

Stephen & Harriet Myers Letters

Stephen Myers and his wife Harriet were abolitionists and agents of the Underground Railroad through the 1830's-1850's. Stephen was also the editor of multiple abolitionist newspapers such as The Northern Star and The Impartial Citizen. Both Harriet and Stephen corresponded with John Jay II on matters related to the Underground Railroad. John Jay Homestead owns three such letters.

No 10 Turk St
Anti-slavery office Albany Decem 17 1860

Mr Jay Sir I should like to trouble you
sir for six copies of your speech deliv'd at west
chester I suppose you have some in Pamphlet form
I have had one copy sent to me from New York I
promised The Hon John J Frost of Madison County
and senator Williams of Lyons to send them two
copies each providing I could get them if Mr
Jay has any I would be extremely obliged to
him if he would send me a few copies

During the last eight weeks there has more fugitives
escaped from the south than there have in any four
months before there has more come away in vessels
this season than in any former season and have landed
in eastern ports many have landed in Nantucket
and Norwich week before last two from South Carolina
and one from Georgia last Sunday we had eight
in one party men women and children there is three
here to night who came here on Saturday one Baltimore
County Md two from Charleston Pa I send you
a memorandum of this family they have gone safe into
Canada

Mr Jay Sir
I have a smart and spritely grand son about
four months old I have taken the liberty to name
him Mr John Jay Myers I desired to have one
colored child to bare that name Your humble serv
Stephen Myers

Transcription:

No 10 Lark St.

Antislavery offic

Albany Decem 17 1860

Mr. Jay Sir I should like to trouble you Sir for six copys of your speech delivered at Westchester I suppose you have some in pamphlet form I have had one copy sent to me from New York. I promised the Hon. John J. Foot (?) of Madison County and Senator Williams of Lyons to send them two copys each Providing I could get them if Mr. Jay has any I would be extremely oblided to him if he would send me a few copys.

During the last eight weeks their has more fugitives escaped from the south than their have in any four months before their has more come a way in vessels this season than in any former season and have landed in eastern ports many have landed in Nantucket and Norwich week before last two from south carolins and one from Georgia last Sunday we had eight in one party men women and children there is three here to night who came here on Saturday one Baltimore county MD two from Charleston PA I send you a memorandum of this family that have gone safe into Canada.

Mr. Jay Sir

I have a smart and spritely grandson about four months old I have taken the liberty to name him William John Jay Myers I desire to have one colored childe to bare that name

Your Humble servant

Stephen Myers

poor—the slave father, mother and children who follow the north star by stealth at night to Canada to obtain a home in a land of liberty, will aid me.

Commencing the new year of 1860 without funds, I hope those friends abroad who have not seen the fugitives and who have had no opportunity of giving will now avail themselves of a chance to succor the poor slave. We are in debt, and have not one dollar on hand. I should at all times have means at my command to enable me to assist those who come to me without being obliged to go out collecting after they reach here. The travel has been greater this year than ever before.

I would say to the friends of the cause in Albany and elsewhere, that the committee who have the supervision of my books and accounts are fourteen gentlemen of this city of the first rank and standing, and they give heavily to cause yearly.

Ladies and gentlemen receiving these circulars will please to send them to their friends, for we are in want of material aid. I appeal again to the friends of freedom to be generous in aiding those destitute fugitives from Slavery.

All letters on business will be promptly answered.

STEPHEN MYERS,
Superintendent Underground Depot, Albany.

N. B.—Since the above was written I have received five passengers at this office.

HENRY A. SIZER,
Traveling Agent.

Albany Jan 2 1860

John Jay

Mr John Jay Esq I send this circular to wish you a happy new year together with your family and hoping that god will spare you and yours to see a many a happy new year. I have added up the number of fugitives that I have received in eight years past and I judge there has been more in the last three years than there has been in six years previous we had six men a week Sunday the first day of the year 1860 last year we had three on the first day of the six that arrived on Sunday now came from Norfolk on a vessel to Stonington now from Fair Haven to the town from Baltimore Maryland Mr Jay Sir I was very sorry to hear of the death of Mr Sedwick I had not heard that he was sick I bid with his father two months in 1850 you have my thanks for the past favours you have rendered me and the Bonds men in his flight to Canada your obedient serv S Myers

Transcription:

Personal Note from Stephen Myers, Superintendent of the Underground Railroad Depot in Albany,
to John Jay II

Handwritten by someone other than Myers on the back of the January 1, 1860 publication of the
Albany Anti-Slavery Office's *Anti-Slavery Reporter*
Collection of John Jay Homestead State Historic Site

Albany Jany the 2 1860

Mr John Jay esq I send this circular Sir to wish you a happy New Year together with your family and
hoping that god will spare you and yours to see a many a happy new year I hav added up the number of
fugitives that I hav received in eight years fed and lodged their has been more in the last three years than
their has been in Six years previous we had six men arrive Sunday the first day of the year 1860 last
year we had three on the first day of the six that arrived on Sunday tow came from Norfolk on a vessel to
Stonington tow from fairfase Va tow from Baltimore Maryland Mr Jay Sir I was very sorry to hear of
the Death of Mr Sedwick I had not heard that he was sick. I lived with his father tow months in 1820 you
hav my thanks for the many past favours you hav renderd me and the Bonds men in his flight to Canada
Your obediant Serv S Myers

Albany August the 20th 1860

Antislavery office No 10 Lark st

Mr Wm Jay esq sir

The two fugitives arrivd here that you sent
and I sent them immediately on their rout
for Canada in this month we hav had ten
we hav sent on the two that you sent sir ^{the} had
some money they said that you gave them some
they had enough to get to Canada but had none ^{the other}
Mr Myers is not home he is at Lake George this
season as butler and you see sir I hav to attend
to the fugitives myself I was very thankfull that
you gave some aide for it was on Saturday they came and
it would hav been difficult to get money to send them
on that day and it ^{is} hard to get money for the fugitive for
it seems that Prejudice against our class grows stronger
evry day and yet we hav a few good freinds that feel for ^{the}
Bleeding slave that comes pantting at ~~their~~ doors
I thank you for all the favours you hav done for the
Down trodden that come to this office may god bless
you sir and your posterity yours for the Oppressd

Harriet. Myers

H Myers
1860

Transcription:

Note – this letter was incorrectly addressed to William Jay; Harriet was in fact writing to John Jay II

Albany August the 20th 1860
Antislavery office No 10 Lark St

Mr. W^m Jay esq Sir

the two fugitives arrived here that you sent and I sent them immediately on their rout for Canada in this month we has had ten we hav sent on the two that you sent sir ^{they} had some mony they said that you gave them some they had enough to get to Canada but ^{the other} had none Mr Myers is not home he is at Lake George this season as butler an you see sir I has to attend to the fugitives mself I was very thankful that you gave some aide for it was on Saterday they came and it would hav been difficult to get mony to send them on that day and it ^{is} hard to get mony for the fugitive for it seems that Predudist (prejudice) against our class grows stronger evry day and yet we hav a few good freinds that feel for ^{the} Bleeding slave that comes Pantting at their doors I thank you for all the favours you has done for the downtrodden that come to this office may god bless you sir and your Posterity

Yours from the Oppressd

Harriet . Myers