CALENDAR
1919–1933
January 7

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Reporting an accident, through scalding, to his foot which has kept him in bed for a month and saying that he had burned the tobacco Keppler had given him during his visit, as had been requested.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

January 16

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Reporting himself now fully recovered from his foot injury.

January 31

James Crow to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging a money contribution to the "feast."

March 11

Freeman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he will be sent by the Tonawanda Senecas to Albany as an interpreter in the matter of repealing the Elective System laws.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

March 20

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Discussing his proposed visit to Keppler's home and the wooden bowl Keppler desires; saying that the New York Indians should not be forced into citizenship and that the choice should be left to the individual.

March 30

Freeman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying that the date for the Albany conference is April 2nd.
April 20
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Discussing his coming visit; saying that he has not found a bowl as yet and that he is bringing a present to Keppler.

April 28
Charles Johnson, Sr. to Joseph Keppler
Saying the fee on his patent has been sent to Mr. Appleman and asking Keppler if he can go to Washington to help in this connection.
[Marked: Answered May 1st, in Keppler's hand]

June 23
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Apologizing for not having been able to notify Keppler of the Strawberry Dance which had been held the previous day and reporting his wife to be ill.

August 30
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Announcing the death of his wife on August 16th and explaining that this had prevented him from procuring the articles wanted by Keppler; discussing the possibility of staying on Keppler's place through the winter and the group of Indians to hold ceremonies in the building of the Museum of the American Indian in New York.
[Marked: "Ans. ask for pay expected and woman to help Lucie" in Keppler's hand.]

October 6
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Discussing wages as an employee on Keppler's place and the possibility of bringing a cook with him; announcing his recent attendance at the Six Nations meeting at Onondaga Reservation.
[The verso carries figures which seem to be a game score.]
October 9
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Discussing his proposed employment by Keppler.

November 14
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Saying the "turkey basket" will be sent soon and announcing the Little Water Ceremony on the following night; asking if Keppler can aid his father [Charles Johnson] in obtaining a patent on an invention of his. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

December 2
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]
Saying he cannot get a cook to come with him to Keppler's and that the plan is off unless Keppler can use him alone; asking Keppler to send him the letter from Parker written Iroquois as he can have it translated.

December 16
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]
Saying he is trying to find some corn to bring with him and that he is also bringing a water drum; enquiring as to which type of rattle Keppler wants.

December 25
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Saying no dried corn is procurable and that because of his duties with the Little Water Society, he cannot leave at once, but that he will try to get away the latter part of the week.
December 30

Arthur C. Parker to Joseph Keppler
[3 sheets]

Mentioning his recent work in Ontario County and that some $500 has been raised in Buffalo for the Cattaraugus Long House fund.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 12  Cold Spring, New York

Alice White to Joseph Keppler  [4 sheets]

Saying she has not heard from him in a long time; that her two grandchildren are at school, Olive boarding at the Quaker School and the boy, whose health is not good, attending the District School - giving their ages; she works when able for E. T. Jaquay at Steamburg; reporting a visit from Lyman Johnson and that the New Year Ceremony commences on January 25.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

February 19

Alice White to Joseph Keppler

Reporting a number of deaths on the Allegany Reservation and on the New Year Ceremony held on January 21; saying that her close neighbor, Frank Abram, wants to meet and talk with Keppler some time.

February 26

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler  [2 sheets]

Announcing his safe arrival home and that the roads are blocked from a severe snowstorm delaying any trip to Washington the delegation might plan; expressing the thanks of his folks for the present Keppler sent them.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

March 26

Charles Johnson, Sr. to Joseph Keppler

Asking advice as to the best means of disposing of his patent advantageously.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
June 22

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is recovering from an illness which has prevented him from procuring the articles promised and that he needs a doctor but cannot afford one.

September 13

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Reporting that he is slowly recovering and that the dates of the coming Six Nations meeting are September 25th to 30th.

October 13

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Saying he is able to work now and that he has not seen the woman who is making the basket and doll; discussing tobacco seed.

November 1

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Reporting the doll and basket finished at a cost of $2.50 and discussing a couple who might come to work for Keppler; saying he would like to have a medical examination.

[Marked: "Ans. $10.00 for medical examination," in Keppler's hand]

November 12

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Asking whether he should forward the turkey and turtle baskets or hold them pending Keppler's visit.
November 26

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying that he has been examined by Dr. Hopkins at Buffalo who prescribed medicine for him and thanking Keppler for making this consultation possible; reporting that he is to be a delegate to Washington, D. C., arriving there on December 6th.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 2

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Reporting that he is now enjoying good health; saying he is sending the corn and that he had given Keppler's address to Mrs. Sophia Jones of Cattaraugus Reservation.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

January 7

Chapman Schanandoah to Joseph Keppler

Looking forward to a visit with Keppler in the Spring having missed one the preceding Autumn; he is not doing much of anything; the younger generation is rapidly changing things.

January 21

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the date of the New Year Ceremony as February 7th; saying that he has sent the corn and that the weather is particularly bad at the moment.

February 8

Thomas G. Bishop to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging a cheque for $5.00; mentioning a proposed two volume history of the American Indian by Joseph K. Dixon to be sponsored by Rodman Wanamaker; hoping that the incoming Federal administration will appoint an Indian as Commissioner of Indian affairs; reporting that, according to Dixon, 17,322 Indians entered the Services during World War I.

[This is on the stationery of the Society of American Indians.]
February 8

Alice White to Joseph Keppler

Complaining that she does not receive letters from him; reporting the death of her grandson on August 15, 1920, the only ones in her family left being Clayton, a son, and Olive, a granddaughter.

February 28

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Sending costs of the articles now received by Keppler and saying he could visit Keppler before the latter part of April; wondering if Keppler would like to purchase a matting and boots made by Mrs. Fanny Johnson.

March 21

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying the corn-husk boots are being made and that he is unable to locate any parched corn.

May 16

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Reporting his safe arrival home and that the ground has been too wet for planting; asking if the Tuscarora Indians have any right to sell timber, stone, etc., from their reservation grounds.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]

June 15

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Thanking him for the information concerning the Tuscarora Indians and saying this is being held for a coming council of the chiefs; the moccasins and basket are being made.
August 3

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying the two pair of corn-husk moccasins and the basket are finished and will be sent soon; mentioning the cost of the former.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

November 13

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he has written Mr. Heye about the moccasins and that the woman who makes them will accept $3.00 a pair instead of $5.00; saying he is at liberty to visit Keppler any time.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

December 5

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging the Money Order which has been turned over; saying there is no roasted corn available and that he is ready to visit Keppler at any time, being accompanied by his new wife.

December 9

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Wondering if Keppler could find work for his step-son so that he could be near his mother during their visit.

December 28

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Saying that he married a widow with a 17-year-old son; that they can stay at Keppler's through March only, as his wife must get back to her farm, and that the same terms as before are agreeable to him.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 22

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Saying he is not disappointed at Keppler's inability to have them as they could not get away at present; they could arrange to come around May 1st and stay until October; he would like some deer tallow; announcing the commencement of the New Year Ceremony on February 1st.

March 7

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying that the woman has sold the baskets but she is going to make others.

April 3

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying the baby-board, which cost him $5.00, is being sent by express; discussing the employment of Isaac [his step-son] by a Mr. Lord; saying his wife must go to Canada and that upon her return it would be convenient for them to visit Keppler; asking about an Indian singer at the ceremonies opening the Museum [M. A. I. H. F.].

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 16

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying it is just as well that Mr. Lord is uncertain as to his employing Isaac, as his mother does not want to be separated from him.

May 12

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying the baskets are finished and are being sent; and giving the prices of them.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
June 4

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Saying that in regards to the ceremonies at the opening of the Museum, he will leave decision with Keppler.

August 27

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]
Saying they could not come the first week in October as his wife is very busy at that time; reporting the score of a lacrosse game played that day: Indians 12, Buffalo 8.

[The verso of sheet 2 is marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

October 2

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Regretting that he cannot visit Keppler because he has been appointed a delegate to the Six Nations meeting to be held at Newtown [Cattaraugus Reservation] on November 11th; he will try, however, to come directly after the meeting.

October 11

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Saying his wife has not as yet returned nor has he had any word from her, but that he will visit Keppler if he has to come alone; announcing the Little Water ceremonies on October 21st and requesting Keppler's presence or a donation.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

October 16

Chapman Schanandoah to Joseph Keppler
Looking forward to Keppler's impending visit.
December 3

Thomas Jones to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Requesting information as to how Handsome Lake's Indian name came from the Turtle Clan and how it can be reclaimed by the Wolf Clan.
January 12

Harry Isaac to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging Keppler's letter; thanking him and Mr. Miller for the present; announcing two nights of falseface dances January 17th and 18th; reporting death of Chester Sky [Skye] "last Friday" [January 5]
March 25

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Discussing various means of transportation for the lacrosse team that might lessen its expenses.
[Sheet 2 marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 5

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying the date of the lacrosse game in Brooklyn has been changed to June 9th.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 29

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Saying he turned Keppler's letter over to the lacrosse team and thanking Mrs. Keppler for all her kindnesses during his last visit, thanks he neglected to express in previous letters.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

June 8

Tonawanda Reservation, New York

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Announcing that the lacrosse game at Brooklyn has been cancelled and reporting on recent defeats of the team by Buffalo.

June 29

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is glad Keppler is to visit them on July 3rd; mentioning Thomas Jones and some Little Water medicine.

July 22

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying that upon his arrival home his folks asked where Keppler has gone, and that the mosquitoes are now much worse than during Keppler's visit.
September 9
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Saying the delay will suit him as he would like to harvest his crops.

September 23
Chapman Schanandoah to Joseph Keppler
Reporting poor crops due to cold and dry season; that his oldest boy, Chapman, has given up school and loves the woods, but that Bob is entering high school. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

October 12
Chapman Schanandoah to Joseph Keppler
Anticipating Keppler's pending visit.
January 1

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Enquiring as to the health of George Keppler; reporting an "open winter"; saying his eight month's old grandchild has been named "Shake Himself," which Keppler had told him, was Handsome Lake's childhood name.

May 20

Jesse Complanter to Joseph Keppler

Speaking of his misfortunes since his return to civilian life, particularly of his inability to get disability allowances from the Government.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

June 13

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Reporting that he has been ill through March, April and May but that he is now able to work; saying that just before this illness he visited Cattaraugus Reservation and saw Delos Kittle's mother, who sends Keppler her sincere regards.

October 5

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Reporting a good summer on the Reservation and that the Six Nations meeting was held at Tonawanda the previous week; the Bear Clan has elected Barber Black as sachem and Howard Pierce as chief; also several other chieftanship vacancies were filled.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 8
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he has suffered a slight injury to an eye from a flying chip of wood; thanking Keppler for the "oils" sent; announcing the New Year Ceremonies to open on January 28th and reporting a recent council of the chiefs on the Citizenship Bill passed by Congress the preceding year.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 23
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Announcing the death of his father [Charles Johnson] on March 22nd; discussing a visit of Indian singers to Keppler's home.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

June 22
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Saying he has found no one to help him fight his case but that his arm is improved; reporting a coming Little Water ceremony on Saturday and that the Strawberry Dance was held the previous day.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

September 11
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

[2 sheets]

Saying he would be very glad to get the clothing Keppler intends to give away and that all will be happy to have Keppler visit the Reservation; he has just returned from a short trip notifying the other Reservations of the Six Nations meeting to be held on October 3rd.
November 9

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Outlining his domestic troubles and his separation from his wife [the 2nd], to whom he had been married in 1921, the preceding February; and saying he is now living with Leon H. Cowles after spending the summer in Allegany State Park with Mr. Countryman.

[Marked: "Ans. Dec. 3rd" in Keppler's hand. This letter is incomplete.]

November 15

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he has received a telegram from E. H. C. Johnson of Brantford, Ontario, stating that the House Monument and the Tomb cannot be seen; hoping that he may be able to get a drum for Keppler on Cattaraugus Reservation.

December 8

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler
[4 sheets]

Reviewing his disabilities and the troubles he has suffered because his health will not permit him to work; saying his living with Cowles is neither comfortable nor happy; that he would like to accept Keppler's offer but he must wait until hearing if Mr. Countryman wants to hire him for lecture tours.

December 9

Thomas E. Jones to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for the present of a knife; regretting that he cannot speak English but saying they seem always able to understand each other.
December 27

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Reporting that there are no drums to spare but that a man now imprisoned for murder has one and that he will try to get it from his daughter who has charge of his belongings.

[This is written by Harrison Ground and is marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 8

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Saying that the Indians who went to Tampa, Florida, have returned; announcing the beginning of New Year's Ceremony on January 19th and a meeting of the Water Medicine Society on January 18th at Charlie Sundown's.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

January 11

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Announcing a Little Water ceremony for the coming Saturday night and that he is always on the look-out for a drum.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

January 13

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Reporting that he left Cowie's home in December and that after obtaining no help from the American Legion or the Veterans' Bureau in Buffalo, the American Red Cross interested itself and had him sent to the National Military Home at Dayton where he is getting good care and treatment, if he needs it.

February 7

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying "father" is feeling better again. [This may be his wife's father or a clan relationship, as the death of his own father was reported in letter dated April 23, 1925]; reporting he has a drum - all hand-made - and that he will ship it soon; it cost him $1.50; thanking Keppler for his donation to the Long House which will be turned over at the next meeting.
February 15

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
[2 sheets]

Apologizing for his delay in sending the drum; explaining that he cannot write and that someone who wrote for him must have said that Keppler was not known to the people, without his knowledge; this is incorrect, as everyone knows Keppler.

[This letter is in two handwritings and is marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

February 20

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for contribution to the Water Medicine Society last month and announcing a snow snake game as being scheduled for "today."

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

March 7

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is glad Keppler received the drum and asking there be no misunderstanding over the name.

March 15

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is taking treatment and is feeling better since his 4 weeks' stay at the National Military Home. It has been suggested to him that he might write a book on the names and customs of the Seneca; he is taking art lessons at the Home.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 6

B. F. Atkinson, Adj. to Joseph Keppler

In reply to an inquiry from Keppler concerning Cornplanter's condition, saying the inquiry has been referred to the Surgeon.
April 12

Jesse Complanter to Joseph Keppler

Reporting his present disability appears to be tuberculosis from his "gassing" in the war; that he is much improved and that he is willing to accept Keppler's offer for caretaker.

[Marked: "Ans. April 15th" in Keppler's hand]

April 23

Jesse Complanter to Joseph Keppler

Reviewing his health and the findings as regards the real cause of his disability for which no compensation is allowed; and saying that under the circumstances he cannot think of entering Keppler's employ.

[The verso marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

May 29

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Announcing Medicine Society meeting in the month of June and thanking Keppler for his previous contributions.

September 13

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the opening of the Six Nations meeting on September 15th; reporting two lacrosse games, one with Syracuse and one with Buffalo, both of them won by the Tonawanda team; requesting information about a George Thomas of Onondaga who is trying to get the Tonawanda chiefs to join him in obtaining some large amount of Indian money.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

September 30

Freeman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Requesting that Keppler attend the Con- dolence ceremony "last Saturday," and saying that he was installed as Do-ne-ho-ge-wah. To which is attached news clippings.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
October 6
Freeman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [4 sheets]
Reciting his [Johnson's] many services to the Nation and complaining that, despite these, some people are opposed to him, particularly the older chiefs who dislike losing power.

November 16
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Thanking him for the feathers and saying he will send the corn shortly; regarding the singers, this is a matter for Keppler to decide.

December 22
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]
Saying he is suffering from rheumatism and that he cannot locate any roasted corn; wishing that he might find some light, indoor work; discussing the recent election of Freeman Johnson [cf.] and saying there are always two sides to a question.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

December 27
Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]
Announcing meeting of Cold Water Medicine Society on February 7th [1927]; announcing death of Samuel Warrior and a shooting "last Saturday" morning in which "King John" was badly injured.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 15

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the opening of the New Year Ceremony on January 27th; reporting death of John Kittle and son by drowning in the Allegany near Cold Spring.

[Marked: "Memorial to Parrish & Jones" in Keppler's hand]

Februrary 2

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying that the New Year Ceremony is completed at Tonawanda but that at Cattaraugus begins on February 7th and that he is going over for 2 or 3 days.

[The verso is marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

February 7

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Thanking Keppler for money sent for the meeting to be held that night and for clothing sent.

March 12

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Reporting recent ceremonies of one kind or another and saying that the roads are still bad and Keppler had better postpone his visit until they dry out.

May 2

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Saying he now has 5 grandchildren, the fifth having been born on April 16th and that he has much to talk over with Keppler when he visits the Reservation.
May 9

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Announcing meeting of Cold Water Medicine Society on June 11th; reporting Sackett Hemlock's funeral "this noon" [He died Saturday, May 7] and Joe Jacobs funeral "last Wednesday" [May 4].
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

July 28

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Expressing his regret at not seeing Keppler when he was out that way; saying the lacrosse team is having a bad season and that the crops are being spoiled because of too much rain.

August 20

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Announcing date of Cold Water Medicine Society meeting as September 24th.
[Marked: Ans.; bill, in Keppler’s hand]

September 1

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the date of the Six Nations meeting as September 3rd; he will try to get some corn when it is ready.

September 12

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Reporting on a collection of wampum on the Allegany Reservation and saying he would like to attend the Six Nations meeting there on October 15th, but cannot afford the trip.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]
October 4

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying, as he understands, there are some cases of smallpox on the Allegany Reservation, he will not make the trip; reporting that a Six Nations "revival" meeting is to be held at St. Regis Reservation in a new council house built just for that purpose.

October 21

David R. Hill to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying, that he will be glad to do what he can to aid Mr. Gilmore [Melvin R. Gilmore, the ethnobotanist]; he has been in the U.S. Government Field Service teaching at the Indian school at Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, for 6 years but that he resigned rather than to go to Oregon; asking Keppler to endeavor to get him employment in New York City.

[This letter is unsigned but Keppler has identified the authorship, in his own hand] [Marked: Answered]

October 22

Chapman Schanandoah to Joseph Keppler

Saying, he will be most happy to carry out Keppler's wishes concerning M. R. Gilmore [the ethnobotanist] and that his baby daughter was 2 years old the preceding June.

[Marked: Answered in Keppler's hand]

October 30

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Reporting that he went to Allegany anyway, the epidemic not being as serious as reported, although it did affect the attendance; the woman there has brooches and wampum and wants to dispose of the whole of her collection at one sale; he could not get to see her because of heavy rain, and stating the amount of his expenses.

[Keppler has added these amounts in his own hand]
November 23

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying the roasted corn has been sent, it having been prepared by his mother; asking about the headache medicine; saying he is expecting Mr. Gilmore any day and wishing that Keppler might also visit him.

December 6

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying that illness prevented him from writing sooner; thanking Keppler for the "things" sent and saying he is going to try to find out more about the woman on the Allegany Reservation.

December 22

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Sending the season's greetings and announcing that New Year's Ceremony begins February 7 and that a Cold Water Medicine meeting will be held at that time.

December 30

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Announcing date of Cold Water Medicine Society meeting as January 28 [1928] and the opening of the New Year's Ceremony on January 27th; describing a fire [Tuesday, December 27th] on the Reservation in which Edward Greene's body was found although it is rumored that he was killed first probably by a man named Howard Joe.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 31

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for clothing sent and contribution to Cold Water Medicine Society.

February 5

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Sending sympathy on the death of Keppler's mother; thanking him for the clothing sent; saying he could not attend the New Year Ceremony because his mother was also sick; reporting that he has written two letters to the Allegany Reservation but has had no answer to either.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

March 9

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking him for a fur coat and asking if Keppler can send any more clothes for the Reservation, particularly children's things.

April 2

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking him for the medicine, which has been helpful.

April 7

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying parcel is being shipped.

May 7

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Hope that Keppler is to visit them soon; reporting a 7-1 victory for the lacrosse team the previous day. A postscript, dated May 13, apologizes for the letter having been mislaid and not mailed promptly.
May 28

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging clothing from "Mrt." Garrett [Vera Miller Garrett] and announcing meeting of the Cold Water Medicine Society of June 16th.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

June 30

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying a new rule covering the employment of men over 45 will mean the loss of his job and asking if Keppler can find him work or would he consider employing Johnson and his wife as had been planned some years back.

July 19

Thomas A. Miller to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking Keppler for his words of encouragement and discussing in some detail the difficulties suffered by the Canadian Indians because of the present immigration laws.

[To this is attached the writer's leaflet "United States Immigration Laws Shuts [sic] Out Indians." ]

Prior to August 22

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Discussing the matter of a mask held by J. R. Taft of Collins, N. Y. [see his file in these Papers] and saying that he and Ed Countryman are planning a touring Indian show.

August 22

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Discussing in further detail the mask in Taft's possession and methods for its recovery; expressing his appreciation of Keppler's advice and encouragement when he was ill and alone; saying that he has plans to write a book on Indian life and religion.
September [?]  
Allegany State Park, New York [?]

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Continuing discussion of the mask in Taft's possession and means for its recovery and reporting that Mrs. Alanson Skinner is on the Allegany Reservation recording songs for the State of Pennsylvania.
[Marked: "Ans. Sept. 9" in Keppler's hand]

October 7  
Allegany State Park, New York

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler (2 sheets)

Saying his crops are now harvested and that he can come to Keppler's any time but his niece is working in a Buffalo hotel and cannot come.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

October 28  
Collins, New York

J. R. Taft to Joseph Keppler

Saying he hopes to show Jesse Cornplanter the old mask and believing Jesse will sell it only to Keppler; discussing the details to be worked out and offering other old pieces from the Buffalo Creek Reservation.

November 2  
Akron, New York

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying that an Indian "prophetess" has warned him that some of his own "Little Water" people had wished him ill and that he was advised to move from the Reservation for 3 or 4 years; asking Keppler's advice.
[The lower portion of this letter has been cut away.]

November 9  
Allegany State Park, New York

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Saying he has just written to Taft to send the mask to Keppler.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
November 26

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying he is not disappointed at not leaving for Keppler's at once; reporting that the council of chiefs has refused to accept the voters' "proposition" but that some have voted anyway; acknowledging money sent him; saying he will try to locate some old specimens.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

November 27

J. R. Taft to Joseph Keppler

Saying the Cornplanter mask will be shipped soon.

November 30

J. R. Taft to Joseph Keppler

Listing the specimens sent him the previous day, with their prices. [There are notations by Keppler and the letter is marked: "Sent my check for 33.00 Dec. 20th 1928." The letter is not complete.]

December 2

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Discussing the difficulty in obtaining the mask from Taft and suggesting means of procedure looking toward Taft's arrest; saying he is about to leave on a winter trip with Countryman and requesting a loan of $20, with which to purchase necessary clothes.

December 15

Winston-Salem, N.C. [postmark]

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [post card]

Greeting en route to St. Cloud, Florida.
December 17

J. R. Taft to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Saying he does not know whether the mask sent belongs to Jesse Cornplanter and discussing at length the possibility of it being the one Jesse claims; discussing another old Buffalo Creek mask.

December 27

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging the loan which was in Keppler's letter forwarded from the Park; giving the history of the mask sent to Keppler by Taft and its several owners.

December 27

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Acknowledging the package sent him; announcing the date of the New Year Ceremony as January 15th; saying he has almost a quart of parched corn but has located no old relics; also he is sending red willow-bark scrapings to be mixed with tobacco.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 4

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Announcing New Year’s Ceremony on January 16th and Cold Water Medicine Society meeting on February 16th and saying they are making, and getting many orders for, baskets.

[Marked: "Ans. $2.00," in Keppler's hand]

[The verso carries a penciled memo, also in Keppler’s hand]

January 5

J. R. Taft to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging Keppler’s cheque and discussing his method of arriving at discounts on Keppler’s purchases.

[Marked: "Answered," in Keppler’s hand]

January 10

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Discussing terms for the purchase of the mask recently obtained from Taft.

January 21

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging Keppler’s cheque in full payment for the mask and enclosing a full history of it [This is not with the letter], sending his photograph.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]

January 28

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler

Saying he missed most of the New Year’s Ceremony because of illness and that he will enquire about the falseface Keppler mentioned.

[Marked, Answered, in Keppler’s hand]
January 28
Louise Green to Joseph Keppler
Requesting a loan so that she may travel to Onondaga Reservation at the request of her uncle, Adam Jones, whose sister has just died.
[Marked: "Ans. Yes" in Keppler's hand]

February 4
Lyman Johnson to Keppler [2 sheets]
Reporting the ceremonies ended and his willingness to leave for Keppler's at any time.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

February 18
Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler
Saying she has the false face for sale that Keppler was interested in 2 years before.
[Marked: Answered Feby. 19th, in Keppler's hand]

February 23
Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler
Saying there are 5 false faces for sale and giving the prices [There is a penciled notation totalling these amounts and a mark of answered, both in Keppler's hand].

February 27
Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler
Saying she wants $30 for the false face, as she must buy some chickens, and asking for old clothes and complaining of failing eyesight.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
March 4

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking Keppler for money sent him; he will postpone his visit until Keppler is ready for him. [This is signed with Johnson's Indian name, Tan-won-noya, which means Awl Breaker].

March 26

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Saying he is now back from the south, is staying with Richard Kittle, and is trying to land a job with the Fisher Body Co., requesting a loan for needed clothing." [Marked: "Ans. & check" in Keppler's hand]

[The verso of sheet e carries a memo, also in Keppler's hand.]

March 29

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying she will mail the false face but roads are bad and she cannot promise when; asking for shoes for her sons. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 5

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging Keppler's cheque and saying he commences in the "selling game" next week.

April 13

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging a cheque for the false face.

April 28

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Reporting an accident to his knee while working in the woods, from which he is slowly recovering. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
April 30

Jesse Coraplantner to Joseph Keppler

Saying he had to quit his job at the Fisher Body plant because of too long hours for his health and that he is working on the Lehigh Docks.

May 1

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for package sent and saying there have been many deaths on the Reservation.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

May 10

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying she will try to locate more old specimens and thanking Keppler for promise to send more clothes; asking if he still wants green corn.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

May 20

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Acknowledging Keppler's letter and package and saying he will begin looking for old relics.

June 20

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

She is sending another old specimen; can she find market for husk dolls, baskets, etc. she makes; she has also found a small log house Keppler might want to purchase.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying the Strawberry Festival was held the preceding Sunday and that he took an important part in it and that he is not working at present; hoping that Keppler is to visit them soon.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

Farnham Cook to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Announcing death of Stewart Jones [by a stroke], he having been found dead in bed when his wife sought to awaken him that morning.

[The face of p. 1 carries Keppler's notation "died." Farnham Cook died six days later, on July 24, 1929]

Salina Thompson to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the death of her father, Farnham Cook, the previous evening.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

[Mrs.] Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler

Announcing death of her father on July 24th.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

[Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler]

Saying that he is back with Mr. Countryman where he seems happier and less liable to get into trouble.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
August 18

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is as well as a person of his age can expect and that he took an important part in the thanksgiving to the "Sisters."

September 15

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he expects to visit a fair at Hemlock Lake for a few days where he is hired to dance; reporting the death of Thomas Jones in July which leaves open the question of who will now do the preaching at the coming Six Nations meeting on September 28th.

September 24

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying she is busy harvesting and canning and that she is sending roasted corn and beans as promised. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

October 16

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for cheque and saying she has found 3 strings of wampum he might want to purchase; she thinks they are worth $50.00 each.

November 2

Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler

Calling attention to the organization of "The Women's League for Justice to Indians" with headquarters at 18102 Clifton Road, Cleveland, Ohio.
November 10

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying she has not heard from him in regard to the wampum.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]

December 2

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying he had delayed in writing expecting to visit Keppler and that his health has been bad; all his family send Keppler Christmas greetings.

December 26

Eliza Phillips to Joseph Keppler

Announcing destruction of their home and its contents by fire 3 days previously; asking clothes for the two children “I have with me” – not her own; reporting that her husband, James, remains sick in bed.
[Marked: Answered 10.00, in Keppler’s hand]

December 31

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [4 sheets]

Saying he is now 40 years old and announcing that he has remarried his first wife from whom he separated in 1909; reporting that he expects some work at the Rochester Museum; he can use any old clothing that might be sent.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]
January 13

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging Keppler's letter of good wishes and explaining who his wife is; saying that he received a second loan on his Government certificate but that he is not working as yet.

January 18

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Acknowledging everything sent him and saying it takes money to get a doctor's advice; welcoming Keppler any time he can visit them and announcing the New Year Ceremony opening February 3rd.

January 23

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Hoping he will buy the wampum for which she will take $25.00.


February 11

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [4 sheets]

Saying that he and his wife have returned to the Reservation to curtail expenses and that he has reopened his appeal for war disability compensation upon which action may be expected within two weeks; requesting a loan to tide them over until he hears from the Compensation Board.

February 20

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Renewing his request for a loan and saying that both money and work are scarce.

[Marked: "Ans. $5.00" in Keppler's hand]
March 1

Jesse Complerter to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging the money sent by Keppler and apologizing for the non-payment of previous loans; bitterly denouncing the relief agencies for refusing him aid because he was an Indian and a non-resident of Buffalo.

March 4

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Asking him to return the wampum if he means the $10.00 to cover the three strings; if his offer is $10.00 a string, she will accept it; asking for old clothes.

March 28

[Mrs.] Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler

Enclosing a copy of the constitution of the "Supreme Council of Tribes" [a division of the Women's National League for Justice to Indians] which now has a branch on the Reservation; stating that the League is distributing milk and asking Keppler to send a letter which might be read on the importance of preserving Indian languages.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 12

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Reporting that her husband attempted to choke her on April 1st and that she has left him. Apologizing for the confusion over the cheque, which she received.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]
April 17

Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him, in the name of the Tonawanda Circle of the Supreme Council of Tribes for his generous contribution, asking data on his birth, etc. so that proper membership certificate may be issued to him and, in a post script, requesting Keppler's opinion of the Snell Bill. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 18

Arthur O. Parker to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is off for Washington to work against state control of the New York Indians; mentioning his boy's novel to be published in September.

May 17

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for the overcoat sent and saying on the following day the seeds are to be blessed; saying he has been unable to earn any money for 7 months and wondering if Keppler has any advice to give him. [Marked "Ans.5.00" in Keppler's hand]

May 24

Arthur O. Parker to Joseph Keppler

Reporting that the Snell Bill has little chance of passage. [The verso carries several memoranda in Keppler's hand.]

June 9

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging the package sent.
June 17

Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking him for the advice on the Snell Bill and saying that Chief Aaron Poodry, representing the Reservation in Washington, did right in opposing it; reports on receiving seed potatoes and the troubles of distribution and on coming Strawberry Festival and Condolence Ceremonies; asks as to the duties of "peace makers" and "marshall" elected each June.

June 18

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for the money sent and saying he will appreciate any clothes that might be sent; announcing the Strawberry Festival for the coming Sunday.

July 20

Jess Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging a package of clothing from Lincoln Miller; reporting very difficult living conditions; saying that he is going to appeal his war disability case to the main office in Washington.

[Marked: "Ans. Aug. 8th" in Keppler's hand]

August 26

Fannie D. Stye to Joseph Keppler

Offering for sale her grandfather's Indian bone dice.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

August 27

Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Acknowledging his contribution and mentioning coming meeting of the Supreme Council of Tribes; announcing receipt of certain articles from Cleveland which have been distributed; saying that the prospects are for a hard winter on the Reservation and that the heat has caused several infant deaths recently.
September 4

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Reporting his aged mother to be very feeble; acknowledging the coat which is too big and too long; saying he hopes to earn some money picking grapes at Silver Creek; requesting clothes for his grandchildren whose father is also out of work; saying he is called upon to talk at meetings, funerals, etc., but he is not good at it.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

September 6

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying that dried corn is being sent him; asking for clothes.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

September 8

Fannie D. Skye to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging his letter; she is sending her grandfather's dice with the bag for them that she made some seventeen years previously.

September 11

Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler

Reporting that Mrs. Fannie Skye is deserving of assistance; saying she can use the dishes for Council meetings; announcing the deaths of Mrs. Julia Scrogg [on September 8th] which brought the total deaths through the summer to 7 or 8.

September 18

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging parcel sent; the Six Nations meeting is about to open, to be followed by convention of Iroquois Temperance League.
[1930 con.]

September 28

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Acknowledging the package and saying he had to do a great deal of work at the recent Six Nations meeting and that they want him to go to St. Thomas and Grand River in Canada but he cannot afford the trip.

December [?]

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying his niece is now coming over once a week to help with household cleaning and that the woman from whom Keppler bought the black beads has other relics for sale.

December 29

Eliza Phillips to Joseph Keppler

Reporting her husband, James, confined to bed and Fred Binham ailing.

December 30

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Requesting clothes for herself and two sons; saying there seems to be no corn around this year.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 8

Eliza Phillips to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for recent aid and saying they are now staying with her adopted son, Fred Binham.

January 20

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking Keppler for money sent; saying the woman who has the relics has them hidden in Batavia and won't tell him what they are; announcing the beginning of the New Year Ceremony on January 23rd.

January 28

Eliza Phillips to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for aid and enclosing a letter from "the Lodge."

March 25

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying he saw the woman who owns the relics and advised her to write to Keppler direct about them; discussing a false-face which, Johnson thinks, is priced too high; saying he has only worked 17 days in the past year, and asking assistance from Keppler. [Marked: "Ans. Apr. 4th" in Keppler's hand]

March 30

John Sundown to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying he is sending a mask and asking Keppler to make an offer for it. [Marked: Answered April 4, in Keppler's hand]

April 13

John Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Accepting his offer of $20.00 and now is sending some brooches. [Marked: Answered: Pd. April 15th, in Keppler's hand]
April 21

Jennie Jones to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Saying that the "curios" Keppler had enquired about were made by her father, William Jones, a brother of Thomas Jones; asking him the value of a totem pole c. 20 ft. high. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

May 22

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying he is in great need of financial aid and saying he is going to send some sassafras for which he suggests a recipe for making tea; reporting that Jesse Complanter has joined an Indian show to open at Fremont, Ohio. [Marked: "Ans. 5.00" in Keppler's hand]

June 17

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking him for his "donation"; reporting his mother to be very feeble and that he is still without work; requesting financial aid.

August 10

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Anticipating Keppler's coming visit with great pleasure; reporting a coming conference in Albany on the 18th which, he hopes, Keppler can attend. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

August 26

Eliza Phillips to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for $10.00 sent and explaining her delay in acknowledging it because she was upset over the death of her husband, James [cf.]; asking clothes for "grand children of the old man."
September 9
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Acknowledging the parcel sent; saying he can find no work of any kind and that many of the local mills have closed; announcing the Green Corn Dance for the following Friday.

November 15
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Stating he has been laid up 7 weeks with a boil on his nose; he needs warm footwear or rubbers; saying the man in Canada will dispose of his old relics for $75.00. [Marked: "Ans. 5.00" in Keppler's hand]

December 13
Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler
Thanking him for the money sent and saying Keppler is the only one who will help him; he is constantly looking for work but cannot get any; voicing his earlier fear that someone is using the "Little Water" medicine to break his health; his mother needs constant care; enquiring about reeds for making chairs. [Marked: "Ans. 5.00" in Keppler's hand]

December 19
Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler
Saying it seems good to be home again after 7 months away; reporting he is now getting a disability allowance of $40. a month - payments having started the previous October; stating he has never been the same man since September 28, 1918 [when he was gassed] and that at times he is most despondent. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
February 9

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for the money sent on January 9th and discussing the matter of attendance at meetings of the Little Water Society; saying their New Year Ceremony is over but that at Cattaraugus opens on February 12th; reporting the death of Wilson Stevens of Cattaraugus in the latter part of October 1931.

February 12

Eliza Phillips to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for aid and hoping she may be able to sell baskets and flowers in the Spring.

March 16

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler

Requesting a loan until mid-summer. [Marked: "Ans. $5.00" in Keppler's hand]

April 2

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for his earlier help; sending some Indian specimens in which he thinks Keppler might be interested. [The verso carries a penciled memo in Keppler's hand] [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 12

John Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is sending some specimens. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
April 20

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Requesting clothes and asking if Keppler will buy some copper articles made by her son [Arnold].

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 24

John Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Hoping Keppler will buy the specimens as he needs money to establish himself in woodcraft business.

April 26

[Mrs.] Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Discussing her current marital difficulties and asking Keppler's advice as to taking a course at the "Newspaper Institute of America" so that she might write her father's stories; mentioning ages of her 3 children.

[Marked: "Ans.; 5.00," in Keppler's hand]

April 30

Richmond Martin to Joseph Keppler

Saying that he can introduce himself as the man who writes letters for Lyman Johnson and John Sundown and asking if he and his wife would be acceptable as a couple to work for Keppler.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

April 30

John Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Accepting offer for the brooches.

[Verso marked: Answered 3.00, in Keppler's hand]
Jennie Jones to Joseph Keppler

Enquiring whether he expects to visit the Reservation during the coming summer as she has a number of Indian things she is holding for his approval; she expects to do some excavating at an "Old fort" on the old trail from Genesee to Niagara Falls.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying he and his mother are now alone again; discussing the use of the Little Water medicine and a coming meeting of the Society.

C. D. Hill to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Reporting on the site of a so-called "fort" at what appears to be a natural rock formation; saying that the original constitution of the Five Nations is out of print and inquiring if Keppler has a copy or can supply information concerning the laws; saying they are experimenting with pottery making, but not very successfully.

[Mrs.] Eva Smith to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Acknowledging his "donation" which will go to the Council treasury; saying that her health has failed and that she is under a physician's care; reporting that her domestic affairs have smoothed out.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Acknowledging a contribution to the Lodge and announcing the Strawberry Ceremony on June 14th.
[1932 con.]

June 19

C. D. Hill to Joseph Keppler

Explaining how disappointed he is that Keppler's trip to the Reservation came at a time when he was in the hospital, and saying that he could not locate the book Keppler left word about and that Parker has sent the "Constitution of the Five Nations" which has helped him a lot.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

July 5

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [4 sheets]

Saying he is at Fultonville with other Indians to help in the dedication of a memorial instituted by a Mrs. Miller which is to be developed into a real old-time Indian village to be occupied by Indians.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

July 5

Chapman Schonadoah to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging two letters from Keppler and saying that he does not expect to visit Keppler at Tonisghah [Woodland, New York] until the autumn.

July 22

Fred Minham to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying his wife has been in a hospital for some three weeks and requesting a loan until September so that he may have carefare to bring his wife home; reporting that they play lacrosse or soft ball every night, there being both boys' and girls' teams of the latter.

[Marked: "Ans. $5.00" in Keppler's hand]

August 16

Fred Minham to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging $5.00 and a package and saying his wife has returned from the hospital.
September 5

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging a package sent; asking if Keppler will help him and his mother during the coming winter; discussing a man whom Keppler is thinking of hiring for his place, and saying the man is not a pagan, but a Baptist.

September 5

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler

Saying that he missed the eye doctor and the hospital and will have to go again, and announcing the date of the Green Corn Dance as September 7th.

September 13

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Reporting the Little Water Ceremony as being most successful and well attended; announcing the recent deaths of Jesse Johnson, Aaron Mohawk's daughter and Hiram Beaver's wife; saying his eyes have been examined and that he is to return for further treatments but he is without funds for this visit.

[Marked: "Ans. 3.00" in Keppler's hand]

September 19

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying his mother is ill and needs constant attention for which reason he cannot seek work; saying the leggings are being sent; announcing the Six Nations meeting for September 24th.

September 30

Richmond Martin to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying Six Nations meeting and Green Corn Dance are over; that he and his wife would be able to come to Keppler about 1 November; that he has his land rented.
October 10

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging money sent to his mother for the leggings; saying he has been appointed to attend the Six Nations meetings at Cattaraugus, Canada and St. Thomas but he cannot go as he lacks funds; mentioning a feather cap for sale and asking Keppler for funds.

October 26

Registered mail receipt signed by Richmond Martin addressed to Joseph Keppler.

October 27

Fred Binham to Joseph Keppler

Saying that he and his wife have a job with Boyce's Historical and Educational show, being now on the road but that their salary is insufficient and not regularly paid; requesting $15.00 so that they can get home and saying he will sell his horse to repay the loan. [Marked: "Ans. $20.00" in Keppler's hand]

November 1

Richmond Martin to Joseph Keppler

Saying they are shocked to know Keppler no longer wants them to work for him and that they had planned on it, turning down other employment all summer; asking for clothes; announcing the deaths of Hiram Blackchief and his mother, Mrs. Charlie Blackchief. [Marked: Answered Nov. 17, in Keppler's hand]

November 1

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Thanking Keppler for things sent. [on p. 4 of letter from Richmond Martin, same date]
November 21

Richmond Martin to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for $5.00 sent; saying there is practically no work to be had; discussing hunting possibilities at the Reservation and at Keppler’s home [Woodland, New York]; looking for shipment of clothes promised. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]

[The year date is missing but the text places it.]

November 25

Fred Minnam to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for money sent in answer to his appeal from Wilkes Barre and requesting clothing; saying that, as he is now able to doctor a patient, he is higher up in the Little Water Society and that Harry Stevens has been put in his old position as "errand boy"; reporting an attendance of 150 at the recent 5 day Six Nations meeting and that the Long House was robbed of $118.00 and that they are running a series of socials to replenish the lost funds; enclosing a picture of Frank Kenjockety, a Cayuga, who runs the Boyce traveling show. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]

November 28

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying his mother has been ill in bed for 6 or 7 months and that he is ailing himself; asking Keppler for financial help; mentioning a man who has been taken into the tribe and given a name who has promised him a feather hat. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]

December 2

Richmond Martin to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging receipt of clothing and suggesting a recipe for green corn that he is sending. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler’s hand]
December 9

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Asking for clothing and describing the difficulties of living on his disability allowance of $18. a month. Reporting that he, with other wounded World War I veterans, received the Purple Heart decoration on December 2nd at the Akron High School, fourteen years after having been gassed in the Meuse-Argonne offensive.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

December 12

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Thanking Keppler for money sent and hoping he can send more later; remarking that he cannot trust Richmond Martin.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

December 12

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for all his earlier help and wishing him happiness through the coming year.

December 23

Alfred Logan to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Reporting theft of $140.00 from Newton Long House [See: Fred Ninham letter 11/25/32 covering this]; reporting hard times on Reservation and asking help toward coming New Year's celebration.

[Marked: Answered 10.00, in Keppler's hand]
January 5
Alfred Logan to Joseph Keppler
Acknowledging Keppler's contribution to Long House fund; there is no clue to the theft reported December 23, 1932.

January 6
Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler
Acknowledging his contribution to the Long House and stating that nearly all their debts have been paid; announcing the Little Water Ceremony on January 31st.  [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

January 13
Jesse Sundown to Joseph Keppler
On behalf of Lyman Johnson thanking Keppler for money sent; saying that Johnson is staying with William Gordon and his mother with Betty Ground.  [Marked: Answered 5.00, in Keppler's hand]

January 20
Jesse Corrplanter to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]
Announcing the date for the opening of the Winter Ceremonies as January 30; stating that sometimes his belief in the old religion [The Code of Handsome Lake] is shaken and that, because so many of the old leaders are dead, the ceremonies seem to him more like make-believe than holding any sacred significance.  [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

January 24
Yankee Spring [for Lyman Johnson] to Joseph Keppler
Saying that Johnson has had an operation on the back of his leg and will be laid up for a month or more.  [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
January 25

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler

Asking if Keppler plans to attend the coming New Year Ceremony; requesting remnants for quilts his mother [Eliza Phillips] is making and announcing that this is his wife's birthday.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

January 28

Jesse Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying he took money sent by Keppler to Lyman Johnson and that he is living at Gordon's during his illness and doesn't need money for Welfare makes an additional allowance to Gordon for him; announcing coming New Year's Dance.

January 31

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler

Saying he is busy preparing for the New Year Ceremony and that Keppler's letter of January 27th had no enclosure as stated in it; announcing he is going to Hornell on February 15th to "advertise."

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

February 12

Yankee Spring [for Lyman Johnson] to Joseph Keppler

Saying can now stand for short intervals with the aid of crutches and that the help sent was appreciated; requesting that this help be continued regularly.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
February 14

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [3 sheets]

Saying that he has been thinking over Keppler's recent advice on matters of religion and that he has been like a lost sheep groping in the dark to find some satisfactory faith that would bring him peace; relating a conversation had in 1910 or 1911 with an elderly Christianized Seneca about Handsome Lake in which he learned much about the institution of the Code not reflecting favorably upon Handsome Lake; he will not, however, raise a voice against a religion his father preached until his death.

[Marked: "Ans. Febry. 2lst, 1933" in Keppler's hand]

March 4

Jesse Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Saying his wife has been ill all winter and asking for aid as he needs money to meet an insurance premium; saying that Lyman Johnson is improved but not able to work yet.

April 1

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for help sent and saying that while his home was empty during his illness it was broken into and many household furnishings stolen.

April 1

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler

Thanking him for silk pieces sent for quilts.
April 19

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Thanking him for money and a package; reporting on some recent ceremonies; announcing a fire in their home in which his mother and wife were lightly burned, great damage to the house being prevented by the prompt action of a road gang who put the fire out.

May 8

C. D. Hill to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Announcing death of Lyman Johnson's mother and a fall from her porch by Dinah Sundown and mentioning the vine bridge built by his brother over the creek which has caused some news reports in the Buffalo and Rochester papers. [Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

June 8

Dinah Sundown to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying she broke a leg and is in Buffalo City Hospital [The letter, however, is date-marked Akron, and may have been written by or at request of her son]. Offering a tom-tom, once the property of her father, for $15.00.

July 11

C. D. Hill to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying that berries are being canned for winter use and announcing the Green Corn Dance in September.

July 26

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Saying that he has had no word from Keppler since Jesse Sundown sent word of his mother's death on April 12th, and wondering if he, Johnson, has hurt Keppler's feelings in any way.

[Keppler has noted: "Jesse kept the $10.00 I had sent" and has marked the letter: "Ans. $3.00"]
August 9

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler [4 sheets]

Acknowledging Keppler's letter and saying that Jesse Sundown never gave him the money sent for his mother's death feast; Jesse having told him that Keppler never answered the letter; requesting, in the future, that Keppler disregard any letter written by Sundown in his, Johnson's name; sending the cost of his mother's casket boards.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

August 14

Mrs. Walter Jimerson to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the death of her oldest daughter the previous month and asking for aid.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

August 28

Fred Binham to Joseph Keppler

Reporting a large crowd at the field-day on August 27th on which the Long House made $36.00; saying they have had their kitchen lined and painted; announcing the Green Corn Ceremony as commencing August 31st; reporting the death of Jesse Hemlock.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

September 11

Fred Binham to Joseph Keppler

Reporting a successful Green Corn Ceremony; requesting clothes for his stepson, now 13 years old, and for himself and saying he has strained his back.
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

September 13

Mrs. Walter Jimerson to Joseph Keppler

Saying her mother continues well and that Kelly Lay's mother died "a few weeks ago, she being the oldest person on the Reservation at the time."
[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]
[1933 con.]

September 20

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying he is employed 2 days a week on "relief" and that the goods will be distributed any time they are sent; reporting the death of Mrs. Minnie Bennett; asking Mrs. Wagner's address; reporting on the Indian fair recently held and saying some medicine he bought from an old St. Regis woman at the fair had helped him a lot.

October 16

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler [2 sheets]

Saying that Keppler had not understood his earlier letter, that he was not denying the religion of his father but was searching for the truth; reporting that through Arthur C. Parker he was copying the Seneca text of his father's version of the Code, procured from the State Museum and that Parker had visited him in August; claiming to remain just as good a Seneca as any other.

[Marked: "Ans. Oct. 22" in Keppler's hand]

October 25

Lyman Johnson to Joseph Keppler

Acknowledging money sent and discussing Jesse Sundown further; reporting that despite the fact that their mother [Jesse Sundown is Johnson's half-brother] divided property between them, Jesse took it all when Johnson was ashamed to quarrel in front of people; saying that all the money Jesse has earned or taken has been either stolen or lost; saying he can have a turkey basket made.

November 7

Fred Ninham to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the death of Eli Sundown and reporting on their delegate's trip to the Six Nations meetings.

[Marked: "Ans. Nov. 10" in Keppler's hand]
November 11

Jesse Cornplanter to Joseph Keppler

Saying that he is working 7 days a month on a road gang under Emergency War Relief and could use some work clothes; that he has had no word on his appeal for a pension and describing his sensations of the same day just fifteen years ago when the general order came to him on the Escualt River in Belgium to cease firing at 11 A.M.; reporting his completion of the copy of his father's version of the Handsome Lake Code and that he now hopes to be able to type it.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

December 19

Chapman Schanandoah to Joseph Keppler

Reporting that his pension had been reduced 75% and that times are hard and he too old to find employment; reporting death by accident of George Vanevery.

[Marked: "Ans. Dec. 27" in Keppler's hand]

December 26

James Crow to Joseph Keppler

Requesting clothing for all seven of his family.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]

December 28

Fred Minham to Joseph Keppler

Announcing the deaths of Jim Crow's wife, of Moses Thompson, who was killed in a truck accident, and Ben Logan; saying the goods sent by Keppler have been distributed; announcing the Little Water Ceremony on January 17, 1934.

[Marked: Answered, in Keppler's hand]