Two Early Letters from Germantown

In a recent article on Christopher Sauer, the Germantown printer, mention is made of two hitherto unpublished letters which describe his migration to America in 1724. One of these letters was written by his traveling companion John George Käsebier, and the other by Sauer himself some nine months later. Käsebier's rather monotonous, but not uninteresting, daily log of the journey provides a striking contrast to Sauer's sweeping appraisal of his new homeland. Both letters were addressed to friends in the county of Wittgenstein, Germany, from which the two men had emigrated.

Juniata College

Donald F. Durnbaugh

Letter of John George Käsebier

Honorable Count: Roxborough, Nov. 7, 1724
Gracious Count and Lord: A half-hour from Germantown and four hours from Philadelphia.

I report herewith to Your Grace that we departed from Rotterdam on August 3, left from Helfer Schleis to cross the sea to England on August 14 at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and arrived off Dover at

2 Käsebier's birthplace is unknown. His name first appears in 1713 as a resident of the village of Schwarzenau, a place of asylum for religious dissenters. Wittgenstein records further list his name on a census taken on Nov. 30, 1722 (with one son), and one on Dec. 30, 1723. He is listed as selling his small house in Schwarzenau before emigrating to Pennsylvania. Karl Hartnack, “Schwarzenau,” Wittgenstein, XLIV (1956), Vol. 20, i/ii, 83-93; Fürstlich Sayn-Wittgensteinisches Archiv, Laasphe/Lahn, C 2, Canonengüter; W 58, Verzeichnis der Untertanen-Landesviertel Elssoff; W 58, Namen-Spezifikation der Schwartzenauer und Christians Ecker.
3 The letters are from the Fürstlich Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburgisches Archiv, Berleburg, K 36. In the translation of the two letters the dates have not been corrected to the New Style.
4 Casimir, Count of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Berleburg (1687-1741).
5 Hellevoetsluis.
about 10 or 11 o’clock on the forenoon of August 15. Of the 170 people aboard, only a few were not violently seasick. We remained off Dover for eight days and had continuously strong winds so that many became sick from the great rocking. Two small children from the Palatine group and an unmarried man died. We stayed so long off Dover because they loaded still more provisions, and inspected the commercial goods and put them through customs, though none of the passengers had to take his goods through customs no matter how much commercial goods he might have had. This has certainly not happened before to any other ship, though there was a great deal of commercial goods among the passengers—at least 100,000 sewing needles, not to mention other things.

From Dover, we went back along the coast to Tihlen because of the heavy winds. The captain feared that the wind might snap the anchor rope and drive the ship up on a sandbank. It took a long time in Tihlen and no one was allowed to go ashore as had been the case in Dover because they said that the king had forbidden it. The Palatines became very indignant at the captain for this and suspected him of having contrived this in the city. They wanted to make a complaint against him, but it was not done because they could not go ashore. As he gave them very poor victuals, they suffered considerably.

We departed from Tihlen on September 6 and had a rather favorable wind for sailing. Soon, however, it shifted so that it came directly against us, and they had to tack continually until toward the evening of the 9th when the northeast wind arose. Then we sailed very rapidly. We went past a tower which is built in the ocean four hours from land on a small, round rock. A family lives on it who have to make a light in the evenings after sunset so that the sailors see it and do not sail into the rock.

At 5 o’clock early Sunday morning, the 10th, we left land behind us with an especially favorable wind. During the night of Sunday to Monday a young unmarried woman who had had seasickness died. She had been bled by an English doctor who opened such a large hole in her vein that it burst during the second night. She bled severely and died the following night. She was wrapped in a cloth, stones were tied to her feet, and she was cast overboard from a plank in the morning.

6 Probably the English coastal town of Deal, north of Dover.
On the 11th we had a good wind and on the 12th also. Toward evening we saw entire schools of large fish close to the ship. We had seen them already at Rotterdam, but not so close to the ship. When they show themselves, a strong wind is generally to be expected.

On the 13th we had a strong wind and sailed eight English miles in one hour. Six English miles make one German mile. From coast to coast there are 1,100 or eleven hundred German hours7 according to the sailors' reckoning. If, however, the distance is reckoned which is traveled along the English coast and the similar distance up the river in Pennsylvania, then there are thirty-four hours in England and fifty hours in Pennsylvania, which makes eleven hundred and eighty-four hours from the first departure in England.

My wife8 and Sauer were very ill, although at times worse than others. When she was unable to eat, it so happened that a bird which was tired from flying over the ocean landed on the ship. The Palatines chased it over the ship for a long time. It ran past me and I seized it by its long legs. In this way I got a roast fowl for my sick wife. I cannot describe how sick you get if you are sick at sea. Although I experienced it but a little, it greatly weakened the constitution.

On the 14th we had a mild southeast wind and very pleasant weather along with it. We sailed three and four English Miles per hour. Toward evening, however, we got a strong south wind which lasted all night, and we sailed eight and nine E.M. per hour. During the night two small children of the Palatines died, and were buried as described above. Toward evening on the 15th the wind shifted to the west and we got a strong contrary wind. Nevertheless, in these five days at sea, we had sailed more than two hundred hours.

On the 16th my wife was deathly sick the whole night and thought she would die. God, however, heard the prayer and, suddenly, her illness subsided.

On the 17th still a strong west wind. On the 18th, still strong gales, but it seemed as if it would become better. We were driven far to the north by it. On the 19th, the contrary wind still continued with considerable waves on the ocean, until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. We met then a ship from the West Indies. Its captain

---

7 The distance which can be walked in one hour, or about two and one half miles.
8 Käsebier married the sister of a Ludwig Matthäus, a follower of the German separatist Ernst Christoph Hochmann von Hochenau. Fürstlich Sayn-Wittgensteinsches Archiv, Laasphe, C 2.
spoke with our captain in English. One minute before they spoke
the wind shifted to the north, and we sailed more comfortably.

On the 20th the same wind. Sauer and my wife were still sick.
I cannot describe how difficult it is for both sick and healthy when
there are contrary winds at sea. Even if there is still something to
cook and great care is taken, the rocking of the ship can spill it in
an instant. When the most skillful thinks that he is standing on one
side of the ship, lo and behold, he finds himself on his behind on
the other side of the ship. I fell myself very little, whether standing,
sitting, or lying.

The victuals on board the ship after we put to sea included meat,
which had been in barrels about six or seven years and had returned
from the East Indies, peas and barley cooked in putrid water, and
butter and Dutch cheese, which was the best.

On the 21st considerable wind.

On the 22nd toward evening we sailed rather fast, but we got a
gale wind at midnight which continued.

On the 23rd—.

During the night of the 24th, an unmarried woman, who had
fallen into the ship's hold with an iron kettle of soup about four
weeks before, died. She lay sick about fourteen days, then got up
again, but several days later she took to her bed once more and
died. She was sent to the bottom with coal tied to her feet.

On the 25th a north wind and comfortable sailing.

On the 26th in the evening when it was dark we saw a terribly
large fish. As it sped through the water it looked to us as if it were
a [illegible], and it spouted [rauste] with its nose.

On the 27th we had an east wind, but very mild, and good weather.
On the 28th a north wind, but we did not sail fast.
On the 29th we had clear weather and a good wind.

On the 30th clear weather and an east wind. On October 1 we
had clear weather with a south wind and saw a large school of fish
which leaped from the water like a herd of swine.

On the 2nd [October], we had a warm day—it hardly gets this
warm in your summers—and the ocean was completely calm. On
the 3rd we had directly contrary winds, but we tacked ahead. Very
far away to the south we saw a ship which was the third that we
had seen so far.
During the night of the 3rd to the 4th we got a strong north wind which was rather good for us. A man from among the Palatines, who had severe nose bleeding but had not lain sick very long, died and was buried as the others had been. On the 4th [the wind] shifted northeast and we sailed eight E.M. in one hour. We saw fish which flew a bit above the water like a swallow. They had four wings; the front ones were exactly like swallows' wings, but the back ones were much shorter.

On the 5th we had a strong east wind and sailed rapidly, but toward evening [came] a west wind.

On the 6th we still had a west wind which was almost like a storm.

On the 7th, it continued until toward evening, then it shifted to the southwest.

On the 8th, we also had a contrary wind. On the 9th and 10th forenoon. In the afternoon, we got a north wind and sailed eight E.M. in one hour. During the night of the 9th to the 10th, an old unmarried Swiss, who had been ill three or four weeks, died, was placed in an old sack, and sunk.

On the 11th, the weather was fair, and we also had a favorable wind. We saw a school of medium-sized fish hopping along the water like mice because a fish of prey could be seen chasing them.

On the 12th we had a south wind in the forenoon, but it developed into quite a storm. In the afternoon, it shifted suddenly to the north. We also saw a sloop and spoke with it.

On the 13th the same wind, but more agreeable.

On the 14th east wind and warm weather, also on the 15th.

On the 16th also warm and a gentle east wind. Toward noon, however, it shifted and came from the south and continued through the night until 4 o'clock in the morning.

On the 17th a storm from the north. We gathered much rain water in our great scarcity of water as it was a heavy rainstorm.

On the 18th a mild west wind.

On the 19th a mild southwest wind, but during the night it shifted to the east and blew so strongly that we sailed 153 E.M. in twenty-four hours on the 20th. On the 21st, 154 E.M. with the same wind.

On the 22nd, still east wind, favorable for us.
On the 23rd, a northwest wind, but not strong. On the 24th still a north wind. We saw land birds and from this we noticed that we were not far from land. Also great flocks of wild ducks. In the evening at 7 o’clock we sounded bottom. On the 25th toward evening we approached land which is called a South Island [Süder Eyland]. It was twenty-two hours to the south on our left. That same evening and night we sailed along its coast quite a distance. On the morning of the 26th we again got a good wind which drove us ahead so strongly that by the evening at dusk we reached the mouth of the river which leads inland to Philadelphia. However, the captain sailed too far from shore, and the terribly large and heavily laden ship ran onto a sandbank. The ship took a great jolt and then another. We all thought that the ship had burst open.

This lasted for more than a quarter of an hour as if the ship were scraping over sharp rocks. The earnest prayers and cries to God in the Highest which were uttered in the open air were indescribable. We had thought that we had evaded all danger, but God showed us that he could bring ruin to us and our property close to land as well. Yes, my legs shook so that I could hardly stand, but in my heart I heard a voice saying that there was no danger. I called upon His mercy that He might spare us, and He heard it and helped. When we had sailed away from the sandbank a distance, they cast anchor and remained there overnight. If there had been a strong wind, however, the ship would have been smashed to pieces.

On the 27th the sailors began their game, for they had a custom that whoever had never traveled on the river had to donate a quantity of brandy. All of the crew who had not traveled on it gave something except one Scotchman who could not pay. He was tied, hauled a good twelve feet high with a ship’s pulley, and suddenly released so that he fell head over heels into the water. This was done three times, and the first time a shot was fired. When they had finished with the crew, then it was the turn of the Palatines. They all gave something. If someone refused they set about tying him until he promised to give something.

About 9 o’clock we took on board two pilots, one from Loisztan and the other from Philadelphia. They had to guide the ship in the river. It was full of sandbanks, but they knew the river. On the

9 Possibly crossing the Gulf Stream is meant.
10 Undoubtedly, the town of Lewes, Del.
28th we sailed up the river and arrived at Philadelphia safely on the noon of the 29th. Twenty shots were fired. It is a beautiful town because all of the streets are laid out at right angles. Many say that there are at least two thousand houses there. The ship lay for three more days in the river.

We disembarked on Nov. 2, but did not receive our things until Nov. 3. On the fourth, one of the Brethren congregation [Täufer Gemeinde], Gumrie\[11\] by name, took us into his home in heartfelt love and evidenced brotherly love to us with plenty to eat and to drink, and also a place to sleep to this hour. He wants to shelter us until we find a place somewhere else. John Henry Traut\[12\] from Germantown, another of the Brethren, hauled our things a distance of four hours to this place without taking pay. (This is written about me and Nicholas,\[13\] for Sauer lives in Germantown.)

As far as this country is concerned, it is a precious land with the finest wheat, as well as unusual corn, fine broom corn, maize, and white beets of such a quality as I never saw in Germany, not to speak of that which I have not seen yet. There are apples in great quantities from trees which grow up wild without being grafted, so delicate to look at that I have not seen the like in Germany. I saw in Germantown so many spoiled apples in various piles in a garden that a wagon loaded with them could not be budged by four horses. Many trees are full of hanging apples which are frozen, because there is a shortage of workers.

A reaper earns a florin a day in the summer plus “wedding meals” along with it, and the work is not nearly so hard as in Germany. A day laborer earns ordinarily a half florin in the winter, and twenty alben in the summer. Food is cheap compared to Germany. The

---

\[11\] John Gumre (also Gummre, Gomorry) came to Pennsylvania in 1719 with the first Brethren migration. Hull notes, referring to Thones Kunders and wife and their property on the Wissahickon Creek, “some eighty acres of this land he and his wife sold in 1719-1720 to Johannes Gumre, and ‘the Congregation of the Brethren,’ popularly known as the Dunkards or Tunkers.” William J. Hull, *William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania* (Swarthmore, Pa., 1935), 219-220. It was on this property that the first baptism of the Church of the Brethren in America took place on Christmas Day, 1723. Lamech and Agrippa *pseud.*, *Chronicon Ephratense*, trans. by J. Max Hark (Lancaster, Pa., 1889), 22-24.

\[12\] Traut was a native of Frankenthal in the Palatinate and moved to Düdelsheim, a village near Büdingen in the Wetterau. He left there in 1715 for Krefeld with two sons, a daughter, and son-in-law. From Krefeld he migrated to Pennsylvania in 1719 with Gumre.

\[13\] Hartnack states that this refers to a Nicholas Wolff, formerly a Wittgenstein forester. Hartnack, 91.
freedom of the inhabitants is indescribable. They let their sows, cows, and horses run without a keeper.

The man in our house came to this country in 1719 and did not bring much with him. Now he has a property worth at least one thousand florins, three horses, cows and sheep, hens and sows. (He slaughtered three of the last today which were as big as donkeys.) There are more people like him who came here in 1719 and now have properties worth two to three thousand florins, and livestock in quantity.

The trees which grow in the forests are cedar, two kinds of nut trees, chestnut, and many young oaks. They are, however, so easily cleared that it is hard to believe. Deer, rabbits (but not so many of these two as of others), pheasants, wild partridge, and pigeons are plentiful, and all can be shot without limit.

One can, to be sure, obtain land in the city, which is more expensive. Ten and twelve hours distant from the city it is much cheaper. Whoever is willing to work can become rich in a short time through God's blessing. Goods, however, which can be brought from Germany, are expensive. For example, gunpowder, for one pound, one florin; a thousand sewing needles, nine, ten, or eleven kopfstück. Silk and lace are four times as expensive, also shoe nails and other nails.

Tailors, smiths, and shoemakers, also weavers, are the best-paid artisans. It costs ten florins in the city for a dress; in the country, six florins and twenty alben. A pair of men's shoes costs seven kopfstück. It is possible, though, to earn enough, if one just has a will to work. A day laborer does not like to take on two days' work, but rather for a quarter of a year, or half a year. I now close, and commend Your Grace, the Count, to the protection of the Most High, and remain, Your Grace, with warm greetings for all the servants,

Your dear friend
John George Käsebier

I ask Your Grace, the Count, to deal paternally in your country, so that God may deal paternally with you.
P.S. I would like to remind Your Grace if someone wishes to come and appeals for a travel subsidy in order to come to this country

14 Gumre.
that you would "open your hand" and share with him according to your ability. People who are willing to work can thus be helped in truth. God is indeed a rewarder of all goodness.

Something else remarkable has come to my mind, that the day in summer here is two hours shorter, and in winter two hours longer, and also that it is so safe from thieves here that it is not necessary to lock the door at night. My host told me that they often all went away from the house and had often left it unlocked.

There are horses here in great numbers. Some have one hundred, some have sixty, some have thirty. They are all English riding horses. The women here ride sidesaddle despite a man and also small boys [?].

There is so much that could be written that it is impossible to write everything. Today we saw more than ten wild partridges in the field of our host, but we could not get to them to shoot because they were wary from much shooting.

Käsebier

(After this letter was written my dear husband became ill. He still went threshing for a day with Nicholas despite it. The illness grew worse so that he could not do it the next day. He had chills and fever and this lasted at least eight days. After this the fever prevailed and my dear husband became delirious. He kept on working until the illness became so bad that he could not walk any more. He lay in bed five weeks, having to be lifted and carried, and died on December 19, 1724.)

LETTER FROM CHRISTOPHER SAUER

Germantown, two hours from Philadelphia in America, August 1, 1725.

To all good friends and acquaintances at Schwarzenau, Berleburg, Laasphe and Christianseck.

May the Grace of God which has been given to you in great measure remain and increase among you all. Amen!

15 Käsebier's widow married a member of the Newborn sect, with whom she had five children. See Theodore G. Tappert and John W. Doberstein, eds., The Journals of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (Philadelphia, 1942-1958), I, 149.
As I was asked by most of you to write how we were getting along, and to report about the character of this country, I sent a long letter to you shortly after my arrival. I do not know, however, whether it arrived safely or not. I therefore do not want to waste the present opportunity to report briefly to you again what I previously wrote in detail, as a good friend is sailing with his own ship to Germany, to Hamburg and Berlin to be specific.

As far as I am concerned, I crossed the ocean safely along with my wife and child, and also Nicholas and Käsebier with all of their families. The ship voyage is as one takes it. For my part, I maintain that it is a comfortable trip if one carries along victuals to which one is accustomed and controls his imagination. The laziest person can endure several weeks of idleness, sitting, lying down, strolling, eating, drinking, and sleeping. Even the smallest children are used to being rocked to and fro occasionally. During the worst storm we experienced, we cooked biscuits on the deck. We do not know anyone on the ship who showed the least fear. Rather, the worse the storm, the more people came out on deck to see the proud waves. However, when we came a half-hour’s distance from land, the ship ran onto a sandbank, and it looked a little dangerous for the cargo. The people, however, could have been taken to the shore by small boats, because it was very calm weather. We passed safely over it, and in about twenty-four hours, we sailed one hundred miles upstream to Philadelphia, after being on the ocean for six and a half weeks. We sailed from Holland to England with favoring winds in sixteen hours, which sometimes takes eight days.

Now we are here in a well-blessed land. There are neither guilds nor burdens from the authorities. My host has a well-built house, and is a cooper by trade. He has fifty acres of fields and forest, for which he must pay the governor one and a half reichstaler yearly. Others pay twenty reichstaler for one hundred acres, others more. Mr. Gülte has about nine hundred acres, with a rent of two reichstaler. It is not an uninhabited country, but rather has been and is being well settled. Philadelphia was a wilderness forty

---


17 Possibly Samuel Gülde (Güldi), the Swiss Reformed minister who had migrated in 1710.
years ago, and now there live there at least eight hundred important merchants and shopkeepers according to my estimate. It is handsomely built. The straight streets are laid out at right angles. It lies on a large river called the Delaware. A strict government using English law opposes godless men. In the press there is weekly news from Germany, France, England, Holland and Sweden.

Every sixteen weeks small ships sail to England. They supposedly often cross the ocean in seven days. They are small and there are often only three or four men in them. Whoever wishes to cross with them must pay more than the large ships, but it is, however, very safe. There has never been a report of one of them suffering shipwreck. They escape pirate ships in times of danger by their speed. Many ships from neighboring lands call here with merchandise. Foodstuffs are usually cheaper than over there, but not much is being raised yet. All vegetables and fruit grow the same as over there, except for plums and pears. Wine grapes also grow well, but are little planted. The people do not bother because here there are other nice beverages. Whoever wants to drink wine must pay one florin for one German quart. It comes out of a neighboring island called Madeira.

All labor is well paid. A man's suit, like I made in Laasphe, sells in the city for ten to twelve florins. The usual costume, however, has the coat without pockets, no buttons and buttonholes on the pockets, no pleats in the jacket, and no more buttonholes than buttons. For such a suit, one earns four, five, or six florins; for a pair of trousers with pockets and buttonholes on the sides, two florins. The tailors in the country work mostly in people's homes. They earn two kopfstück a day and board.

Leather is cheap, but a pair of shoes costs seven kopfstück. A linen weaver earns at least ten, eleven, or twelve reichstaler for an ell of woven shirt material. A day laborer receives his board and forty to fifty reichstaler a day; a carpenter on a ship four to five kopfstück. A mason earns five to six kopfstück and board; a farm hand, one hundred florins a year; a hired girl, forty to fifty florins; a journeyman tailor earns four florins a week and board in the city, and in the country three florins. I do not know that any rope-makers are here, and there are many ships built here. There is a great shortage of day laborers, farmhands, hired girls, and artisans.
A shoe last costs four batzen. A spinning wheel of the poorest quality, fifteen to sixteen kopfstück. A poor quality bucket with wooden handle and hoops costs thirty reichstaler. In sum, whoever can and will work here will not suffer much want.

The spirit of this world promises her admirers a great fortune weekly. When a day laborer or artisan arrives here without debts, he can then buy property in two or three years of one hundred acres of fields, and forests, with wheat, trees, and other gardens, as well as a soundly built stone house. This is more independent than a nobleman’s estate in Germany. “For 999 years” is written in the land contract by the authorities. Such people know no limits in their pleasure, for they do not know how many horses or cattle they have. Some have one hundred horses. It is then a minor item that the wife has a lady’s saddle costing sixty florins.

In order that I describe this country briefly and objectively, you should know that it is a good and free country, for everyone can live according to his will and knowledge. The children of God find a Pella [asylum] therein, where they are secure from outward persecution. The hermits have the best opportunity, the greedy find fodder in abundance, the hard workers find enough to do. Those who are content with little easily attain outward peace of mind.

It is also especially a gathering place for many hundreds of restless and eccentric people. It seems also as if the constellation of our horizon greatly favors the artful. The place is filled with so many scheming people that one can hardly believe what intrigues are here thought of. One must certainly not imagine that this is a paradise. It is rather Babylon just as much as across the water. One hears with horror what luxury prevails in Philadelphia, and it only lacks licensing the houses of prostitution for things to have reached the limit. The rapidly approaching judgment day will hardly spare our borders.

The all-too-great abundance to which everyone can easily attain has, according to my opinion, brought many sincere souls to great spiritual danger. There are still, to be sure, many souls who have a pleasing understanding. Most, however, have barricaded themselves into sects and groups. The Brethren have erected a fence around themselves; they admit and expel, and are jealous and quarrelsome with others. The Mennonites conduct things somewhat
more honorably. In the meantime, may God help us to the true insight of our Savior. The Quaker Society is the largest. There may well be several thousand, but they [also] say, "Here is the temple of the Lord." I have very little knowledge where quiet souls exist, here and there, but God knows well. Whoever wants to be very secluded can remain hidden here his entire life.

Dear friends, I do not know anything else that is necessary to write you. If, as it seems, some of you plan to migrate here, it is hard for me to advise you. The country is very good, to be sure, but if a person is discontented he is badly off no matter where he is. Wherever one communes within himself, and seeks heaven in himself, he has made the right move. On the other hand, when he retains the world within himself, and seeks still more outside of himself, he loses God and Christ, heaven and salvation. If I had known the goodness and love of God before, and about the world, myself, and what all lives within me and is capable of living there, I would not have moved one step away in order to have a better life, until I was persecuted. I do not regret, however, that I migrated here, now that I am here.

In the meantime, dear friends, let us concentrate all our efforts on being more and more united with God. It is certainly worth the effort, and indeed good to live under Him, and have Him as a friend, as otherwise one has only trouble, dissatisfaction, fear, and trials in oneself and in the world. God help us all to this end.

Should, however, someone migrate here, which I would like to leave to each person's judgment, he should take care that he stock himself with food to which he is accustomed, so that if he cannot stand the ship diet, the poor body need not suffer. A little wine is good for refreshment, as can be seen among other things in Käsebier's letter. When one sails here from Holland, one can bring along, of course, much merchandise, as all goods here cost twice as much as over there, especially yellow, white, brown, and red sewing and quilting threads. If examined by customs in England, it will be confiscated, because the merchants of England do not tolerate it. They are not supposed to check in the bedsteads, however.

No one should indenture himself to the captain, but rather promise to repay on this side if he has no money or little money. One can borrow the money here and repay in cash. Many of the
Palatines paid the captain nothing, although they had money. Instead, they bought knives, combs of ivory and horn, steel and nails, and only paid after they had come here. Everyone should act according to his own best judgment. The children of this world are very clever in their kind. Whoever is guided by God goes safely.

Käsebier died, as you can see from his wife's letter. Nicholas and his family are in good health. Käsebier's widow can earn a good living by spinning. I live near her in Germantown. The rent seems high, to be sure, but when one figures, on the other hand, that all wages are two, three, or four times as high, then it is not expensive. I live in a house where I have a large room as at Laasphe, a kitchen, attic, garden, cellar, stable, a cow and two pigs, as well as a large orchard with thirty-six apple trees, many peaches and cherries. When the cow and the pigs are fattened from the peaches and apples, I hope to have fifty measures of apples left to shake down. I also have free split firewood on the farm. For this I pay twenty-seven florins a year.

I have done little tailor work so far, because one must work so far away in the houses round about, if one does not live in the city. I have therefore made clocks up to now. I sell a new clock, which I can make in three or four weeks, for forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, or eighty florins. I have made three clocks during the three quarters of a year that I have been here. As there is no tinker here, I do much of that kind of work. The rest of the time I make clocks. My wife combs wool, and earns three batzen, fifteen to sixteen reichstaler a pound. She has several hundred pounds to comb.

I wish that if someone comes over here, he might bring me some brass plates, about one eighth of an inch thick. I would be glad to pay double for it, even if it were forty to fifty pounds. In case I died in the meantime, there are others requesting it. I wish that I had a cutting tool with which to cut gears, such as Mr. Marsay has. They are, however, not to be had where you are, otherwise I would ask someone to bring one for me. Whoever brings with him a copper brandy kettle [still] has good merchandise. Recently one of eighty gallons was sold here for two hundred florins, Frankfurt currency.

18 Charles Hector Marquis St. George de Marsay (1688–1753), a French mystic living near Schwarzenau.
This serves as further information. Whoever brings silver money with him has its full value here. Whoever brings gold pistoles earns half a reichstaler on each florin. One loses with ducats. Whoever exchanges for English crowns in England and receives for them copper money in England profits one hundred with one hundred. All silver and gold is weighed. The gold coins [pistoles] and ducats are cut so small that one can buy a pound of butter with a small piece. They are not as readily accepted, however, for paper money is preferred. I maintain that as long as this natural kingdom lasts, one must spend and earn money, be it paper or gold. Now then, I close, commending you to the grace of God, and I remain,

Your loyal fellow pilgrim
John Christopher Saur

P.S. If anyone wants to send a letter by mail, he must pay fifteen reichstaler to Rotterdam or Amsterdam. Then the letter goes without fail overseas to Philadelphia. I can pay for it from Holland. The letters from Holland go without fail, because there are only two stations. Please do not think unkindly of me for not writing a separate letter to each one who desired it. I must write in haste, because the ship will sail soon with the floodtide. I hope you have received my lengthy letter of half a year ago. Enclosed are several letters, one written by Käsebier before his death. Mrs. Käsebier asks Mr. Seebach\(^\text{19}\) to send her letter to Halle. If my first letter has not arrived, Käsebier's letter should give all the information you might want. I ask the dear sister Juliane to send this letter of mine to Alzey by mail via Marburg. My wife is getting very fat; if she continues like this, she will soon look like Sophie-Liz. Christopher\(^\text{20}\) seems to be developing a good character. He does not pay attention to other children and their games, is very serious, eager to learn and obedient. He likes to be with us and at home. Adieu.

---

19 Christopher Seebach (1675-1745), a former Lutheran minister and religious dissenter, who lived at Schwarzenau and later at Berleburg.
20 Christopher Sauer II (1721-1784).