road - We are satisfied these two tracts are fairly estimated - if we have we have mistaken its true values at all it is the valuation of the 1476 which may be a little too low - but it is very hard to tell as the prices of lands on the R. R. fluctuate so. The expenses of a law suit \_\_\_?\_\_\_ is heavy as the Clk is allowed 20 cts per hundred words - \$5. jury fee. The Sheriff allowed 10 cts per mile for serving papers besides \$1.50 for service. If we get a trial at here next court the costs will not exceed \$75.00 and hope to make defts pay that. The suit has already been filed all the heirs being made plaintiffs with the interrogatories to John Bright, Henry ?Bruckart & Daniel ?Barry - which will be forwarded to you in a few days - and we desire that you have the answers take at once - and returned strictly in accordance with commission.

Very respectfully

Peel & Rentfro

P. S. The transfers will be \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ (?necessary) if we can get a trial at this court.

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin Owen, Aug 15, 1873

#35

Cambridge, Io Aug 15 73

Dear Cousin

I received letter from Cousin Geo. H. Bricker he says he and the rest of Uncle Georges heirs will sign release to me I am waiting for description of the 320 acre survey to have the papers completed

I have written to Peel urging him to send it and also inform me what we must do to be ready for trial we have made but little progress yet I think that your Father had better go down and tend trial I am perfectly willing to abide by first offer it would be well for you to go down too if you can some one of the heirs ought to be present otherwise it might look like a case hatched up by lawyers

If you Father goes tell him to write and let me know if he wants funds sent to PA and how it must be done I sent paper to your Father you will find communication in it from Montgomery County I expect to be away from home for two weeks but will attend to business promptly

If you have description of lands send it direct to George H. Bricker 1214 East front Street, Cin and he will make out paper for me he had better send them to Peel I don't know if my letter will be intellegible as I am in great haste

W. H. Bricker



Letter Peel & Rentfro to David Bricker, Aug 30, 1873

#45b

Letterhead: Office of Peel & Rentfro  
Attorneys at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

Aug 30, 1873  
David Bricker, Esq.  
Litiz  
Dear Sir

We write to inform you that the Sheriff has returned process saying he cannot find Frank E. ?Shephers one of the defts hence we will have to continue the case for service until 1st Monday Feb 1874

We regret it but cannot help it  
Very respectfully  
Peel & Rentfro

Letter Peel & Rentfro to Owen P. Bricker, Sep 15, 1873

#47B

Letterhead: Peel & Rentfro  
Attorneys at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

Sept 15, 1873

Owen P. Bricker, Esq  
Litiz  
Dear Sir

Your favor of the 29th ult recd - The case stands continued  
for the want of Service of citation on one of the defts - to 1st Monday in  
February 1874.

Very respectfully

Peel & Rentfro

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin Owen, Sept. 15, 1873

#36

Cambridge, Io Sept. 15 73

Dear Cousin

I was absent from home when your last favor arrived and consequently have delayed in answering. I received a letter from Peel he says that they failed to find one of the parties holding part of the 1/3 league and could not serve notice on him therefore the case will be continued until Feb term 74 when he expects to be ready for trial now since we understand the case pretty well let us go to work in good earnest and make as strong a fight as we can if your Father can not go down if he would release to his family or any other parties his testimony will be admissible by deposition you can inform yourself on these parts by corresponding with Mr. Peel as all the testimony must come from your part of the county I think it would be wise to hurry him up and have them taken in time I am glad you are going down to attend trial I think it is probable that I will be there also

I received another Epistle from Mr. Grant He seems to cave in a little and howls about my letter to him. in my correspondence with him I played a little soft and he used insulting language to me and I let him know that I knew how to resent it his letters would justify me in doing so. I will send you a copy and you can judge for yourself

Yours of Aug. 6 reached me yesterday but truly surprised me when I read it for such a letter I can see no excuse in your case If you will refer to my letters you will find in every one I think assurances that I would aid you in getting your rights if you showed an equitable claim and I was sincere in all I said Until I had a conversation with your son I had no idea that the Westmoreland Brickers and you were of different families all I said or done about the case was strictly true The persons who brought it to my notice at first were sincerely mistaken and the Westmoreland Brickers were no[t] to blame as all their information came through me. and I have a letter from Judge Kuhns renouncing all claims for them This letter I have sent to Mr. Peel Our limitation laws require claimants of land against persons in adverse possession to bring suit within two years after becoming of age or lose their claim unless they are married women or persons of unsound mind. I told you there had been and perhaps still were squatters on one tract and wished to know if they set up a claim of possession. whether you could show a good reason for delay in bringing suit to oust them. I never dreamed you would construe my question as an insult If I understand your son's statement John Brickers father was living when he died and was of course his heirs If so you are not and could not be John Brickers heir your claim coming through his father although your claim might still be equitable. If you had been Johns heir you have certainly gone beyond 23 years of age without asserting your claim legally. you have known of these lands for 20 years. yet have never so far as I know paid one years taxes nor tried to find out whether anyone else did. which you could have done with little trouble & expence and now when you do put in a claim no one presumes to throw a difficulty in your way. You know the land was bound for taxes and if I had not paid them they would no doubt have been sold as once they were on account of the neglect of the assessor to report payment of taxes for 68 I believe. If sold for taxes land must be redeemed within two years by paying double the tax and 10 percent interest and had payment depended on you you would have lost the land. I have saved it by paying tax and attending to the case in the attempt at confiscation. You say there was no confiscation. Any citizen of Austin during the war can tell you that thousands of confiscation sales were made in the city of Austin. These

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin Owen, Sept. 15, 1873

sales were after the war declared null and void by the U. S. government but that did not do away with the necessity of guarding against them during the war. as I was a Northern man and opposed to secession some hotbloods informed on me for holding the Bricker lands for a northern man and I was forced to spend both time and money in the case just as certainly as I paid taxes of one is a legitimate claim on my part the other is if payment of one is refused the other may be refused just as honestly.

The reason for asking \$600 now is that the taxes for 71 amounting to 21.60 and that of the present year will both have to be paid the former is not reported and the Brickers had the deed before time for assessment of the latter and have not had it assessed [this word x'd out] I intended paying both and some additional expense of postage and deeds and making a conveyance to you of the land clean of all encumbrance on your proving your right You spoke of buying out other heirs and I wished to know if you had done it so as to make a proper conveyance this would have given you a clean chain of title without expense except the \$600 I again assert all I have done in the case was honestly done but done under a mistake which I only discovered lately That your John Bricker was the one entitled to the land I am now fully satisfied and have so notified Mr. Peel I fear your plan of getting the lands will be more expensive than the one I intended and then you will still justly owe me \$550 without further payments on my part You say you will pay me nothing and I will not try to make you I never go to law but that will not excuse you from paying If you put off payment till that great settling day I will try to stand it. You apply scoundrel and swindler freely to others what will you be if you refuse to pay what I advanced for your benefit

Yours, M. M. Grant

Grant in his first letter said he would deed the land back to those Brickers for \$550 I told him that I would refund to him all legitimate expense in his next he said he had deeded it back I saw John Bricker in Greensburg he said they had paid taxes I told him if we could settle without any more trouble I would refund all money justly paid by them he said their claim was all right and which ever party could produce the best proof would be entitled to the land I know of no other way of deciding which party has the best proof than by resorting to the courts and am satisfied that we could get justice in no other way if we resot [sic] to law we must have all the law will give I am satisfied that the first knowledge Grant had of the Bricker estate he got from an acquaintance of Fathers instead of trying to find true heirs he got bogus heirs to make him a deed. If he gets beat at his own game he ought not to howl so. "If settlement is put off til the great" day I hope I may be allowed to have Grants letters there for I have wormed enough out of him to beat him in any court on earth and in my business with him have nothing to fear hereafter.

Yours sincerely,

W. H. Bricker

Letter John R. Peel to W. H. Bricker Dec 9, 1873

#39

Letterhead: Office of John R. Peel, Attorney at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

Dec 9, 1873

W. H. Bricker, Esqr.

Girard

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 27th ult is just to hand and am glad to hear from you. The Supreme Court has recently over ruled \_\_\_\_\_ [paper torn] case that I \_\_\_\_\_ - [paper town] you deciding in your favor and held the land as assets in the hands of the administrator but I dont think it to be the law and as those 3 judges are now to be soon turned out and 5 new ones elected I have but little fear of the case. I want to go over to Brenham soon and examine the records of the administration and see if I can find any flaw there. May want a full transcript of them. I shall have the land surveyed and trees counted before I go to trial. I am inclined to think that the proof of heirship will be sufficient. but can't fully tell yet. I received a letter from Owen P. Bricker a short time since from Lancaster PA and said he desired to attend the trial. I desire to have your Uncle Davids testimony - and will take it if needed. No word from the Westmoreland Brickers. Can't tell yet when I can get ready but will keep you posted. Will be glad to have you here at the trial or any time Mrs. P joins me in regards to you and family

Yours truly  
John R. Peel

Letter John R. Peel to Owen P. Bricker, Dec 14, 1873

#47A

Letterhead: Office of John R. Peel  
Attorney at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

Dec 14, 1873

Owen P. Bricker, Esqr,  
Litiz  
Dear Sir

Your favor of the 4th inst is just received and contents noted. I have not yet been able to get service of citation upon all the defts hence the delay, but am pressing the case as fast as I can. Our Supreme Court has ruled on one point against us but hope to get around it so as to make a different state of facts. I still have no fear as to the final results.

Will forward the interrogatories as early as possible  
Very respectfully

Jno R. Peel

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Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin Owen, Dec. 21, 1873

#37

Girard, Crawford Co. Kansas  
Dec 21, 1873

Dear Cousin

I received yours of 26 Nov yesterday I have left Iowa and located here I find a for more genial climate than Iowa there has been no cold to amount to anything yet there has been no ice strong enough to bear a man vegetables have been kept in common houses without protection and have not been frosted My only reason for leaving Iowa was on account of the long cold winters I have bought a farm 2 miles south of Girard the county seat of Crawford County and intend to turn my attention to raising and dealing in cattle and other kinds of stock Girard is a town of 8 or 10 hundred inhabitants well supplied with churches schools and other societies including Masonic Lodge of 60 or 70 members This County is prairie with timber along the streams soil fair with abundance of coal an unlimited amount of grazing land plenty of hay for the cutting

I agree with you that it is time to do to be doing something in regard to our affairs in Texas I have been so busy and my mind so much engaged with other matters that I have not done anything with it more than to write a couple of letters I received a letter from Mr. Peel recently some of his answers to my questions are not as direct as I could wish. when I was in Texas he showed me a decision (I think of the supreme court) on which he relied to gain possession of the 1476 acre survey. he now says it has been reversed by supreme court yet he does not regard it as very unfavorable as the present 3 judges are about to retire and 5 more elected to fill their places. he says he will go to Brenham and see what informalities he can find in the proceedings of Adm or order of sale and will try to be ready for trial It does not seem to me that it need take long to get ready for trial when I left Texas it only lacked about 15 days of time to hold court he said we had time to file suit and have the trail then and would have done so if I had not objected which I did on account of our not having sufficient proof as I thought You say you rely on my judgement in managing the case I must confess that it looks as though my judgment has been at fault. If Mr. P. is playing slack with us for selfish motives it proves conclusively that there is something in the case worth looking after which can only be done by some of us going and giving personal attention to it. If my work has to be undone I would rather have someone else to do it than myself I don't feel that I can possibly go to Texas this winter my attention is required here and I have disposed of my available means to spare at present I am sorry that there is a probability of your not going down. I would like for you to go right into the case and see what can be done and why something is not done dont be afraid to write and make positive demands You did not acknowledge receipt of my last letter containing copy of Grants last which I think will be his last as I got tired of his silly twaddle and insults and blowed him up. if you remember his contradictory letters you guess whether I had the means to do it write immediately Direct to Girard Crawford County Kansas

I remain your affectionate cousin

W. H. Bricker

If you should go to Texas you would pass close to us

Letter W. H. Bricker to Cousin (Owen) Dece 25, 1873

#38

Envelope: Owen P. Bricker  
Lizt  
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Girard Kansas Dec 25, 1873

Dear Cousin

Myself and family send our best respects to you and all the relations and wish you a hapy [sic] Christmas When I wrote to you a few days since I could not find Mr. Peels last letter. and could not refer to it as fully as I desired inclosed \_\_\_\_\_ [paper torn] letter and judge of \_\_\_\_\_ [paper torn] yourself. I fear that he is not \_\_\_\_\_ [paper torn] to our interest as promptly as he should If parties can bid above the fee offered it would look as though they had no confidence in their case. I wrote to Mr. P in pretty decided terms and shall wait impatiently for his answer When I was in Texas he was about making an effort to get the county seat moved to a place near the 1/3 league if he should succeed it will enhance its value hoping that you will write soon I remain Yours truly

W. H. Bricker



Letter John R. Peel to David Bricker, Jan 15, 1874

#50

Letterhead: Office of John R. Peel  
Attorney at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

Jan 15, 1874

David Bricker, Esqr  
Litzie  
Dear Sir

Inclosed please find depositions in which please have executed and returned at once - I want you to come & bring the papers if you possibly can and to get here by the 1st of Feby if you can - If you bring the papers keep them strictly in your possession as you will have to swear to that fact. You must by all means come as I may want your evidence. Please write me at once - Our court commences the 1st Monday in Feby next - and the case will probably come on about Saturday of first week.

Yours truly

Jno R. Peel

Letter John R. Peel to David Bricker, Jan 22, 1874

#48

Letterhead: Office of John R. Peel  
Attorney at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

Jan 22nd, 1874

David Bricker, Esq.  
Litiz  
Dear Sir

Your favor of the 1st inst is just received and contents noted I have already sent the depositions to you and hope that before this time you have received them - I hope I shall get through without your presents - but shall be glad if some one of you can come down - as it may be more satisfactory. I of course preferred your son as he would more easily understand business. I shall be in need of testimony to prove damages and will have to hire some person to go down and examine the land which will cost about \$5.00 and as we in this county almost lost our crop last year - have but very little money to advance - and if you could remit that sum to use by P. O. Order it may be the means of putting the case through this court. I assure you that I shall leave nothing unturned to win the case and shall of course at any time be glad to see your son.

Yours very respectfully  
Jno R. Peel

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle (David) Feb 11, 1874

#40

Montgomery, Texas

Feb 11, 1874

Dear Uncle

Those interogatives came to hand all right and in good time I gained 320-1/4 acres of the third League Survey by default of one of the parties claiming the Administration was faulty in many points and unreasonable in others Shepherd and Stewart had a claim against the Estate for 625 dollars yet Uncle built a mill & cotton gin for them people here do not believe he owed anything The court decided that the administration could not be attacked collaterally after so long a time and purchers [?purchasers] could not look beyond the orders of court ordering and confirming sale. The part recovered is down on the river part of it subject to overflow and only valuable for timber it is 3 miles from R. R. the survey being long and narrow I think there is a chance to sell a man in Houston says he will make a bid it will bring 8 or 10 hundred dollars I need very much to get my expenses out of it and am willing to sell if this meets with your views Send power of attorney to J. R. Peel Montgomery as I may have to go home before making sale I am now satisfied that Mr. Peel has acted fair and done all that could be done if you send power of Atty describe the land as follows: 320-1/4 acres out of west end of the John Bricker Headright Survey situated on the Sanjacinto River in Montgomery County Texas Patent No. 366 issued on Aug 4, 1841 and recovered by Heirs of John Bricker from C. W. Alexander at Feb term of Court in Montgomery 1874

when I found no one else would come down to attend trial came myself it is well that I did

We have not yet brought suit for the remaining 960 acres it will be no trouble to recover it. Grant has been paying taxes on it since 1859 and had a tax title deed subject to redemption [sic] however now he has deeded it back to those Brickers if we recover from them we will take all the law allows we certainly will lose nothing by his smartness

In regard to sale and disposition of funds I will await your orders Times are very hard here crops were almost an entire failure here there will be suffering amongst the blacks I fear. most of them are an idle indolent people not apt to look out for the future

I will give you a list of my expenses

From Iowa to Delphi	\$21.50
Delphi to Logansport	.80
From Logan to Piqua	4.35
" to Troy	.35
" to Lema	3.75
Lema to Lancaster	15.80
" to Leitz & back	1.00
Lancaster to Cincinnati	16.50
" to Houston	52.75
Houston to Montgomery & return	11.50
Houston to Dennison	17.05
" to Council Bluffs	43.80
" to Nevada	6.80
Board bill including all the time I was gone	16.50
Transcript of record from Montgomery	10.00
My expense coming down this time so far	50.00
Transcript from Brenham	10.00
Surveying land for which I went 25 miles & back	10.00
My return and incidentals will probably cost	75.00

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle (David) Feb 11, 1874

I have only counted money paid out and have made no charge for time or interest I will let you know the amount correctly as soon as I can ascertain it

write to me at Girard Kansas I will await your orders and hope my proceedings may be satisfactory. it is the best I can do

Give my love to all the relations

Your affectionate nephew

W. H. Bricker

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John R. Peel to David Bricker, Feb 13, 1874

#47C

Letterhead: Office of John R. Peel  
Attorney at Law  
Montgomery, Texas

Feb 13, 1874

David Bricker, Esq  
Litiz, Penn  
Dear Sir

Your letter of the 29th ult recd and contents noted. The depositions were returned but answered very badly and unsatisfactory.

But your nephew being present we tried the case and lost all except 321-1/4 acres worth about \$1.75 ot \$2.00 per acre not much more than enough to pay the expenses of the suit. Court is still in session & I am very busy. Your nephew still here.

Yours truly

Jno. R. Peel

Letter John R. Peel to Owen P. Bricker, Mar 10, 1874

#49

March 10, 1874

Owen P. Bricker, Esqr.

Litiz

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 24th ult with enclosed Power of Attorney is just received and examined - which is found to be right except the acknowledgements will have to send you one according to our Statue. I will at once make efforts to sell the land - in fact I think it absolutely necessary to sell to prevent Alexander getting a new trial at our next court.

The costs in the case amounts to some \$80.00 which we must pay as Alexander does not reside in this Co. and execution must first \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ for the costs to this county and if he having no property here then the Sheriff would levy on the lands of the heirs of John Bricker decd.

Will write again soon to you.

Very respectfully

Jno R. Peel

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle David, Mar 22, 1874

#41

Girard Kansas Mar 22, 1874

Dear Uncle David

I received your letter of recent date but have been very busy and have delayed in answering. We are all well and like this country very well; grass is growing we will sow oats in a few more days if it dont rain

We did not bring suit against those Westmoreland Brickers we was in hopes of settling with them without If we could deed the land to some one that would take possession if it we would have no trouble or expense as that would put the burthen [?burden] of proof on them and they would not attempt it There is persons here wanting to go to Texas I believe I could trade our land there for land here that would increase in value faster than it would let me know what you think of the plan Brother John refuses to give power of Attorney I have not heard from Uncle George's children for a long time though I have written to them twice I am afraid they will make a balk in the case if they can if they can do any better than I have I am willing Times are so hard in Texas that it will be hard to sell land The part we recovered will sell sooner than the other part on account of its being nearer R. R. I was told in Texas that the men owning the Saw mill on the Road would be almost certain to buy I have not heard from Texas since I left there. I have written and will soon have an answer I will inform you if anything transpires I think this is a good country for a man with limited means it is good for one with capital the soil is generally good land cheap and terms easy a very fine grazing country millions of wild hay to be had for the making I remain your affectionate Nephew

W. H. Bricker

P. S. If those heirs of Uncle George and brother John will not agree to sell I will make arrangements to have the Land sold for cost of suit which I left unpaid on purpose for such occasions I can then settle with them I will have it bid in so we will lose nothing it will make it more difficult for Alexander to get a new hearing of the case

Letter Peter Bricker to David Bricker, Apr 1, 1874

#68

Falmouth Pendleton Co KY  
April 1st 1874

Dear Uncle David

If you have not forgotten that there is such a person as myself on earth I will try and write you a few lines. I am living near this place. And engrossed in farming & would be glad to hear from you. I would like to know something about Uncle Johns business in Texas. I have heard that he left an estate there that is now very valuable. And as he died without children all the heirs of the family living in Dayton KY are expecting their share of it, but as I live away from them I have not the same opportunity of finding out anything about the matter. I do not want to do anything until I find out its true value. for I am in need of all that is justly mine. I would go to Texas myself. but have not the means to spare. I have lost the use of one eye. And have had considerable sickness which has kept me from accumulating money. Will you please write to me. And give me all the information you have in regard to the Texas matter. Give my best respects to Aunt Sophiah. I hope you are all enjoying good health. I would to hear from you any how

So please write I think the land in Texas is very valuable from all accounts. And worth looking after if you know where it is located. that is in what County in Texas be so kind as to let me know. with many wishes for your health and prosperity I will close for the present. Please write and oblige.

Peter Bricker

Please direct your letter to me. Box 75 Falmouth, KY



Letter David Bricker to Nephew (?Peter) bef. Apr 1874

#79

Dear Nephew

It is a long time that we had a letter from you expect you to write now on receipt of this and let us know how all are

we have no reason of complaint of health John is living has family and wife and two -

he is in business at Lancaster comes home every Saturday evening and returns on Monday morning he goes by rail road and is therefore little \_\_\_?\_\_\_ to him.

Owen was in partnership with a man at Labanon but when his sister died then he said he could not stay there any longer sold out to his partner and left and immediately after working around he went to New Haven in Connecticut where he is now working at his trade and tending law school in Yale College

I had a letter from your cousin William H. Bricker of Cambridge ?Stone County, Iowa he writes that he had a deed sent to him from Texas by a man by the name of Grant who heard of him (William) and thought he was one of the heirs of John Bricker he Grant has a deed for this Land & John Bricker sold to him by family of Brickers at Westmoreland Co. of this state I knew that there was a family of Brickers in Westmoreland Co but they are no connection of ours their giving a deed where they never had a claim is certainly a case of the barefaced ?edvilling I ever saw If William thought they were his cousins meaning your family as he did not know where you lived nor their given names I have informed him since to the contrary. The names that he gave me that have signed the deed are John Bricker Phillip Bricker David Bricker Jacob Bricker Samuel Bricker Mary Bricker Wm. Kelley Easter Kelley Joseph Saddler and Mary Saddler

Jacob Knoop had power of atty from your father Peter, Sophia & myself to settle the estate when we were with you in /65 I seen him he told me had secured 900 acres of the land and paid the taxes on them but had done nothing further and did not stay in Texas but a very short time the war being about breaking out when I seen him the war was closed but he had no information from Texas but he would inform if he got any he died soon after and I have no further knowlege of the matter I have written to his brother Daniel to send me the papers if his brother left any relating to the case and let me know all he can ascertain about it if you know anything about you will also please inform me thereof if we find that it will pay expenses some of us mest get a power of attorney if all the heirs see that we can give a good & clear title to the Land and settle the estate it would sit best for to go being learned in law we will have to pay Jacob Knoops family for his expense and service. if you see any of the Knoop family urge them in the matter I do know we will not pay those expenses til we can see that we can do something about the estate do not want you sign a power of att to anyone til we find that we can not do this business among ourselves I think there ought to be some one in the family to do it.

(Unsigned but appears to be the same handwriting of David Bricker. vw)

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Letter Peter Bricker to Uncle (David) Apr 26, 1874

#70

Falmouth Pendleton Co. KY  
April 26, 1874

Dear Uncle

Your very kind and obliging letter was received in due time. I was ?toully [?truly] glad to hear of your and familys health and prosperity. I tried Several times to find out your address. but could not. I am very sorry to know that I have put you to any trouble by addressing your letter to the wrong post office.

You told me more about Uncle Johns estate than I could get from any one else as you directed. I have written to William Bricker of Kansas. Will you tell me whether he is any relation to our family or not. I can not make out who he is. If he is not a relation of Uncle Johns what right or interest could he possibly have in gaining the land. if he is not an heir. you Spoke of a family of Brickers living on the land of Texas. By what right do they hold the land. Are there two claimants to the land. I expect that there is a good deal of speculation in regard to that Texas land. And of course the parties wishing to get prosession of it will report its location value and everything connected with it as unfavorable as possible in order to get it for nothing. but if it is located in a settled and cultivated part of the State. I know that it must be valuable if or nothing else for the timber alone. I intend to find out more about it as soon as I can. I have written to other parties besides Bell [?Peel] in Montgomery Texas because I want to know all about its worth before I do anything in regard to disposing of my little share in it. I am in poor and needy. And I am not going to be speculated upon by Sharpers. I will send whatever letters I get from Texas to you so that you may be able to judge how affairs are going there. I was very glad to hear of Aunt Sophias health, very sorry to hear of her husband loosing [sic] his eye. tell Uncle Knoop that I have lost the use of one of my eyes. And I know how to Sympathize with him in his affliction. but I can yet see very well out of the other one. It is a great pleasure to me to hear from you. As you know all of the older members of the family left. time moves swiftly. hastening us all on to old age and eternity. but I suppose it is our duty to struggle with the things that oppose us in this world. As long as we stay in it. times are hard here. Money scarce. And everything selling very low. tobacco. the great staple product of this region is very low. brought about by the combination of shops and rings we have the much talked of grangers among us. they are getting to be very numerous. Are there any Granges with you? they propose to do everything thing that is Just and right. And to break up all rings and monopolies that are preying on the people. If they accomplish all they propose to or want to they certainly will create quite a revolution in money matters and trade generally. but that is certainly a big undertaking. but nearly every body here speaks very favorably of the Grange. And expect that it will accomplish wonders. I wish it was so that I could go back to old Pennsylvania once more and have the pleasure of visiting all of the old well remembered places. But do not know that I will ever be allowed that pleasure again. Kentucky is improving very much Since the war. in every way. especially in point of education and opening up the country by Railroad pikes but many are emigrating from here to the far west and southwest Texas, Kansas & Colorado are the general points of destination. And from the accounts sent back they are very far ahead of us in farming. Have better soil. Climate. And produce much more to the acre than can be produced either here or in your State. I think every young man ought to go there. And grow up with the improvement of the

Letter Peter Bricker to Uncle (David) Apr 26, 1874

Country.

I am living on the Kentucky Central Rail Road forty miles South of Cincinnati. none of my relations are near me. Give my regards to your sons and their families. Also to Aunt Sophia and husband. My kindest regards to yourself and wife. write soon.

Your nephew

Peter Bricker

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle David, Jul 3, 1874

#42

Envelope:

David Bricker  
Litz, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Girard Kansas July 3, 74

Dear Uncle

I received your kind letter some time ago I was truly glad that you were satisfied with my proceedings in the settlement of Uncle Johns Estate. Your approval was the more gratifying because you are better informed than those that are grumbling and finding so much fault. I received a letter from Peter Bricker of Kentucky over 2 months past in which he says he thinks the Lands are very valuable and that He is going to investigate the case. I answered his letter as soon as received and requested an immediate reply but have not received it yet I have not heard from any of the other Kentucky heirs for 7 months though I have written to them often

I have waited long enough for them to investigate. and am desirous to take your advice and close out the Estate whether they are willing or not I have an offer of land here that I think we had better take. it can be turned into cash sooner than land in Texas

If you are willing that I should do so send me a power of attorney signed by yourself and wife and Uncle Deihm and Aunt Sophia

Describe as follows 640 acres granted by the State of Texas to the heirs of John Bricker deceased for Military Service and situated in Montgomery County Texas Patented by W. W. Shepherd Administrator of John Bricker deceased. 320 acres on peach creek. describe as above 321-3/4 acres out of the John Bricker third League Headright situated on the Sanjacinto River in Montgomery County Texas Patented in 1841 by W. W. Shepherd Administrator. And recovered from O. A. Alexander at Feb term 1874 Court for Montgomery County Texas by W. H. Bricker and Heirs of John Bricker deceased

We are all well have had no sickness since we came here harvested wheat two weeks ago corn very fine where it is not damaged by chich bugs

We are all going to Town tomorrow to celebrate the fourth the Masons are going to join in the Procession

If we all live until the 4th of July 76 I am going to try to see you again

Accept my best respects for yourself and Family and give my love to all the relations Your Affectionate Nephew

W. H. Bricker

W. H. Bricker to Uncle (David) Aug 27, 1874

#44

Girard, Kans Aug 27, 1874

Dear Uncle

I wrote to you some time ago requesting Power of Attorney to sell those Texas lands but have received no answer yet I had a good offer have not seen my man for some time dont know if he is in the notion yet or not I should not have asked for Power of Atty for the 321-3/4 you have already given that it was an over sight of mine I should have only asked for the 960 if you desire I can close out the business

If you send Power of Atty give the number and date of the Patents you will find them in the transcript of Grants Deed Have you heard from Uncle Georges family lately I have given them no occasion to treat me as they do their case is as good now as ever it was and I am out considerable if they or any of the other heirs will pay me back the money I have spent on the case I will relinquish my interest in the Estate and get out of the way Catharine and Jane Ann have deeded their interest to me so that I have 3/4 of 1/4 I think that ought to satisfied John and Uncle George's children that the Estate is of no great value and that I am not trying to swindle them

There is great excitement here about a silver mine lately discovered in Missouri about 50 miles from here. some persons say it is only zinc others say it is silver

I am puting [sic] up hay have about 100 tons and am not through yet I want to winter cattle it pays when you can get hay for the making of it

We are all well have had no sickness since we came here

Write soon I remain your affectionate Nephew

W. H. Bricker

We ought by all means to deed the Grant land away if we can do no better we might give some friend a deed of trust

Letter J. D. Bricker to David Bricker, Oct 21, 1874

#66

Plum Grove, Butler Co. Kansas

Mr. David Bricker do you now the names of the lawier that William has  
imploid to recover that land in Texas & I cant find out but little about his  
affairs in Texas he wanted me to send him a power of attorney to sell apart  
of the land in one of his letters of last March he said that you and Deem  
[?Diehm] had given him a power of attorney to sell 322-1/4 acres the 16 of  
this month he rites that you want me to send him a power of attorney for to  
sell the same piece some that lives in Montgomery County Texas say land is  
worth from 2.50 20 dollars per acor how much has he got of that of that land  
this is agood country times is verry hard hear the grass hoppers and chinch  
bugs has destroid all of our crops in portions of the country please anser  
by return mail

let me now whare Uncle George's children are their post adres  
[?address]

J. D. Bricker

I forgot to date. October the 21, 1874

anser this and I will let you now more about how he is trying to manage  
things in Texas

[vw: This is W. H. Bricker's brother, John. The letter was copied exactly  
as spelled.]

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104 I-45 NORTH  
CONROE, TX 77301-2720

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle (David), Dec 29, 1874

#45a

Girard Kansas Dec 29 74

Dear Uncle

enclosed find power of attorney which I would like for you to sign and return as soon as possible The reason why I have delayed so long is I had sent all my papers to John as he wanted to investigate the case and I could not give the date of patent without transcript it took a long time to get it and then only after making severe threat of letting [sic] him look out for himself There is a man living here by the name of George W. Bricker he was raised near Mount Vernon Ohio (Knox County) His fathers name was Solomon do you know if he is any relation

Write soon and Oblige Your affectionate Nephew

W. H. Bricker

Letter W. H. Bricker to Uncle David, March 22, 1875

#43

Envelope: Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz  
Lancaster County, Penn

Girard Kansas March 22 75  
Dear Uncle

I recd your kind and welcome letter of the 3 inst was glad to hear of your good health We are in tolerable good health at present but my wife was sick nearly all winter and very nigh into the gates of death but I can now rejoice that through the mercy of the great Master of the Universe she is now restored to partial health I did not take off my clothes for 3 months only to change and am considerably worn down There is no cases of suffering near here but further west there is I have enough to work through with I wrote to John sometime ago for information in regard to his situation he accuses me of wanting to know so that I may rejoice over his misfortunes and wrote me most abusive letter I ever saw it was so bad that I consigned it to the flames not being willing that my children should see it out of charity I will think his destitute condition may make him a little wild

I received the power of attorney all right but have not had an opportunity [sic] to use it will look around as soon as I can

I sent money to Mr. Peel last November and ordered him to have the 321-3/4 acres sold under execution for costs and bid it in he has not done so yet he says that they have been wrangling over the question of moving the County seat and the Officers have illegally moved the records so that they can not transact business If he is trying to beat me I think I can keep even with him I wanted the land sold so that we could have title without consulting those contrary heirs.

The winter has been very dry here the old settlers say much colder than usual but the nicest I ever saw We plowed until within a few days of the first of January and commenced again the latter part of Feb. sowed my oats the 12 of the present month but it has been froze up a couple of times since will start 2 plows in the morning times are hard and money scarce

Excuse my delay in writing I remain Your dutiful Nephew  
W. H. Bricker



Family History by David Bricker

#99

David Bricker, June 18, 1883

My Great Grandfather Peter Bricker was a native of Switzerland member of Memonite meeting, was one of the first settlers of West Cocalico Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania, he built a large Sandstone house on his tract of 450 (or 750) acres of land in 1732. the House is near ?Weists Mill and at this time in good State of preservation, he died in 1760 leaving six children Christian Jacob John & David have no record of daughters names their husbands names were Hans Ober & Christian Eby, his oldest son, Christian,(Grandfather) was married to Barbara Kissinger daughter of Michel Kissinger living on the west side of the Schuylkill near Reading she was born the 4 December 1742 died the 20 October 1818 Christian Bricker died in 1784 leaving eight children

Peter born 1 September 1764 died March 23 1837.

Christian - 18 Mar 1766 he was married to a Graves after her death he was married to a ?Herzog he died Sepr 8, 1835

Jacob was born the 2nd April 1767 was married to a Snyder died Decr 1840.

Cathrine was born 8th Jul 1768 was married to a ?Gehr of Crawford Co. Penna.

My Great Grandfather from my Mother's side was John Jacob Holsteiner from Zwiebricken in the Palatinate his descendants go by the name of Holstine and some Holsteen, he went to England with the German Protestant Palatinate emigration after the thirty years war, they were sent to New York by Queen Anne in 1710 to Livingston manor 1712 and to Locharie in 1713. he with a party of them left there in 1728. went down the Susquehannah to the mouth of the Swatara and from there located themselves on the Julphehocon where they were the first settlers.

George Holstine my grandfather lived in Mill Creek Township Lebanon County was born in 1733 died in 1805 he was married to Elizabeth Lower have no date of her birth death or marriage they had ten children. Christian lived near Abington Washington County Virginia

George lived in Selinsgrove Snyder Co. PA.

Leonard lived at the old homestead

do not have the names of the daughters one was married to George Mace lived near Scheafferstown.

Mother was one of the daughters

One was married to John Knoop

One to Christian Knoop. the Knoops were some of the first settlers in Miami Co. Ohio when they went up the Miami there were three Cabins where the flourishing and popular City of Dayton now is.

One to Theodore Saunders of Miami Co.

One to \_\_\_\_\_ Grave near Rehoersburg Berks Co.

One to George Mohr of Mill Creek Lebanon Co.

My father Peter Bricker was born the 1st October 1762 died March 23d 1834. was married to Eva Magdalena Holstine the 11 October 1785. she was born the 1st Jul 1765, died March 14, 1852. they had six children

George was born the 2nd February 1784 in west Cocalico died in Kentucky no date of death

Peter was born 26th September 1788 in West Cocalico died in Iowa no date of death

John was born January 30, 1791 in Cumberland Co. was killed in an engagement with the Mexican Army at San Felepe Texas on the 1st April 1836.

William was born 19th October 1792 in Cumberland Co died 11 October 1796

Family History by David Bricker

Sophia was born 26 October 1800 at Harrisburg  
David was born 14 February 1806 at Harrisburg

Elizabeth was born March 13, 1770 was married to a Livingood of Womelsdorff  
Berks Co.

John was born 13 Jul 1772 was married to a Horning of Brickerville

Barbara was born July 10 1774 never knew her husbands name

Maria was born 23rd October 1477, married to a Kehler of Lebanon died Jan 1,  
1804

After the death of Grandfather Grandmother was married to a Weidman  
propirator of the Union Forge in Lebanon Co. she lived with him at the Forge  
till his death after his death she was married to a Imhoff near Lebanon  
after his death she lived with her son Jacob at Scheaffertown till her  
death, she was strict member of the Lutheran Church and had her children  
all brought up in the tenents of that creed.

Concluded

# Catherine Peterson Bible

#92

## BIBLIA

This is a German Bible with a flyleaf date of 1835.

Written on the flyleaf:

This book is the property of Alice Amelia Bricker  
Bequeathed to her by her Aunt Cathrine Rebecca Peterson  
Born May 9 1823 departed this life Mar 29, 1844

## Family Register

### Marriages

Peter Bricker and Eve M. Holstine married the 11th October  
1785.  
John Peterson and Rachel ?Rixsecker 12th March 1814  
David Bricker and Lucinda Amelia Peterson 28 May 1839  
John Randolph Bricker & Anna Bausman Haverstich 14 Sep 1869  
Owen Peterson Bricker & Emma Becker 18 Dec 1884  
David Peterson Bricker & Catharine Elizaeth Bobst 14 May 1907

### Deaths

John Peterson, Litiz, November 18 1824  
Peter Bricker, Warwick, March 23, 1837  
Rachel Peterson, Litiz, Apr 8, 1939  
Alice A. Bricker, Warwick Jan 8th 1845 at half past 12 A.M.  
Peter A. Bricker, Warwick, January 8, 1845 at B.S.M. Text of  
their Funeral Sermon, Job 1C.21st verse  
Mary Cathrine Bricker, Warwick, June 24, 1847 Text of Funeral  
Sermon Psalm 118C 5 verse  
Eve Magdalena Bricker March 14 1852  
Sophia Augusta Bricker August 30, 1840 Text of Funeral Sermon  
James 4C.14 verse  
Lucinda Amelia Bricker, January 1st 1882 at half past 2  
o'clock A.M.  
David Bricker November 18 1885  
Owen Peterson Bricker, Warwick, July 16th 1905  
John Randolph Bricker, Warwick, Oct 15th, 1906  
Alice Haverstick Bricker, Brooklyn New York November 12th  
1906

### Births

Peter Bricker was born 1st October 1764 in West Cocalico  
Township Lancaster County PA  
John Peterson was born 14th Dec 1764 in the Kingdom of  
?Penmact  
Eve Magdalena Holstine 1st July 1765 Lebanon County PA  
Rachel Rixsecker 11th May 1783 Warwick Township Lancaster  
County PA

Catherine Peterson Bible

David Bricker February 14th 1806 Harrisburg, Dauphin Co. PA  
Lucinda Amelia Peterson, Litiz, March 29, 1816 Lancaster Co.  
PA

Alice Amelia Bricker Warwick March 29th 1846  
John Randolph Bricker, Warwick, Jul 14th 1841  
Peter Anthony Bricker, Warwick, December 8th 1843  
Mary Cathrine Bricker, Warwick, February 25, 1846  
Owen Peterson Bricker, Warwick, July 9th 1847  
Sophia Augusta Bricker, Warwick, May 8, 1949  
Alice Haverstick Bricker June 30th 1870  
Sophia Lucinda Bricker May 20th 1872  
Charley Sumner Bricker March 23, 1874  
Elizabeth Bausman Bricker, April 25th 1877  
Eve Magdalena Bricker May 5, 1880  
David Peterson Bricker, Aug. 21st 1882  
Anna Mary Bricker Oct. 21st 1885

Certificate of Scholarship David Bricker, Feb 6, 1818

#64

UNIVERSAL APPLAUSE ATTENDS LEARNING

PENMANSHIP

A GOOD BOY

This ticket witnesseth that DAVID BRICKER hath been  
an Obedient, Industrious, Faithful & Diligent  
Scholar.

LITIZ BOY'S SCHOOL  
Feb 6th 1818  
/s/ Jno. Beck, Jr.

Picture Tombstone Peter Bricker & Eve M. Bricker

#51

This is a photo copy of a picture of a man (unknown & not named) kneeling beside an upright grave marker in a cemetery. Cemetery is not named. The tombstones are thus inscribed:

Sacred  
to the memory of  
Peter Bricker  
born October 1 (or 4) 1764  
and departed Mar 23, 1837  
lived 72 years, ?3 months and 22 days  
Funeral Text (unable to read)

Sacred  
to the memory of  
Eve M. Bricker  
born Jul ?1, 1765  
and departed \_\_\_\_\_  
(This picture very bad and is too dim to read)

Picture Tombstones - Bricker family members

#52

A photocopy of a picture of a man (same as #51) standing beside grave marker. Cemetery not stated. Man unnamed.

Our Grandmother  
Sophia Diehm  
born  
Oct 26, 1800  
Died Nov 5, 1891  
Aged  
91 yrs & 2 days  
She's gone to worlds above  
(Can't read the rest)

No. 994  
Jacob Diehm  
Born  
August 1, 1798  
Died Dec 28, 1882  
Aged  
84 years, 1 mon & 27 da

---

#53

Copy of Photostatic picture of gravemarker. Cemetery unnamed.

David Bricker  
Born at Harrisburg Pa  
Feb 14th 1806  
Died at Warwick  
Aged 79 years 9 months  
and 4 days

No. 1230  
John Randolph  
Bricker  
Born July 17, 1841  
Died Oct 15, 1906  
After he excelled  
in his own generation  
he fell asleep.  
\_\_\_?\_\_\_ 13:36

---

#54

A photostat copy of picture. Man (unknown) kneeling beside grave marker. Cemetery unknown.

Owen P. Bricker  
Born Jul 10, 1847  
Died July 16, 1905

Picture Peter Bricker Home & Peter's Bible

#55

This is a photocopy of picture of a rather large two-story home. Apparently in the city (?where) because of paved streets and curbing. In the picture the same man as shown by grave markers is standing by house.

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#56

Picture Cover of Peter Bricker Bible - This is a photo copy of the front of a rather large - oversized Bible with metal hinges, corner pieces and what appears to be a metal knob and plate which could be used to lift cover of Bible.

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#57

Page Peter Bricker's Bible - Appears to be a "fly page" Two dates: 1768 & 1785

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#58

Page Peter Bricker's Bible - Apparently a German Bible. Date MDCCLIII

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#59

Family Record Peter Brickers Bible - Written in German, dates are from 1742 to 1804, Apparently birth dates.

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#60 Next page of above. Only thing written in English: David Bricker was born 14 Feb 1806 at Harrisburg in Dauphine County

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#61

Family record Peter Bricker Bible - more German entires 1765-1852

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#62

Fly page Peter Bricker Bible - German - Biblia - One date handwritten: 1756

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#63

More Bible Pages - Peter Bricker Bible

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Letter from John Bricker to Father & Mother Oct 23, 1807

#1

To: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Lancaster County  
Warwick Township

Philladelphia October the 23rd 1807

Dear Father & Mother

I Take this oppertuneity to let you now that I am Well at presant and I hope that these few lines will Find you in the same condision and I wander how Dear Brother David is I want to now how he is badley The Bill was firgot quite in tirely I had told C. W. Berhill if we would send for the crate that he Should send the bill along with the porter but it Seams he had firgot as well as my Self, And I have rote up to Peter Bricker last tuesday With C. W. Whitehill and C. W. Whitehill he told me That there ware all well as far he did now when he did leave home, and all this nuse [?news] that I can Send you good or bad that is that I seam to like this Place middlin well as so far and last saturday Evening bad nuse happoned the cry Fire was and They out with the InGINE and began to tare it about And there ware one boy killed ded [?dead] on the spot And there ware two (paper town) badley the one had his two Legs broke and one arm broke and the other had a leg or A arm broke and I herd that the one had died And I belief that there ware no fire or if there was there was not much.

/s/ John Bricker

I Remain your Son John Bricker and I want a Answer as quick as \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_

[This letter copied as written]

Recopied  
because of  
stains

Letter Peter Bricker, Jr. to Father June 19, 1808

#2

To: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Merchant  
Whorwick Township  
Lancaster County

Harrisburgh      June 19, 1808

Dear Father

I Embrace this oppertunity to Inform you that I have not been very harty  
[?hardy] last Tuesday I got Bled and I think I am pretty clere of this Spell  
of sickness. I received A letter from John And he is riting of comming Home  
in A Couple of Weeks And I will not Meet him In so Short A time ther is  
Nothing Perticular her abouts Onely that Snyder Will be Govenor And we had a  
very Sivel [?Civil] Fair this year Here Inclose a letter that I got in the  
Post office And I expect a letter and and some of the Piticulers of this  
Letter Nothing more at Present

I remain yours,  
Peter Bricker, Jr.

Letter Troutman & Eckert to Peter Bricker Dec. 19, 1815

#13

To: Mr. Peter Bricker, Merchant  
Lancaster County

Philada Dec 19, 1815

Mr. Peter Bricker

Bot of Troutman & Eckert	
1/2 Bbl Brandy (4th Proof)	41.25
1/2 Barrel ?Ferdy	1.75
2 boxes Raisins \$5.00	10.00
	<hr/>
	\$53.00

Sir:

Your letter has come to hand with \$103. of which a ten Dollar note is a counterfeit which you will receive enclosed, and some of the rest is 12-1/2 percent under parr, and some want take the Clarksburg and all those that are issued by companies and payable out of joint funds at all, but we took \$88 at 10 per cent and the \$5 Richmond is at parr; - Lancaster Borough & Columbia notes are 5 per cent under parr and Marietta, Harrisburg, Carlisle, ?Swatain and Chambersburg are 8 to 9 percent under parr and all those this side of the Allegheny Mountains are the same, excepting those payable out of joint funds and all beyond the Allegheny mountain are 10 percent under parr.

You have ordered some Brandy, which you will receive, but the last 4th proof cannot be bought here under \$2-1/2. We have none of the Tum nor Spritis at present, nor could we get any good in time, but we shall have it in a few days, and will furnish you then with pleasure.

Remain Yours Respectfully  
Troutman & Eckert

Letter Troutman & Eckert to Peter Bricker Jan 29, 1816

#14

To: Mr. Peter Bricker, Merchant  
Near Letiz, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Philadelphia Jan 29, 1816

Mr. Peter Bricker  
Dear Sir

We embrace this opportunity of giving you a little information of our present market Particularly of County produce.

Grovers have not varied much since our last statement to you.  
Sugar 20 to 21\$ Coffee 26 to 29/100 S. H. Molasses 1.15/100 Lump sugar 40/100 Sugar candy 50/100 Pepper & Alspice 35/100, Madder 35/199, B. Indigo \$3, Copperas 4-1/2/100, Alum 10/100, Brimstone 10/100, Ginger 50/100, Chocolate 28/100, Logwood 4-1/2/100, Juniper Berries 10/100, Brandy 4th proof \$2-1/2, Lisbon wine #2 to 1-1/4, Spirits (3%) 165/100, N. E. Rum 120/100.

Butter in Kegs 22/100, in tubs 23 & in lumps 24/100 it is not much in demand at present and it is our opinion it will be lower perhaps to 20/100, Lard 16/100, Tallow 18/100, Beeswax 35/100, Flour \$8.75, Rye whiskey 70/100 on the rise, Flax seed 1.25/100, Clover seed \$9.25 it is our opinion that it will be to about \$10. in a few weeks.

Western money is a little better, Reading, Wilmington, Delaware, Chester & Norristown notes are at parr, but we don't know how long it may continued. Lancaster & bridge company notes 5%, Marietta, ?Swattara, York, Harrisburg & others about that distance 7%, Carlisle, Chambersburg, Milton, ?Juniatta 8%, Pittsburg, Ohio, & Kentucky 9%.

We have dull times here at present and some \_\_\_\_\_ people are failing here, and money is very scarce general through the city, and it had given us a touch too and we have some heavy payments to make this week and next; and if you have some money a laying by you and if it is convenient to you to send us some we would take it as a particular favour, but we hope that you will not take it as an offence for I was afraid of taking such liberties as we are not in the habit of doing so, and would not now if necessity did not require it. Sooner than any offense should be taken we would wish you to omit it.

Any information you will want we will give you with pleasure.  
And remain Respty Your Friends & Hum Servts.

Troutman & Eckert

Mr. Peter Bricker  
N. B. New York notes 4% above parr  
Special 12 & 14%

Letter John Bricker to Father & Mother Jan 25, 1818

#3

To Mr. Peter Bricker  
Near Litiz, Lancaster Co. Penna.

Miami Jan 25, 1818

Dear Father & Mother,

I take this opportunity to let you now [?know] that I am well at present and hoping that these few lines will find you in the same state of health now I will give you A short list of the road that I have come from there to Pittsburgh left that the 30th of November took waughter in a large kealboat and landed at Sincinata the 19th of December we had bad luck for we was cast on A sand bar and froase fast in the ise [?ice] and lay there for days and four nights they was obliged to unload the boat and then get between forty and fifty hands to cut ise and prey [?pry] the boat of [?off] but we was well of at all for we had plenty of provising and a good stove and plenty of wood - from there we had A good pasage for the weather be came warm and the weather and the river rose considrable, December 24th I arived at unckles John and brother was there and all of the People in good helth and remains so yet Peter has, soal [?sold] out and intends to remain these parts I shal remain in these parts this sumer - the prise [?price] of grain is, weat [?wheat] 75 cents - Rey [?rye] and Corn is 50 cents per bushel.

No more at Present but remain your - John Bricker

My thanks to all that asks for me and I would wish Sophia would let me now of the nabers.

Letter John Bricker to Father & Mother, Jul 17, 1827

#4

To: Mr. Peter Bricker  
Lancaster County  
Lititz Post Ofis  
Pensylvania

Teas [?Texas] Austings Coloney Sent Philipe  
Austing Brases Jul 17, 1827

Dear Father & Mother

I take this oppertunity to let you all now that I am well at present and hope that you are the same -

I am here and I have the oner [?honor] in this coloney that I have started the first mills here I have built them for Mr. Cumings I would wish to here [?hear] of that part of the world and would wish to now if you would asist me if I return to see you - -

I shall remain in this part of the globe for som time yet for I have a quarter of A League of land that is one mile and a half square, I wish to do something with that as soon as I can no more at present I remain your son

John Bricker

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker Apr 23, 1831

#5

To: Mr. John Bricker  
San Filipe del Austin  
Austin's Colony  
Province of Texas

Warwick, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania Apr. 23, 1831

Dear Brother, If you receive this letter do not suppose this to be my first efforts to send you of Letters I have wrote you several since the receipt of yours dated the 17th of July 1827, the only one that we ever received of you since you have gone to the South. I wish to write an answer to this to let your anxious Parents know how you are. FATHER has been very poorly these 3 years he is hardly able to go about any more and was bed fast the greatest part of last winter. Mother enjoys tolerable Health.

We that is Sophia her husband and myself kept a stove at the Turnpike in the house that we formerly lived in belonging to John Bricker we sold it out last spring Sophia and her Husband moved to Fathers as he was not able to attend to any business any more, and I started to the west on the 3rd day of June I staid with George 2 days he lives 2 miles to the East of Pittsburg in Lawrenceville his Family consist of 7 children now I then went down the River to Cincinati from there I took of North west course to Delphi in Carroll County, Indiania where Peter now lives, Delphi is the county seat of Carroll County and is situated on the East Bank of the Wabash River 20 miles from LaFayette, 21 from Logansport about 180 from Troy Ohio and 370 from the mouth of the Wabash following the River

Peter has 2 boys and 2 girls his family had all been sick last summer before I left Theres a man by the name of Robeson has a mill there and is Peter's nearest neighbors he says you done work for him in a mill on ?Made River, in Ohio where he formerly lived

John Lenon lives within 8 miles of Peter Daniel, Thomas and Michel are in that neighborhood.

Daniel came along in with me to Troy we started on the 28th of August and came to uncle John Knoops, where I was sich the 5th of September being the same day I came there, I was sick the greatest part of the time I was there, which was 3 months, Aunt ?Saunders was very poorly while I was there, Uncle Benjamin Knoop sold off his ?Pack and broke up housekeeping, his wife died about 3 years ago. Sophia was married while I was there and Jacob was married about a year ago. Jacob was in here with us in the summer of 1829. William Saunders sold his mill and has moved on his old place again. John Knoop's daughters are all married. ?Dimmick ?Latin built a chopping mill for him last summer. Benjamin Saunders was at home last winter but is gone to the South again. Old Grandmother Lenon did last winter.

The canal from Dayton to Cincinatti is doing great business--- (several words unreadable - paper creased when photostated) a canal from Fort Wayne to the head of \_\_\_\_\_ Boat navigation, on the Wabash the Wabash is navigable higher up than where Peter lives. I find the western county to be sick generally a man that has an overstock of cash can lay it out to greater advantage than here but a man with a small capital can not do much there. and the people can no more than live there, and that we can do here times are getting better again here. Railroads are taking the preference to canals here and ?bid fair to exceed them in every \_\_\_\_\_ part of the Philadelphia and Columbia mail roads is to be finished early this season the distance will be 88 miles and they intend to go it in one day with ?folded waggons pleasure all to go and return the same day The Schuylkill River is

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker Apr 23, 1831

made navigable 108 miles the union canal by Lebanon is completed these 2 years the Conestoga is navigable to Lancaster and Internal improvements is going on with rapid stride.

I still remain your affectionate Brother  
David Bricker



Peter Bricker, License, Merchandise

#13A

May 10, 1831

Lancaster County

No. 65

Peter Bricker has paid to me for the use of the Commonwealth ten dollars, no cents, which entitles him to wholesale or retail foreign merchandize and liquors, as a wholesale dealer or a retailer of foreign merchandise and liquors, or the Eighth class, within the county of Lancaster, for one year from the first day of May, one thousand eight hundred and thirty one.

\$10.00 license  
.25 Certificate

\$10.25

Lancaster, May 10th, 1831, Peter Bricker, Warwick Township  
/s/ John H. Duckman, Treasurer of Lancaster  
County.

Letter David Bricker to John Bricker, July 30, 1834

#6

To: Mr. John Bricker  
San Felipe de Austin  
Texas  
via New Orleans

Warwick July 30, 1834

Dear Brother

We received your letter of 25th April 1834 with sorrow I inform you of the deaths and sickness we had in our family since last February. William Knoop came in from the state of Ohio last winter and was taken sick here on the 27th of February I was taken on the 2nd of March but was able to be up on the 6th in this evening of that day Hiram Sophia's youngest son was taken ill with the scarlet fever and in the evening of the 7th Cyrus the oldest was taken ill with the same complaint. Hiram died on the 12th at 2 o'clock 25 minutes in the morning and was buried on the 13th at 1 o'clock in the afternoon. Cyrus lingered longer and at one time during his illness we had faint hopes of his recovery the fever seemed to have left him but an inflammation in his right Foot raised the Fever again and he died on the 23rd at 2 o'clock 5 minutes in the morning and was buried on the 25th at 1 o'clock in the forenoon. Cyrus Reuben Deihm was born the 2nd September 1826 and departed this life on the 23rd March 1834 aged 7 years 6 months 20 days.

Text of his Funeral Sermon 4th Psalm 8th verse. Hiram Evan Deihm was born the 6th of February 1830 and departed this life on the 12th March 1834 aged 4 years 1 month 6 days, text of his Funeral Sermon 23rd Psalm 4th verse The Funeral Sermons were delivered by the Reverend McBates. The last offices paid to the dead are only usefull to the living, and we ought to consider every solemnity of this kind as a summons to prepare for our approaching disolution.

They were both very promising children their Parents are now bereft of their only children the[y] had, their old grandfather is inconsolable for their loss. It was very hard for us all to lose them though we may console ourselves that they are in a better state than those they have left to mourn their loss.

We are all well again and have been so far some time. William has wrote that he arrived safe and well at home he was sick here that he was confined to his room 6 weeks. Father & mother were desirous that I should write you their births and of their Family so that you could see the ages of any of the Family you was desirous of knowing.

Peter Bricker was born 1st Oct 1764

Eve Magdalena Bricker was born 1st July 1765

George was born 2nd Feb 1787

Peter was born 26 Sep 1788

John was born 30 Jan 1791

Sophia was born 26 Oct 1800

David was born 14 Feb 1806

George has 8 children living his oldest daughter was married her husband died last spring his family was all well by the last account we had of them he lives at Pittsburg Alleghany County Pennsylvania Peter has 4 children he and his family were all well by the last account we had of them helives at Delphi Carroll County Indiania. Sophia had only the 2 boys who died. Old Barbara Lees died a weeks agao. Old Mother Lenon died about 2 years ago in Ohio. Michael Lenon died at Delphis Indiania about the same time his Mother died.

David Lenon was married in the winter of 1833, and lives near

#83

Envelope:  
Mr. David Bricker  
Litiz, Lancaster County, Penna.  
Postmarked: Delphi, Ind. Nov. 30

Carroll Co., IN, Nov. 28, 1836

Dear Brother

I received your Letter Dated Novr. 1 I was sorry to here that Father was so much afflicted but the corse of nature our parents Cant be Long for this aboad here Below--If I mistake no I wrote that I sent A Letter to Texas, and Received answer I will send you a copy in full

Columbia August 6

Dear Sir

I found a Letter in the office of the Yesterday Telegraph directed to John Bricker who was shot by the Mexican army at San Felipe on the first of April Last he was killed by a Grape Shot which passed through his head this was Eleven days before the memorable battle of Sanjacinto I have been Personably acquainted with your Brother for about Ten years but what his Circumstances is at the time of his death I am unable to say I presume however that he has Land which is Now Valuable I will enquire into his affairs and let you know the result but the convayance of letters from this Cuntry to yours is very uncertain This cuntry is in a flourishing Condition I think the war will soon be ended ?we have A fine Cuntry and will ear Long be well settled

Yours Respectfully  
Thomas H. Borden

I have not answered Mr. Borden's Letter in hopes he will Send on ere Long If you think proper to send a letter to Texas Plese to Let me Know if I Dont get one before may I shall rite. The Canal is let out to Lafayette that is the hevey sections and thay are making greate progress Propperty is on the rise naked Town Lots Selling from One Hundred Dollars to five without aney Improvement there is A Town Laid out on the other side of the river opposet Wells Ripple Merkal Kindal & Co Proprietors thay have named it Pittsburg. Produce is selling high Beef from 4 to 5\$ per Hundred Pork \$5-1/2 to 6 wheat \$1,122 Corn 25 Oats 25 Potatoes in the fall 25 per Bushel almost Every farmer raised with an expectation of selling to the Irish, that in the spring thay can be bought at the same price there was a greate Deal of corn frosted in the fall some crops one half is soft we have raised wheat and corn that will Last to the next crops comes The Lenon's are all well every time Daniel sees me he makes enquiry Concerning you, his Evil is agrowing on him. We have had Snow in Oct. this month Coniderable of snow & Rane at this time the Roads is almost impassable on account of Ice-- I Have made no calculations concerning the money that you proposed Sending although it would be acceptable at all times.

We are all well at present Jane Ann is well of the Phthsick she Caught the Hooping Coughf the Latter part of Summer which Cured hur we garded against the Hooping coughf as we concluded boath to Gether would take hur off since some of the neighbours says the Hooping Coughf is a certain cure for the Phthsic there was no sickness Last summer in famley. Thee boys is gowing to school William learns very fast John midling I have quited Taning for a wile to John is able to work at it as it Dont agree with me farming agrees better Your advice is not to move perhaps it is a good one but what is the use to Live in a cold Clime when we can have a warmer one, for my part I am not like

the greenlanders thinking that this is the best cuntry. although this is very fertile cuntrey but the Winters is too Long-- I seen A Map of Texas if it is not Exagurated it must be a fine Part of the world Some parts very well wattered and the best of all (for Health) Mountains--

Yours Respectfully

Peter Bricker