

Jane (Jannetje) Cadmus Anderson

Letter to a “Dear Sister in Christ”

09 September 1851



Letter preserved by Cornelia Anderson (1844-1939)

From the collection of Elise Case Arneal (1930-)

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Peapack Sept: 9-51

Dear Sister in Christ:-

Thos: two months have passed since I bade you farewell, yet believe me much of that time has been spent in thinking about you, & your family; & my prayers have often ascended to the throne of grace for your children, & you, & your excellent husband - I would have written before now, but having come into an entirely strange neighborhood I had to become acquainted with the localities of places, & all the people; and the constant calls which I have rec^d from old, & young since my arrival; with some made on my part, in return &c; have completely occupied every hour of my leisure time - I am prepared to say how I enjoy myself - Time passes pleasantly, & I enjoy myself very much - My bodily health has not been so good for many years (except I have had several boils on my back) - My soul never enjoyed what I now do. You know the old testament has been almost a sealed book to me, but bless the Lord he has now broken open that precious treasure to my mind, & herefor I can now read that portion of divine truth with a good degree of comfort - This alone is a blessing worth traveling around the earth for, but I have obtained it by coming a few miles - The way I have learned to read in the old testament was by my son's manner of conducting family worship - In the morning each one present, whether members of the family or only visitors, is furnished with a hymn book, & bible - after singing a hymn, a chapter in the old testament is read - He reads one verse, his wife the next & so on: each one young, & old who can, reads a verse about, until the chapter is finished. In connection he explains the difficult parts & hard words & Colles with pray, in which you all in Michigan are remembered - In the evening - The New Testament is read, with singing - sometimes I lead in prayer with them - These are privileges you know a Christian highly

appreciates. Other Religions ^{privileges} are great. The house of God within a few steps
where I can look out of my window daily & see it. It is a beautiful
neat & commodious edifice; beautifully white, & to the child of God a far
pleasant sight, reminding her of the white robe of the saints, & the purity
of heaven - but the inside of it far surpasses the outside - There
the ark of our God's strength rests - O! how sweet & precious to my
soul, those days have been; on which there my Lord I've seen every
Sabbath some new subject has been explained which I have often
desired to know about, & that too; myself not knowing before the
Sabbath; what I was to hear - I begin to feel the bible contains more than
we can possibly go over in this life, it is a fountain of divine knowledge
The house is well filled with very attentive hearers - who do seem to esteem
their pastor very highly in love for his works sake - for I never saw one more
or equally beloved by both young & old, yea, even the children; than he is here
The Sabbath school is very large, & regularly attended every Sabbath morn-
ing in the lecture room, which is just opposite the house & on Wednesday
evening, he has a bible class & prayer meeting also. These I have not often
enjoyed; because of the very warm weather, but expect to this winter -
I find tho' I have left many warm & Christian friends in Michigan,
I have not left all there - way! for God has risen up many here - O, what
a delightful time I had last week. One of the elders, an elderly gentle
- man having often pressed me to come to his house, came last Thursday &
took me in his carriage to his family, where I found his very excellent wife
(about my age) waiting for me - They live alone, tho' near their children
who are wealthy & handsomely settled on their own farms - Here I was re-
- minded more than ever of Michigan, it look so much, ^{like} it - Besides being
warmly entertained in the house, the next day she took me with their
horse & carriage, and called on her children; making several calls among
their neighbours - I called on Mrs Todd - Mrs Van Dine's sister - & here leaved

of Mrs W's death at Albion since I left - We took a long ride around the Coun-
-try - The scene was delightful - The country is very hilly indeed, but very well
cultivated which adds to their appearance - The people are very socia-
-ble: indeed, their attention and their pastor (the Domarvic) as they call
him, makes it one constant round of entertainments - On Sat. they brought
me home highly delighted with my visit - As to my temporal wants
they are all abundantly supplied - If I want any thing it is my
own fault for not making it known - My daughter-in-law is kind & obliging
very mild in disposition - In deed I think John & M^r are situated
much alike in their wives - both women's dispositions towards their husbands
they same - Tho' in economy & some other traits are quite dissimilar -
I am much at home here in respect to children: the two youngest are
much under my care; the one, sleeps with me; the babe is a great com-
-fort to me: Tho' very fleshy, & heavy I handle her a great deal - & she
is very fond of me - I do as I choose with it except eating - Tho' the
father does not approve of ^{at} her age, so I do not feed it - The weather
here has been very dry, indeed the pasture is nearly all destroyed, so
that some have to fatten their cattle - We have been invited out to
dine & the time is near to get ready, so excuse me for the present - I will
continue this letter when I get home -

We have returned from the dinner party - The domestic & wife, Rev Mrs
Lockwood & child who are here on a visit, & myself, together with the parents
of the family, were the guests - Every thing was done that seemed in their
power to entertain us agreeably, & all enjoyed the occasion very much.
(except we all felt the heat very much) after tea we returned to our several
homes at a seasonable hour - One bodily ^{comfort} I must particularly notice which
I have indulged in ^{since here} with an unusual degree of thankfulness, & delight:
that is, the water. I never tasted the like; better water I cannot
conceive of. It is a well about 34 feet deep near the Cotehen, & always

cool, & plenty - I also have had the pleasure of seeing my son Andrew
from Water town, & my daughter Euphemia Scott from Jersey City since
I came here. They both have been here on a visit - She stayed
nearly three weeks on acct. of her health. - I am now preparing
to go to and visit the rest of my children, & relatives & the three different
parts of the state - I expect to be absent about two, or three months
If you should write immediately, or any of my friends during
this time please direct to me at Jersey City. - Please give my
remembrance to Mr. & Mrs. Parker, and all the members of our
Church in Michigan - And tell them I wish to be remembered
at the throne of grace - I was sorry to learn from John's letter that
you were yet without a pastor - Give my thanks to Mr. & Mrs.
Armstrong & family for that excellent book they gave me
when I left - Especially give my love John & family, & I hope
John has sought until he has found Jesus as his Saviour, & help him
if by you to find the right way before it is too late - When you write
tell what is the prospect, if he is changed - Tell Mr. & Mrs. Devoe
that I do remember them still, & hope he is striving to lead
my son to the Saviour - Accept yourself my sincere & warmest
love; ^{also} for your husband, one who has endeared himself to me &
my children by his very many acts of kindness to me in days
past, especially in so often taking me to the house of God when
I was without a Conveyance of my own - Kiss your two children
for their absent Grandmother - Write me soon, farewell! -
Yours affectionately in Christ
Jane Anderson

P.S. Mr. Brown! will you please send to William, my Certificate
of Church membership before the first of next month as I wish to
join them - the Communion will be the first Sab. in October. ^{Direct to Rev. William Anderson}
Respectfully
J.A.

Appendix



Jane Cadmus Anderson (identification tentative)



Cornelia Anderson