

Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania



January 30, 1986

MHEP Hist. Mss. 1-90 - Salome Bergey Letter Collection (1866-1878).
One Archival Box, 56 folders.

The Salome Bergey Letter Collection was purchased by John L. Ruth for the Mennonite Historians of Eastern Pennsylvania in August of 1985. The collection consists of 80 letters and poems written to and by Salome Bergey, of the Doylestown Mennonite Congregation.

Salome Bergey was the daughter of Abraham Wismer Bergey (1815-1888) and Anna Kile Bergey (1817-1860) of the Doylestown Mennonite Congregation. Her grandparents were Jacob Bergey (1784-1865) and Esther Wismer Bergey (1797-1877), who were also members of the Doylestown Mennonite Congregation. Strangely, her name is not recorded in the Bergey Family History, but her own letters prove that she was a daughter of Abraham and Anna. She mentions almost all of her brothers and sisters in her various letters, and the Bergey Family History does record them as being children of Abraham and Anna Bergey.

Another mysterious fact about Salome Bergey is that she is not buried in the Doylestown Mennonite cemetery, where the rest of her family is buried. She lived near Doylestown and was obviously a member of the Mennonite congregation there. Neither is she buried in any of the other central Bucks County Mennonite cemeteries.

Salome wrote and received many letters to and from the Bishop Abraham Wismer family of Skippack, Montgomery County. Abraham Wismer (1797-1877) was married to Susanna Kolb and was ordained a minister in 1838, and a bishop in 1852, in the Skippack Mennonite congregation. Abraham was a cousin to Salome's grandmother, Esther Wismer Bergey. Abraham's daughter Susan married John Wismer Bergey (1823-1893), a son of Jacob and Esther Wismer Bergey, and an uncle of Salome Bergey (in other words, John and Susan Wismer Bergey were second cousins). Abraham Wismer, Jr. (b. 1834) and his wife, Franey Landes Wismer, also exchanged many letters with Salome Bergey. According to these letters, Salome visited in Skippack with her uncle John Bergey. She records fond memories of those visits in her letters.

Salome's letters indicate that she was paralyzed in one of her limbs, and that she was never married. Inventory and index follows.

MHEP Hist. Mss. 1-90 - Salome Bergey Letter Collection
Inventory. One Archival Box, 56 folders.

- Folder 1: Dec. 26, 1866, Maria Gross to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 2: Feb. 8, 1867, Abraham Wismer to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 3: Dec. 7, 1867, Salome Bergey to Henry Johnson.
- Folder 4: March, 1868, Abraham & Frony Wismer to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 5: Feb. 20, 1869, Abraham & Frany Wismer to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 6: May 20, 1869, Sarah Deputy to ?Abraham and Mary Bergey.
- Folder 7: March 18, 1870, Abraham Wismer to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 8: March 28, 1870, Salome Bergey to Henry Wismer.
- Folder 9: April 12, 1870, Salome Bergey to Abraham Wismer.
- Folder 10: Feb. 20, 1871, Salome Bergey to Sarah Shaddinger.
- Folder 11: March, 1871, Salome Bergey to Henry and Maria Wismer.
- Folder 12: March 25, 1871, Salome Bergey to _____?
- Folder 13: April 4, 1871, Salome Bergey to Abbie Rickard.
- Folder 14: Feb. 26, 1872, Salome Bergey to Sarah Shaddinger.
- Folder 15: March 6, 1872, Salome Bergey to Henry Wismer.
- Folder 16: March 8, 1872, Salome Bergey to Abraham & Freyne Wismer.
- Folder 17: March 18, 1872, Abraham Wismer to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 18: Jan. 17, 1873, Salome Bergey to Sarah Shaddinger.
- Folder 19: Jan. 19, 1873, Salome Bergey to Maria Detwiler.
- Folder 20: Jan. 26, 1873, Abraham & Frany Wismer to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 21: Feb. 24, 1873, Salome Bergey to Abraham Wismer.
- Folder 22: March 7, 1873, Salome Bergey to Henry Johnson & wife.
- Folder 23: April 6, 1873, Abraham Wismer & Isaac Rickard to
Salome Bergey.
- Folder 24: June 12, 1873, Salome Bergey to Samuel
- Folder 25: July 11, 1873, Abraham Wismer to Salome Bergey.
- Folder 26: Sept. 3, 1873, Salome Bergey to "beloved Friend, brother
and sister".
- Folder 27: Nov. 4, 1873, Salome Bergey to Sarah Mettz.

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Inventory, page three.

Folder 55: Poetry written (or copied) by Salome Bergey

Folder 56: Undated, unaddressed papers.

Index to Salome Bergey Letter Collection.

Letters sent by Salome Bergey to:

- "Admonition to Christian Assembly" - Folder 45.
- "Beloved Friend, Brother and sister" - Folders 26, 54.
- Detwiler, Maria - Folder 19.
- Detweiler, Samuel - Folders 24, 28.
- Johnson, Henry - Folders 3, 22, 31.
(Mennonite minister at Lower Skippack Congregation)
- Mennonite Minister - Folder 46.
- Mettz, Sarah - Folder 27.
- Moyer, Dilman - Folder 35.
- Rickard, Abbie - Folder 13.
- Shaddinger, Sarah - Folders 10, 14, 18.
- "Sister" - Folder 34.
- Smith, William and Mary - Folder 32.
- "Uncle and Aunt" - Folder 31. ^
(probably John and Susan Wismer Bergey of Skippack).
- Wismer, Abraham and Frany (Frony, Freyne) - Folders 16, 33, 47, 53.
(brother of Susan Wismer Bergey, son of Bishop Abraham. Lived
in Skippack).
- Wismer, Abraham - Folders 9, 21.
(poss. Bishop Abraham Wismer (1797-1877) of Skippack).
- Wismer, Henry (and Maria) - Folders 8, 11, 15, 29.
(1823-1910, minister at Upper Skippack Mennonite congregation).

Letters received by Salome Bergey, from:

- Bergey, John - Folder 50. (1823-1893, of Skippack).
- Detweiler, Hannah - Folder 48.
- Gross, Maria - Folder 1.
- Rickerd, Isaac - Folder 23. (1828-1896, minister at Doylestown Menno.)
- Sampey, Mary Bergey - Folder 49. (b. 1846, a sister of Salome).
- Wismer, Bishop Abraham - Folder 50.
(1797-1877, Bishop of the Upper Skippack Mennonite congregation).
- Wismer, Abraham - Folders 23, 25, 30, 38, 41, 42, 43.
(son of Bishop Abraham, same as two Abraham Wismer's below).
- Wismer, Abraham, Jr. - Folder 7.
- Wismer, Abraham & Frany - Folder 2, 4, 5, 17, 20, 36, 37.
- Wismer, Frany - Folders 51, 52.
(wife of Abraham Wismer, Jr. of Skippack).
- Wismer, Susanna - Folder 52.

Other items:

- Bergey, Esther Wismer to "Friends and son" (John Bergey) - Folder 31
- Bergey, John to Esther W. or Salome Bergey - Folder 50.
- Bergey, Salome, Poetry - Folder 55.
- Deputy, Sarah to ?Abraham and Mary Bergey - Folder 6.
- Gross, William to Esther Wismer Bergey - Folder 40.
(Mennonite Poet of Fountainville, Bucks Co.).
- Weaver, Bishop J. - Pride - Folder 44.
- Wismer, Abraham to Samuel and William Gross - Folder 39.
- Undated, unaddressed papers - Folder 56.