

Map over Sweden

[See also map over Lund](#)



Courtesy of Hans Fugal, these ten-page sets of letters to/from Niels Fugal are available on this website, www.fugal.net. There are 34 sets, for a total 340 pages. Also posted in a separate file are pertinent photos as to the time frame of the letters.

These letters were stored on the opposite side of the wall where the fire began at the Niels Fugal home in November of 2000. That fire was way hot, and it consumed completely the tires and upholstery of the car in the garage. There was no firewall between the garage and the house. The house should have been condemned but Norma was determined to resurrect it from the ashes, making it better than it was. Providentially if not intentionally, these letters survived. I fully believe it was so they could be shared. They are very brittle, and time is wasting. My sister, Lois, started the project many years ago, and many of you have copies she made of certain letters.

Grandpa Fugal was most insightful the whole of his life. Grandma Fugal was to her grandchildren a quite different person than you will find in these letters. She was 19 and pregnant before he left two months after their marriage, which in those days meant closeting and limiting of previously enjoyed socializing; she lived with her father and others, watching those around her live lives seemingly more fulfilling, getting letters from a husband whose life was occupied, enriched and full, largely because he attitudinally chose it so. No doubt this hard beginning helped form her into the soft, patient, exquisitely kind woman it was our privilege to know.

Pleasant Grove, Mar. 9th, 1898

[Niels born Sep. 14, 1885; oldest brother Jens, almost 11 years his senior, on a mission to Denmark and Norway.]

My dear brother,

It is about time I was writing to you because it is quite awhile since I wrote to you and I think you would like to hear from me. I am attending school now and so is Stena. I was glad to get a letter from you. We are going to have school eight more weeks. I will be glad when it stops. It has been quite muddy but it is getting dry now.

We have fifteen sheep. We would have had seventeen but one got its neck hurt and I killed it and one almost died because its mother would not let it suck and it was frozen one morning so it could not stand up and Chris killed that [one]. [Chris was eight years older than Niels.] We have five lambs and ten old ones. Chris and Ole [Hansen?] made a pen for them last fall in the northeast corner of the crell [corral]. We have got a fat nice pig and four cows and even about thirty head of chickens.

I had the primary heart [?] three Saturdays ago. I'll tell you I did not feel very good when they called my name out to have it. I was not as scared as I thought I would be when I read it. I attend deacon meeting now. I have been on the program two times there. I have had to hand in a question one time and answer a question one time. Johnny has got a boy staying to his place now. He is fifteen years old and has never been to school. I don't think I have any more to say but I must not forget to tell you I am a uncle and you hello Uncle Jense. [Spelled Jens/Jense; baby is first grandchild, Carrie's (refer p. 15).] Your affectionate brother, Niels Fugal

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Nov. 5th, 1908

[Envelope mailed November 9, addressed to Svartensgatan (corrected Svartösten, Luleå), Sweden, plus forwarding markings, 5¢ postage.]

[Niels would be age 23, near arriving in Sweden, his mother's homeland, to begin his

mission; letter from Lavina, Jens' wife.]

Dear Bro. Niels,

"I now take my pen in hand to write you a few lines to let you know we are all well and hope you are the same." Well Niels, had you been a mind reader, you would have read many letters we have written in our minds. But somehow those letters never reach their destination. You can just believe your letters and cards have been read with interest and it is good to hear you haven't got over being a "clam." Suppose we will soon learn how you enjoyed your rock-a-bye over the waves. You must have passed thru a lot of beautiful and varied scenery and for my part I should like to get hold of your day book when you get home and read it. Hope you saw a whale. Jens did. It is written in his book thus – "Oct: Saw a whale." Guess he was a bit physically deranged and thought that was plenty to write for one day.

This pen gets fatally twisted in this elegant writing paper [lined, elementary school paper] but you have lots of time and patience so I will just keep going. The weather has been fine now for about two weeks and Lou [Nielson] and Jens have kept themselves busy getting potatoes and beets up. Two more days will finish the potatoes out on Old Lady Gussie's [Gustaveson] farm and next week will finish the beets if the weather continues fine. The hay is also in the barn. This is nothing for me to write you about but Jens is too sleepy to write tonight so I write for the both of us. O yes I almost forgot: our hens have stopped laying and then too, eggs are 40 cents per doz. That's awful bad. Somehow I can't think of any news so it is best I don't write any. I got your address from Viola on Election day. She is as sweet as ever. Say, Utah and the whole USA went Republican except four or five states. All the folks are OK except our babies. They all have the whooping cough. Are getting along fairly well. It is now 11 o'clock P.M. and as we must be up at nights with the children it is sleepy time now.

Somehow it seems so odd not to see you come marching thru the lot once in a while and I believe Jens is getting lonesome to hear you call "Yuns." Did you know that Martin [Christiansen] is going to Sweden. [From 1922-29 Niels was Martin's counselor in their ward bishopric.] He leaves on the 20th. Wish I could send you a nice Thanksgiving dinner. Well kid, may you have good health while you are away and may Heaven bless you in your labor that all may be well with you is our earnest wish for you. Lavina. You know we will always be glad to hear from you. Everybody sends hello.

Hotel Revere, 1421-23-25-27 Blake Street, Denver, Colo., Oct. 18, 1908

[Viola born October 17, 1888. Niels and Viola were married August 12, 1908.]

[Envelope addressed to Box 190, Pleasant Grove, Utah, 2¢ postage.]

My Dear Wife Viola,

I am now in the Hotel Revere Denver as this paper states. It is Sunday morning 9:50 o'clock just the time that I suppose you are going to Sunday School. There has fallen about five inches of snow in this city and the weather is not very pleasant. I am glad I have two rubbers with me if they both are for the left foot. As you know we took the D&RGRR to Denver. We were supposed to meet a train here leaving for Chicago last



Niels and Viola

night at 6:55 o'clock but we didn't get here until 12 o'clock so we have to stop over until today at 2:15 p.m. Then we take the Burlington Route to Chicago. I just came from breakfast so I am feeling fine. There are 29 elders in our crew and we hang together like a bunch of Greeks.

The trip so far has been a pleasant one to me. Going through the Rockies we find a great deal to keep our eyes busy. All I hate about it is that we can't see in the night also. Some parts we have gone over are barren while some are covered with snow. I think the reason we were late is because the snow made it harder for the train to travel. Part of the time the first night it took four iron horses to pull us up the steep slopes of the Rockies. It seems like it is one continuous canyon from the mouth of Spanish Fork canyon to Florence, a place at the mouth of Grand Canyon. On our trip we have passed through about ten tunnels, one of them being 10,418 feet above sea level and it took over two minutes to pass through it.

I suppose you have received those two cards I sent you. I mailed them at a Railway station called Salida. Be sure and write to me so I can get it at Liverpool. For fear you never received my card I will write the address here. Niels Fugal, Durham House, 295 Edge Lane, Liverpool, England. Well dearest I suppose I will close for I also want to write to the folks. I will write again soon. It seems an awful long distance from home but I haven't got a good start yet. I have a railroad map and I can see by that what part of the distance I have yet before me. Denver is 741 miles from SLC. Well dearest I feel like I would like to see you and have you with me but I suppose I can't so we will have to make the best of it. I have a partner from Cash[e] Valley by the name of Hansen. He is going to Scandinavia. Give them all my best regards.

Your Loving Husband, Niels.

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 19, 1908

My Dear Wife Viola,

At last we have reached the great city of CHICAGO. Our delay at Denver made us about 14 hours late. The company of elders that took the OSSRR arrived in this city about 7 o'clock this morning. We arrived here at 9 o'clock this evening. It is now 9:30 and we have just got settled down in our respective rooms of the Majestic Hotel. The agent of our next R.R. Route met us at the depot and directed us to our hotel. If you could have seen us you would have laughed. Thirty-one of us following the director. It looked just the same as when a hen catches a worm and thirty more hens chase her to get the worm. Everybody in Chicago cleared the train, and one fellow asked if we were railroad men. We told him yes, and that we were going to Great Britain to construct a large railroad line.

I can't tell you much about Chicago yet because it was dark when we arrived and we came straight for the hotel. The first thing when we landed we CLUM up some steps, with the accent on the clum, and found ourselves on a road built in the air, this lead us to our hotel. We are quite a green bunch of grapes. There were six of us took the elevator at once to our room, and one fellow is from Sanpete. When we stepped into the elevator

he, being the last, said, "We can't all stay in here can we?" We had the laugh on him. This is the finest bedroom I ever was in, in my life. There are two double beds and two single beds, making room for six. There is a wardrobe, a writing desk, a dresser, and most important of all, a closet, also a bath tub.

Well dearest I must not go too much into detail or I will cover too much paper. I have so far enjoyed my trip very much and hope I can remain well while crossing the pond. I suppose you got my letter from Denver and received my Liverpool address. It would do me such good when I reach that point, to hear from home. My trip through the Rockies was worth much to me and also the trip across the plains. Denver is a great city about three times as large as S. L. City. I sent Mart a card with the picture of the Union Depot upon it. If you get a chance you might take a look at it. This was the place we left for Chicago. After leaving Colorado we bid the mountains farewell, and entered the Rolling Hill State of Iowa. Iowa is all hills and hollows, there isn't a mile square in the whole state that I could see where the land was level. After leaving Iowa we entered Ill. This is a nice level country covered with cities, corn, blue grass, timothy and a little more corn. I never dreamed of so much corn. They also have a great many pigs running loose in the pastures. Well I haven't space enough to tell you everything so I will close now, and next time tell you of our experience in Chicago. We leave tomorrow at about 2 p.m. so we will get to see a little tomorrow. Goodbye my dear little wife. I will soon write some more. Nels. [Signs both Niels/Nels.]

Boston, Mass., Oct. 22, 1908

My Dear Loving Wife:

I am now in the city of Boston and the sooner I get out the better it suits me, because this is the damndest place I ever was in, or that I ever want to be in. The streets are at every angle you can think of, strait and crooked. One can get lost without trying.

I wrote to you last about my trip as far as Chicago, so I will start where I left off. After a peaceful sleep Monday night in the cool damp air at the Majestic Hotel we ventured into the narrow, busy streets of Chicago, where one is almost deafened by the noise made by the street cars above your head, and on the ground the large, heavy dray wagons, the striking of horseshoes upon the pavement, and the horrible noise made by the hundreds of news boys. After breakfast we arranged for our tickets and baggage for the Nickel Plate Route to Boston. After that myself with two others went up to Montgomery Ward & Co. as I told you on the card. We went up to the top story of the tower which is the 25th, 1,394 feet high. If the day had been clear we would have been able to see why out upon the Lake Michigan and the surrounding places. But the air was filled with the mist caused by the wind and the clouds of smoke arising from hundreds of smoke stacks.

We also went into the basement where the large boilers are which supply the building with heat and power. They make their own electricity by steam power. This is used to light the building and run the many elevators and machines which they use. The system they have of doing business is wonderful.

After a few more street scenes were taken and diner was eaten it was time to hunt the

train which left for Buffalo at 2:32. After riding the train all day and night we reached Buffalo about 10 o'clock. We went from there to Niagara Falls, reaching this place at 10:30 a.m. There we enjoyed ourselves viewing the beautiful natural scenes of the Niagaras. The pictures of this place are nice and beautiful but there is no picture that can explain and show the waters as they really are. The prettiest part of the falls is found on the Canadian side of the river. Here the falls form a horseshoe bend which is shown in the pictures which I sent to you. At this place we placed a rubber suit around us and stepped into an elevator which lowered us 100 feet below the surface of the earth, from there we followed a tunnel 700 feet which led us downward right under the falls. We certainly were under water. After that we went to the top of a 50 foot building to view the river and falls. The water as it dashed down 158 feet into the gorge beneath would send sprays back that would soak us in a very short time if we remained there. This was on the Canadian side. After that the car took us back to America. There are four steel suspension bridges across the gorge at this particular point, which certainly denote the skill and ingenuity of man. As you cross these bridges and look down you find a space of about 300 feet between yourself and the rushing water beneath. There are 3 small and one large island out in the river above the falls. There are bridges which lead out to all of them. Well dear wife I will tell you more about the Niagaras when I see you. I must now proceed with my experiences of today.

The train left Niagara at 5:55 p.m. It carried us back to Buffalo and from there to Boston. We rode the train once more all night and arrived here at 12:40 today. I haven't seen the ocean yet but expect to see it tomorrow. We sail from here Saturday 9:30 a.m. I would rather be on the ocean than in Boston. If a man wants his pockets picked I think here is the place to get them picked. Only about half the people are white, the balance are from all the rest of the nations of the world. Tonight while we were on the streets a fire department came down through the crowded street on a dead run. Talk about crowded places, this is one. I will write again tomorrow if I get a chance. Your loving Husband.
xxxxx Nels

Boston, Mass., Oct. 23, 1908

My Dear Darling Wife –

It is now 6 o'clock p.m. and I have just come into my room. I have seen so much today that I care to see no more. So I thought I would spend the evening by writing. You know I wrote to you last night and said I didn't like Boston. Well I haven't changed my mind much yet. This morning myself and others took a walk out to the docks and seen the men loading our ship. There are three large derricks that draw up the loads of goods and lower them into the bottom of the ship. Our ship is about 700 feet long and 75 feet wide. It certainly is a bird. It is the largest I have yet seen in the harbor and I have seen about 50. We were on the deck but did not enter the inside. The name is Republic. I am getting quite anxious to sail so I will get to my destination, and get broke in, for I am getting enough of sight seeing and lounging around. I saw my trunk today for the first time since I left S. L. City. It was alright.

After making a visit at the docks we had dinner, then about 30 of us Utah Guys got in a sightseeing auto car and took in Boston. There was a man with who explained every

place of interest. We were taken to the Navy Yards and saw the war vessels. We saw the old war vessel named Massachusetts, called Old Iron Sides because it won so many battles of the British approaching. This was across the bay from the Old Church. We were in the Old Church just for curiosity. After that we were taken to the slums of Boston. This is the center of the marketing district. Viola, you can't imagine how crowded this part is. It's just like 200 couples dancing in Clark's Hall. The streets are only about 30 feet wide. The people of Boston must have a great deal of patience or they would never navigate in these streets. Next we entered the dwelling district. This is a much nicer place for a person can breathe a little fresh air here. There are many mansions of beautiful structure in this place. We saw the old state house where the Declaration of Independence was first read. Saw the house where the national hymn America was first sung. Boston is noted very much for its history. There were many other places of interest that I won't take time to mention.

Well my dear loving wife tomorrow I will bid dear old America goodbye for two years. I feel well and hope you are all the same. It seems like I am never going to get to Sweden. If I get across the Atlantic I will still have England and the North Sea to cross. I believe there are 68 in our company and we are becoming so acquainted that it will seem hard to part. Well dearest be good to yourself and visit my folks as much as possible. I am expecting a letter from you when I reach Liverpool. Tell your folks hello and give my best regards to all who inquire about me. May God present His richest blessings upon you are my best wishes.

Your Loving Husband, Niels Fugal, Middle Atlantic

Atlantic Ocean, Oct. 29, 1908

[Stationery, 'White Star Line, S.S. "Republic.'" Drawing of ship, two masts, a stack, two more masts, no port holes.]

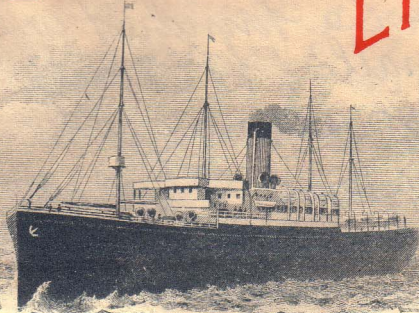
My Dear Loving Wife Viola,

It is with great pleasure that I take time to write a few words to my dear Wife. We left Boston promptly at 9:30. The steamer gave a horrible whistle, one that I had never heard before. This was for everyone to get ready. All the men loading goods were ordered to stop and everyone was at their place. There were three tugboats that assisted the enormous vessel to get into deep water. After the Republic got a start she passed every other in the harbor.

As we sailed out of the Boston harbor I saw over a hundred vessels, large and small. The Republic is the largest one I have seen yet. Its capacity is 15,400 tons. They say that the White Star Line has some with 21,000 tons capacity. They must be whales if they are larger than the one we are aboard. The Republic is 67 feet wide and about 700 feet long. Just think of it, as long as a block in P.G. There are about 500 people aboard and about 200 of them are men employed by the ship company. So you see there are about 300 passengers. The ship can accommodate about 2,000.

Dearest, I think it was hard enough to leave you at Salt Lake but it would have been much more sorrowful if I left you at sea. I noticed many people at the harbor who bid their

WHITE STAR LINE



S.S. "REPUBLIC."

Atlantic Ocean Oct. 29,

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Pleasant Grove Utah,

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friends goodbye and it was quite a touching scene. It made me reflect. It was only about a half hour when we could see land no more. It doesn't seem like we are going very fast, but we can't travel only about half as fast by sea as by land. When it is smooth sailing, this vessel makes about 17 miles per hour. The first day the ocean was very calm, there was hardly any motion in the water only what the great steamer made. Everyone felt fine the first day and slept good the first night. The second day was Sunday and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves pretty much this day. The thing was still new. This day we set our watches ahead 68 minutes. We were then three hours and eight minutes ahead of Utah time. When we were waiting for dinner I thought for a moment of home, and I could picture you just getting ready for Sunday School.

Well dearest it isn't always smooth sailing. It seemed as though the two first days were fine just to invite us farther into the hungry waters of the Atlantic. The third day was Monday. This day we started to pass [time], by playing games which are furnished on the ship. Towards evening the waves began to roll and the games began to cease. I can't explain the feeling one gets while riding a rocking ship, but as soon as you get done reading this letter just whirl around five minutes as fast as possible and then you will know about how it feels to ride a ship in a rough sea. Nearly everyone ate their supper Monday. Tuesday we woke up finding the ocean just a little more rough. It kept getting rougher, and towards evening there were several passengers that were sick. This was the day that some commenced to fast. The ship is large and heavy but the waves tossed it about just like it was a cork. The weather kept getting colder, the wind kept getting harder, the ship kept getting more restless. All day Tuesday and Wednesday the ship rocked and the passengers kept growing sick. I don't believe I slept over an hour Tuesday night. But I haven't the least reason for kicking for I haven't been sick a minute since I left home. My bed is at the side of the ship, and all night Tuesday I was moving up and down. The space that I traveled while swinging would form a quarter circle. There are two more that sleep in my room but we each have a bed. One of my partners was very sick but he is getting better now. This morning when we woke we found the ocean much more calm.

So far I have enjoyed my trip pretty well but I don't care how quick we see land. I have seen so much water now that I believe I could live on a dry farm. You might think you could see an awful long distance on the ocean but it looks to me like the horizon is about twenty-five miles away. The first day we saw many ships but now we see about one every day. Some are close and some nearly out of sight. We expect to get to Queenstown Saturday afternoon. This is where we will send our mail. We arrive at Liverpool sometime Sunday, and I expect we will be glad to once more place our feet on soil. I don't know when I will reach Sweden but it will be in about a week. I think now that I can cross the North Sea without getting sick. I feel very bad for those who were sick and would have been willing to share my well days with their sick ones if it were possible.

The elders are becoming just like brothers to me and I will hate to part with them. We have traveled together for two weeks now, but it will only be about two more days when some of us will part. Nearly half of us go over to Scandinavia and Sweden. When I am sent out alone to meet my partner I suppose I will feel somewhat different but I have had all the traveling I want for awhile, and the sooner I get down to work the better. I feel well and hope you are all the same. I will try to write again when I reach Liverpool.

From Your Dearest Darling Nels.

North Sea, Nov. 3, 1908

My Dear Darling Wife –

It is now 8 o'clock p.m. here, but it is only 12 o'clock noon where you are. In my long travel eastward I have gained 8 hours. I just had supper and feel like I can't keep from writing to you. My dear, you can't imagine how glad I felt when I heard from you, at Liverpool. [I do not have this letter; in fact, the first four of almost 100 letters Viola wrote are missing. If anyone has the content of any of the four, please share.] It seems a long time before I will receive another letter from you, so I will send you the headquarters' address at Stockholm. I expected to hear from my folks but I was disappointed. You gave them my address, did you not dearest?

Well dearest, I have sent you five letters and I hope you have received them all. When you answer please tell me whether you have or not. The last one I wrote you was last Thursday when I was on the Atlantic. After Thursday the weather was very good and the sea was calm. Everyone on board commenced to get well and eat their meals again. Saturday we were all glad because we expected to see land once more, for it had been a week since we left Boston. At about 2 p.m. we saw at a long distance, through the foggy mists, the rolling hills of old, green Ireland. The City of Queenstown which is located in the southern part of Ireland was reached at about 8 o'clock. There the steamer was anchored and a small steamer came out to get a few of our Irish friends and their baggage. It was here I sent the last letter. It was but a few moments till we were sailing full speed towards Liverpool.

Next morning we arose quite early and exercised our eyes by looking at the numerous vessels in the English Channel and the coast of the Great Country of England. At last we were at the Liverpool docks where hundreds of vessels are all the time and where many people gather to welcome their friends whom they expect from other countries.

There were four or five elders to meet us, and arrange for a hack to take us to the hotel. While passing through the winding and crooked streets of Liverpool for about a mile and a half we saw many of England's old buildings. As old as England is, it seems to me as though they have much room for improvement yet. They have some very odd looking carriages. Nearly all their wagons are only carts. They have some very nice, large horses and when they use two the one is generally ahead of the other, which is between the shafts. It looks odd to see a large load of baled hay on a cart. The men generally always walk when they have a load. It seems like nearly all the people look alike. They look Irish to me. They remind one of the Irishmen that one always sees when to a theatre. I am not making fun, but this is the fact. I suppose they are alright, at least they are very polite. You can't see very many large men like you can in the U.S. They are nearly all the size of Alex Ellis.

There was one thing that touched my heart when I landed in this city and that was to see the many poor people on the streets. No sooner had we reached the street till about a

dozen women and small boys nearly begged us to death to buy their old apples and matches. It was the first day of November and some of the children had very ragged clothes and no shoes. It makes a fellow feel like giving something to them but there are so many that you couldn't do it. I haven't seen a place yet that is as good as Utah. I will appreciate home if I every get there. After arranging for transportation to Copenhagen we bid farewell to our friends who were to remain in Great Britain. It seemed hard to part with the crowd I had so long been with but it will be much harder when I say goodbye to the elders at Copenhagen and Stockholm. But if there never is a beginning there will never be an end so the quicker the better. Oh dearest I wish you could have been with me and see what I have seen. I certainly have enjoyed my trip. We left Liverpool at 2:30 p.m. Monday. England is a great manufacturing place but it has its pretty green fields as well. The first part of our journey across England was very interesting to me because I saw the men out in the fields working. They have very small farms but very well taken care of. As we went west we entered the rolling part of England. It looks very beautiful, the rolling hills being covered with green grass.

We didn't go to Hull but we went to Grimsby. They are both in the same bay. We arrived here at 7:30 so you see we crossed England in 5 hours. The trains travel very fast but they are much smaller than America's. No sooner had we reached Grimsby docks till we were on our way to the ship which was only about a block away. We had supper on board the ship and set sail at 9 o'clock. This was 10 o'clock in Danish time. Well dearest I could sit and write to my dear wife all night but my letter won't hold it. I am now nearly across the North Sea. We reach Esbjerg at midnight. In the morning we take rail to Copenhagen. We will reach there tomorrow night so I will have a change to cross Denmark in the daytime. Well dearest write to me as soon as you get this one. It will cost 5¢ postage to mail a letter to Sweden. Please give my address to my folks and have them write to me also.

From Your Dear Humble Husband, Niels.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Nov. 5th, 1908

[Envelope from Box 147, addressed to Svartensgaten, Stockholm, Europe (corrected to Svartöstadén, Luleå), Sweden, plus forwarding markings, 5¢ postage.]

Dear Brother – [From Stena, two years older than Niels.]

We received your cards that you sent us from Boston OK and are anxious to hear from you again. It is over a week since we heard. Suppose you are in Liverpool by now and that you got our letters that we sent you there. Know doubt you are anxious to hear from us again.

Nov. 6th. Did not finish my letter last night. I got too sleepy to think. Monday night there was a theatre here entitled "Bunco in Arizona." Ida, Chris and I went. It was fine. Viola, Ida, Chris and I and the rest of them were out to the dance Tuesday night. Wm. Clark read the returns of the election at the dance. We had a pretty good time but we mist you there. Ida went home Wednesday. She was quite anxious to get home. She has so many dresses to sew before Xmas. Got a letter from Van Horns the other day. They said the Rio Grand train passed right by there place and if they had known that you went on

that line they would have been out and waved at you. We had a pretty fine time at the Sunday School teachers party. By the way they have not put anyone in yet to take your place. Hope you enjoyed your trip across the pond and was not very sick. Everybody gets sick a little. Today Jens and Louis and Louis's brother-in-law are out to Gussie's digging spuds. They have got all the spuds dug out north but not all the beets yet. The weather is lovely now and has been for a week. And if it continues so for a few more days they will get all the crops done.

Ray Carlson is a dady now. He has a dater. Today mother and I are going to American Fork. It is Aunt Stena's birthday. Last Saturday was Mr. Clayton's. We went out there and had a fine time. Jennie Rassmuson is married. She married Pat Chadwick from American Fork. Kate Frampton is going to get married right soon also. Oh yes! Old man Everson is dead. Mrs. Everson and Junius are happy now. Maggie Adamson and Ben Adams are married. This is all the locals I can think of for this time. Hope you are well and enjoying yourself very much and that you may be successful in your labors. Write to us often. We are all well at present. Say Niels, we are frying fish for dinner. Wish you could have some. Your Sis, Stena. Mother sends her love.

P.S., Chris says he endorses the remarks of Mrs. Clayton and that he will write you when you get to your destination. Hope you will receive our letters OK. Ernest says tell Niels Hello.



Stena Fugal Clayton

Stockholm, Nov. 8, 1908

My Dear Loving Wife,

We reached this city yesterday morning at 9:30, and will remain here a few days. Brother Sundvall, the president of the Swedish mission was called away to attend his sister's funeral and won't be back until Monday. When he gets back I suppose I will find out where I will have to labor. I hope I won't have to go way up to the North Pole. Alma Monson of Manila is laboring in Luleå, a place far north of Stockholm and he is there alone, so one of us will be called to go there. In that place you can only see the sun for two hours each day in the winter and in the summer it never gets dark. Well dearest I am here ready and willing to go where ever I am called.

Well my loving wife, today is Sunday and I attended Sunday School which is held here at headquarters. After that at 11 o'clock meeting commenced and to our surprise we elders were asked to speak. There are five of us but only John Anderson and myself had courage enough to try to say anything. I had never attended a meeting before in Sweden and being the first speaker I hardly knew how to express myself, but I guess I must have held her down in grand style for at least a half minute. What I could not say in Swedish I would say in Danish and English. There were about fifty saints present and they seemed quite glad to hear from people who had just come from Zion. As I stood before the congregation trembling and thinking of something to say, I would have given twenty-five dollars if I could talk to them intelligently for a half hour. I never expected to talk to the people the first Sunday I was in Sweden but now I have started and I suppose I will have to keep on.

I am still well and I always pray to God that my loved ones at home are well. I believe the last time I wrote to you was when I was crossing the North Sea. The journey across the sea was a pleasant one, the weather was fine and there was scarcely a wave on the ocean. We had heard so much about the North Sea that we almost dreaded to cross it but now I am not afraid to go back. We landed at Esbjerg at midnight the night I wrote to you last. We left Esbjerg at 11:45 the next day and arrived at Copenhagen at 8:30 p.m. In crossing Denmark we had to ferry twice. It took us 20 minutes the first time and an hour and a half the second.

We remained in Copenhagen one day and two nights. During the day we visited the Danish Museum. Here I saw many interesting things. Many images of horses and people, many beautifully painted pictures, many curiosities that were dug from Egyptian and Roman graves. Also coins that were used before the time of Christ by the Romans and Egyptians. During the day we also visited the zoological gardens of Copenhagen, here I saw many animals that I had never seen the same kind of before.

The next day I left for Stockholm. We reached Malmö at about 1:30 and remained here until 9:30 with some elders laboring in that branch. Our trip from Malmö to Stockholm was the worst one yet. It took us all night until 9:30 the next morning. The seats had no cushions and besides we were somewhat crowded so we were very uncomfortable all night. But I have almost forgotten that already so that will be alright.

Well dearest, I read that letter you sent to me, every day and will keep reading it until you send me another. Anything from home looks good. I must now close hoping to get a letter from you almost as soon as you get this one from me. Tell the folks hello and be very good to yourself. Write soon. Your Loving Husband Niels.

Sundsvall, Nov. 16, 1908

My Dear Loving Wife –

It is just one week ago today since I wrote to you, so it is with pleasure I again relate a little of my experience which I have had since I wrote to you. You no doubt are anxiously waiting to hear from your loving husband who is so far away from you and who would be very happy if he could see you and talk to you for a few minutes. It would be a great pleasure if I could receive a letter from you today so that I might know how my darling wife is getting along. The letter which I suppose Stena sent me, reached Liverpool after I had left. It was sent to Stockholm but they not knowing anyone by my name and not thinking of me coming, sent it back to Liverpool. They have sent for it again and I am expecting it any day. It would do me a great deal of good if I could receive a letter from home. I don't expect to hear from you for about two weeks or more. That is a long time to wait but absence makes the heart grow fonder.

In my last letter to you I believe I wrote of the possibility of me being called to the far north to labor. Myself and Wilford Mortensen of Spring City, Sanpete (the fellow I showed you at Salt Lake depot that was going to Sweden) were called to labor in the Sundsvall Conference. This conference includes the northern part of Sweden and also Finland. Elder Mortensen is going to labor in a place called Östersund about 100 miles northwest of Sundsvall, the place where we are now. I have the honor and privilege of traveling another 500 miles due north to the place which I told you in the last letter that I hated to go. This is the city of Luleå, the most northernly branch in Sweden. I think the days are short and gloomy enough where I am at present, but in Luleå they say the sun is out of sight all but about two hours each day in the winter. This makes it very gloomy and makes us burn a great deal of oil if we want any light. We have to light the lamp about four o'clock here in Sundsvall and in the morning we have to keep it light until 9 o'clock.

Well my dear I don't know as I have any choice as to where I want to labor for there is no place in Sweden that I am stuck on yet. I am willing to go wherever I am called and do the best I can. In the summer it is light nearly all day for the sun only goes down for two hours each day. This is another extreme. I am afraid I will forget to go to bed when it is time and I will have to sleep while the sun is shining. I won't be able to make hay while the sun shines. I feel as though it will be a great experience to me to be in the land of the midnight sun. I suppose I will have a chance to see the northern lights.

Myself with Elder Mortensen left Stockholm last Tuesday night at 9:10. After spending another unpleasant night on the Swedish train we arrived at Sundsvall at 11 o'clock. We were met by Elders Schade and Liljenquist and taken to their headquarters. On arriving at their house we met another Elder David Woodard from Elsinore, Utah. These three elders labor there in the Sundsvall branch. The next morning President Wilhart Schade

and David Woodard left Sundsvall for an eight days journey to some saints, and to distribute tracts and try to make friends while on their way. On account of these two elders being absent, Victor Siljenquist insisted on us remaining until Monday so we could preach to the people. We held meeting and I made an effort to preach. This makes two times that I have pounded the pulpit in Sweden.

Tonight Elder Mortensen and myself will leave Sundsvall. We leave at 6:25 and travel together for about 30 miles then we will have to bid each other goodbye, and we won't meet until next spring when we are at conference. It will take till Wednesday noon before I reach Luleå. The train doesn't go direct so I will have to make two stops. I am glad that I can speak the language a little or I might be left out in the cold. At one place I have to stop off at 11 p.m. so I will have to hunt a bed.

I have written to my companion Alma Monson and notified him of my coming so I suppose he will meet me at the depot. I am going to dinner now then I will finish my epistle....

Well dearest I have had dinner now and I feel like the gospel is true. It is just one month today since I left you at Salt Lake and it seems a long time that I will have to wait before I have the pleasure of seeing you, but I feel well in the cause of truth and am here to make the best of it. I will now have to prepare for traveling. I will write again as soon as I get settled. Well my dear, write as often as you can scrape a nickel and I will try to answer them. From Your Loving Husband xxxxxxxxooooo Nels.

Box 147, Pleasant Grove, Utah, Nov. 19th, 1908
[Envelope addressed to Svartensgaten, Stockholm
(corrected to Svartösten, Luleå), Sweden,
plus forwarding markings, 5¢ postage.
Letter mailed Nov. 20, arrived Stockholm Dec. 5, Luleå Dec. 8.]

Dearest Brother,

We received your card that you sent from Liverpool and was very glad to hear that you were well and had got over the ocean OK, and tickled to note that you had not been seasick. We think you are just a little extra smart to stand your trip so well. Hope you will enjoy your trip across the North Sea as well. Did you take Wm. Lim's advice and eat lots of lemons? We are all well as usual only I think Ernest is coming down with the whooping cough. Lavina's children have all had it and have it yet. And they have all been playing together. Hope it will be a light case.

Today Mart left for his mission, he came over this morning and bade us goodbye. He seems to be feeling pretty well but it is quite hard for a young man to leave home for such a long time. Tears stood in his eyes but I do not need to tell you how he felt because you know by experience and that very recently.

Last Thurs. night the P.G. choir had a surprise on Mart at their home, they gave him a donation of ten dollars. Friday night the Scandinavians had their do in the basement of the meetinghouse for him and Oskerson. They each received \$9.50. There was not such



Martin S. Christiansen

a good turnout as there was to your party and everybody were invited (English and all). They had a pretty good programme arranged. You can imagine that, as they even had your humble sister recite. Monday night they had the missionary dance. We had a good time. The Spanish Fork orchestra played, it's a fine band. Boss Peterson's son Niels belongs to it, he plays the cornet. I like it fully as well as the Epperson.

The Sunday School officers had a party after mutual Tuesday night in the basement of the M. H. There were only about half as many present as there were to yours. The party was in honor of Mart but it was not a surprise as it was discussed in teachers meeting after Sunday School. By the way, they have not put anyone in yet to take your place in Sunday School. Everything is the same as usual.

The P.G. Mercantile store has got a whole glass front, it just looks fine, you would not think it was the same store. Oh yes! Wm. Clark has had the windows of his store washed and the floor washed and the dishes dusted, so there! Mr. Singleton that clerked in the drugstore clerks in Clark's now. That accounts for the revolution. Emma Bush clerks in Clark's store too. Rally, this is very interesting, don't you know?

The neighbors are all very well and inquire about you every time they see us. They all seem very interested in you. I am writing on different paper. I am afraid that so much of the linen paper will be too heavy and I do not want you to pay extra postage on it as it is not worth more than a nickel.

Viola was up today, she had received your letter that you wrote on the North Sea, and she said you had stated in your letter that you had not received my letter that I wrote you to Liverpool. I was disappointed to hear it and I know you must have been disappointed also. I sent my letter two days after Viola sent hers, it must have got lost or detained some way. I sent you a letter to Stockholm on Nov. 6th and hope you have received that one, Lavina sent one the same day.

Maybe you would like a picture of home as it is at this hour. It is now 9:10 o'clock p.m. Ernest has gone to bed and is asleep. Chris is sitting in the rocking chair with his feet upon the stove, a toothpick in his mouth and sound asleep, dreaming of his Edith that has just recently got married to a Mr. Hallet from Provo. Mother is sitting in another rocking chair under the electric light reading "David Copperfield." She is getting a cracker jack to read English. She has read four books since you left. It keeps her from worrying so much about her little boy in Sweden. She is proud of you, I can tell you.

The weather here is just lovely, it is warm enough so we throw the windows and doors open in the daytime but it is a little cold at night. The hay is in the barn, the beets are over to the sugar factory, and the potatoes are in the cellar. The boys have sold some few of the potatoes.

[At this time, living together in the home built over the dugout: Mother, Hannah (father, Andreas, died in 1894 at age 61 {when Niels was almost nine}, Hannah lived until 1919, age 70); daughter Stena (married Clarence Clayton in 1901, he died in 1904), their child Ernest (born in 1903); and son Chris (who married in 1911 {Delilah} at age 34). Other siblings were Jens, the oldest (married Lavina in 1900) and Carrie, the middle child



Hannah Carlson Fugal

(married John Edward Christensen, Lavina's brother, in 1897). Of interest, Carrie died in 1928 and Stena married John C. in 1929. These were Niels' four (all older) siblings.]

John Christensen was over last week and ploughed down in the field and they have planted their fall grain. I think Jens is going to mark it off tomorrow. Lewis Nielson still works here every day. He is hauling manure now and has been for three days, there is lots more to haul yet.

How are you fixed with money? You must write and let us know before you are out, it takes a long time to answer each other's letters. Mother says you must buy yourself a new overcoat as soon as you can. She says you must look respectful and neat.

We are expecting to hear from you in a few days and hope you will write often as we are all very anxious to know how you are. As you haven't a feather cushion to sit on, I will close before you get corns. Trusting you may have health and be prosperous in your labors. I am your humble servant and Sis. Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Nov. 20, 1908
[Letter marked as "No. 5" (first four are missing).]

My Dearest Nels:

I got your letter that you wrote on the North Sea night before last and was so glad to hear from you again. I wasn't expecting it so soon for after I got your card from Liverpool I didn't think you would write again until you got there so you can imagine what a pleasant surprise it was. Yesterday I took your letter up and read it to Stena and your mother. They were glad to hear from you too. I am glad you got my letter at Liverpool. I was afraid you wouldn't get it. I gave your Liverpool address to the folks the day I got your card with it on and Stena wrote to you the next day but her letter was a day later than mine and I guess it didn't get there. It was too bad to disappoint you but she thot sure you would get it.

I have already written three letters to Sweden to you. I got the headquarters address over three weeks ago from Jeppie Nielson and gave it to Stena and Lavina and they both wrote to you too. So you will hear from home sooner than you expected. This is the fifth letter I have written to you since you left, tell me if you get them all when you answer this letter, won't you dear? I have received six letters from you and eight postcards.

Your mother, Stena, Ernest and I are going out to Carrie's today in the surrey. Oh dearest I wish you were here to go with. I am so lonesome without you. It seems like you have been gone long enough to be back now. Mart left here yesterday morning and he leaves Salt Lake today so I guess you will see him before long. I haven't seen him since Sunday and so I didn't get to tell him goodbye. They had a dance for him and Oscarson Monday night but I didn't go. Then the Sunday School teachers had a party for Mart Tuesday night and I didn't go to that either. I have been to Sunday School every since you left and am going next Sunday but after that I don't think I will be able to go anymore.

Oh Nels we have got a nice big duck for Thanksgiving and oh I do wish you could be

here to help eat it. Ike is coming down for dinner. I told Esther [sister] that I was going to send you a piece of duck and some potatoes and gravy. Do you think it would be very good by the time it got there?

Esther and Ike are going to be married the 2nd of December, that is just twelve days. I guess they will be married before you get this letter. We have been sewing quilt blocks yesterday. We are going to make a quilt just alike. I wish I was going to use mine as soon as she is hers, don't you dear? Ike gave Esther a gold watch and chain the other day that cost \$40.00. It is pretty but I like mine as well. She has got an engagement ring too. Dell Banks is going to be married Wednesday. Annie [sister] is going over tonight and stay till after the wedding. [Dell was the youngest brother of Elias, Annie's deceased husband. He married Harriett McKell (younger sister of Ruby Fugal's mother) and also (polygamy) Mary Sophia Jex (whose grandparents and Harriett's were one and the same).]

Jens has got all the potatoes and beets up. He didn't have to pit any of the beets. Louis is still working up there. He has been there ever since you left.

Well dearest I was glad to hear that you hadn't been sick since you left and I do hope that you will have good health all the time you are away. I hope that you will enjoy the work and that you will do much good while you are away. It seems such a long time now looking ahead until we see each other again but I hope that you will be so interested in the work that the time will not seem so very long to you. Stena is going to write to you again before long. May the Lord bless you and be with you at all times is the constant prayer of your wife, Viola xxxxxxxx

Annie said to tell you hello and Esther said she would send you a card in a day or two. Write often, it is so nice to hear from you. Your mother and Stena will be here in a little while and then I will go with to Carrie's.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Nov. 29, 1908
[Written on onion skin paper.]

My Dear Husband:

It has just been a week since I wrote to you last but it seems much longer. I have forgotten what I told you in the last letter so if I tell you the same thing over again it will be alright, won't it dearest? The last time I wrote to you the weather was fine, now everything is covered with snow. I believe it was Sunday night that started to snow and it snowed a little all day Monday. I don't know just how deep the snow is but it is quite deep and is frozen. It is a little warmer today but yesterday it was freezing all day. We washed yesterday and the clothes would freeze as soon as they were hung out. I am sitting here by the stove now while writing and am not any too warm. I hope it is nice weather where you are. I suppose you had a better trip than Mart will have, it is so much colder now than it was when you went. I am glad you went when you did for I don't think it would be a bit nice to travel now.

I told you in my last letter that Esther and Ike were going to be married the 2nd of Dec. but



Esther and Viola

I think they will wait a week longer, that will be the 9th of Dec. They are going to live in two rooms of Sundberg's house until spring and then they are going to get a place. I guess they have been getting furniture and lots of things. I do wish that you and I could start to house-keeping that soon but that is impossible so I guess we will have to be contented. As soon as you get home we will get some kind of a place and live by ourselves, won't we dear? We don't want to live with other people any more.

I suppose you are settled down now and are hard at work. I got your last letter Tuesday night, the one from Stockholm. Esther and I walked down thru the snow at night and I felt well paid when I got your letter. Annie is still in Spanish Fork. She went over a week ago Friday to Dell's wedding. He was married last Wednesday. Tomorrow is Sunday but I don't think I shall go to Sunday School. Perlinda's class has joined ours now. I thot the boys in my class were mean till hers came down and now I think they are pretty good by the side of hers. I guess Perlinda [Christiansen, Martin's sister] will think I quit Sunday School because she came down but I can't help what she thinks, I can't go any more. You told Mart in that letter to bring your ring but Mart had gone when the letter came and Perlinda opened it and read it. Do you want me to send you your ring?

Thanksgiving day Ike was here for dinner and stayed all afternoon. Maybe you think I wasn't lonesome and wishing that you were here. At night he and Esther went to the dance. It was the first time I missed going to a dance Thanksgiving night since I can remember but then I guess it won't be the last for my dancing days are nearly over.

Jennie Rasmussen is married to a fellow from American Fork. Aunt Lettie [only living child, born 1875, from the polygamist marriage of Viola's grandfather, Joseph C. who died in 1880 at age 56; her mother, Martha Alldredge Keller, died in 1925 at age 86] had a rag bee yesterday but we were washing so we didn't go. She just passed here going downtown so I went out and talked to her and she is going to call for me when she comes back and I will go up and sew today. I haven't been up to your place for over a week. We have been so busy making Esther's quilts and sewing for her and then it has been so stormy too. I saw Stena Sunday and that's the last time I have seen anyone of them. She got your letter a week ago today from Stockholm and when she told me about it Sunday I felt sure I would get one that day but I was disappointed. Then Monday I was disappointed again and Tuesday again. I had just about given up all hopes and Tuesday night I went down but didn't expect to get one and so I was surprised and it was a very pleasant surprise. I wouldn't have been expecting it if Stena hadn't got one and that one came for Mart Saturday too and I thot if you could write to both of them you could surely write to me too, but it came at last and was very welcome.

Esther is going up and clean up her rooms today and put down carpets. I will write again in a week. This is the fifth letter I have written to Sweden and one to Liverpool, six in all, have you got them all, Nels? I am so glad that you have been well while you have been gone and do hope and pray that you may have good health all the time you are away and enjoy yourself very much. I may call in and see your folks when I come from Aunt Lettie's and then I will tell you how they are. I will let Pa post this when he goes to Seventy's meeting tomorrow. The last letter I wrote was posted Friday and this one will be Sunday, just two days over a week. We went out to Carrie's the day I posted your last letter and had a nice time. Stena and I got a pretty post card to send to you but Stena has

mine up there so I guess I won't send it till next time unless I get it when I call in tonight.

It is getting quite warm now. The sun is shining and if the ground was dry it would be quite pleasant. I believe I told you before that they got all the beets and potatoes up and didn't pit any of the beets.

Well dearest, I had to stop writing to go up to Aunt Lettie's and after I left there I went over to your place for a little while. They are all right and Stena is going to write to you tonight. I am going up there tomorrow for dinner. I had supper up to Aunt Lettie's and she said to tell you that she wished you had been there too and you bet I wished so too. Be sure and tell me if you have got all my letters. Esther and Ike just left to go up to Sundbergs. Esther goes up there every [torn] ... with Ike and then they ... back down here. I ... didn't send you way up north there.

Leona Jenson, Steve's daughter, was married yesterday to a fellow from Midway. They were married in Provo and next Wednesday they are going to the temple to be married over again. There is no more news now that I can think of so will close for this time. Write to me often dearest and tell me all about it. It seems a year since I saw you. Please write soon and don't forget, yours forever, Viola.

P.S. This is the card I told you about, I got it tonight. I don't know whether you will get another letter from me before Xmas so will wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Nov. 29, 1908
[Still forwarding, from Stockholm to Svartöstad, Luleå, Sweden.]

Dearest Brother,

Received your dear letter that you sent from Stockholm OK and was more than pleased to hear from you and to note that you were well. Too bad you had to sit up all night in that crowded car but hope you will be sure to keep your feet dry and dress warmly. Have you bought yourself a new overcoat, if not you better get you one so you can keep yourself warm and comfortable.

Today I went to Sunday School. It seems about the same as usual. Today they summed up all those that have attended S.S. regularly and are going to award them presents Christmas. We had twelve in our class that makes us feel fine. Viola was up to see us today. I have just come home from seeing her home and she played me a few tunes on the graphophone. She played Arawana and Ten Thousand Fathoms Deep. It sounded just like it might have been you singing it hopping up and down in your big high-topped shoes and swinging the towel around Viola's head. Say kid, it's as cold as blazes here now, we have had snow here for about a week, it squeaks pretty under your shoes. I suppose there is plenty of snow and cold weather where you are.

I was talking to Perlinda today, she had received some cards from Mart from the Niagara Falls, and he is feeling fine and was going to get on the ship yesterday morning. He sails from Portland, Maine. Perlinda received the letter you sent to Mart two days after he had

gone, so we haven't sent your ring yet but I guess Viola will send it in the sweet by in by.

By the way, Esther and Isaac are going to step off the earth next week. Thanksgiving we had all the folks gathered here except Viola and she had promised Esther that she would stay home that day because Isaac was going to eat dinner to Youngs. We had quite a nice time but it would have been nicer if you could have been with us too. It did not seem complete without you.

Leona, Stephen Jenson's dater, got married last Friday to a fellow from Midway. Isn't this interesting? Lew has been plowing in the snow for three days. The boys did not get their plowing done before the storm so Lew is wading knee deep in the snow and mud. But he can't plow any more now until it thaws.

Albean has bought all the sheep now, he took the last three old sheep the other day. Mother got Joe Jacobson to shear the lambs. We are not going to sell them now. I guess we will keep them until spring unless we eat them all before then.

Next Tuesday we are going to kill the pigs, won't that be a butchering for you though. We are going to sell two and keep one. Jens has decided not to keep his pigs another year, so he will have his killed some time this fall too.

Oh yes! We had a parade here the other night. Jens, Chris, Lew, and I were out getting the chickens out of the trees, Jens would look up to grab a chicken, then the chicken would fly up a little higher and he would get his face full of snow. I didn't do anything only carry the hens to the coop and put them on the roost. Mother sold about thirty of them so we only have a couple of dozen left.

Chris has a regular customer now to buy potatoes who comes down once a week and gets her cart full. That's all Lotta can pull up the hill. He is doing a rushing business I can tell you. He received a check from the Fruit & Produce Co. amounting to \$37.00. They wrote that that was payment in full. Jens and I counted up the number of cases we had sold and averaged it up we cleared about nine cents a box for pears and all. We certainly received a fortune on our fruit this year. That was about enough to pay Lew and for picking it.

Just think Ally has had the whooping cough but is OK and goes to Provo to school. He started last Monday. He is taking the missionary course.

Today Ezra Walker spoke in meeting and he said that he did not go without his dinner while he was on his mission. He said the way he did he and his companion would go to a place about 11:30 o'clock and ask the lady of the house if they could go in the house and rest a while, she would say yes and while they were resting they could smell the dinner a cooking and of course she invited them to have dinner with them. Sometimes they would call at a place about noon and ask for the man of the house and sit down on the porch and wait until he came home from the field. While they were resting they would be singing or humming and the lady could hear them in the house. They took dinner with the family to be sure and the people invited them to sing. Of course they sang and the people were so charmed with them that they were invited there several times. If I don't quit soon you

will think I'm writing you a sermon but I thought maybe you would like to hear some of Ezra's experience.

Be sure and write to us often. I hope they do not send you way up north where you cannot see the sun but hope you are to labor in some nice place. I guess you are busy now trying to read Swedish. Have you given them an oration yet?

I suppose you have received three letters from me by now. I wrote you one on the 20th. Mother asked me to write you a little poem in Danish but I will have to write it in English the best I can. It is this:

If sorrow seeks to win your heart anytime,
Drop a tear and sing a song, and it will disappear.

I notice that it doesn't rhyme like mother said it but it's as near it as I can write it. She feels pretty good and is sitting under the light reading and Chris is in his natural position asleep in the rocking chair. Ernest coughs about the same or else he is well. He talks about you every day and wants to know if you can't come home on a horse from Sweden. If I don't end my epistle now you will need King Oscar's sympathy. So goodnight and be very good to Nels. Hope you may be blessed with good health and some good friends.

Your Loving Sis Stena.

P.S. Chris was going to write you this time but he says there isn't room for any more this time.

Svartösten, Nov. 30, 1908

My Dear Loving Wife –

It is now 10 p.m. Monday night and I am determined to write you a letter before I go to bed. I have been wanting to write to you for the last three days but haven't had a chance. Saturday we were visiting saints, Saturday night we had English class, Sunday we held Sunday School and meeting, Sunday night we had a gentleman visitor, and today we have been visiting saints at Karlsvick, a town about three miles from here. I know that you like to get many letters from your dear and I am going to try to make it a point to write to you at least once a week and hope you will do the same for there is nothing that gives me more joy than to hear from home.

I have received those letters which you sent with only a two cent stamp and you may rest assured that I am thankful that you had the presence of mind to find out my Sweden address. The last two letters I received from you stated that you had not heard from me since I left Boston so I would not have heard from you for over a week yet, so it is nice you learned the Stockholm address.

Well my dear, I am so tired that I can scarcely hold my head up, for we have walked about six miles over the slick ice and snow on the Luleå river but I am determined to write to my darling. I suppose I will get used to walking before I go home for we have to walk every place we go. The people here have a sort of a sleigh that they stand on, with one foot and kick with the other, they can go quite fast in this way. When we were coming home we met several of them. Sometimes the ladies sit on the sleigh and the men stand on the back and kick them along. Sometimes we see one horse hitched to a sleigh but never two. The people in this country couldn't drive two horses, they don't know how to handle one. [Refer to photo, taken of Niels' grandson-in-law, Eldon Olsen, who also went on a mission to Sweden.]

If my letter isn't interesting, please excuse me for I don't feel twice as good as I could for I have caught a cold and have a headache but I hope I will feel better in the morning. The time is passing a little more rapidly than I expected it would. It seems as though we have plenty to do to keep us busy. We only eat two meals per day but it seems as though we are cooking and washing dishes nearly all the time. I would like very well to have you with me so you could do the house work and I would have more time to study and go tracting. If I ever come on another mission I will bring you will me, then the time will pass quicker for both of us.

I have only been tracting two days since I came here but I had pretty good success those two days. I find that I am lame in the language and that I haven't a good knowledge of the gospel, but I believe if I will be humble and studious that I will acquire both. There are several people here that want to learn English so we are going to spend two nights a week in giving English lessons. I believe I will learn the Swedish easier by teaching English than any other method for we have a book with both languages in and I will learn the Swedish easier than they will the English. Yesterday I preached for five minutes and I know I couldn't preach that long in the English when I was home so I must be improving a little. I have been in Sweden four Sundays and have had to talk each time. If I keep this



Swedish Sled
(Eldon Olsen)

up all the time I am on a mission I ought to learn to preach. I don't know of anything I would rather do than preach, if I only could preach influentially but that takes practice and an education. We expect to have Sunday School and meeting every Sunday this winter so we will get some practice.

I am glad to hear that you attend Sunday School regularly and hope you will continue as long as you can. It seems quite funny alright that they don't erase my name from the roll but I suppose they want to get someone in my place first. When they get someone please tell me who it is. I am glad to hear that you have been sewing dresses, for as long as you have plenty to do the time will pass much faster. If all goes well these two years will soon pass by and both you and I will be very glad that I came on a mission. When we meet each other it will be the happiest reunion of our lives, so let us keep up courage and realize that it is a great blessing to both you and I that I have been called to go out into the world to preach the gospel.

I am pleased to hear that Esther and Annie will speak to each other now and hope that they will always have enough sisterly love to speak to each other. What wouldn't I give now if I could speak to you or my brother or sister and how would Esther and Annie feel if something should happen so they could never get to speak to each other. I have an idea that it would grind on their conscience the rest of their lives. We never miss the water until the well goes dry. By the way, do you know when Ike and Esther are going to get wed? Did Ike make Esther a present of her new coat? If he did it is a very good sign.

Well dear, the days pass by pretty fast but when I think of two years it seems quite a while. I don't want to waste these two years that I spend here, I hope that I will be able to keep up with the time as it quickly passes away. We have bought us an alarm clock now so we may get up in the morning and study. If a person will only keep busy there is no question but what the time will pass rapidly. We are invited to spend a week during Xmas at a family of saints in the town of Töre, and I suppose we will go there if we have money enough. It is a distance of fifty miles. I believe they celebrate Xmas to the top notch in Sweden, so if we go we will no doubt enjoy ourselves. I suppose we will do tracting while there and probably hold meetings.

The Luleå Branch is a very large one but there are only twenty-three saints in it. There are only two here in Svartösten, the rest are scattered all over the branch but we are required to visit them at least once a year.

Well dearest, when this letter reaches you two months of my time will have passed away and it will soon be Christmas. I would like to spend Xmas with you but it is impossible so I will send you a card with this letter to remind you that I will think of you at Xmas. I must now close as I have no more space. Don't forget to write often and I will do the same. Give all the folks and Ike my best regards and tell them that I am feeling fine in the work that I am engaged in and that I expect to write to them in the near future. Alma sends his best regards and says he wishes you were here to help us along with the house work. Your Loving Husband Niels

[Of note: I can't tell you my theory re spelling issues; sometimes I'll fix them and sometimes I'll not. Often they are quite quaint and I want them as is. I am a number of

sets ahead and find they don't seem too concerned about proper spelling on names, even the same name in the same letter, so I've modified a few as seems logical but since I am not always sure, they may well be inaccurate.]

Pleasant Grove, December 5, 1908

[First letter from home with the correct address, Svartösten, Luleå, Sweden.]

Dear Bro:

You will no doubt think it queer that I write you again so soon, but just wanted to say hello to you before Xmas. And so you are now in the frozen land of the north! It seems cold to think of you way up there but you are just the lad to make the best of conditions. It is nice you have a friend from home as a companion. The weather has been mild here for a few days but last night turned cold again. The boys will be thru plowing in about 3 days. The weather has been so disagreeable it has been very awkward to work to good advantage. But in two or three days all the beet ground (that is the ground that had beets in this year and the extra 2 acres they will put beets in next year) also that lucerne ground will be plowed. Today will finish the buggy shed. It is made larger than they at first figured and it will certainly look nice. Mrs. Annie Larson is going to have a full set of bathroom fixtures in her house right away and tomorrow Jens can start at Stewart's. That will be two nice jobs. Sundberg comes next in line.

Must tell you my troubles now. Well I haven't any, come to think. We are all feeling fine and have plenty to eat and wear. Say Niels you know we had a lot full of scrubby apples and Mrs. Lav. Fugal wasn't going to bother about one bushel. No Sir! Well she came to think they might look better when winter set in so she set to work and picked apples all of her spare time for eleven days and then what should happen? Niels Swenson came in and offered her 25¢ per bu. for the best of the windfalls, that is Jonathans, and 50¢ for the hand picked ones. So I sold him 32 bus. and got him to buy us two barrels in S.L.C. and we emptied one so we had three barrels of cider made up and I have piled enough more good apples for two more barrels. These I covered with straw (not the barrels). And I still have about 20 or 25 bushels of Winter Persimmons and wine saps which are hand picked and will sell about New Year's time, so Swenson says. I know it sounds selfish for me to say "I" but then you know how it is, the men can't bother with such stuff when there is so much other work crowding and I felt just fine about it. (Not refined tho.) And now kid since you can't have any of my scrub apples I want you to have the price of a Xmas dinner out of them. It isn't much, I know, but then I think it will buy a dinner for Xmas and I want you to use it for that please. Would send you a little \$5 dollar bill instead of \$2 but as it is not too certain to go thru like this I thot I would try the latter amount, and if that works all right, won't be so much afraid another time.

Last Tuesday we sold our pigs. They were not large, weighing about 275 pounds each. But then they have only had altogether last year and this, about 6 or 7 bu. of chop feed and last year two bushels of corn so they have not cost us much. They got fruit right up to the last week. We have also sold all but 12 good chickens and they will have a little warm corner fixed up for them. Well Niels I promised not to write so much next time but now I will be good and not write for a long – no I won't promise that either so goodbye kid for a spell. Remember us kindly to Bro. Monson. Praying Heaven to bless you in

every way and wishing you both a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year I am as ever
Lavina.

Jens would like to have written too but oh he is so busy and he has been feeling fine too!
He will do some night work down at Mercantile. There is some changes and additions in
the electric lighting. Jens says there is now plowed nine acres of ground altogether.

Pleasant Grove, UT, December 6, 1908

My Dear Darling Husband:

The last letter I got from you was the one you wrote at Sundsvall Nov. 16. I got it last
Wednesday, Dec. 2nd. This is the sixth letter I have written to Sweden, tell me if you got
them all. The first one I wrote was just a little while (about a week) after the one I wrote
to Liverpool. I got the Swedish mission address from Jeppie Nielson and wrote to you
the last of Oct. or the first of Nov. I don't remember which now and I thot sure you
would get it a long time ago. It has been a long time since you got the one I wrote to
Liverpool and I wrote the one to Sweden about a week after.

I am sewing a little now to get some money to buy stamps with. I started a dress for a
Wilson girl Friday afternoon and have nearly got it finished. I am going to help Annie
sew till Xmas and get half.

Your Uncle Isaac was here Friday and killed our pigs. He killed the pigs up to your place
Tuesday. They sold two to Boulters and one to Luis and then kept two.

Stena is out on the bench. She went out Wednesday. Your mother was here for a few
minutes today. She was on her way to the Old Lady's. Today is Sunday you know and it
has been a long old day. I have quit Sunday School and Sunday seems so long.

Esther and Ike are going to Salt Lake day after tomorrow to get married. They are going
to live in two rooms of Sundberg's house till spring. It makes me long for the time when
we will start to housekeeping when I see them buying furniture and fixing up their house.

Pa went to Spanish Fork today to Grandpa's funeral. You know that is my mother's
father. He was 85 years old and died Friday.

You know dearest you told me before you went that Uncle Jack Houston [Lettie's
husband] said he wanted you to have Christmas dinner with them. Today Aunt Lettie
gave ma a dollar and said to send it to you for your Xmas dinner so I will enclose it in this
letter. I do wish I could be there and help you eat your dinner. Don't you Sweetheart? I
was so sorry when I heard they had sent you way up to the North Pole but I suppose it
was for the best. I hope you will be contented and will like the work.

Annie's kids have both got the whooping cough quite bad. The last letter I wrote I sent a
post card with it, be sure and tell me if you got it. The last time I wrote everything was
covered with snow, now it is all gone but I guess we will have more before long.

I have dreamed once or twice that I was where you was and could see you all the time but you wouldn't take a bit of notice of me and acted like you didn't know me but that was only a dream wasn't it Nels. I can't think of any more news. I am quite busy now days so I guess I won't write again till next Sunday. I guess once a week is as often as I can afford to write anyhow.

Ike just now came and he and Esther act so soft that it makes me sick so I guess I will have to cut this letter short. I guess Esther and Ike are going downtown so I will send this letter with them because I want you to be sure and get it before Xmas. When you answer this tell me if you got it before Xmas. It is nearly three weeks till then I should think you would surely get it in that time.

You can't imagine how long it seems since you left. I will be so glad when you come home but I guess it is too soon to think of when you come home now. I sent one of our pictures to Gene [brother] and he was quite glad to get it. It is a week today since I was up to your place. I was up there for dinner. I have been quite busy since and so haven't been up. I don't know whether I will get to go up again before next Sunday or not.

I haven't been to Choir Practice since you left. Frank asks me every time he sees me but I don't want to go alone and now I don't want to go at all. Well goodbye darling Nels, write often and tell me if you get the dollar for your Xmas dinner. They are going down town now so goodnight Sweetheart, will write again soon, your loving wife Viola.
xxxxoooo Write soon.

Svartösten, December 7, 1908

My Dear Darling Wife –

Today I wrote a letter to Jens but I didn't tell him so much but what I can write a little to you tonight. It seems good to sit down and think about what I would like to tell my darling wife. Of course it isn't so nice as if I was with you so we could talk to each other but I am very thankful that we can receive letters from each other.

It is nearly two weeks since I received your last letter, in it you stated that you wouldn't write until you received one from me so I don't know when to look for one, but I am expecting one any day. It is over a month since I met your letter at Liverpool, so if you had not gotten my Stockholm address from Jeppie Nielsen, you see that I wouldn't have received a letter from you for some time yet. I am very glad you got it.

Well dearest, how is everything with you now? I hope you are well and don't feel too lonesome. We want to bear in mind that there are good times coming and that someday we shall meet again and then everything will be joy and satisfaction. It is just one month today since I signed my name in the missionary record book in Stockholm. It is from that time that my days are numbered here in the mission field. By the time you receive this letter it will be over two months since I left you at Salt Lake City. It seems an awful long time since then, but the days seem to pass by quite rapidly now. I am very busy studying, cooking, teaching English, visiting saints and strangers and tracting and selling books. If I will keep busy I think the time will pass by pretty fast, but if I should lay around and do

nothing I know I would get discouraged. We missionaries need not run out of work for there are many people out here that haven't heard the bright side of Mormonism, they only get to hear what the priests have to say about us, and occasionally some very rude, ridiculous reports come out in the papers about us. But this only makes things better, it livens the people, it creates a feeling of investigation, it makes the people curious to find out something about Mormons and their religious beliefs.

We held meeting and Sunday School yesterday. We have about fifteen children in our Sunday School class and about the same number attend our meetings. This is not very many but we are going to tract all of Svartöstad and invite them out to our meetings so probably by and by when I become able to preach a little we will have more investigators. I certainly realize my weakness in the Swedish language and a good knowledge of the gospel, but by persevering and being humble I believe that the Lord will bless me with both.

In your letter you ask if I had seen Lawrence Monson yet. I haven't and probably I won't get a chance for we are a long distance apart and by the time I change branches I suppose Lawrence will go home. Chances are that I won't see Mart for a long time and probably not till I am ready to go home, it all depends on how near he will be called to labor with the Sundsvall Conference. Lawrence had read of me being called to labor here in Sweden so the other day I received a card with his photo on. He is well and seems to be enjoying himself.

Well dearest, how is Esther and Ike making it? I suppose their love is almost warm enough to melt. Once in a while I imagine that I can hear your phonograph singing Arrah Wana! If you can detect the words of that song I wish you would copy them and send them to me. You need not write the chorus for I know it.

In thinking over the names of those who contributed for my mission it seems as though we didn't get Hyrum Hiselt on the list. He gave me one dollar. If his name doesn't appear, please give him credit. Well dearest there are several that I had ought to write to but it seems as though I can't get around to it. Tell Annie and Esther that I am going to write them either tomorrow or the next day. You might send me your brothers' addresses, all three of them so I can write to them whenever I feel so disposed. I hope you will have a good time Xmas and that the New Year will bring nothing to you but happiness. Give me best regards to all the folks and tell them that I am feeling fine. Don't forget Aunt Lettie, tell her I feel better now than I did the last time I saw her. I must now close hoping to hear from my darling wife often. Your Loving Husband Niels Fugal.
xxxxxxx ooooo

Pl. Grove, Dec. 7, 1908

Dear Bro. Neils [yes, Neils]

I received your most welcome letter on the 5th. We was glad to hear from you and to note you are well. I hope you will like the place where you are laboring and also your partner. I should think he would be a fine partner. I was in hopes they would not send you so far north but you must dress according to the climate you are in. I imagine the people are

only half civil that far north but maybe that is only my imagination. [Those of you who may not know, this is typical Fugal humor, very, very dry. Watch for it.] Say where are you anyway, are you in Finland, Lapland, Iceland, or are you in the north part of Sweden proper.

It has stormed here a quite bit, we had about 8 inches snow and a lot of rain. We have had the potatoes up a long time and the beets 2 weeks. We had some over 30 tons. The potatoes was only a good 1/2 crop. We had both cellars full with [?]'s share. We have sold nearly 3 loads to peddlers. There hasn't been any market this fall. We get 35¢. We have hauled about 25 loads of [?] and have all but an acre of plowing done. We have had Louis to work for us until a week ago, he is with his brother-in-law peddling a couple of trips. I guess he will be back in a day or 2. We have had Ren 4 days. We played in the snow. We are breaking up the 3 acre of lucerne now, 1/3 of it is done, it is like spring weather here now, but it looks stormy. We are building a buggy shed now. We sold 3 buggies since you left – auto seat to Ray Frampton, cheap buggy to Lonzo Hobbs' mother and one to John Boulter – that is pretty good.

Do the people talk like Birta or like Carl Anderson. How far are you from the Atlantic or the North Sea?

I am in a hurry to get this letter off so I will close by sending you a money order for ~~\$40.00~~ ~~\$45.00~~ \$50.00. You must let us know how you want money sent, once a month or every 2 months. You must be careful where you keep you money so someone won't steal it. I would suggest you carry most of it and hide the rest in some corner. I guess you will know best.

With best wishes from us all. And hope you are not suffering for anything. Ma says you must get a warm overcoat. Your Bro. C. A. Fugal

P.S. Dec. 9, 1908

I am sorry to say we was delayed 2 or 3 days in getting the international money order for you. We sent with Thom Larson to Provo, post offices of the 4 class can't handle that kind of order. Lavina sent you \$2.00 in green backs I hope you will get that in time before you need money because I think it will be a good thing if you won't have to borrow any money then you will be less obligated as there are some people who you don't want to be obligated to too much or they will get it in for you if they can. I hope this will reach you without any further delay. Chris

I hope you have the spirit of your mission by now. When you get your money from the post office they will ask you who sent the order, you must tell them T. C. Larson.

Svartösten, Dec. 14, 1908

My Dear Viola –

Your most welcomed letter written Nov. 20, was received just the day after I sent you the last one, so now I take great pleasure in writing to you again. You say this is the fifth



Chris Fugal

letter you have sent me since I left. You need not worry but what they have all been received and with a hearty welcome. I believe you have received all that I had written up to that time. You never made mention of the letter I wrote you while on the Atlantic but I suppose you received it OK.

Your letter brought very good news. When I heard that Jens had the potatoes and beets all dug, and without siloing [?] any beets, it made me rejoice. It makes me feel good to hear that the work is progressing without my help. Again I was surprised but pleased to hear that Esther and Ike are married. It was something I looked for but not so sudden. I think they are getting married in a pretty good season of the year, for they will not be crowded to death with work like you and I were. They can have their honeymoon and spend Xmas the same time. It seems strange that I am so far away from home that I didn't know they were married until one week after it happened, although you sent me word twelve days before they were wed. If I had known it before perhaps my companions and I would have celebrated the event by cooking an extra good breakfast on the morning of the 3rd at 7 a.m., here it is 11 p.m. there of the previous day so you see if we had known about it, it might at least been the subject of the day. Well I suppose Esther and Ike are very happy now. I hope they will always be happy and live long with many blessings.

You said you were making each a quilt, and you asked if I did not wish you would have the privilege of using yours as quick as Esther will hers. Yes, my dear, I certainly do, but at the same time, in two years you and I will have a reunion that will cause us to be more happy than they are at the present. In two years time, we will have passed through an experience that we will always be proud of, providing everything goes well.

You say that you are going to discontinue attending Sunday School now. Is it necessary for you to stop now? Of course you know best but my advice is that you take advantage of the time as long as possible, both in your religious duties and pleasure. You will get all the housing up you want after a while. Take these advices as suggestions and not as commandments.

You mentioned going with Mother and Stena out to Carrie's and wishing that I was with you. When I read it, it certainly made me reflect. I thought of the many times you and I have taken rides and while riding how we would talk about the future. Well dearest, the future is here, we are married, I am now on a mission, and the future is still creeping rapidly toward us. It seems a very short time since we were planning to get married and where we would live, and now it is four months since we were wed. The hours, days, weeks, and months will soon glide by and the first thing we will know, two years will have rolled by since we parted at Salt Lake depot with our hearts bitterly aching. I am feeling good at present and hope you feel well and encouraged. I hope you feel like you have something to look forth to with pleasure.

Well dearest, I was afraid that time would pass so slowly because I wouldn't have anything to do, but I find that I have more to do than I can do. A missionary needs never to be out of work, for the whole world needs missionary work. We have our Sunday School and meeting on Sundays to take our attention and during the week we have three nights set apart for teaching English. There are five little girls here in Svartösten and two large boys from Luleå that we are trying to teach. The boys come twice a week and

the girls once. I haven't done any tracting for some time but expect to try my luck again tomorrow. The people here seem quite friendly but they are not religious, many are infidels. We have two saints here in Svartösten, a mother and her daughter, but they are not very staunch and I am afraid if they don't take a change, that they will apostatize. We have a good saint at Karlsvik, three miles from here. We have her do our washing.

We expect to go to Töre next Monday Dec. 21 to spend a week during Xmas. I will write you again before I go, for perhaps I wouldn't get a chance to write again till I get back. We are going to take tracts and books with us so we don't intend to waste any time. Well dear wife write often and take life as pleasantly as possible, give the folks my best regards and tell them I feel fine considering. Your Loving Husband. Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 14, 1908

My Dearest Nels:

It has been a week since I wrote to you last but it seems two weeks anyway. I sent you a dollar in the letter that Aunt Lettie gave you for your Xmas dinner. Did you get it before?

Today is Monday and yesterday was such a long day. I didn't go any place all day but went to Conjoint at night. It was a pretty good meeting. It was the first time I had been out for about three weeks. I went with Esther and Ike. I guess you got my letter where I told you that Esther and Ike were going to be married. They were married last Wednesday the 9th of Dec. They live in two rooms of Sundberg's house and are fixed quite cozy. They have got a nice dresser that cost \$22 and carpets on the floors. I do wish that you and I could live together. When you come back we will get some kind of a place and live alone. I am tired of living with other people but I guess I will have to be content till you get back. It seems a long old time to wait. I almost wish you had refused to go on a mission for we might not ever see each other again now. But I guess you are not sorry you went. I hope not anyhow for you'll have to stay till they get ready to let you come home. I haven't been up to your place since Tuesday and don't know when I will go. I am helping Annie sew a little now.

Last Thursday night the Scandinavians had a dance and were going to send what they made to the missionaries. Mrs. Lund was here Friday and wanted your address so I suppose you will hear from her in the near future. Saturday night the High School had a dance. Next Friday night the Mutual Improvement Association is going to give a dance in Clark's Hall. There is a show here next Wednesday and Thursday night so you see there are plenty of things to go to but I don't go to any of them. I just stay home all the time but then I wouldn't care if you was only here but I don't care anyhow.

Stena has been out to Carrie's for over a week but I guess she is home now but I don't know. I haven't seen her. I'll bet you was glad to get hers and Lavina's letters. They have written more so I guess you have got them before now. Lavina sent you two dollars in a letter the other day. I would have liked to have sent you something for Xmas dearest but didn't know what to send. I guess everybody gives you something but me but it isn't because they think any more of you. Maybe I will be able to send you something before you come back if it's only a dollar.

You asked me if I had met Bro. Monson. I don't remember him but I might have met him. I don't know. I hope that you will like him and that you will get along alright. I believe I have told you all the news. Write often to me. Did those first two letters you got from me just have two cent stamps on? The first two I wrote to Sweden I just put two cents on. I thot that was what it was. Did you have to pay anything for them? If so, how much?

Annie's children have both got the whooping cough. Elias is quite bad. It looks a little like it was going to storm. Chris is building a big shed to put the buggies under. I think it is nearly finished. Pa has sold the sofa and the house looks like a barn now there is nothing in it. Well Nels I guess you are tired of reading this letter now so I will quit. I don't feel quite right today, I am tired of everything and everybody. Write to me often. Goodbye now, take care of yourself. From your Wife.

Dear Nels, I guess you will get this letter before new years. Tell me if you did when you answer. I hope dearest that you will soon learn the language. Be humble and prayerful and the Lord will help you. You asked me to remember you in my prayers. I always do darling husband. With love forever and ever. Viola

Pleasant Grove, Utah, December 15th 1908

Mr. Niels Fugal
Way up north Sweden

Dearest Brother –

It is a long time since I wrote you and I hope you will pardon me not writing before. I have been out to Carrie's for a little over a week. I came home Saturday afternoon. Mother was feeling poorly when I came home and Saturday night she was quite sick. Today she is up sitting in her chair. Hope she will soon be well.

The letter I wrote to you to Liverpool came home the other day. It had been sent to Stockholm and I don't know why not, was very sorry you did not get it but hope you have received the other letters I have written. You have not mentioned that you have received any of them.

I wrote you how the boys were making the junk fly east of the shop, they had a whole carload of buggies come. There was thirty-one buggies in all. The shed they are building between the shop and the chicken coop is almost completed, it is covered with a tin roof and painted black. It's a hummer I can tell you. Soon every square yard of ground in this yard will have a little building on it or else a little piece of implement or junk on it.

Lew is still here, he is plowing today. The ground is covered with one inch of snow but it is mild and nice alright. Jens has another job of plumbing. Wm. Stewart is building a new house and Jens is going to do the plumbing. The Relief Society are getting a cement granary built and the boys are going to put in an iron door.

Last Tuesday night there was a big party out to Art Holmans. There was a big crowd from this ward that went. There is a lady that stays to Jens Monsons that has a dater in the old country that she would like to immigrate to Utah and this party to Holmans was a benefit party to raise means to help this lady out. It was fifty cents a couple and they all had a lovely time. Jens, Lavina and Chris went. Last Thursday night the Scandinavians gave a danced in Clark's Hall. Lavina says it was the best time of the season. I did not go as I was on the Bench. Next Friday night the MIA is going to give a dance. There was conjoint meeting last Sunday night, it was just fine. James Walker had a talk, James Poulson a violin solo accompanied by the organ played by Effie Chipman, a Christmas story by Florence Bullock, a song Jana Lund, and remarks by Wm. Marrott was the programme. Mary Gleason is put in as a Sunday School stake officer, so she will resign teaching in our school.

We were quite disappointed when we heard they had sent you way up north because we feared it would be so disagreeable and cold but we were glad that you had reconciled yourself to it. In the summer it will not be so bad but now it must be dark and cold. If you can only keep good health you will be alright. It isn't probable that they will have you stay there all the time. I kind of felt impressed that they would send you near the north pole or as near as you can get because you look so well, you know. Maybe you will like it as well there as any place in Sweden. We all hope you will.

Glad to note that you have a partner that can cook, hope it tastes good. I suppose you will have to learn the art of cooking too. You will have had made your Xmas cake before you get this letter. Hope your Xmas dinner was a success. We are thinking of having the folks here for Xmas if we are all as well as we expect to be. Wish you could fly home and spend Xmas with us. Mother says they have a great time in Sweden on Xmas, they appreciate the holidays more than we do here in Utah.

I started this letter before dinner and now it is four o'clock. I am going down town today so I will have to hurry and finish it. I have had to stop writing this letter so many times that I scarcely know what I have written. Mother is reading and Ernest is out playing so it is very quiet at present.

Last Fast day Uncle Isaac blessed three of his grandchildren, Ike's baby, Allvin's baby, and Ray's baby. They said they had never known of anyone blessing three grandchildren the same day. Don't know of any news to write so will close wishing you a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. May you be blessed with health and be prospered in your labors. I feel like I am going to get a letter from you today, it is quite a while since we got one. Write often and take good care of Niels. I am your Sis. Stena.

P.S. Mother sends her love and wishes you a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year. Give our regards to Alma.

Herein I send a dollar for your New Year's dinner from Mother.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 21, 1908 [Arrived Luleå Jan. 8]

My Dear Darling Husband:

I was going to write to you Sunday but Gene (my brother) came Sunday morning and so I didn't get to write. [Gene was next older than Viola by two years. He never married, and lived to be 35. This photo is unlabelled but I have a sneaking suspicion it is of Gene.] Then yesterday I was so busy sewing that I didn't have time. We didn't expect Gene home and he came and surprised us. He got a leave of absence for a month. He has to be back the 17th of Jan. It had been three years since I saw him.

I guess you got the letter where I told you Esther was married. She was married the 9th of Dec. Well dearest, it will soon be Xmas. I do wish that you could be here. Esther and Ike are coming down here for Xmas dinner but I guess I will go to your place. Your mother wants me too and I don't know whether they will have dinner there or out to Carrie's. They hadn't decided when I was there last. If they go to Carrie's I guess I will go with.

I went to a show last week. Jens came and wanted me to go with them so he and Lavina and I went. It was something like that magic show that we went to where that fellow was doing all those tricks. That's two shows I have been to since you left. I went once with Esther and Ike.



Gene Young

It is quite cold here now. I can't imagine how you can stand it if it's any colder there than it is here. There is snow on the ground and the kids are all out with their sleighs. I was very sorry to hear that you had caught cold. You must take care of yourself my dearest for I don't know what I would do if you get sick. I do wish I was there to keep house for you and take care of you.

Your mother has been sick but is better now. Annie's children have got the whooping cough. Louisa is almost alright but Elias coughs awfully hard yet.

I have only been up to Esther's once since she was married. I don't go any place now so I don't know any news to tell you. They have quite a few dances and theaters now. I have been helping Annie sew. She had more than she could do before Xmas. I guess I will make two or three dollars. After Xmas I will have to get my own sewing done. We have got one dress to make and one to finish that is nearly made before Xmas. I have got to get to work now so I won't have time to write much more. When you write tell me how many letters you have got from me. I nearly freeze when I go to bed now, it is so cold, and I have to sleep alone since Esther went. You bet I wish you was here to keep me warm. I think of you every night and wish that you were here and I could sleep on your arm all night. It seems such a long time since you left.

Well dearest, I guess I will have to quit. Gene and Pa are talking in here and I forget everything I want to say to you. Pa has sold the sofa to Annie and give the graphophone to Esther. I do wish I didn't have to stay here but I guess I will have to till you get back. Aunt Hanner [Johanna] was glad to get rid of Esther and told her she hoped she wouldn't have to come back and stay again. Pa gave Esther twenty-five dollars and the graphophone when she was married. Aunt Hanner gave her a bed spread like she gave us. When Pa got the graphophone he gave \$30 for it and said it was for me and Esther, then he gave it to her. I wanted him to keep it till I went but Esther wanted it so she got it. [Viola was almost 20 when she got married; Esther was almost 18.]

[Viola's mother died in 1893 at age 30, when Viola was almost five. She had five living siblings at the time, two sisters and three brothers. Her oldest sibling, Allen, was then 15, and her youngest sibling, Esther, was then 2-1/2. Annie was 5-1/2 years older than Viola. Her two other brothers were Joseph, just older than Gene. Her father Leroy Young at age 45 married Johanna Anderson in 1897 on her 48th birthday. Johanna had been a spinster, and they had no children together. Leroy died in 1925 (the same year as Martha, the mother of his half-sister Lettie) at age 73.]

Well dearest I will have to close now. I will write again in a day or two. Write to me often but whatever you do take good care of yourself and don't get sick. I don't know how long Gene will stay here. He is going to Hinckley before he goes back. You know Ed Bishop, that fellow I used to write to, he is going to get married. Goodbye now Nels and may the Lord bless you and be with you always. From your loving Viola.

Svartösten, Dec. 22, 1908

My Dear Wife –



Johanna Anderson Young

Your last letter came to hand with a hearty welcome last Friday. Today is Tuesday and it is a week ago yesterday since I wrote to you. In my last letter I stated that we were going to Töre on Monday to spend Xmas, but we received a letter from the president of the conference stating that all reports both statistical and financial, for the past year, had to be sent in, and that we had to defer our trip till we received an answer as to whether the reports were correct or not. We received these instructions Friday night so we were busy searching books and making out reports Saturday from seven in the morning until 11 at night. Then we walked to Luleå and mailed them so they would go one day sooner. We expect to get returns tomorrow night, if we do and our reports are OK. Then we will leave for Töre either Thursday or Friday, but if our return is delayed perhaps we won't be able to eat our nice Xmas dinner with the Lindgren family. The train doesn't go all the way to Töre so we have to walk about fourteen miles, but that won't hurt us, it will only give us good exercise. It is quite different here to what it was home, for whenever we want to go any place we have to walk. I have not had a ride since I came to Svartösten.

Well my dearest I am very sorry that I disappointed you and caused you to walk down to the office, through the snow two or three times for nothing, expecting to receive a letter from me, but you know I had written to you while on the North Sea and that was just two days before I wrote to Stena, and I wrote to Mart then because I knew that the letter could no more than reach P.G. before he would leave. Don't think that I had forgotten my yen (My Dearest Friend). I wish I could have been home and eat Thanksgiving dinner with you just as much so as you do but we know the condition and we will have to live in fond hopes of meeting again in about two years and partake of the beauties of life. I also feel sorry that you had to miss going to the dance Thanksgiving night, but I suppose it is just about as you say, your best dancing days are over and you have entered into another stage of life. You know everything has its season so we will have to prepare for the new seasons which are awaiting us. Well I suppose Esther and Ike are feeling fine, happy, young and gay, and enjoying their honeymoon by this time. I suppose it causes you to reflect when you see them together, but never mind sweetheart, some day we will meet and then we will be more happy than we ever were before. I have that beautiful card before me now, that you sent me and every time I look at it, it causes me to think deeper about you, and makes me have a great longing in my heart.

I received that card which Esther sent, you might tell her I thank her very much for it. Her card contained words that tell me what she is thinking about. I suppose she is filled with pleasant thoughts. I received a letter from Mart the other day. He is appointed to labor in the Stockholm Conference, so we probably won't get a chance to see each other for a long time and probably not at all till we get back home. He says he had a fine trip and is feeling OK. The other day I wrote a letter to Isaac Jacob, one of the elders who came across the ocean with me but who stayed in England, we were together quite a bit while crossing the ocean and he invited me to take my wife with me and come and visit him and his wife and two children when we have completed our missions. His home is in Heber; he said if we would come up that he would take us out on the Indian Reservation for a pleasure trip, wouldn't that be nice dear?

Well dearest the days are passing rapidly by, I hope the time glides as swiftly for you as it does for me. We have an alarm clock and I get up every morning at seven o'clock and never go to bed earlier than ten o'clock, but still I can't do much in a day. I can't find as

much time for reading as I wish. Two years seem a long time when you look ahead, but each day brings the end nearer, and if the days will always pass as quickly as they seem to now I shall be satisfied. There is much that a missionary could do, but he hasn't time. I am learning a little every day in the new language but I can't read much yet in the Swedish. I can preach for only ten minutes at a time but if I will press on and be humble I believe the Lord will bless me with the words I should speak. I will now close with greatest love, praying that heaven's richest blessings may attend you and that your earnest prayers will go out for your loving husband. Nels. Give my best regards to the folks.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Dec. 25, 1908

My Own Dear Husband:

Tonight is Christmas night and oh dearest you don't know how lonely I am. I would give anything that I have if you were only here. It is now twenty minutes to eleven and I just got home from your mother's. I have been up there all day. I walked down with Chris, he went to the dance. Gene, my brother, is here for Xmas and he and Esther and Ike have all gone to the dance. Do you remember a year ago tonight dear? You and I went to the dance too and tonight you are so far away. We didn't think that night that in one short year (and oh it was a short one) we would be so far apart.

We had a nice time up to your place today. Carrie and John and Jens and Lavina were there and if you had been there too it would have been complete. They gave me so much and I didn't give any of them anything. I didn't want to go up today because I knew I couldn't give them anything but your mother insisted that I should come up. Stena gave me a milk pitcher, Lavina a little souvenir plate with a picture of a sail boat in Utah Lake [I have this same plate!], your mother gave me a shawl to wear on my head, and Carrie a pair of house slippers with fur around the top. They are all just lovely but I did hate to take them. I was wishing I hadn't went up at all because I couldn't give any of them anything. They had a Xmas tree and the kids had a fine time, all but Ernest and he was sick. Lavina is going to have them all there for dinner Sunday. She wants me to come but I don't know whether to or not. Then on new years they want us all to go out to Carrie's.

Gene is going down to see Allen and Joe tomorrow night. Annie got your letter today and when I came home she gave it to me to read and then I had to sit down and have a good cry. I have been lonesome and had the blues all day and then when I read that letter it just put the finishing touches on and I couldn't help it darling Nels. I do wish you were here. I am glad that you haven't been homesick and hope that you won't be. Have you got over your cold yet Nels? Take good care of yourself and don't get sick because if you do I will be tempted to beat my way over there and tend to you.

Mrs. Christiansen got a letter from Mart the other day and he said he got a letter from you at Liverpool.

Hyrum Carlson goes with Mae Wilson and here his wife hasn't been dead six months. Do you think you will forget me that soon Nels? Esther and Ike were down here to dinner today but as I told you before I wasn't home. A week from next Tuesday night the

Scandinavians are going to have a real old Scandinavian dance. Chris says I have to go to it but I can't see it that way. I couldn't go if I wanted to ever so badly. I guess Stena will go and Jens and Lavina and perhaps John and Carrie. Well dearest there isn't any fire in here and I have got quite a bad cold now so I guess I had better go to bed now and finish this letter some other time. The folks have gone to bed. They were in bed when I came home so goodbye and pleasant dreams. I wish you was here to get the bed warm.

Well Nels I started this letter Friday night and as it is Sunday night now I guess I had just as well finish it. I have been up to Lavina's today. The folks were all there for dinner. It's about nine o'clock now and I just got home.

We are all going out to Carrie's Friday. Esther and Ike were down today but they had gone when I got here. Esther was quite mad because I wasn't here. They were down Xmas and I wasn't here then either. I knew they were coming down tonight but I thought they would stay longer or I should have come home sooner.

When I came home from your place Xmas night, Annie and Esther had both got a letter from you that day but there wasn't one for me and you don't know how disappointed I was for it had been over a week since I got a letter from you. I got your letter the next day. It was in Fugal Bros. box and that was why I didn't get it sooner so you see it was alright anyhow. Stena and Jens got a letter too. Jens read his to us all today. You said in Jens' letter that it didn't seem much over two months since you left home. I am glad it doesn't Nels and I hope the time will pass that quick all the time you are away. It seems such a long time to me since you left that it doesn't hardly seem like I have ever seen you. Sometimes I think it isn't right to send you away for so long but I guess if you are satisfied I ought to be. I am almost afraid you won't want to come home when your time is up. Jens said he would like to be there with you for a little while.

Gene is still here but he is going down to Hinckley and stay awhile before he goes back to the army. I have been helping Annie sew and oh I do get so tired. We were so busy before Xmas that we had to work night and day.

Ike hasn't got anything to do now so he washes the dishes, sweeps the floor, helps Esther wash and does nearly all the work and the other morning he got up and got breakfast while she was asleep. It don't seem to me like you and I will ever live together. I mean to have a home of our own and keep house by ourselves. I don't know why it is but I don't believe that we ever will. I wish I could go to sleep and not wake up for two years but as that is impossible I guess I had just as well not wish. I am glad you like it there and like the work but I would like you to think of me sometimes. I don't know what makes me so lonesome lately but I feel like I was all alone and nobody cares anything about me.

I don't know of any news. Ernest had the cramp Xmas but is alright now. It is getting late now so I guess I will quit. If you get tired of reading this letter put it in the stove. I guess everybody is alright at home. Pa gave the graphophone to Esther so I can't get the words till I go up sometime. You wanted my brother's address. Gene's address is: Eugene Young, Tripe A, 14th Calvary, Fort Walla Walla, Washington. Allen's and Joe's address is: Abraham, Millard Co., Utah.

Well I will close now. Write as often as you have time. May the Lord bless you in your labors is the prayer of your loving Viola. xxxoox

[I am typing several months ahead, with no sign of the words being reported, so I will post them here in case they are never sent. Popular 1906 song, written by Theodore F. Morse. If you want to listen to it, go to: <http://jackbaird.spebsqsa.org/>]

Verse 1

"Mid the wild and woolly prairies lived an Indian maid,
ARRAH WANNA queen of fairies of her tribe afraid.
Each night came an Irish laddie buck, with a wedding ring,
He would sit outside her tent and with his bagpipes loudly sing.

Chorus

ARRAH WANNA, on my honor, I'll take care of you,
I'll be kind and true we can love and bill and coo.
In a wigwam built of shamrocks green, we'll make those red men smile
When you're Misses Barney, heap much Carney, from Killarney's Isle.

Verse 2

While the moon shone down upon them ARRAH WANNA sighed,
"Some great race must call you Big Chief, then I'll be your bride,"
"Sure that's easy" whispered Barney, with a smiling face,
"All my fam'ly were good runners and were first in ev'ry race."

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 26th, 1908

Mr. Niels Fugal
Sweden, near the North Pole

Dearest Bro,

Received your long looked for most welcome letter today. The cards were very pretty. Ernest was tickled, he says it is so sweet and cute and mother's was very pretty. We were all so glad to hear from you and to note that you were well. We are all well. Mother is so much better than when I wrote you last. Christmas we had a nice time. John and Carrie and the kids, Jens and Lavina and their kids, and Mrs. Niels Fugal. That's the guests that were here. All that we lacked to make it complete was yourself.

We had a Christmas tree and hung the children's presents on it. They seemed to enjoy it so much. You would have had a good laugh to see Jens and John and the children dance around the tree. Glen Roy went around with his eyes shut so the limbs would not scratch his eyes. It looked too comical for anything to see them dance around. Viola, Lavina, Carrie, mother and I were the spectators. Oh I wish you could have been here. We took

most of the things off the tree last night, it is standing in the corner now looking kind of forlorn with just a few things on, but we will keep it until New Years. There was a dance in Clark's Hall Christmas eve and Christmas night, but I have not been to any of them. Chris went to both. Last night Chris said the dance was fine, there were 120 numbers. Everybody and their servants were there. Monday the Relief Society are going to give the annual dance. Guess I will go to that. The Sunday School concert will be next week. The Scandinavians are going to have their annual dance on the 5th of January. Tomorrow Lavina has invited us over to her house for dinner and Carrie has invited us all to her house for New Years. I expect we will all have a good time. I hope you are having a good time where you are. If it is too poor a place I would not stay there any longer than was necessary. Anyone has better experience where there are lots of people. Perhaps the people are just as good where you are as they are in any other place of Sweden. We had some cold weather here for about four days and then I don't suppose that was anything in comparison with the cold you have there.

Dec. 28th, Saturday night. I was interrupted with my writing. John Nelson sat here swinging his head for a couple of hours and I could not get my mind on my writing. Yesterday we were all to Lavina's for dinner and spent the evening also. We had a nice time. It was a warm day. It has been thawing for a couple of days. It is cloudy this evening so I guess we will have more snow. Lew is still working here. He is hauling manure and then he hauls one load of sand a day for Jens's house. Chris is busy working in the shop and Jens is putting a tin roof on the Relief Society granary, he is about through with that now. Viola was to Lavina's party. She seemed to have a good time. It seems so odd to have Xmas and New Years without you. Ernest is standing here by the table and is telling me what to write to you. He told me to tell you that "Santa Claus brought me a express wagon and some paints and a book and candy and nuts, and Uncle Johnie brought me a top and a ball and Aunt Lavina gave me some lines and bells for Prince." So you can imagine what a swell time the kids had. They ride around in his express wagon and call it an auto bike. Chris is sitting in his usual position asleep. He will soon have to get ready for the dance. It is nearly eight o'clock. I think I will go too.

Mrs. Christiansen received a letter from Mart from Liverpool the day before Christmas and she let me read it. He stated in his letter that he had received a letter at Liverpool from you and that you seemed to feel fine if you were up north. He stated also that he was anxious to get to work. I was to the store the other day and Joe Halliday asked me how you were getting along and said that you had promised to write to him. No doubt he would be pleased to hear from you sometime when you are not busy. [Before his mission he and Joseph were assistants in the Sunday School superintendency.] You have lots of letters to write to those you have to write to and you must write as often as you can. John said that you had sent him a card with some pigs on and told us what you had written. The boys all had a good Xmas. Hope you could get you an overcoat for Xmas. We had no idea that you had waited so long before you got you one as yours was shabby before you left home. Hope you got an overcoat and went to that place to spend Xmas where you were invited. Hope Santa Claus did not forget you.

Jens says he has written about the beets and the prices. We have lots of potatoes yet they are not sold by a long ways. Chris had a regular customer up till a week ago and then Lew brought her a half a wagon load. Hay is high now, on the bench it is twelve dollars

per ton, and wheat is a dollar. At present potatoes are thirty-five cents a bushel. Will write you more about the things next time. Hope you may be well and prosperous the coming year, and enjoy your mission immensely.

I am Your Loving Sis. Stena.

The folks send their love. P.S. Chris sent you some money on the 12th. Hope you received it OK. Take good care of Niels. Give our regards to Alma.

Töre, Dec. 29, 1908

My Dear Wife Viola –

At 7:20 Xmas morning we boarded the train and set out for Töre. In my last letter I believe I told you that we were going to walk fourteen miles, but our luggage was so heavy that we decided to hire a Swedish sleigh ride which cost us five crowns between us. The weather was quite cold but we were kept comfortable warm by the fur blankets under and over us. The road led through a forest which is nothing uncommon in this country. Very few houses were passed in the fourteen mile ride. The low sleigh was drawn by one small horse so we didn't exactly fly but made the trip in three hours. We arrived at the Lindgren family at about 3:30. We were heartily welcomed by the Mormon family and they are doing all in their power to please us. The morning after Xmas at 6 o'clock we attended a meeting which was held by the Freethinkers. The singing was pretty good but I wasn't interested in what the dry priest had to say. He would pray and then repeat the Lord's prayer, and then pray again. I don't understand that custom nor I couldn't feel any good spirit. I suppose every religion has some good points, but not enough of them.

Xmas night we had reindeer meat for supper, together with barley bread, and potatoes and herring. The food in this country is very plain but I like it OK. They don't pest a person with dishes, fancy table clothes, napkins and all kinds of desserts, and as a result a healthy people live in this country. We have no pie nor cake, just meat, potatoes and barley bread, and sometimes rye bread. We don't drink coffee nor tea, we drink coco and beer. I like the food OK and won't be surprised if I fatten up a little.

Well dearest yesterday I was out tracting for about six hours and met with good success. I distributed seventeen tracts and sold twelve small books. That is more books than I have sold while in Svartöstadén but I have only been out tracting two days before yesterday. The last house I was at yesterday I met a priest and we had it hot and heavy for over two hours. He first looked over the books which I presented and then he asked if I believed what was in them. He thought it was too bad that I had fallen so low as to belong to such a class of people as Mormons, and said it would have been better if I had stayed home and not distributed such false doctrine among the people. It was hard for me to understand him and hard to me to talk so he could understand me, but we entered into the subjects of baptism and revelation. There were six or seven other people in the house who listened attentively and were quite interested. The priest wasn't mean but of course he has no use for a Mormon, but before leaving they treated me to a cup of coco and I sold them three books and bid them good night and told them that if I ever came back to

this part of the country I would call again. It was now six o'clock so I thought it time to go home, and a half hour's walking through the forest brought me there. I feel quite encouraged, and will try again today. Bro. Monson was tracting in Törefors yesterday and met with pretty good success. We will remain here about one more week and then I expect to have letters awaiting me at Svartösten from you, for it is a week ago Xmas since I heard from you.

Well dearest I hope Santa visited you and gave you some candy and nuts. I would give a nickel for some right now. I have had very little candy since I left home but I suppose I am just as well off. The day after Xmas Bro. Lindgren took us for a three mile walk through the forest so we would be at the extreme north end of the Gulf of Bothnia. A large saw mill is here and in the summer the steamers sail in through this narrow neck of water which leads to the Töre river and get the lumber which is cut by the saw mill. This is a very beautiful country in the summer, and perhaps next summer I will come back. Bro. Lindgren offers to take us to different beautiful places if we will come back. There isn't much snow here at present now but it is pretty cold. Your last letter stated that there was some snow at home. It will be quite a contrast if you have a snowy winter. Well dearest I will close now hoping that this letter will find you all well. I hope that Xmas has passed by merrily and that it won't seem long to you until another is here. I am well and feeling fine and hope that you are happy because you have a loving husband. Nels. Give all the folks my best wishes. Good bless you, goodbye. xxxoo

26 Robin Hood Chase, Nottingham, England, Jan. 5, 1909

Dear Brother –

I will now answer your kind and welcome letter which I read the day before Xmas and have been so busy ever since I haven't had time to write. I was pleased to know you were settled, and getting along so well and happy. Well I am enjoying myself and like my job better than anything I ever done. It gives me more joy and satisfaction than any other work I have ever been engaged in.

I was assigned to labor in the Nottingham Conference and it suited me fine. I was very lucky in getting a good companion, he is Elder Martin from Murray. He has filled a mission in the Southern States for 3 years and has been here twenty-two months. He is a fine speaker and one of the best men in this Conference and if I can catch it by sleeping with him I had ought to be a preacher some day.

We are laboring at Arnald, about three miles from Nottingham. There isn't a branch here but we are tracting the city and we expect to get to hold meetings here in the near future. The people as a rule treat us very good and we have made a number of friends and been able to get in several homes. I like the work better every day and I have been greatly blessed by my heavenly father since I came here and have also had my testimony strengthened. This is a grand work we are engaged in and I can see it more every day I live and my mission will make me appreciate my home and religion more than I ever did in my life before and I thank the Lord I was thought worthy to be called to come in the world to cry repentance to the people and bear my testimony to the truthfulness of this gospel.

I have been a little lonely at times but never felt once like I would like to return home until I have been honorably released and filled a good mission. I have had the honor of confirming one person a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints since I came here. The work is progressing nicely in this branch. Last year there were only 33 people baptized and this year as the year ending Dec. 31, 1908, there were over one hundred brought into the fold so you see the work of the Lord is unfolding in this land.

Well Niels I learned to think a whole lot of you on our way over and as you say I hope we will have the privilege of crossing together again when we have finished our labors, also our dear wives may become acquainted and we will all have a good time together rejoicing in each other's company and take the trip we spoke about on the reservation. (From Heber, Utah.] Won't it be grand when we meet our dear wives and little ones again knowing we have done our duty to ourselves and to God and our fellowman. I read a letter from my wife yesterday and she said she was very lonely but was getting more contented all the time. Well old friend I guess as I will close as it is late and my companion wants to go to bed. He sends his regards to you both. Remember me to your companion and take good care of yourself and may the Lord bless and help you in your work is the prayer of your brother in the cause of truth, Isaac Jacob.

P.S. Will send you photo of myself and other elders. The one sitting is my companion and the one next to me is Elder Rich, then Elder Grener, and the three standing are the

Sutten Brothers. They all came out together, they have been here about 8 months.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 6, 1909

My Dear Husband:

One again I take time with great pleasure to write to my darling husband who is so far away from me. It is just a week tomorrow since I got your last letter and I am looking for another anytime now. The last two letters I got were in your box so I didn't get them quite as soon as I would if they had been in our box but you bet I was glad to get them. It has been over a week since I wrote to you last but I will try to write every week and you must be sure and write to me that often and as many more as you can.

Well dearest I just got thru washing and am a little tired but that won't last long. Be sure and tell me how you spent the holidays. I went out to Carrie's new years day with the folks and had a nice time. The Sunday School had their concert Saturday night and I went to that with Stena. Last night the Scandinavians had an old time dance. I was up to your place last night and Stena and Chris and Jens and Lavina were going to the dance. They wanted me to go but of course I couldn't. They were going to take picnic and just have a good time but then we don't care do we dearest for there are good times coming for us.

I guess Ike has gone to Salt Lake with a load of potatoes and apples. He was intending to go yesterday morning but it was raining quite hard so I don't know whether he went or not. I got a Xmas card the other day from Mr. And Mrs. Van Horn. It is quite pretty. I will share it with you when you come home. It is quite muddy here now it rained yesterday and last night and is still cloudy. I guess it will snow next. Gene has gone down south to see Allen and Joe but I suppose he will be back before long. I guess you have heard that Kate Frampton is married and Lawrence West and Lydia Carlson. It isn't your cousin Lydia but your mother's cousin's daughter. Annie's kids are nearly over the whooping cough. Louisa has started to school again. They were tickled over the cards you sent. Your folks have had the picture of the shop, the house and Jens' house, taken on post cards so I guess you will be glad to get that.

[Annie married Elias Banks in 1901. They were living in Sterrett, Bannock, Idaho in 1904 when he was killed. He was working on a farm with two of his half brothers (polygamy), unloading hay when a pin broke and the falling pole stuck him on the top of his head, killing him instantly. Annie had a baby boy the next morning, her second child, and named him Elias. His older sister was named Louisa, after Annie's mother. Also of note, Annie's (and Viola and Esther's) mother had an older sister named Esther who also married a Banks, one of Elias's half brothers. Annie married again in 1915 and had another daughter in 1922.]

Allie and Perlinda were here to see me Sunday. Allie is taking the missionary course in Provo. Perlinda said that Mart [her brother] told them that when he got to Sweden he went in a place to take a bath and there were women there to rub their backs. She asked me if you said anything about that and I said no so she said maybe you let them rub your back and that was why you didn't want to mention it. I told her I would ask you about it



1909 Blacksmith Shop

when I wrote.

Louis is still working up to your place. I saw him yesterday when I was up. Mrs. Lim was over there. She is getting quite thin, she worries so much about her boys. [Lerina Lim, who is the daughter of this 'Mrs. Lim,' married Hensen William Nielsen, they lived on the corner of 400 E. SW of 700 N., and one of their sons, George, subsequently married a daughter, Louise, of Mart and Hedevig Christiansen, and their home is directly west across the street from Niels' (eventual) home at 590 N. 400 E.]

Oh yes Nels I forgot to tell you before but I have lost one of the sets out of my ring. It is one of the rubies so I have put it away now and don't wear it. I felt so bad about it. I hunted and hunted for the set but can't find it.

Well dearest Nels there is no more news that I can think of more. This isn't a very long letter but will try and do better next time. I helped Annie sew awhile before Xmas and made enough to get a pair of shoes and some little shirts. They are cute, you just ought to see. They were 50¢ a piece and I got three. Well dearest darling, write often and write long letters. Take good care of yourself and don't get sick. May the Lord bless you at all times is the prayer of your loving wife, Viola. xxxxxxxx

Aunt Hanner is going downtown now and I want her to post this letter. It is half past one and I haven't had dinner yet. It was about twelve when I got thru washing. Goodbye dearest for a week and then you'll hear from me again. V.F. Did you have to say anything to get those letters that had just two cent stamps on? Answer.

Svartösten, Jan. 7, 1909

My Dear Loving Wife –

After an absence of eleven days, we came back to Bachelors Hall, on the night of Jan. 5. Yesterday was thirteen days since Xmas and in this country it is a holiday, so the office was closed until 5 o'clock. We were quite anxious to know what mail was awaiting and at 5 o'clock Elder Monson went to the office and brought back nine letters and about twelve cards for me and about the same amount for him. You can imagine how happy I felt especially to find that two of the letters were from my dearest loving wife. The letters not only carried good news and encouragement but I also received fifty four dollars which was a precious Xmas present. Chris sent me fifty dollars and Lavina two and your letter with the one dollar from Aunt Lettie came safely. I am going to write to Lettie, but if you see her before she receives a letter from me, thank you for me a thousand times. It was too late for me to buy a Xmas dinner with the gift, but I was fortunate enough in having my Xmas meals given to me by the Lindgren family. Lavina said I should buy a Xmas dinner with the two dollars she sent me, but I will find plenty of places to spend the money without buying luxuries. Mother sent me a dollar in with Stena's letter so that makes the fifty four dollars. I was in debt before the money came but now I can pay my debts and then have money enough for a couple months. I engaged a tailor to make me an overcoat which cost 55 crowns (about \$15). I could only pay him 15 crowns when I took the coat, so he trusted me 40 crowns which I will pay tomorrow. We had run a 44 crown bill in the store, this we paid this evening. Of course I had only to pay half of it. We



1909 Hannah Fugal house

have also paid the rent today for the next three months, which was 30 crowns. My 54 dollars is equal to nearly 200 crowns so I will have quite a sum over after I pay all my debts. I am wearing my best suit every day so it won't be long before I will have the tailor make me a suit of clothes and that will take about 60 crowns (about \$17). I have a nice warm overcoat now, one that will last me until I get back home. I believe that the tailor can also make me a nice suit.

Well dear probably you wonder how it is that I received so much mail in such a short time but you see it was Xmas time and most of the elders in the branch sent me a Xmas card. One of the letters was from Mart. Two were from missionaries that came to Sweden with me. Stena, Chris, Lavina, Carrie, sent me each one, and my darling wife sent me two, with a card in both. It is some over a week since I wrote to you so no doubt you are quite anxious to hear from me again. Our Xmas vacation was spent quite pleasantly, but it didn't seem like Xmas to me because I wasn't home with you. I hope I won't have to spend more than one more Xmas in Sweden but of course I don't know whether I will or not. I will have to stay until I am released. While in Töre I did three days tracting and met with pretty good success. In my last letter I wrote of my first day's experience. The second day I had pretty good success only I was ordered out of one house by the old man. He read the tract which I offered him and then threw it at me and told me to hike. He said all we missionaries were out for was to get girls to emigrate to Utah and that he didn't want me to deceive his daughters. He being possessed with the devil, and me being ordered out of his house, and not being able to speak the language very good, I thanked him for his kindness and brotherly love to a Christian and then bid him adio. I then went to the next door and was treated kindly. There are some people here that have heard all kinds of smutty lies about the Mormons and you couldn't change their minds or pound the truth into them with a sledge hammer. The people as a rule are a good hearted people and will reason with a person.

While in Töre on New Years night we saw a grand display of northern lights. They looked very beautiful with their rays of different colors shooting over the sky. I will try to explain how they look when I get home because it is impossible to me to do so now. I have more to write about and would like to say a little about what your loving letters contain but it is now eleven o'clock and we are going to take a walk to Luleå tonight with this letter and one of Elder Monson's. I will write again in less than a week, so please excuse me for cutting this letter shorter than I expected. The weather is very mild and we have but little snow here at present. The people say it is the warmest winter that they ever saw in this part of the country. Of course we have plenty of time yet for cold and disagreeable weather. I wish I could squeeze and kiss you several times now; but I can't so I will say good night. Your dearest Loving Husband Nels. xxxoo Write soon.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 7, 1909

Dearest Brother,

It is a little more than a week since I wrote you so I thought you would be anxious to hear from us again. I suppose you received my last letter, an answer to your last letter that we received Christmas. We are all well except mother and she is better than she was when I wrote last.

New Years day we all went out to Carrie's to spend the day. We had a nice time. All we needed was your presence to make it complete. Mother, Viola and I went out in the surrey and the rest in the wagon. There is no snow here now but there is plenty of mud. You need to have gum boots on to cross the streets. Chris is busy working in the shop and Jens is busy plumbing. Wm. Stewart is building a new house and Jens finished roughing in the pipes yesterday so he can't do any more to their house until the carpenters get throw. He has started to plumb Peter Larson's house and is working there today. Lew is still working here, he is helping Chris in the shop today. Lew is living in P.G. now, he lives in Mrs. Trinnup's house. You asked once to send you his address, it is: Louis Nielson, Pleasant Grove, Utah.

Last Saturday night the Sunday School had their concert. Viola and I went, it was just fine. The piece they played was "Snow White," a fairy tale. Doctor Jones took the part of Prince Carl and Joe Halliday took the part of a prince and married Snow White. Leah Halliday was Snow White and Hazel Smith was the queen. They all looked fine and took their parts well. You would have laughed to have seen the seven dwarfs. There were about thirty five fairies. They cleared \$54.40 after paying expenses.

Next Sunday they are going to award the Sunday School children their prizes. The books are very nice this time.

The Scandinavian dance was a grand success. I wish you could have been to it. Tom Larson distributed the invitations. Nearly all that were there were married folks. The Hall was full. We did not get home till 2:30 o'clock. John Bolter was there. He is rushing Mellie Harman, it is rumored that they will be married before long. John and Carrie were over to the dance too and just flew around. I guess they will keep their place. The man that bought it has gone back on it. They are going to get them a new piano as soon as they can decide on which kind to get.

Say kid when you have meeting which one of you leads the singing? Can you talk Swedish yet? Mother says to get your some good warm clothes so you can keep warm and to keep yourself dry all the time. I hope you have got you an overcoat before now. You are supposed to look neat and tidy at all times.

Hope it will soon be warmer where you are. Perhaps you care getting climated so you can stand it better. Alma Radmall just loves school, says he is going again next year, wishes he had have gone years ago. So you see he has got the spirit of the school. He was to the dance Tuesday night. The committee served Koffee-et and Allie helped pass it. Oh yes! Maude and Matiea Larson were there too. You should have seen how graceful they could pour the coffee, and how Tom's eyes were dancing the whole time. Everybody said they had a fine time. Lawrence West and Lydia Carlson (Charley's daughter) were married a couple of weeks ago. Nice couple, isn't it?

Wish I knew something to write that would interest you. Everything is the same as usual. By the way kid, Joe Halliday inquires how you are every time he sees me. I believe he would like you to write him. Hope you will have a prosperous year and a happy one. I am ever your 'umble Sister Stena. Write as often as you can. We are always anxious to

hear from you. Helsen Alma. P.S. Take excellent care of Niels and excuse the ink [pencil] I've used this time. I will enclose a card this time. Hope you will like it.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 13th, 1909

Dear Brother:

We received your most welcome letter the same day that I sent you my last letter on Jan. 7th, so I thought I would not answer it for a week. We were very glad to hear from you. You would laugh if you could see us when we get a letter from Sweden. It makes no difference what we are doing we drop it and read your precious letter first. Very glad to note that you are well and enjoying your mission so far. I don't think it will be long before you will make many friends and perhaps some converts. Do not be discouraged if you do not make any converts, you may pave the way for some future missionary to make a convert or two.

You stated in your letter that you were teaching some boys and girls English, hope you like being a teacher. It is very good practice and teaches you (yourself) at the same time. By the way kid, I have started to go to mutual. It is all right, there are quite a number attending this winter.

Last Sunday night was conjoint meeting. It was just fine except Miss Holdaway killed it. She had a reading section and she choose some history to read. She read a whole book. She is a good reader, she is the High School English teacher and read fifty minutes by the clock. Everybody were squirming and coughing the last half hour and thought she would never quit. The rest of the program was excellent. Laura Bolley had a talk, she is grand, when you can preach like her you will be alright. Effie Chipman's husband sang a solo, a Mr. Smith from Lake View played the mandolin. He could make the thing talk, I never thought anyone could ever play a mandolin like that. I wish you could have heard it. Lula Myers sang a solo also. Bro. Alston prayed. This finishes the conjoint meeting for this time. Aren't you glad?

It doesn't look much like January here now, there isn't a bit of snow. Did you ask if we had any mud? Oh no, not a bit! Our back yard has a few boards scattered here and there to walk on. Lew is still working here, he has been sorting potatoes the last couple of days. The boys have not sold any potatoes recently except to Chris's regular customer. She was here today and got a couple of bushels. Chris is doing a big business in the potato line. He is busy in the shop and Jens is still plumbing.

Today Ernest and I went to the store and one of the clerks gave him some candy and licorice and he said he was going to keep a piece for Nels when he comes home cause he likes it. Ernest is standing here by the table and he says I should tell you to "take care of yourself Niels" and that he won't be naughty any more.

There is a basketball tonight in Clark's Hall and a hoedown up to Joe Radmall's [Allie's uncle so you see P.G. is quite alive. Hyrum Carlson is sporting May Wilson so do not be surprised if you hear of their wedding before many years.

How is bachelors hall? I hope Santa Claus did not forget to visit it. He must have been snowbound if he did not. Do you eat mush?

I will close now so Chris can write on the other side of this sheet. We are all well as usual and trust you are enjoying the best of health and are enjoying yourself too. I am Your Loving Sis. Stena. Write soon. Give our regards to Bro. Monson and Bro. Fugal. Hope you have received your money sometime ago.

Dear Brother Neils: [yes, Neils]

I thought a few lines from me would strike you all right. I am the same old chap. I haven't even made a mush yet. I have had something to do nearly every day since you left. I have felt pretty good this winter but the last few days I haven't felt very good. Hutchins from Utah ___ Co. was out here yesterday. We ordered a car of machinery from the factory so you see we will save some freight and also get a better price. We will be ready for a big business whether we get it or not.

I think we will do all right if we can keep well. There is a dance tonight but I don't feel like going. I have taken in the dances pretty good this winter. Viola was up today and got a light. It beats the band you haven't got the money order we sent you. I guess you got it soon after. I suppose we will have to send you some more by and by. Well Neils it will soon be spring. If the time has gone as fast for you as it has for us then you haven't been homesick. The other night I dreamt you come home because your president fired you because you smoked a cigar. From your heavy set Bro. Chris. Be good Boy. So long.

Svartöastaden, Jan. 13, 1909

My Dear Loving Wife –

It is about five days since I wrote to you, but as I have heard from you since then I now take great pleasure in writing again. Two of your letters came while we were spending ten days in Töre. Since then I have received your last one and soon expect another. On our way back from Töre we walked about two Swedish miles which are equal to about fourteen A. miles. We were to catch the train at a place called Morjärv at 3:30 but we thought it left at 4 o'clock so we were one half hour late. We were quite disappointed for we had to stop over until the next day at 3:30. We stayed in a hotel and it cost us 4-1/2 crowns each. If we had been on time we could have lived about six days for what we spent at the hotel. We were very tired and leg worn when we reached Morjärv for the road which lead through the forest was covered with snow and in places we had to plow through the drifts. We arrived home Jan. 5th, and as I told you in my last letter, that much mail was awaiting me. I have several letters to write. I have written one to Chris and this makes the second one to you.

In my last letter to you I gave you our experience in Töre so never had room to answer much that is found in your loving letters. I have just read the last three you sent me and will try to answer them satisfactorily. It no doubt causes you to long for the time that we will settle down when you see that Esther is keeping house for her husband, but never

mind dearest, the time is coming when you and I will be the happiest couple in P.G. When I come home I not only expect to meet the dearest little wife in the world but also a nice little son, or daughter, one that will be able to say "hello papa." Say dearest, won't that be nice? When I think of this it causes me to rejoice. I certainly am glad that we are married and I hope that you will never regret it, which I know you won't. Remember what I told you before I left. Sometimes life might seem hard and things might not go just as you would have them, but now take the advice of a loving husband, the one who thinks more of you than any other person ever will, be sure to keep yourself full of pleasant thoughts and do considerable reading and studying and don't allow yourself to get out of patience, and you remember I told you what the result would be.

Dearest, I would like to be where I could see you, like you said you dreamed. You know that I would not act like I could not see you. I dream of you nearly every night and it causes me to think of you about all the time. Many times I have dreamed that I was home and was going on a mission and hated very much to leave you. I am glad I went when I did for I know the longer you and I stay together the harder it will be for us to part. I have soon been away from you three months. The time is passing very fast for me and I hope it is for you. I want to do much studying and learn all I can while I am here but it takes much time to do cooking and housework.

Well dearest I suppose you were quite surprised and very glad to see your brother Eugene. It is nice that he came home to show himself once more. If you haven't sent me all of your Bros' addresses please do so and perhaps I will write to them. The weather has been very fine considering the country but we may have some disagreeable weather yet. I certainly wish that you could sleep on my arm all night as you said so I could keep you warm, but we are so far apart that all we can do is to dream pleasant things about each other. Well dearest, remember my advice and make the best of conditions while I am away. May God bless you is the prayer of Your Loving Husband Nels.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Jan. 14, 1909

My Dear Nels:

It was just a week yesterday since I wrote to you last. I got a letter from you yesterday and it had been just two weeks since I got the one before. So you see I didn't get any letter from you last week but I believe that is the first week, since you have been in Sweden. In your letter you said it had been just a week since you wrote to me so I guess it wasn't your fault that I didn't get it. You never mentioned the dollar I sent you in a letter. Did you get it? How did you spend Xmas? Tell me all about it when you write.

It has been raining nearly all day today. Ike was sick all day Saturday and Sunday but is better now. He hasn't been to Salt Lake yet but is going as soon as he can. How many pairs of shoes have you got left now? I was up to your place last Sat. and your mother gave me a post card album. It will hold over two hundred cards and I have just got thirty in it now so you must take care of all the cards you get and when you come we will put yours in too. [I have this album, on loan to someone – I've forgotten, shame on me.]

I saw Mons Monson the other day and he said he was going to write to you. I am glad

you like it up there so well and that the time passes so quickly for you. It was just five months Tuesday since we were married, now doesn't it seem longer than that to you? It will be three months day after tomorrow since you left Salt Lake and I'm sure it seems lots longer than that to me.

I got a card from Valeria [her brother Joseph's wife] yesterday and she wants to know when I am coming down to stay with them [Abraham, Millard County]. I don't think it will be for a long time, do you dear? Annie's children have had the whooping cough but they are nearly over it now. Louisa goes to school. It is quite wet and rainy but I guess I will go down to the Post Office to post this when I get thru. I want it to go on the 4 o'clock train if possible. [It did.] Annie is going to write to you today too. Well I guess I have told you all the news. Write soon and don't forget Your loving Wife Viola xxxoo

R.F.D. Box 146, Provo [the Bench], Utah, Jan. 19, 1909
[First letter kept, from Niels' sister Carrie.]

My Dear Brother:

It is a long time since I wrote to you so I will write you a few lines today, although I haven't anything to write about. We received your letter and card the day before Xmas. We were very glad to hear from you and to hear that you were well, if you do live in the North Frigted [Frigid?] Zone. My! how cold it must be there. I bet you don't lose any time when you go out walking. I just don't see how you keep warm at all. What do you burn, coal or wood? I guess you keep a fire all night, don't you.

In your letter you ask me if I received those cards you sent me. Will say that I have received three from you, four with that one with the man and the pigs which you sent to John. I wrote you a letter some time ago. I hope you have received it.

Well Neils [yes, Neils], we still own our place, our man didn't come up as he said he would and I don't think we can collect that note we have on him. We sent it down to Mesa City, Arizona for the bank of that place to collect it but he refused to pay it so I don't think we will get anything out of him.

John has got J.W.N. Whitecotton to write to Mr. Hurley. One good thing is that we haven't lost anything by it. You know, we might have built another house and went to lots of expense so it is good we didn't.

The weather is just fine. It feels just like spring. It's like this for over a week but today it's beginning to cloud so I guess we are going to have a storm. By the time you get this letter I hope it will be getting warmer where you are. I do hope you don't get snowbound. It will be so much nicer for you when summer comes.

When you write let me know how you spent Xmas. We spent the day to ma's. We were all there but you but we thot about you and wondered what kind of time you were having. Then at night we went to the dance. New Years night too, and we went to P.G. to the Scandinavian party of the 5th instance. We just had a fine time, wish you could have been there. So you see, we have been having a good time.



Lubbock
PROV. VERM.

John, Erval, Erma, Carrie Christensen

John has been pruning for two weeks. Today he is helping John Pyne, he is hauling dirt that is being dug out of a well, so you see neighbor John is going to have a well.

Well dear Bro. do take care of yourself. There is no one else there to do it for you. Don't go about with wet feet, that is one of the worst things you can do. You have my faith and prayers that you may fulfill a good mission and return home in safety, and I know you will.

Jan. 21st – I didn't get my letter finished the other day so I will write a little more and send it off today. It began to rain here Tuesday night and it is still raining a nice steady rain. I think there are lots of people glad that we are having such a fine winter because hay is scarce and very dear. It is \$9 [? – on a wet fold, ink bled – way to go, Guy! ;^)] a ton in the stack so you see poor people pay so much for it. Mrs. Pack down here bought piled hay at Provo for her cow, she pays 70 cents per hundred for it. John is picnicking around outside today, first straightening up the yard after he went and gave the pigs a good scrubbing, then greased them well with lard and suppose they were squalling to beat the band while they were going thru that ordeal. You see John wants them to grow well.

Say Neils what do you get to eat, can you get what you like. I do hope you can when you write tell me all about it. It's a week now since I was over home. The folks were all well. Viola had been up the day before. She was feeling fine. I have no news to tell you so will close, wishing you much happiness and trusting all is well with you and hoping you will have success in all your undertakings, I remain Your Loving Sister Carrie. Write soon.

Svarösten, Jan. 21, 1909

My Dear Darling Wife –

Your most welcomed letter which you wrote Dec. 25 came to hand just a few days ago and I was glad to note that Xmas was spent quite pleasantly and that you received some presents from my folks. I don't want you to feel sorry that you couldn't give them any in return for you know that they don't expect anything from you. Again please don't feel sorry because you can't send your husband any money for you know that I don't expect you to send me anything but letters which I like to have come to me quite often.

Dearest, it causes me to feel bad when I think of the poor circumstances I left you in, but perhaps someday you and I will be better off financially than we are at present. If I had remained home a few years I believe it would have been much harder for me to break away than it was now because we might have had children and you know that would have strained the heartstrings more than ever for us to part in such a time, and it would be harder for you to return to your father then. I believe your father welcomes you home while your husband is performing a mission and he will do all he can for you. It was nice of Annie to give you half of the proceeds made by sewing dresses before Xmas. I suppose you are glad that the busy rush in sewing is over, for you no doubt got tired being as you had to sew nearly both night and day.

Say my dearest, did you keep those twenty dollars which I told you to? You remember how I begged of you to keep them for to buy stamps with to send to your husband, and if you didn't do it, it will make me feel very bad, for I know your circumstances and I want you to have the \$20. Please tell me in your next letter about the money.

I am glad you had a pretty good time Xmas and the following Sunday and I also hope that the visit out to Carrie's on New Years day was a pleasant one. I am pleased that Jens opened his heart and took you with him to the theatre and hope it will not be the last time. It is too bad that you could not go to the Scandinavian party that Chris wanted you to, but such is married life you know sweetheart. I am commencing to enjoy my work quite well but I often worry about you. I am afraid that you won't spend the next six months very happily and I would like to be where I could give you all the love and care of a loving husband, but let us make the best of it, please keep up all the courage you can and try to follow out the advice which I gave you in my last letter.

I am very glad to hear that Ike is a very dutiful husband and I hope he will continue to be so useful for his wife and that they will always remain happy and be as willing to wait on each other as they are at present.

I don't hardly see why you should feel as though you and I will never settle down and keep house for ourselves. I hope you have not lost confidence in your husband for I am willing to do all in my power to make you happy. There is nothing that will give me more joy and satisfaction than to settle down with my wife for a companion through life, one who is glad to bear the joys and sorrows with her husband. Dearest, I love you with all my heart and I want you to know that I think of you every day and at night I dream sweet dreams about you. Nearly every night I dream that I am home and am going on a

mission and oh! how I feel sorry because I am going to leave you. I can't see how it is that I dream nearly the same each night. I am glad I left when I did for each day brings the time nearer, that happy day when you and I shall meet with loving embraces.

I am sorry to hear that Hyrum Carlson is commencing to go with a girl so soon after his wife's death. There is no doubt but what he loved the wife he had, but I think he is starting anew too soon. If you remember I made mention to you that I thought he started to go to the dances too soon. You ask if you thought I would forget you that soon. I don't think he has forgotten the love he has for his wife, who has just passed into the other world, awaiting the arrival of her husband, who will meet her in the course of a few years, but the answer to your question is: I love you with a burning love that never will be forgotten and my sincere desire and prayer is that any actions may always speak as plain as words. My dear I am glad that we are married and I hope you will never regret the day that we were made one. I don't remember what I wrote in the letter I sent to Annie, please tell me what I said that made you cry.

I don't know as I had better write any more this time, it is now after 12 o'clock midnight so it is time to go to bed. We have had our English class this evening and since then we have made supper and washed the dishes and written letters since. I received a letter from Mart today stating that he is enjoying himself and is still in Stockholm. May God bless us all according to our needs is the wish of your Loving Nels. xxxoox Write soon.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 21, 1909

My Dear Husband

I received your last letter Monday and was very glad to hear from you again. It was the one you wrote from Töre. I was glad that you spent Xmas alright and was so successful in your work. I was up to your mother's Tuesday and Stena just got a letter from you that day. Your mother gave me some honey and I wish I could send you some for every time I see it I think of how you used to like it and wonder if you have any there. It has been raining all this week but Monday and has been raining steady all day today.

Ike has gone to Salt Lake. He went Monday and it is Thursday night now and he isn't back yet. He took potatoes and apples. Esther has been staying down here since he left. She brought her clothes down here and we washed Tuesday but our clothes are not all dry yet. Annie washed today and it stopped raining a little while ago and the wind started to blow and broke the line down and the clothes all went in the mud. Esther had brought her clothes in and had them hanging around on chairs but my garments and all of Annie's clothes were covered with mud so you see there is another job for us.

Esther and Ike are going to write to you before long I guess. I believe I told you once before that Gene my brother was here Xmas. He had a month's leave of absence but the captain wasn't there when he left or he could have got two months off. So he wrote to the captain to have his time extended one month. He didn't get any answer from the captain so he had to go back but the night he left here after he had gone a telegram came to him from the captain giving him another month off but it was just a few hours too late, he had already gone.

Esther is expecting a card from Ike and she wanted me to go to the office with her and I told her alright if she would wait till I wrote a letter to you. It just stopped raining a little while ago so I suppose it will be nice and muddy. I should like to find a letter down there from you but then it hasn't been a week since I got the last one so I am not expecting one for a few days. It is now seven o'clock and so I will close and take this down to the post. Write to me just as often as you can dearest for I do like to hear from you often. I believe everybody is well. The kids are over the whooping cough. Take good care of yourself and don't get sick. Ike was quite sick last week, he had the sore throat and was in bed two or three days. His throat was still swollen when he went to Salt Lake. Well goodnight dear Nels. Write lots and think of your loving wife Viola. xxxxxoo

P.S. Esther said to tell you hello and that they got your letter and would write soon.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, 1-28-1909

Dear Brother

It is quite a while since we received your welcome letter, but hope you will pardon us for neglecting to write sooner. Because we're married now don't you know. Well married life is alright, it [beats?] going around like a stag all to heck. Your wife and all the folks were all well when we were down there last, but we are going down there today. I haven't anything to do but to lay around the house and bug my darling wife.

How are you enjoying yourself. I suppose they don't talk P.G. Swedish there do they. Father says it is much different. I have almost forgotten how to write, it is so long since I wrote a letter that it seems quite a hardship to know what to write about. We will try and do better in the future if you will answer this time.

Pleasant Grove is the same old town, it hasn't changed a bit, only the dancing hall has part of the roof on already so soon. Well I hope you will enjoy yourself all the time you are away and return home in due time to your old woman, then we will have some glorious times together. Good-bye. Write soon. Your Bro. Ike

Hello Nels, how are you anyway. I guess you think we are great ones for not writing before but this is the first letter I have written since long before we were married. When your letter came we had been married about a week. Viola told me you got my card. That is one of them but I believe I sent two. I guess Viola told you Gene was here for Xmas. He was quite disappointed because he didn't get to see you.

Well how do you like preaching by now. You don't have much time to get homesick do you? We'll all be glad to see you again in two years tho it seems like you have been gone about that long now.

Oh yes, Viola said when you come home and you and her would go with us to Idaho to buy Annie's ranch, do you think you will? We don't know hardly what to do. By the way, Ike is talking when you come home we'll have a new house built on the corner west of Joe Shoell's, don't you think that is a fine place.

I can't tell you any news about P.G. because I haven't been out for a month. You know we have to save our money now.

So long Nels, write to us soon. I am your Sister Esther.

Svartösten, Jan, 28, /09

My Dear Wife Viola –

It is with pleasure that I again write to you to tell you that I am still well and enjoying myself in the glorious work which is before me. The time is quickly rolling by and as the dusk of each day approaches I often wonder if I have accomplished any good during the day. It is hard to decide what the results of each day's labor is, but a missionary doesn't know what good he may be accomplishing by his works and actions. Perhaps I am planting where others may reap and thus I am aiding in the great cause of truth in gathering souls into the fold of Christ. My desire and prayer is to gain a good knowledge of the gospel and present the same to the people here in this locality. I certainly feel my weakness when I stand before the people and try to show to them the true plan of salvation, but I must not alone depend upon my own knowledge, but always try to keep my mind filled with clean pure thoughts so that that great unseen power which is the Holy Ghost might direct me to say and do such things that will be elevating.

Say dearest, I don't know what it is but, it seems to me like there is something about the personality of Mormon Elders that effects the hearts of some people here, for while conversing with some people they tell us about some of their secrets and troubles which they wouldn't speak of to their nearest friends and often they shed tears and ask for advice. Yesterday we visited a saint who lives in a neighboring town. He has been sick with asthma for several years. He was very sick when we came in, but he seemed to brace up and feel much better and talk after we had been there a few minutes. When we were ready to leave, his wife told us that, that short time we had been there he felt much better than he had for two days. These things strengthen my testimony a great deal. We are given the authority to perform great wonders providing we live up to our calling and exercise sufficient faith.

Well dearest, I am glad to hear that you were with the folks out to Carrie's on New Year's and that you went with Stena to the concert. I almost wish you could go to the dances and enjoy yourself there, but it is as you say darling, we will watch others have their good times and always think that we have our coming. It seems like nearly everybody is getting married since I left home, Lawrence West and Lydia Carlson are certainly a fine match.

I am glad to hear that Allie and Perlinda came to visit you. Does Allie intend to go on a mission or didn't he say? I understand he is quite interested in School.

Yes dearest, the bathing houses in this country are handled by women and it seems quite strange to have the women come around to wait on us but that is the custom so we will have to take it and get used to the custom. It seems to me that they would have men to

wait on the men, but the women seem quite innocent so I suppose there is no harm done.

I was very sorry to hear that you have lost a set out of your ring, but you must send it back to the same company and have them replace a set. You better first write them a letter inquiring if they can replace the set, and receive information what to do. It will be alright to give them the number of the ring as it appears in a new catalog. It will probably cost a little but please send it back and get it repaired. When you send it be sure to have your name and address on a paper wrapper in the package with the ring and also send them a separate letter the same time giving instructions.

I think you have done fine with your sewing in order to buy a pair of shoes and also three little baby shirts. I should like very well to see the shirts but I expect some day to see them when occupied. Remember your condition from now on dearest and be sure not to exert yourself in any way. I don't think it is wise to sit down too much for it leaves your body unexercised and thus makes you weak. I think walking is a very good exercise as long as you don't strain yourself. I suppose you have others that can give you better advice than I can but this is the advice of your loving husband. Remember to do as much studying and mind work as possible for this is very essential, to obtain good results.

Well dearest I must close for this time for it is getting late. Tomorrow we are going to Karlsvik for our clothes. The weather is still mild here so we are not suffering with the cold. The wind is blowing quite hard now whistling a mournful tune as it penetrates the crevices of Bachelors Hall. I hope the time will cause me to fall into a deep sleep and dream pleasantly about my dear darling wife. God bless you dearest Viola, wife of Your Darling Nels. Accept these please xxxoox

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 29th 1909

Dear Bro. Nels,

Your letter of Dec. 29 was received a week ago and it is two weeks since I wrote you. Hope you will pardon me for not answering your letter before. I hope thought every day for the last week that I would write but have not got at it.

We are all as well as usual and hope you are enjoying health. It has been very muddy here for a couple of weeks but we have a little snow now and it is a trifle colder too. It rained for a couple of days last week and you would have smiled if you had been here to see how Lew carried manure out of the corral in a bucket. Then he got tired of that and hitched Mack up to the sleigh that you kill pigs on and used a barrel to haul it and poured some on the raspberry patch and lawn. That is a new way and I told them to get a patent on it.

Jens has been busy wiring houses lately. He has wired Dell Walkers, John Smiths and Samy Greens, and I don't thing he is through with that alley yet. Chris is busy in the shop and he is a little lovesick too. He is sweet on Emma Bush now.

Wednesday there was a traveling troop that played "East Lynne." The play was just fine but very sad. Most all the girls cried and lots of the men were batting their eyes and

would like to have cried. Chris took Emma to that theatre – and I believe it is alright with them yet. Annie Banks, Viola, Lettie Houston and myself went together. Lettie said Viola ought to write you that we all went to the theatre and had a crying match. But you must not think it's as bad as that. Tonight the Scandinavians are going to give another dance in Clark's Hall. It will just be a plain dance. There is a M.I.A. dance in the Apollo tonight also so I don't know if there will be so many to the dance here.

Jens has not finished the school house yet. Chris was down yesterday putting asbestos on the pipes. They intend to get it finished soon. Yesterday we received a letter from Ida, she is going to get married the 10th of February, she tells us. We must hurry and prepare for a good time. They have already made the beer. I don't know yet how many of us will go, or if any of us will yet.

In Sunday School they have made quite a few changes. I teach the II Intermediate now and Ethel Hilton helps teach the same class. Emma Bush has a class of II Inter. and Mrs. Haag another class and Geo. Haag's the II Inter. Boys. I haven't the same class as I had before, only two or three of the same girls and they are the ones that never answered any questions. But I am living in hopes that they will improve.

You spoke of going to Lapland and to the fjords of Norway next summer. We think that is right, it is nice to see everything that you can. Perhaps you won't go on another mission so you will not have another chance. Hope they will send you south next fall. I don't think they ought to keep you boys there all the time. Mrs. Young said the other day that she had quite a number of relatives in the southern part of Sweden and if you go there she will send you addresses. [No doubt Viola's stepmother as she was born in southern Sweden (as was Hannah, Niels' mother, though even more south, on the tip).]

Oh yes! Aunt Margaret Fugal has gone to Idaho to visit her children, isn't that wonderful? [Andreas's sister-in-law, married Christian, lived a block north, 455 E. 700 N., where those of us who knew Parley Christiansen came to live for many years.] And Mrs. Olsen has gone to Idaho to stay all winter with her dater Marie. Last week Uncle Jacob lost his little girl, Vida. [There is a Jacob Carlson, brother of Hannah.] She died of inflammatory rheumatism. Jens, Lavina and I went to the funeral. It was very sad. Aunt Stena has a young baby and isn't a bit well and they have another child sick. [There are several possibilities as to aunts with this name, though shortened. Niels' sister Stena is the only one named that exactly. Jacob's wife's name is Stine on one group sheet and Christina on another (Stine pronounced "Steen" or "Steena"). I don't have a group sheet showing their children, or any group sheet listing this Vida (or Lando.)] The little boy that is sick so much, he looks very bad. Lando was home for the funeral. He looks nicer than I have ever seen him look.

We hope you have received your dough long before now and mother will enclose a dollar with this letter. Write and let us know if it is alright if you have any bother to get the money changed. How does Sweden agree with you? Hope you are enjoying yourself. But whatever you do, do not raise a beard. Even if you are able. Everything is the same as usual. We go through the same routine every day. Mother is kitting today and Ernest is trying to content himself to stay in the house. It is a big effort, I can tell you. We are all fine and dandy and trust you are the same. I am Your Affectionate Sister, Stena. The

folks send their love.

Hello Uncle Niels, Hope you are having a good time. From Ernest.

[Stena died when I was eight years old and I don't remember her at all. My loss. She must be The queen of dry humor. Daddy (Neil) used to say that in the years the three brothers and Stena lived in separate homes along the same block, they would gather for a warm cup (of "Koffee-et"?) at Stena's most days, and the in-law wives got tired of it. Purportedly coffee was the problem but I'm betting the rich, warm conversation was the draw.]

Pl. Grove, Utah, Jan. 31, 1909

[First kept letter from Jens]

Dear Brother:

I suppose you will wonder if I am every going to write to you again. I feel bad or ashamed to think that it is so long since I wrote to you. Of course you have heard from home right along and have been getting all the news so I don't know that there is much to write about. In the first place I have been very busy and at night I get sleepy. As you already know I got Stewarts and Larsons plumbing jobs. Larsons has been finished a couple of weeks ago except putting on the closet seat. The one I got first was not the right color and since have not had time to put it on. Stewarts roughing in is done. I did it in 3-1/2 days. I also got his wiring and have done the concealed part of that. Last week I have been putting in lights for Fiddler John, Del Walker, Sam Green, Mrs. Armitstead and have John Becks left which I will do tomorrow. Have also sold two motors which I will place Tuesday, one to Will Marrott and one to Joe Thorne. Jesse Oler is going to start building soon and I finally got his plumbing and I think there are about a half dozen prospective jobs.

Feb. 7 – This is as far as this letter went in a week. Will say I placed the motors alright and got done wiring down the state road and will finish Stewarts wiring tomorrow and perhaps start placing the fixtures. I saw Old Frank Banks Friday about his plumbing. He is going to build right away on the John Long corner. "Yes La" he will see me again. I saw "Chunkey" the same evening. He is going to have a set of fixtures but I can't tell yet whether I will do it cheap enough. Dick Wadley is going to build a house about like W. Marrotts and I am almost sure of the plumbing. I will start there this week wiring 4 houses for Wadleys and the meetinghouse out there. Oh yes, they are going to build a 3 room school house in Manila this year. The Dist. voted a 4-1/2 mill tax to build it. Willie Lim is also going to build. F. W. Newman is a prospective for a plumbing job. So you see there is a chance of keeping busy. Lue is doing alright and we find plenty for him to do. I guess I will close for this time so this letter will get off with best wishes I am your affectionate brother J.P.F.

Dear Brother Niels:

Yes, really, we are writing you again. Say kid, we have thot of you and written you several letters in our minds. Each day we would say "well tonight we will write to



1900? Lavina and Jens

Niels,” and when night would come the “Sand Man” would come too and take us to the land of “Nod.” That is the how of it. Hello, the lights went out. Here is where a lamp is appreciated. It seems hard to write by lamplight now, tho.

Feb. 7th – This is right down mean to put off writing (or rather finishing) a letter for a whole week. Last Sunday night Bro. Larson dropped in while we were writing and we chatted with him until nearly 12 o’clock so we piled off to bed. We look forward with such interest to the coming of your letters and last Wed. another of the welcome missives came, but at the same time it made us feel guilty for not having written for so long.

Say, I am very glad you did not spend that little piece of paper for Christmas dinner because I am afraid it would have been rather a long fast as you would now have had to wait till next Xmas. I don’t mean to make light of any principle but my request struck me funny since you did not receive it until Jan. You say you would just as leave be crawling under someone’s dirty floor as to be back there with a paper collar around your neck. I believe Jens would too but you will have to get your spite out on those infidels back there and play that was just as good as hauling hay and plumbing and when your time is up Bro. Jens will be right glad to see his little Bro. Willie back again.

Well Niels, when you come home you will be able to relate many interesting things and in the way you look at it, it is certainly a privilege to witness the great wonders which you write and will yet see. We are pleased to hear of your work in the line of teaching English and that it is helping you in more than one way. You say the weather is milder than usual in that section of the country and am glad to hear it. It seems cold enough anyway to think of you way up there almost in the Arctic Circle. I believe it is you two warmhearted lads from Utah that has broken the icy spell. Eller hur?

Last week I hunted you up on the map and what should I see but Bro. Niels just laying the law down to a pack of unbelievers and as he sat down I thot I heard him say to Bro. Alma, “We’ve got her comin’ our way now.” Well kid, you are built of the right kind of sand and we are all proud of you and your every success will be our pleasure and we want you to keep well and in good spirits.

My baby is doing his utmost to have me give up writing again tonight but I shan’t do it. So now! when I came to where in your letter you expressed your wish to have your little wife with you, I made a boob of myself right before Chris. Of course I felt like a fool but I couldn’t help it and am not going to care. But it made me wish right hard that she could have been with you. The dear little soul tries to be brave and you have to be and when you come home again you will be well repaid for your sacrifice. She was up to see me yesterday and we sat and chatted all afternoon. It as so nice to have her call and stay a little while.

Tonight it is raining pitch forks and broom handles and many more useful things. By the way, it needs to rain pitch forks because Lou broke three of them in one day. Of course he thot he would get out of hauling fertilizer but when a thaw came Jens put him to work dipping it up with buckets and hauling it in barrels onto the raspberries. Laying all joking aside, it has certainly been a peculiar winter here; one week it would be so cold one’s breath would be frozen into icicles and the next week we would have a pouring rain storm

and then for a change we would have hail.

If my letter is not the most unjointed one you ever received, would like to know it, but really the pickaninnies won't leave me in peace a minute tonight. You see it is good to have someone to lay the blame to.

What do you think? Mrs. Lavina Fugal has joined the Parents Class in Sunday school and I enjoy the lessons very much. Wish I had started sooner. That helps to get me out to afternoon meetings too. Have also been attending mutual for about three months. It is so nice to get out to meetings again. Of course ma is here to take care of baby. Then we take in the dances that are for such as we are and have gone to a couple of good shows. Next Tuesday night we are going to attend the Black Hawk reunion at the Apollo. My! but won't we step around pretty? Have never been at the Apollo and would like to see it. Awhile back "Ben Hur" was played in the Salt Lake Theatre and Jens was fortunate enough to secure from Jos. Halliday two tickets at 75¢ each and Chris and I took it in. It was the grandest thing in that line I ever saw or ever expect to see. The actors numbered some over 200. I had read the book some years ago and that gave me a better idea of the life of Christ than anything I ever read. Stena was out to Carrie's at the time and said she would have given \$3.00 willingly to have seen it but there were no more tickets to be had at any price and even every foot of standing room was taken up as nearly as we could see. After the play Chris took me up to the Odeon and that was another treat. Of course you know what that is and am glad you have an interest in it. Only wish you had more.

Now tell me if you dare that you never got tired reading all this rubbish but now I will have the goodness to say good night and wish you every success. Your Sister Lavina.
Love from all.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 31, 1909

My Dear Nels:

It is Sunday night and I haven't a thing to do so will write to my dear husband to pass the time away. Esther and Ike are in the other room but Oh I am so lonely. I try to be contented but I can't. It seems like the two years will never pass and the more I think about it the longer it seems. I got your last two letters the same day and I hadn't heard from you for nearly two weeks and was just beginning to think you had forgotten me for your folks had got two letters since I had but then they both came together and I knew the one had been delayed. I haven't seen Aunt Lettie since I got your letter to tell her that you got the dollar.

Last Wednesday night Aunt Lettie, Annie, Stena and I went to a show. The name of the play was East Lynn and it was just fine. Chris took Emma Bush to the show and his name was read out in meeting today to be ordained to an elder so perhaps you will have Emma for a sister. What do you think of that. Tuesday was Aunt Lettie's birthday. Aunt Lettie was 34 and Joe 24. We all had supper up there that day. Esther and Ike wrote to you the other day. It was too bad that that man made you out get out and treated you so mean but I suppose you will get used to that before you come home.

Stena came last night when I was writing to you and wanted me to go to meeting with her so I went and now it is Mon. so I will finish my letter. The meeting last night was an eighth grade entertainment. They gave a program and Mr. Justensen, Supt. of the American Fork school, lectured. He used to be my teacher you know. The High School is going to give a concert in the meetinghouse Thursday night. I wish you were here and we would go.

It would have paid you to hire a sleigh instead of walking those fourteen miles, don't you think so, Nels? I wonder where we'll live when you come back. Do you know? Esther and Ike are talking of buying a place right across from Joe Shoells. It has been quite warm the last two or three days and today the sun is shining and it would be quite nice if it wasn't so muddy. It freezes at night and then thaws in the daytime. The other night Esther and Ike came down and we sat up till two o'clock reading a story. Then it was too late for them to go home so they stayed all night. Esther and I took turns reading and Annie and Ike listened. We read a whole book.

Well dearest, I guess I have told you all the news now. Annie is going down to the post office and I want her to take this letter. I guess I will go up to your place tomorrow and then go to mutual with Stena tomorrow night. I was up to your mother's Wednesday and Mrs. Lim came over and invited us over there to have a cup of coffee so your mother, Stena and I went over there. I suppose this is enough for this time so goodbye dear. Write soon to your loving Wife Viola xxxoo

Svartösten, Feb. 6, 1909

My Dearest Darling Wife,

It is now 8 o'clock in the morning. I have been out of bed one hour but the room is not warm yet, however I will try to warm myself by writing a few lines to my dear Viola. If you were here I know I could warm myself by telling you many things that would come to mind if only I could see you.

In your last letter you stated it was five months since our marriage and it seemed longer than that to you. It doesn't seem long since last summer, but when I think of the last time I saw you it certainly seems a long time, but no matter how long it is since, I remember it as if it were today and I never shall forget it. It certainly was a heart-breaking effort for such a happy newly married couple to part for such a long time. It will be a long time before I see you again, but if everything goes well, that time will soon pass by and we will again live happily together sharing our joys and sorrows with pleasure.

Last night I had my photos out looking at them and I tell you it seems good to see them. It makes me reflect back to the time that I last saw them and the feeling that existed between us. As I stared for about five minutes at the photo of the happy couple, Mr. and Mrs. Niels Fugal, a great longing came to my heart making me wish I had you here, but I suppose we will have to make the best of it and live in fond hopes of us meeting again in a good healthy condition. It would be better for us if we could keep from thinking so much about the time that has to pass before our meeting again, and make the best of each day as it is rapidly passing by, but this is almost impossible for where there is love there is longing.

[Don't forget the CD made by the Grant Fugal family for the 2003 reunion to see a number of the photos referred to in these letters.]

It is soon four months since I left home and I can't see where I am any wiser in the principles of the gospel but I have had some very good experience and am learning a little every day in the new language. I can see where I have missed it in the past by not devoting more of my time to studying the gospel. I not only have to learn a new language but have to learn the scriptures and I feel that I have a very hard row to hoe. Sometimes I almost feel glad that I don't know the language any better because I have the language to hide my ignorance. But I am not the only unversed elder who has gone out into the world to proclaim the everlasting gospel and I believe nearly everyone that has fulfilled a mission has gained some good results. We are sent out to teach and while we are trying to teach others we are deriving a great benefit ourselves. I feel that any efforts will be of no avail without the leading of the great Divine Spirit. I have to express myself to the people every time we hold meeting and it certainly shows me where I am weak. But I suppose I must not expect to become a preacher in one day, for heights reached and kept are not attained by sudden flight, but they who attain them are working every day. Life is but a problem and we should be sure to solve it correctly for it can only be done once. I believe both you and I will never regret of my going on a mission providing I accomplish any good while here.

Since I last wrote to you there has been a death at our next door neighbors. An old lady has died and I believe the funeral will take place tomorrow. We are on friendly terms with the family and if we are invited we will attend the funeral services. I believe it is the custom in this country to extend invitations to funerals; strange custom, isn't it?

Well dearest, the last week we have had a little colder weather but it isn't as cold as they generally have it here. They claim that the months of Feb. and March are the severest months so I know about what to expect. If we had a house built of brick or rock we would be OK but the houses in this place are all built of lumber and it is no difficult task for Jack Frost to find an entrance. We have no coal to burn and it keeps me quite busy sawing wood and packing it into the stove. It tries to snow a little every day but I suppose it is too cold to snow very much. There has been good sleighing here ever since Nov. and I suppose it will remain until the middle of April. I wish I had a sleigh and a good team here and that you were with me and we would show the Swedes how to sleigh ride. You would laugh if you could see the curious sleighs they have in this country.

Well dearest, I will close with love and best wishes hoping that you are well and that you are making the best of the time that seems so long to you. I wrote a letter to your father, has he received it? Give my best regards to all the folks. Tell Ike not to get sick. Write often to Your Husband Nels. Xxxoox

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Feb. 7th 1909

Dearest Brother –

It is over a week since I wrote you so I will endeavor to scratch off a few lines again. No doubt you are glad to receive letters from home if there isn't anything in them. Today is Sunday and it is just raining. It is very slushy and muddy to walk. I have been to Sunday school, fast meeting and Mrs. Larson's funeral, Neils Peter Larson's wife, and Emma's mother. She died in Spanish Fork and was shipped to P.G. last night. There were very many people out to the funeral. Pres. Chipman and Clark spoke. Joe Halliday sings in the choir all the time now. He sang a solo in the funeral today and the choir joined in. If he keeps on he will be a good singer some day. Last Thursday night the P.G. High school gave a concert in the meetinghouse. It was just fine. Professor Goodmanson from the BYU of Provo gave several violin selections. He is just grand. There is more music in a violin than any one thinks. Clara Williamson, Junius Banks, and Mae Clark recited. They all did fine and then there were many songs. Clara Williamson is as good as a dozen. If she keeps on she will know how to recite alright. The hall was nearly full. Oh Yes! Ida is going to get married on the 10th of Feb. We all have an invitation but I don't think any of us can go. We're going to send her a present. We are going to send a bed spread and table cover. Perlinda and Ally are invited but they are not going either. Ida decided to marry Frank after all.

Jens and Chris are sitting here chewing the rag so do not be surprised if I write down some of their conversations. I received your letter stating that you had got yourself an overcoat. We were glad to hear you had spent Xmas so well.

Perhaps you would like a picture of our sitting room at present. Mother is sitting here

reading and Ernest is laying across Jens' lap and Jens is giving him some love taps. So you can imagine we have a wild house.

Chris is lovesick most of the time. Just as soon as we find he is going down to Bushes then the next thing we know he is going up to Anna Rasmussons but he is a little faint hearted about going up there. I expect he wants to be related to Jim Bush so no telling where he will land. [Bushes lived at 126 S. Main.]

John Halliday and wife, L.P. Lund [182 E. Center] and wife, Dr. Grua and wife, left the big city of P.G. for California yesterday. Dr. Grua and Miss Nordstrom got married just before they went on the honeymoon. I expect they will have a jolly vacation. Uncle Jacob was here the other day and left a dollar for you. Please give him credit on your book. He would like you to write him some time when you have time. Take good care of Niels and give Alma our regards. I am as ever your 'umble servant. Stena. P.S. I forgot to tell you John and Carrie have bought a swell piano.

Pl. Grove, Feb. 8, 1909

Dear Brother:

I received your welcome letter about a week ago and was pleased to hear from you and to note you are well and getting along all right. I hope you will feel that way all the time. Everything is pretty good here considering that you are not here. Louis is here steady, he is cutting some poplar trees into wood for [half?]. I have been punk a few days, not knocked out but feeling kinda mean. Jens is busy plumbing and I am busy in the shop most of the time. I just came from meeting and Joseph Larson's mother's funeral. She died in Spanish Fork. We have an invitation to go to cousin Ida's wedding to Frank Whitlock. None of us had time to go although we would like to go, but it takes money also. I have had my teeth fixed and am going to get me a suit of clothes. It takes money all the time so we must make money all the time. We are sending you herewith \$50.00 which you will need I guess as soon as it arrives. I was over to Am. Fork yesterday and got the money order. And also to priesthood meeting to be presented before the meeting to be ordained to Elder. You know I am rushing Annie Rasmusson and Emma Bush. I might be a polygamist. Must do some hustling while there is a chance. When I get married I will give you an invitation. It is quite stormy here. It has snowed and drifted quite a bit. Stena is relating a story she is reading, Edmond Dantes or [The Count of] Monte Cristo. The man that dug through the prison wall. At Paris. There is a lull on through the country. It is hoped that it will soon open up and be better. Jens and I are going to the school house. One of the indirect radiators are out of kilter and the furnace wants some paint. When that is done I think it will be received and we will get the balance due on it.

I can't think of any more to write so I will give way with best wishes and God's speed be with you. Your Brother C. A. Fugal

When asked who sent you this order you must answer C. A. Fugal. You will notice you can't tell on the order who sent it. If you can't tell who sent the order you would have to be identified. That is a system they use to make money orders more safe in case someone

got in possession of this order, they could not cash it unless they knew who sent it.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 9, 1909

My Dear Darling Husband:

Your last letter came Sunday and I was so glad to hear from you again. It had just been a week since I heard from you but it was such a long week it seemed like it had been at least two. Lavina sent down the letter she got for me to read. Thursday night I went to the High School Concert with Stena. It was just fine. Sat. I was up to Lavina's all afternoon. Sunday Esther and Ike were down here. I do wish that you was home Nels or at least that you could be here in about four months from now when I will need you so much. I can't help but worry about it and I will be so glad when it is all over, won't you dearest?

You asked me if I kept that twenty. Yes I did and I don't know what I would have done without it. I took two and a half of it to finish paying for our pictures and then it took so much to buy baby clothes. I have ten of it left but I have to have some more things yet. When I came back from Salt Lake I gave the money you had in that box to Chris and he asked me if you had given me any. He said he told you to but didn't know whether you had or not. I told him yes but didn't tell him how much. You know Nels when we were in Salt Lake you forgot to give me that checkbook to bring back. I never thot a thing about it till I was come up from the depot and then Jens asked me if I brought it. I told him we forgot all about it and that you had it in your pocket so he said well it didn't make any difference anyhow so I guess it is alright, isn't it Nels?

Do you ever think about where we are going to live when you come back? I do lots of times and I don't care where we live just so we live alone, but I want you all by myself when you come back and so we don't want to live with anybody. Besides it will be different when you come back to what it was before you went. I almost wish you hadn't gone on a mission. It will be such a long time before you get back.

Oh yes Nels I almost forgot to tell you I am invited to the Old Folks Party. It makes me think I am quite old. You know they invite the widows and missionary's wives. It is sometime this week but I don't know what day. It is mutual tonight but I don't know whether I will go or not. There is quite a bit of snow on the ground now. It snowed night before last and yesterday. I spend quite a bit of my time reading but I just read stories. I can't get interested in anything else. I made some little night dresses yesterday and am going to sew today when I get thru writing. I have crocheted quite a bit of lace since you left and made a handkerchief and gave it to Annie. It is hem stitched and then I made some lace around it. You know it is her birthday next Sunday. I guess I will make one for Esther's birthday, that is the 20th of this month. Annie's is on St. Valentine's day.

Elias [Annie's son] is here trying to get on my lap. He has got a pencil and a piece of paper and wants to write to you too. He wants me to send his letter and he says it says "Uncle Nels when are you coming back?"

Well dearest I guess I will close for this time. Write to me just as soon as you can for I

get so lonesome sometimes and I do like to hear from you often. With love forever, I am your loving wife.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 14, 1909

Dearest Bro. –

I received your most welcome letter last Monday and was more than pleased to hear from you, glad to note that you were well, and pleased to hear that you have got your house cleaned. Of course we don't suppose that Bachelors Hall ever gets dirty because you are such neat and prim housekeepers.

You stated in your letter that you are getting quite a number of friends, that is good, and we hope you will get a lot more. There are such a few saints where you are that it stands you in hand to gain some friends so you will have somebody to preach to. You said if nothing else you would have to preach to the tree stumps, hope you can get a live audience to talk to so they can correct you if you do not speak right.

I am going give you a picture of home as it is at this minute. Mother is sitting here reading another book, it is entitled "Harry West or Try Again," the one you read when you were sick. She is getting a daisy to read English. She has read all the books I bought last summer and some of Viola's too. So you can tell it does not take her long to read a book. Ernest is sitting on his little red chair perched on top of another chair, driving Prince, just more than making him go. He has grown a foot since you were home and is just as mischievous as ever. Chris is out hitching up old Bess, he is going down to Bushes and then to conjoint. I tell you Chris is lovesick. He takes her out three or four times a week. Don't be surprised if Jim Bush is your uncle someday. Say kid, talk about mud, O my! It is almost impossible to cross the street. Lew has been scraping east of our house to make it better, but you don't want to get the idea that it is any better. You can imagine the effort we have to make to step outside.

The other day Mrs. August Warnick died, she had been sick for quite a while. Her funeral will be tomorrow. Mrs. Richens, Adline Nelson's mother, will be buried tomorrow too, she had been sick for a long time.

Last Friday the Old Folks had their party, they had quite a nice time. And Friday night the MIA had their dance, it was a success, they cleared \$14.00. The other dance they had this winter they went behind on. Last night there was a grand theatre here entitled "The Holy City." Their costumes were something grand. They were excellent performers, the best I have ever seen, the characters of Peter, John the Baptist, King Herod, Pilate, Lizbeth, Salome, King Herod's wife, Prince Maricus, and many others. The scenery was grand. Jens and Lavina, Mr. and Mrs. Houston, Viola and I all rode down in the surrey. We all went in spite of the mud.

[The theatre was north of Clark's Dry Goods and eventually was torn down (1938) to make way for the City Hall, which building still stands on Main Street. People would shop next door and get a discount ticket for the theatre which would then cost 15 cents. Silent movies came c. 1912 and the theatre became a Show House.]

Chris and Emma were there too, to be sure. I don't believe I had better write on both sides of this paper or you will be unable to make it out. I did not notice that it was so bad until I had written on both sides of the other sheet. I will have to stop now and wade down in the mud to conjoint meeting, will finish when I get back.

It is now 9:30 o'clock and I have just returned from M.I.A. conjoint, it was OK. Mr. Kinke gave a talk on his missionary journey and experiences while on his mission, he labored in Switzerland and Germany. Mr. Kinke is married and lives in P.G., they live in part of Mrs. Shoell's home. Hazel Smith sang, Leah Halliday read and Leona West sang, and Chris dismissed, so you can play you was in it too. We received a letter from Ida [in Mayfield] and she said she was very disappointed that none of us came to her wedding. She said they had a lovely time. There were sixty to the reception and then they went to the hall and danced until three and then went back to Scows and stayed eating and drinking until seven o'clock. She said they received many presents and forty five dollars in cash. So you can tell they had a swell time.

Viola and Esther and Ike were to meeting tonight. Mother was very glad to get her letter and told me to thank you very much and to tell you that she is proud to have you on your mission, she thinks it's a great privilege and blessing, and she tries hard not to worry too much. Of course we all miss you but mother has the right spirit and will appreciate you more when you get back.

Ally Radmall doesn't go to school now and has not been for a month, he must have got tired, he doesn't say any more about school like he did. Perlinda and Ally are as sweet as ever but don't know when they will get married. Well Nels I don't suppose you are very flush with feather cushions so I will take pity on you this time and stop. Trust you are well and enjoying your labors very much. I am as ever Your Bossy Sister. Stena. Write soon.

P.S. Joe Halliday said he received a letter from you last night. Have to written to Sam Smith yet? I am sure he would like to hear from you. You asked for my photo. I will send it before long.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Feb. 14, 1909

My Dear Husband:

Your welcome letter was received yesterday and was very glad to get it and to hear that you are well and enjoying yourself so well. I read your letter that you wrote to Jens and you said the time was passing almost too fast that you couldn't accomplish as much as you would like to. The time can't pass any too quickly to suit me and it seems like it has been years since you left instead of four months. I am glad that you are so contented and are not homesick, perhaps you will like it so well that you won't want to come home when you are released.

Last night Jens and Lavina took me to the theater. The name of the play was "The Holy City" and it was just fine. Jens, Lavina, Stena and Jack and Aunt Lettie and I went down

in the surrey. It was awfully muddy but it was an extra good play. Chris took Emma Bush.

You said in your letter that the bathing houses are run by the women and that they waited on the men and that as it was the custom you think it is alright and will have to get used to it. I am sorry that I can't quite agree with you. The women may be innocent but I don't see why the men can't wait on themselves. And I don't see why you will have to get used to it and I do hope that you won't think that you are able to take a bath yourself without having somebody to wait on you. There may not be any harm in it dearest but I don't hardly like the idea of having other women giving my husband a bath. Please tell me in your next that you are not going to get used to that custom. I suppose that you use Bachelors Hall for your bath now, don't you dear? I don't see why the women want to wait on them at all for I should think the men could wait on themselves. Well dearest I guess you think I have said enough about that but please tell me your next what you think about it. Do you think it is necessary to have them wait on you?

You wanted me to send my ring back and have a new set put in but I don't feel like I could afford it now. If possible I will have it done before you come home but I can't possibly now. I haven't worn it since I lost the set. Ike said he would take it to Salt Lake and get it fixed but I can't send it until I get some money and I don't know when that will be.

Today is Annie's birthday and Uncle Friend [brother of her father] and Aunt Stena are here. [Friend's wife, Christine.] Supper is ready now so I will have to finish after.

It is now Monday morning. After supper last night I went to Conjoint with Esther and Ike and when I got home I was too sleepy to finish my letter. I was up to your mother's Saturday. Did you hear that the Republic, the ship you crossed the ocean on, has been destroyed? There is an account of it in the last Dessert News and I will send it if I can get it in my letter [not enclosed]. I guess this is all for this time. Allie is through with school now but I don't think he is going on a mission, he hasn't been called yet. Emma Larson's mother died last week and there is going to be two funerals today. Mrs. Richens that old lady and Mrs. Warnick. Mrs. Richens is at 10 o'clock and Mrs. Warnick at two o'clock. Well, dearest please write often. May the Lord bless you at all times is the prayer of your loving Wife Viola. xxxxxooo

[From the internet: January 9, 1909 - Ocean Steam Navigation Company's steamship White Star luxury liner "Republic" is hit by the "Florida," an Italian steamer carrying 850 Italian emigrants to the U.S., while in thick fog off the coast of Nantucket. The wireless operator on the "Republic" sent out a distress message for hours and helped save more than 1,500 passengers and crew, who were picked up by the passenger ship, "Baltic." Only 6 people died in the collision. The event was made into a 1999 TV documentary "Rescue at Sea" as part of the American Experience PBS series.]

Svartösten, 2-20, 1909

My Dear Viola,

Your dear welcome letter came to hand last night and it was received with great pleasure for it was twelve days since I heard from you. I note by your letter that you also had to wait nearly two weeks to hear from your dearest, but it is nice you got my letters even if they did both come at once. I have written once every week to you since I came to Sweden, so if you haven't received them they are lost. I am certainly glad to note that you think lots of your dear husband who is so far from you, and that you would enjoy his presence, for that fills my heart with fond hopes for the future. I don't blame you for getting quite anxious and thinking two years is an awful long time to wait, for it seems that way to me also, but we must make the best of it and feel very thankful if nothing happens that would cause me to come home before my time is filled. There is nothing I would desire more than to be with you, but at the same time I would be sorry if I couldn't fulfill my mission. How nice it would be if I had you here with me to cook for me and keep house. The time would go much faster and we would be much happier and more contented. I am glad we are married for you are mine now and I am yours and if all goes well we know we are someday going to meet each other and live together and oh! how happy we will be, won't we my dearest?

As I let my mind wander back to P.G. and think of what I have there, it certainly causes me to have a great longing and a desire to go there. I have enough to discourage me here for I can see the great hill before me which I have to climb before I can attain success. I feel my ignorance in trying to defend the gospel and I also have to learn the language before I can accomplish anything. I am here trying and I believe wherever there is a will there is a way, and the beauty of it is that the great secret in preaching the gospel doesn't always lie in a man's own knowledge, but that if he will work in harmony with the duties of his calling a great unseen power will prompt him. Of course we are supposed to study the scriptures and get a knowledge of the same, and then speak as we are directed. How glorious this gospel is! and what a pleasure it would be to fight for it, if I was only well versed.

Oh! dearest I am thankful that I am a Mormon and my home is in Utah (which is the best place on earth) for we are certainly blessed there with better laws and a better chance to make a livelihood, and we have the organization of our dear church where we can learn the gospel of Christ which is the true plan of salvation. Here the people are in darkness and a great many of them don't believe in a hereafter. What satisfaction is their aim? It is eat, drink and be happy today for tomorrow we die and that is the end. What a blessing, that we L.D. Saints know better than that and that we know we will be held accountable for our words and actions whether they be for good or for evil. Again, isn't it a blessing that we know that this world isn't the last of us, but that it is only a preparatory school in which we should train ourselves to be in a condition to meet the requirements of our next stage of life.

Yes, I am quite pleased with the step that Chris has taken and I sincerely hope that he will make a success for Emma is a nice girl. It would be quite nice if she became our sister, won't it dear? I received a letter from Esther and Ike and was glad to note that they anticipate buying a piece of ground and building a house on it. That would be very nice and then perhaps we can buy Joe Shoell's place and live neighbors to them so we can engage in family quarrels. Esther also spoke of we four moving to Idaho and buying Annie's ranch. That would also be nice but of course we don't know what we will do in

two years from now. After we take a pleasure trip to the Indian Reservation perhaps we will decide to make our home there, and perhaps P.G. is so large that there is plenty of room there for us to make a livelihood. You ask if I know where we would live when I come back. No I don't know but if the Lord will bless us with health and strength there is no doubt but what we can prosper in such a good place as Utah. Well my dearest darling, try to content yourself and keep up courage and the time will soon pass in which we are so far apart, and then you and I will again be united and live happily together, I with my dear Viola and you with your dear Swedish Husband. Write soon. Nels. I will seal this letter with these. xxxoox

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 23rd, 1909

Dear Brother –

Received your letter of Feb. 2nd inst. and I can assure you that it was very welcome. You just ought to see how we stand around anxiously awaiting to hear it read or to read it. Glad to note that you are well, that is the greatest blessing you can have. But we do not always appreciate health as we should. I hope you will pardon me for writing with a pencil but could not find my pen and I cannot write with Chris' very well.

Well Bro I have just returned home from mutual, tonight I had to give the lesson for the first time so you can imagine I was not very brave. We are glad you are learning the Swedish language, it won't take long until you will be such a big Swede that you won't want to talk anything else. By the time you have been there for six or seven months you will be quite a preacher too. P.G. is about the same as usual. It is quite dry now, anyone can go downtown without rubbers, that is quite a change. There has been a lot of moving done lately. Sam Radmall and his family have moved up to old man Radmall's place, they are taking care of the old lady. Jennie Rassmuson and her husband have moved to Celia Christianson's and Houston has to move this week but I don't know where to.

Say kid, next Friday night there is going to be another Tom Larson dance. Coffee and buns for sale. Wish you could be there, haven't been to a dance for quite a while so I expect I will go to that one. Next Sunday night the missionary committee are going to give a program in the meetinghouse. Theral Aydelotte is going on a mission the first part of March. The church authorities have made a new law. That of dancing to make money for missionaries must be stopped. So they are going to try a new scheme. There is something a doing most all the time.

Lew is still working here, lately he has been sorting potatoes, the boys have sold all the potatoes they can spare. Roylance bought them, they just had to haul them to the depot, he paid forty five cents per bushel. They are about sixty cents in Salt Lake but to hire anyone to haul them to Salt Lake they would not clear 45 cents. Lenord West has bought the little plugs, he paid ninety five dollars for the two. Hay is too expensive to feed scrubs. They are offered \$150.00 for Kate, Bess's colt but I don't think they will sell her. She is most too pretty to sell. High Hieselt got Tom to feed to his fish but we did not get his picture taken, when you suggested it, it was too late, because he was already gone. It sure would have been nice to have had a snapshot of him. The boys are into the Implement business proper now I can tell you. They have twenty six buggies on hand, six

wagons and a carload or more of harrows, ploughs, cultivators, etc., etc. You can imagine what an immense lot it is. They have hauled three big loads of freight from American Fork depot today. Chris did not get home until quite late so he did not go to the mutual or down to Bushes tonight. He is still sweet on Emma.

I am having some of Ernest's teeth filled, he has had the toothache lately and I am trying to prevent him from having it more than can be helped. He stands it just fine, sits in the chair like a man and takes his medicine. Mother is still reading, she is reading the Life of Brigham Young at present, she had read a stack of books this winter, reading is the best pastime anyone can have. Glad you read the Deseret News then you learn lots of news and the Era is fine too. It is a good thing they sent you on a mission, so you will get a chance to read and study for you did not look in a newspaper once in six months at home. Are you still teaching school? I suppose when you get home you will apply for a position as chief cook, nothing like it, sometimes it comes in very handy to know how to cook. We are very glad to note that the time does not drag on your hands, which proves to us, that you are keeping busy. How's your beard?

Sunday school is about the same as when you were home, they have not put in any new assistant supt. yet. Jens is busy wiring Dick Wadley's house and some others I believe, he has worked in Manila two or three days, he says he is quite rushed at present but there is nothing like having something to do. Will close my epistle for this time hoping to hear from you soon and trusting you are well and Swedish and happy, I am Your Affectionate Sis. Stena.

P.S. All the folks sends their love to you. Give our regards to Alma. Suppose you have received your money before this.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Feb. 24, 1909

My Dear Nels.

It was a week yesterday since I wrote to you last and so I take great pleasure in writing again now. I got your letter yesterday and Pa got the one you wrote to him the same day.

Saturday was Esther's birthday and we all went up there for dinner. Next Friday night there is going to be a Scandinavian dance. Don't you wish you could go? Yesterday it was as warm as could be, almost like spring and it looks like it was going to be a nice day today. Esther and Ike were down yesterday. They are talking of buying that place across from Joe Shoells. I believe it belongs to Westie Jacobs' mother. They want \$700 for it but there isn't any house. I wish we had a place. I wonder where we will live when you come back. I would just as leave live down in the north field if we had a house, wouldn't you dear?

I guess you have heard that Mrs. Richens, Emma Larsen's mother, and August Warnick's wife are dead. I don't know of any more news now. When I was up to your place last Ren Benson and Louis were sacking up potatoes and taking them down to Roylance. I believe they are going to get 42¢ a bu. Ike hurt his leg the other day and he could hardly walk for a day or two. He is better now but he still limps. Have you written to Aunt Lettie yet? I haven't seen her for quite awhile.

How long do you think they will keep you up there in that place, Nels? How long is it before conference? I suppose they have conference at Sundsvall, don't they? Are these kids you are teaching English learning very fast? I guess you will be glad when summer comes, then it won't be so cold.

When I was up to your place Ernest was crying with the toothache. Stena took him down to the dentist and is going to have some of them filled. Oh yes Nels have you heard that Carrie has got a new piano? I haven't seen it but they say it is a fine one. I haven't seen John and Carrie since new year's day when I was out there. I will be so glad when summer comes. I have had enough winter. Well dearest I guess I will close for this time. I am going to sew a little today. Take good care of yourself and don't forget Yours forever, Viola.

Svartösten, Luleå, 2-26-1909

My Dear Darling Viola –

I received your dear loving letter last night and now will answer it with pleasure. How nice it is to have a dear loving wife to care for me such as you do! Oh! dear, I would like to be with you now and talk to you for I know you love me so much and would enjoy nothing better than to have your dearest friend on this earth to be with you. You don't know how glad I am that I made you my dear wife before leaving home, for it seems so nice to receive letters from a wife, it fills my soul with hope and courage and causes me to go ahead and perform my duties with a renewed energy. No matter if I do receive rough treatment, and have to contend with people who are not afraid to insult me and

throw slurs at me, I have an aim in view, and that is to do good to my fellowmen in trying to show them the fine plan of salvation and then after an honorable release return home to my friends and darling wife. It seems an awful long time to wait and we don't know what we will have to pass through before our meeting again, but if God will bless us with health, which he will do if we only do his will and keep his commandments, we may pass that time very rapidly by performing our duties and at the same time gain happiness by making others happy. How happy I am that I have been born in Zion, where I have received our dear gospel and been brought up under such laws, that train a person to qualify himself for the hereafter, and I am willing in any weak way to spend two of my best years in trying to show the people, who are in darkness, the guiding star which is Mormonism, the star which will lead us into eternal happiness, if we will work in conformity with its glorious principles.

Since I left home I have commenced to realize, that straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leads into heaven and few there be that find it, for as I get out among the people I find a great many who don't believe in religion nor God, and those who pretend to be religious are far from it. They are not religious when they will turn a brother away from their door just because he has a different understanding of the gospel. There is certainly a great deal of work for missionaries but the people are so slow to receive the truth, if a socialist or a freethinker comes to town to preach the people will turn out in scores to hear them. There are many people who try to make themselves believe there is no God but they are afraid there is and they like to have their faith in no God strengthened by listening to infidel preachers.

Well dear I must not trouble you too much about the affairs of the world for I suppose you have enough troubles of your own. I am glad to note that you attend mutual and occasionally get out to meetings and entertainments for it will do you much good, and please don't stay in more than is necessary for you know the time is soon coming that you won't be able to attend the various meetings. I am pleased to note that you do some reading if it is only stories, for that will exercise your mental qualities somewhat and will help to form good results. Yes dearest I also wish I could be with you in about four months so I could wait on my darling when she will need the care of a dutiful husband, but we knew this was going to happen before I left you and now we must make the best of it. Please do not worry about it but keep up courage and I have faith that all will be well and it won't be long until I will be a happy husband and father. I will be nice for you to have a child to take your care and attention, it will make the time pass more rapidly for you, won't it dearest?

I am glad that you took that twenty I gave you for I know you will need it in the near future. Please write to me often about your circumstances and I will try to arrange for your welfare. I have two good brothers who I can depend upon so please tell me how you are fixed with means. If I remain in good health I think that a way will open up in which I can soon pay for my mission and you and I will get along OK when I get back home.

Well I must say that we have just as nice weather here as ever and I am feeling fine and enjoying myself as well as can be expected considering my ignorance. I am learning a little every day but I can see that I will have to study hard to make a success. Now my dear loving wife I will close with love and best wishes hoping you will continue to have

precious thoughts about your darling and that you won't forget to assist me with your faith and prayers for I am in great need of them. Give all the folks my very best regards. Your Loving Husband Nels. xxxxxooxx Alma sends best regards.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 2, 1909

My dear darling husband:

I jut now got back from the post office and thot I would write to my dear husband. It was just a week since I got a letter so I got Annie to take a walk with me to the office and sure enough there was a letter for me from you and I feel well paid for my walk. It's just a lovely night too, warm and not very dark so you see I enjoyed it. It is now about half past eight. Did you get a letter from Annie quite a while ago? She wrote to you just a little while after Xmas. Esther and Ike wrote to you too some time ago. Did you get that? I am helping Annie sew this week. We are making two suits and when we get them done I will get about \$3.10, that isn't very much but every little bit helps you know. I helped her make a waist last week and got 60¢ so you see I am making money fast. She hasn't had much sewing to do but she wants me to help her and so of course I will as long as I am able to sew for I need the money. I get half of what we make but of course I do half the work and so that is all right. There was a Mrs. Johnson from Lindon came to get a dress made and she asked Annie if Niels Fugal's wife sewed, she said she heard that I was a good sewer.

Esther has been down all afternoon. Ike hauled a ton of coal for Annie and one for us and took one home for them. I haven't got all my sewing done yet and I guess I will have to get at it as soon as I am thru helping Annie and then we have to clean house you know, ours and Annie's before anything happens. I don't think I will go out any more now for quite awhile. Jennie Rasmussen lives in one room of Celia Christiansen's house. Chris has been going with Emma Bush, I don't know whether he still takes her or not. Esther and Ike don't go out much. Esther doesn't go any more than I do. Aunt Lettie has moved back to that place where they lived when they first came over here. Have you written to her yet?

We have had just lovely weather here for about a week, almost like summer. A week ago Sat. was Esther's birthday and we all went up there for dinner. Today was Mrs. Lim's birthday and she wanted me to come up to her place but I was so busy sewing I didn't go and I didn't care about going anyhow because I guess there was quite a few people there. Well dearest I guess I will quit for tonight but will write some more in the morning before I send it so good night dear Nels.

It is now Tuesday morning and is just beautiful outside. The sun is shining and the ground has been dry for about a week. It makes me feel like I would like to stay outdoors all day. If you was here I would be out doors with you all the time. I wish I could be over there and keep house for you. Elias sleeps with me now and he says he will come and work for us when you came back. Every time he loses anything he says it has gone over where Uncle Nels is. Be sure and tell me in your next if you ever got that letter that Annie wrote to you. I wrote the same day and told you that she was writing and you have never mentioned it so I didn't know whether you got either of the letters or not.

Aunt Hanner is going to the Post Office and I want her to take this letter. It is time I was at work so I guess I will close for this time. Give my regards to Elder Monson and be sure and write to me often. Take care of yourself and don't get sick. It's just about a year ago now when you were so sick before. I am glad you are learning to cook. When you come home I will have to let you keep in practice so you won't forget how, won't I dear? Well goodbye, write often and think of me sometimes.

Yours with love forever, Viola

Pleasant Grove, Ut., March 3rd, 1909

Dear Brother –

Your letter of Feb. 3 was received with much pleasure. We were all very glad to hear from you and to note that you were well. We are all well at present. We went to the Tom Larson dance last Friday night, there was a very large crowd there. It was fun to watch the men trying to knock the cat out of the barrel. They had a plank 16 feet long and 2x6 and stood it end ways on the floor, the men had to walk the length of the plank and then hit the barrel while standing on the plank. The barrel was fixed with braces so it took many hits before it broke. Jesse Oler knocked the cat out of the barrel and received it for the prize. It was a stuffed clothed cat. We had a good time but we were just about done up, and hardly over it yet.

The missionary committee got up a party for Theral Aydelotte Sun. night in the meetinghouse. It is against the law of the church to have dances to raise money for missionaries. There was a good attendance and a good programme. Hazel Smith sang, Lula Myers sang, a male quartet by Kinke, Alston, Dr. Jones and Joe Halliday, it was fine. Clarinet duette by Claud Hays and Niels Poulson, a clarinet and cornet duette by Claude Hays and Mastal Lund, a violin solo by Niels Poulson, recitation by Miss Holiday and Clara Williamson, speeches by James Walker, Will Hays, Aydelotte that's going on a mission, and Senator Briderhoof who was on a mission in the southern states the same time Wm. Hays was.

He told about his missionary experiences, he is a good speaker and running over with fun. He told us that he and his partner were in a place that they were in danger of being mobbed, they got word that they should leave that place, they lost no time in leaving and when they got to the next town they had to leave there too. He said they traveled for five days and nights with little rest and scarcely anything to eat. He said they were all in, and felt like they could not walk another step, and they soon saw a light, and went to it, some very poor people lived there, but made them welcome and gave them a bed. He said his companion slept as soon as he struck the pillow, he stayed in bed about three minutes, he could not sleep for bugs, he jumped out of bed and went out in the woods about five rods from the house, he prayed all night and never slept a wink. He said he prayed the awfulest prayer and he is ashamed of it to this day. He said he talked to the Lord like he would talk to a man. He said you know Lord how I have walked and had nothing to eat and then to lead me to such an awful bed "I'll be damned if I will sleep in." He had left a good home and had suffered so much. The Lord answered his prayer, for from that day



Tabernacle

on, he had plenty to eat and a good place to sleep and was blest. It was a very interesting programme. They passed the hat and took in over \$38.00. Theral is going to the Society Islands where Lee Harper is. They had a party to Aydelottes last night for him. Jens, Lavina, myself, Chris, Emma Bush, the bishop, Ed Olpins, Westphals, Miley Smiths, Charles Harpers, Joe Halliday and wife, Dr. Grua and wife, and a hundred others were there. We had a good time. He left for his mission this morning.

Monday was Mrs. Lim's birthday, we were all over there Monday night and had a very nice time. So you see we have been doing considerable gadding lately. The boys are very busy. Jens is going to do some more wiring, he can not stay right with it so it takes longer to do it, and he has a job to put an iron fence around the meetinghouse yard. [There are a number of old photos so remember next time you see one, that the fence was done by Jens. After the town was split into three wards, it was called the tabernacle; located on Center Street and presently 300 East.] Chris is busy in the shop and chewing the rag with customers. There is machinery all over the place. He sold a buggy the other day and a harrow today. The weather has been lovely here for a week and Lew has been working in the field yesterday and today, he is sowing wheat. I think they will soon have their wheat planted. John and Carrie have a piano and Carrie is taking music lessons so do not be surprised if she is a musician when you come back. I haven't seen it but I am quite anxious to go out and see it. Jens and Lavina were out there Sunday, it was Erval's birthday, he got a nice bicycle of John for a birthday present.

I am glad kid that you are learning to cook and that you are faring so well. I hope you are getting fat, it will do you good. I wouldn't mind having a cup of cocoa with you and a dish of rice. Frank Humphries [111 E. 100 N.] told me he had received a letter from you and he received one from Mart too, he was as proud and tickled as a kitten with two tails. Take good care of yourself, and I hope you are enjoying yourself very much and write soon to Your Loving Sister Stena. Helsen Alma. Mother sends her love to you.

Mar. 4th. I thought I had finished my letter last night but I forgot to tell you something else. Mrs. Poulson, Otto's mother was up here the other day and gave mother a dollar for you and said to give you her best regards also. So you see you are not forgotten. Do not be surprised if my letter that I wrote you yesterday is full of mistakes because Liverne Rassmuson's mother sat here talking as loud as she could all the while I was writing. Have you written to Sam Smith yet? I know he will be pleased to hear from you and also he expects a letter from you. Next Sunday will be stake S.S. conference here. I think it will be fine. They have quite a long programme arranged.

Lettie Houston has moved up in the Carlson house by Will Ellis and Mercurs have moved in Rosa and Hilmer's house as they are peddling tinware in Salt Lake City. Hans Rassmuson lives up in his own home now. If I don't stop now you will think I am trying to make you believe that P.G. is more than active. You asked me some time ago to send my picture to you. I have tried to get a envelope or photo holder for sometime and if I cannot get one next time I go downtown I will send it in anything I can find so do not think I have forgotten about it. Do you speak Swedish yet? I suppose you are quite a Swede by now.

From your Long winded Sis. S. Ernest says "Be good to yourself Niels."

Svartösten, March 9, 1909

My Dear Loving Wife –

Your most welcome letter came to hand last night. It is nearly two weeks since I got the last one so I was very glad to hear from you again. It is over a week since I wrote you so you will no doubt be very anxious to hear from your dearest. I was going to write you Saturday but we received company who stayed until Sunday morning. It was Bro. Lindgren from Töre where we were Xmas. I can't settle down and write a letter on Sunday for that is the day I have to preach and the thoughts of that causes one to be unable to write letters. Sunday night we were invited off to our neighbor friends and last night we had English class, so I hope you will excuse me for not writing sooner.

It is now Tuesday morning and today we are going to Karlsvik to visit a saint and some friends. Perhaps we won't be back until tomorrow night. The last week has been quite cold and it has been snowing and blowing nearly every day. Today is quite nice, only it is foggy.

The time is passing quite rapidly but I don't want you to think that it is passing any too fast to suit me, for you know that I am anxious to get back to my darling wife. It is true what I said in Jens' letter, that the time was passing so rapidly that I couldn't hardly keep up with it and accomplish as much as I have a desire to but at the same time I don't expect my release to come before I am willing and glad to go home. I am glad to note that the time can't pass any too fast to suit you and that you will be glad to have your husband back.

I am very pleased to note that Jens and Lavina took you to the theatre, "The Holy City," it no doubt was a grand play. So Chris is still rushing Emma Bush? I am glad to hear it and hope he stays with her for she is a very nice girl.

Now concerning the bathhouse. If I said in that letter which I wrote to you about the bathhouse, that the women were giving me a bath and that I thought it was alright and that I would have to get used to it, I am more than willing to cancel that statement for I don't approve of the system of women washing men and I am glad to note that you can't quite agree with me if I do think it is OK. The women are there ready to wait on the bathers if the bathers desire their help. It is true that nearly all the men do have the women scrub their backs and then give them a shower of cold water and then wipe them dry, but don't think that is compulsory to have the women wait on us. There is an electric bell in every bathroom and no women will appear after we have started to bath unless we ring this bell. No I don't think it necessary to have them wait on me and please don't think they do it.

Yes dearest I heard of the S.S. Republic sinking, you know we get the Deseret News here so I read the account a few days before you sent it to me. Thanks just the same for sending it for I was glad to note that you were interested in it inasmuch as you saw your husband's name among the many others who had crossed the ocean on her. I sent you a

letter with the photo of the ship when we were at Queenstown, Ireland. You never wrote me as to whether you received it but I suppose you did. If you didn't let me know and I will send you another for I have a couple more.

Allie got tired of school in a hurry did he not? The way he spoke to Stena during Xmas one would almost think he was going to continue school and become the main professor of the school. Do you suppose he and Perlinda will ever get married? It looks doubtful to me.

Well my dearest I hope you are well and feeling encouraged and will content yourself as much as possible. I am still feeling fine even if we are meeting with some opposition in our great work. We have had to discontinue Sunday School on account of the school teacher forbidding pupils to attend. On Sunday they have even had guards stationed out in different streets to see if any children come to our school. The teachers have no right to interfere with religious liberty, but other people are against us also, so I don't know whether or not we will be able to start S. School again. We have some friends but many opposers so our name is known for good and evil as is written in the scriptures of God's chosen people. Now my dear I will stop writing and prepare to go to Karlsvik. May God ever bestow his richest blessings upon my darling wife is my desire and humble prayer. Write soon to your Loving Husband Nels. Accept thee xxxxxxxx.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 9, 1909

My dear darling husband:

Your welcome letter was rec'd last night and it was just exactly a week since I got your last letter. The time seems so long, it seemed like it was lots longer than a week since I had heard from you. I was very glad to hear that you are well and that you like it up there. Last Friday I went out to Carrie's with Stena and had a nice time but I don't think I will go out again for sometime. They had just got a letter from you. They have got a beautiful piano and Erval has got a new bicycle. It snowed a little last night but is melting quite fast this morning. Saturday night Esther and Ike came down and we sat up and read a story. Esther and I took turns reading out loud and then we made some molasses candy and just had a good time. I wish you had been here. It was so late when we got our story read that Esther and Ike stayed all night and didn't go home till Sunday night. I was helping Annie sew last week. I have made \$9.00 sewing since you left but of course I haven't been sewing all the time. Just before Holidays and then not any more till last week. I guess I won't be able to do any more now, I get so tired when I sew very long. I used to could sew all day without getting very tired but it's different now. I have got some sewing for myself that I have got to get done right away and then I have got to clean house.

Oh Nels I do wish you could be here. I don't like to be left alone so long. I think two years is too long to keep anyone away from home but I guess there's no help for it now and nothing to do but wait patiently till you are released. I do wish I had some place to live. It will so long before we will have a house. When you come home we won't have anything and I guess we will be in debt besides and then will have to rent for I don't know how long. Then if there isn't any houses to rent when you come back I don't know

what we'll do unless we live in a tent for I won't live with anybody if we have to live outdoors. I am getting enough of that now and by the time two years have gone I will want to start for myself. So the very day you get home we'll move to ourselves. What do you think of that? I guess you will want to live up home for a while but you can't for you belong to me now and not to them and I am going to have you all by myself. So when you think of coming home after this don't think you are coming home to live with your folks for I won't let you live there at all. Tell me if you want to do what I want you to when you write.

I don't know of any news so I guess I will close for this time. Aunt Hanner is going to the Post Office now and I want her to take this letter so goodbye dearest. Write often and don't forget that your wife gets so lonesome sometimes she don't know what do and would give anything if you were only here. Write as often as possible. Goodbye darling. Yours forever, Viola. Have you written to Aunt Lettie yet? xxxxxxxxooo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 10, 1909

Dear Brother –

Received your welcome letter of Feb. 19th yesterday and was more than pleased to hear from you and very glad to hear that you are well. We are all well and dandy, mother is better than she was. She is busy now tearing carpet rags. I tell you, she is making the rags fly and then she reads in between. I'll bet she has read as much this winter as anybody.

Ed Wadley was here just now and paid a bill, he said to tell you that he had not forgotten you if you are a long way off, he was glad to hear that you were getting along so well. I was out to mutual last night and Lavina had the lesson, it was about Emerson's essays, she did just fine. There is a large crowd that go to mutual this winter and it hasn't diminished any yet. Our class seems to be quite interested, I know I am. Last Sunday there was Sunday School conference here. There was a very nice programme prepared and they put in MacGee Bullock as 2nd assistant superintendent, they have been without any since you left until now. Mack has not been to Sunday School much lately but I think he will be alright. The Sunday School is very large this winter, there is an average attendance of 350 or more.

Next Friday night the P.G. ward is going to have a surprise on Bishop Swenson [7 S. 200 E.] and his wife, it is going to be in the meetinghouse. They are going to have a programme and picnic and serve lemonade and oranges. I am on that committee and so are Jens and Lavina. Wonderful, isn't it? They are going to give the Bishop a present, some token of esteem. I will let you know how good a success it will be next time I write.

At last I have been able to get a photo holder and will send your picture with this letter. No doubt you think I am slow sending it. The weather is very fine now, it is quite dry so the farmers are very busy. People are sowing their crops. You can bet that the harrowing mill is busy these days. Every Tom, Dick and Harry comes here to clean their grain. Wheat is \$1.20 per bushel here and hay is very high, \$13.00 per ton, and oats are \$1.75

per hundred lbs. So you see farm products are not so slow in price.

Chris has been busy this week putting iron railings around the windows of the meetinghouse basement, he is not quite through yet. They are going to put a fence around the meetinghouse lot, they haven't started it yet. It takes a long time to do nothing sometimes. Jens is so busy he don't know what to do first, and Chris can hardly leave the place a minute but what somebody comes and wants him. I suppose the rush will be over in about six months from now or else it will start then. It is nice to be busy, nice to have something to do.

Well kid there is going to be a wedding tonight, George Lim and his American Fork girl have gone to Provo to get married today. Isn't it wonderful?

Chris told me to ask you about Karen Jenson's (Trot) account. He would like you to write and let him know as nearly as you can how the account between you and her stood. He cannot find anything about it. She has bought lots of small potatoes and wheat since you left but he has an account of that.

Say kid, I wish you could fly home long enough to rake the lawn, haven't raked the leaves off yet. I suppose you are as busy raking the leaves of the Bible so I won't bother you with the other kind. It is getting close to noon so I will have to close and fry some fish for dinner. Be good to yourself Niels, and write soon to your loving Sis. Stena.

Mother sends her love and thanks you for the card you sent her.

R.F.D. #1, Box 146, Provo, Utah, March 15th, 1909

My Dear Brother:

At last I take pleasure in writing to you. I have been thinking I would write to you for along time, but I have kept putting it off so long that I feel ashamed. I received your nice letter and card of Feb. 12, and was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you were well, and that you feel satisfied by being sent to the north. I see by your letter that they are very much in need of elders. When they learn to know you, and the principles of our beautiful Gospel, they will think better of you. Dear Bro, I wish you success in this matter, that you may learn the language well, that you may be able to defend Mormonism, so you can tell those priests a thing or two. It is five months today since you left home. In one way it has passed quickly, I hope time passes as quickly for you. By the time you get this letter you will have been gone one fourth of your time.

Last week Viola and Stena were out and spent the afternoon with us. We had a real pleasant time together. We have got us a piano and I am taking music lessons, don't you think we are getting sporty. When you get home I will play a piece for you. John is still pruning, he is pruning the trees quite heavy this year. We have got our peas and potatoes planted, so I guess we will have new potatoes and peas by ma's birthday.

The weather is just fine now. I wish it was as fine where you are. Willard Bishop left here for his mission field about two weeks after you left. He went to Texas. Last week

his folks got a letter from him saying that him and his companion had been driven out of that conference. They walked for forty miles in one day with guns pointed at their back all day. It was a blessing that the mob didn't injure them anymore than giving them a fright and their feet were blistered. I hope the day will come when these wicked people will repent and feel sorry for what they have done.

I understand there are lots of forests where you are. You must be careful and not venture out in them on stormy days because one can so easily get lost. I am afraid you haven't thought of this so I want to remind you.

Well I didn't get your letter off today. I was writing when Mrs. Lattie came to spend the afternoon with me. Latties are newcomers from Kansas. They came last fall. Since they came she has become a member of our church. He isn't converted yet. This note leaves us all well. John has gone to Elders meeting. Erma has gone to bed and Erval is drinking milk. He is a regular calf for milk, I guess that's what makes him grow so fast [11 years old]. He is five feet tall, John measured him the other day. We were over home last Sunday. We found all the folks well. Stena had been sick Saturday so she looked quite peaked. I have no more to tell you this time so will close hoping all is well with you and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I am as ever your Sister Carrie.

Write soon. Give your companion my best regards. John says to tell you he wishes he was with you so he could be your cook. Excuse writing with pencil. I have broken my pen.

Svartösten, March 16, 1909

My Own True Love Viola –

There are no moments that give me as much joy as when I read your ever welcome letters. Another of them came the other day and it was read with great pleasure. I am glad to hear that spring seems to be opening up as you have had enough winter. I suppose the winter has been very disagreeable on account of so much mud. There has been snow on the ground here, ever since I came and I suppose it will remain until May. Talk about long winters, this is the place to find them, they last about eight months and sometimes longer. It has been an extraordinary mild winter this year so we have fared quite well. It will be nice when summer comes so we can see the green grass and flowers again. Time is rolling on and it won't be long until conference. It will be held at Sundsvall on the 8th and 9th of May. How nice it will be to meet our friends and co-laborers, and be strengthened by the testimonies of the elders. In your letter you asked, "how long they would keep me here in this place." At conference I suppose Elder Monson will be released from this branch but I think I will come back and remain until fall conference. I suppose I will have a new companion, but perhaps I won't have any at all for a while, but I hope I will or else I will get lonesome. Elder Monson and I get along fine and we can talk about home affairs and both be interested because we are from the same place.

We are still tracting Luleå and selling some books, but not many. The people as a rule are poor financially and most of them don't care much for religion books anyway. The world is seeking after the almighty dollar more than they are righteousness and the result is, they will pull through this world alright, but they will be in a very poor condition to start anew in the next. The other day while tracting I came in contact with a big-wig, he is foreman of the shipping co. in Luleå. He has been around the world three times and can talk four languages, viz – Swedish, English, German and Spanish. He is a man of a great deal of experience and claims he has investigated our religion somewhat. He talked English to me so we had very good gospel conversation which lasted over an hour. He bought a book of Mormon from me and invited me to come back, which I intend to do quite often if he will allow it. I hope I can get him on the right track so that he will learn what our glorious gospel has to offer him. It is very seldom we meet with friends such as he is. We generally meet people who would do everything in their power for our downfall. But we must go among the bad to find those who are seeking the truth and thus our path leads us over rough and stony places, but Christ said, "Blessed are they who suffer for my name's sake," so we must press on with an aim in view.

Yes my dearest darling it would be nice to be home and go to a dance, but I don't suppose you could go with me now so I wouldn't go anyway. Yes we are still teaching English, but we haven't the same pupils as we had at first. The school teachers forbid the children to come to our school so some of them stopped but some did not. We each have a class twice per week and we have about ten who are interested in it. We don't have S. School now because the teachers forbid the pupils to come but we will do the best we can without it. It seems as though the devil is ever on the lookout to prevent the advancement of righteousness, but the time isn't far distant when he will have no power.

Stena wrote that Uncle Jacob Carlson left a dollar there for me so please give him credit

for it on the contribution list [their mother's brother]. Do you remember when you rode out to his place to invite them to our wedding? I do and many other events I can call to mind which you and I have participated in while we were enjoying our courting days. Well dearest the time will soon come when you and I will live happily together again, so let us press on with courage even though at times we feel a little uneasy about the future. Always have the best of thoughts about your darling husband who is so far away. Goodbye for a short time. Your husband Nels. oxxxxoooox

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 17, 1909

My Darling Husband:

Your welcome letter was rec'd last night and so I will ans. it now but don't know when I will get it posted. If I could go down myself I would but I can't go till night for I haven't got any clothes that will go half way around me now. If it isn't raining tonight I may go down. It rained nearly all night last night. I am very glad that you are having such nice weather there and hope you won't have to stay up there where it is so cold another winter.

Pa sprayed his trees yesterday. It has been as warm as spring here for the last two or three weeks. I guess it won't be long now before the trees will be in bloom. The violets are in bloom now out on the lawn. Yesterday I was out trimming the rose bushes and succeeded in getting my hands all scratched up. Monday I washed and today I guess I will sew awhile and then maybe I will go up to your mother's. I was up there Saturday and Stena was sick. She had been in bed all day. Mrs. Chatterton and Mrs. Pete Carlson were there and Mrs. Chatterton and Jens had quite an argument about religion and especially polygamy. I stayed till nearly ten o'clock. Your mother had just got \$1.00 worth of 5¢ stamps and she gave me half. That will send ten letters to you. Stena always takes me part way home when I go up but she was sick so your mother walked out to the gate with me. She had put the stamps in an old purse so they wouldn't get warm she said, so when we got out to the gate she said she put a little money in the purse for me. I didn't want to take it but she wanted me to have it because I would need some things so when I got home and looked in the purse it was a \$5.00 gold piece. When I was out to Carrie's she gave me two little nightdresses that she had made and never used and then two yds. of flannel to make a little petticoat. Lavina gave me a sheet and a pair of pillow slips and I hardly ever go up to your mother's but what she gives me a bucket of milk or something to eat.

A week from tomorrow is Mrs. Gustaveson's birthday and your mother and Stena are going out. They want me to go with but I don't think I will. Last Friday night the people had a surprise on the bishop and his wife and gave him a nice rocking chair. They paid \$35 for it. I didn't go, I haven't been to anything for quite awhile and don't think I will go anymore. I am getting along alright now but oh I will be so glad when it is all over and I am well again.

Stena was here a little while Monday, she had been down town and was on her way home. She was better then but she didn't go any place Sunday. Esther and Ike were down a little while last night. Ike is working at the mill putting in a new floor. You can tell Elder Monson that I got his card and think it is very pretty. I am glad you are getting

along so well. I guess it will be hard for you to part when they go to separate you. Give him my best regards and tell him thanks for the card. Well dearest I guess I will close for this time. I told Aunt Lettie you was going to write to her but she says she hasn't got it yet. Goodbye dear Nels, write often and don't forget your loving Wife, Viola.

xxxxxxxxxxxxooo

Svartösten, Mar. 22 -09

My Dear Viola;

It is now 8 a.m. Monday morning and I will endeavor to write a few lines to you before breakfast. Your dear letter was received last Friday and if you knew what pleasant thoughts it caused me to have it might make you glad. It was only six days since I received the one before that and the way I praised you in my heart was not slow. I am very glad to hear that it is nice weather at home for I know that makes you feel better. It snows a little here every day and it is snowing at present. The weather is quite mild but I will be glad when all the snow melts and the grass and flowers will show. By the time you receive this letter I suppose the orchards there will be out in bloom and everything will be fresh and beautiful as it generally is in the Merry Spring Time. I have been in winter now for over four months and I suppose I will have to stand it for another two. I don't think it will be spring here until the middle of May.

A letter came the other day which did not meet with my approval but I have to accept it I suppose. It is from President Sundsvall and it calls Bro. Monson to leave this branch immediately and labor in Nyköping which is nearly in southern Sweden. The call came unexpected and we will be very busy the few days which he remains. He leaves here Thursday morning March 25 so that leaves me alone in the cold world for some time. I suppose I will get a new companion at conference time but I don't know it all depends if there will be any to spare. It seems pretty tough to be left alone but I have some friends so I will have to make the best of it. The time has went quite rapidly this winter but it may seem to move on slowly from now on but of course I hope not and I shall try to make it as cheerful as possible by getting out among the people.

We received this notice Saturday night and yesterday I went out and invited our friends to come to the last meeting that Bro. Monson would be here. We had a very good attendance, about thirty. Bro. Monson bids Svartösten and all his friends goodbye and I suppose he will never see them again, only me, and that won't be until we meet at home very likely. We have got along fine together and I hate to see him go but it is the call by those who are in authority so I suppose it is for the best. He has been here for ten months so he has spent his share of the time in Northern Sweden. How nice it would be now if I had you here to keep my company! Of course that is an impossibility so I must not allow myself to worry. I have some friends and I hope I may so live that I will have the protecting care of my Heavenly Father.

Yes dearest I have written to Aunt Lettie shortly after Xmas, hasn't she received it yet? Please tell me in your next whether she has or not. Yes I received Annie's letter and it seems as though I made mention of it to you, but perhaps I didn't. I shall send her a card in with your letter. Yes dear it will be all right for you to keep me in practice in cooking

when I get home just so I don't have to do it all the time. It will be nice for us to help each other and I am glad to note that you would be with me nearly all the time if I were home with you now. According to your letter you have quite a lot of sewing to do, it is nice to have plenty to do just so you don't work too hard or strain yourself in any way. You must be very careful dear.

Yes dear it is just a year since I was sick, but I am feeling fine this year and I don't think there is and danger of me getting sick. Bro. Monson and I have had our photos taken together and I shall send two of them home, one of them will be for you. The photo will show you how we look while out tracting. Well dearest I must now stop writing and get to work. After breakfast we will be very busy getting books and reports in order for now I will be the presiding elder of this branch. That will be easy being as I am the only elder, will it not dearest? Well my darling wife be good to yourself and don't worry about me for I will be OK as long as I am well. May God bless us with health and strength and wisdom is my prayer. Your husband Nels.

P.S. Write soon. Give all the folks my best wishes and accept best regards from Alma.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 22nd, 1909

Dear Brother –

Your letter of March 1st and 2nd was received yesterday and contents noted with much pleasure. We were getting very anxious to hear from you, if it runs over a week before we get a letter we start to worry and wonder why you do not write. But I must say you have been punctual so far and done alright.

Spring has opened up in grand shape now, the farmers are very busy. Lew is trimming raspberries today. He has most of them pruned now. He works here every day and has worked here all winter. Chris is busy with business, he is down town now after freight. They are doing quite a business, last Friday he sold two buggies and harnesses, a plow and spring tooth harrow. Do not get the idea that they sell that much every day because they don't. They would get too rich if that was the case. The way things are piled up here they need to sell lots every day. Well, of a course they is in the implement business. Of a course. Well of a course. That is alright of a course.

This month has been a month of birthdays. Mother told me to tell you the birthdays she has attended this month, 2 times to Lims, Joseph Magnus's Aunt Mary and Uncle Isaac's. She was down to Oscar Nielsons yesterday, he is twenty five years old. It is Mrs. Fred Youngs today and Britty's next Thursday, the milkman's Friday, so you see it will keep her on the trot to attend them all.

Mrs. Nielson, Carl's mother, gave mother a dollar for you and sends her best wishes, so you see you are not forgotten if you are a long way from home. Mrs. Gussy received your letter OK a long time ago and thanks you very much and sends so many helens to you. She would have answered it herself.

Glad you are getting you new suit, you must have needed one before now. It is quite

different being dressed up all the time and just dressing up on Sundays. Your position calls you to be dressed well and neat. Do not wait until you are out of money before you send for more because it takes about seven weeks from the time you write until you receive an answer. Hope if they give you another partner they will give you a very good one. It would not be right for them to keep Alma way up north for two years nor to keep you there either. Mrs. Christiansen told me the other day that Mart was still in Stockholm and that they were going to give him a job in the headquarters. If they do he will have a snap and few expenses.

You asked me in your letter if Joe Clark's hall was done yet [35 S. Main]. The walls are up and the roof on but it isn't nearly completed yet. I believe he run out of money, it always takes more money to build any building than one thinks.

Last Thursday night the neighbors of Mr. Hilton had a surprise on him, it was his birthday Wednesday. We had a very good time. Everyone there were so lively and in for having a time. Last night the P.G. choir gave a concert in the meetinghouse. The house was well filled and the concert good. They passed the hat. I have not learned how much they received yet. I will tell you the programme as near as I can, it was very long. 1st prayer by Donald Noble. Duet by Caddie and Nellie Smith. Song by the choir. Quartet F. S. Humphries, C. Hilton, Ethel Hilton, Janie Lund. Solo Clarence Hilton. Duet Jane Lund and E. Hilton. Duet Dr. Jones and Joe Halliday. Quartet Joe H., Dr. Jones, Kinke and Alston, it was very good. Violin quartet Jim and Niels Poulson, Ed Smith and the new druggist accompanied by Effie Chipman on the organ. Cornet solo Louis Hebertson. Solo Joe Halliday, solo Dr. Jones, a quartet by Claude Hayes on the clarinet, two boys played cornets, and Chunky Adams' son played the trombone. He has regular cheek pouches when he plays, it is very amusing to watch him while he plays. Selection by the choir, a comic quartet about the members of the choir by D. Noble, Alston, Claude Hayes, and Kenke, it was splendid. A song by the choir concludes the concert, aren't you glad? I will close my newspaper locals for this time hoping this finds you feeling fine and dandy as it leave us and that you may be happy and enjoy your labors. I am as always
Your Sister and Chatterbox Stena.

The folks sends their love. Lew says to give you his best regards. Helsen Alma.
Enclosed find a dollar from your ma.

[A letter from Petrine Lund of Pleasant Grove, written March 26^h, in Danish.]

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Mar. 27, 1909

My Dear Nels:

It has been over a week since I wrote to you last but I have been looking for a letter from you every day this week and it hasn't come yet so I thot I would write anyhow and ans. your letter next time if it ever comes. It was a week last Tuesday since I heard from you and it is Saturday today so you see it will soon be two weeks.

We are having lovely weather here now, the grass is beginning to get green and it won't be long now before some of the fruit trees are in bloom. I do wish you were here. I guess

it is winter yet where you are. Thursday Esther and I went down to Sundberg's field with Ike and got some watercress. We stayed there all afternoon. Ike was plowing. His father told him he could have half of what he raised down there so I guess he will put it in potatoes.

On Easter the 11th of April, Esther, Ike, Annie and I and the two kids are going up Provo Canyon. We are going to take our dinner with us and stay all day. Don't you think that will be nice? I wish you could come and go with us but you can't so I guess we'll have to go again when you come home. Next Thursday is Carrie's birthday and your folks are all going out. They want me to go with them but I don't think that I shall. Annie was up there last night and she said that Jens is quite sick, he is in bed. Lavina and Stena went to Salt Lake last Saturday. There was cheap rates. They went on the noon train and came back on the late one. Sunday Dell Banks and his wife were over here, they stayed all night and went home Mon. on the six o'clock train.

The High School had a dance last night. They sent out invitations. I believe I have told you all the news now. Edith Jeppson has got a baby, you know she hasn't been married so very long. Her husband went to California so he wasn't here when the baby was born but he came back soon after.

I believe Chris takes Emma yet but I don't know for sure. I don't think they will ever get married, do you? Aunt Lettie was here the other day. She lives way up there where they lived when they first came over but is going to move as soon as she can find another place. Jack is home now and has been for quite awhile. I don't know of any more news so I guess I will close for this time. Take care of yourself so you won't get sick and write often to your loving Wife, Viola xxxxxxoo

190 E, 200 S., Pleasant Grove, March 28, 1909

Friend Niels –

As I started to write I had to get your letter for the address, I see the date you wrote your letter was one month yesterday. Never mind Bro. if I haven't wrote before, I have thought a great deal about you. But I have been so busy for the last two or three weeks getting ready for the choir concert, it seemed I hardly had time for anything, of course you have some idea about what choir entertainments mean.

Well Niels, I often hear about that good time we had up to Fugals, everybody says it was a dandy good time which it was. I see by your letter you surely have the spirit of your mission, now is the time, I suppose you regret, neglecting opportunities which you, I and others just as well have had as not, nobody to blame but ourselves. It seems though that older experiences will not have any effect on us. It never has had on the young and I suppose it never will. It seems as though nature is such, that experiences must come from the individual, at least to a certain extent, one's experience will not teach another.

Well I am pleased to hear you are feeling so well, it must seem nice to get a companion from home, the time will soon be that you have been gone 1 year then the second year will pass quickly. Well Niels we have just filled the office that you held in the S. School.

We have chosen Brother Mac Bullock. I believe he is going to be alright. We had a very good success with our concert, we had an awful time getting it up, first one would get hot then the other would be late, it seemed that we would hardly be able to make it. Brother Smith said whether we got through it all right or not he would never undertake another one but he will forget about that in twelve months. Bro. Smith handed in his resignation about six weeks ago but they would not accept it. He handed it to the Bishopric. If he would have handed it into stake officers they would, don't you think?

Well Niels we are going to have a surprise on Frank Humphries Wednesday night. I wish you were going to be there. Don't you think you could be there? Ha! Ha! We'll give you a chance to talk. I suppose by the time you get back you will hardly know Pleasant Grove. The big dancing hall will be running and different improvements. The city is discussing about buying ground for a City Park, they have held one meeting now and turned it down, but they are trying to get up another one. The old town is about the same except for a few small changes. They are still calling a few Elders. Roy West and Frank Thorne and Lawrence Atwood are going May 1st, LaGrand White is going this fall. I am not much of a thinker while writing a letter. So will close. Give my regards to Alma. Would like to hear from you again. Goodbye Old Friend. From Joe Halliday Jr.

Svartösten, March 30, 1909

My Dear Wife –

It is now 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. I am going to write a few lines to my dearest and then go to Luleå to distribute tracts and try to sell books. I don't exactly enjoy tracting yet, but it is a duty to be done. When we are out tracting we don't know when we will run up against some old woman that hasn't forgot how to use her tongue, and enjoys using it with her best ability upon us. It isn't always women that are our enemies either, we often meet men that are so prejudiced that they would do most anything for our downfall. But that all belongs to missionary experience and we have to get used to it.

Well Bro. Monson left me last Thursday so I am alone now in the wintry north to face the music. It seems quite strange to be alone for that is something I have never experienced before, but I shall make the best of it. I received a letter from President Schade of the Sundsvall conference the other day giving me instructions and trying to console me in my lonely condition. He said, if it wasn't so near to conference he would send an elder from Sundsvall to help me, but it would be quite expensive for an elder to come up here and then go back again for conference. If I get a partner by conference I will be satisfied although that is over a month to wait. I have plenty to do to keep me busy just so I can keep interested, which I think I can. When a person is alone he is more apt to lose spirits and give way to despondency, but I shall try to prevent this by applying the best remedy, which is work. I need to study very hard in order to defend our gospel for I haven't made a very heavy study of it while home. I am learning the language quite fast but still I am lacking many words when I get into a gospel conversation.

I notice by your letter that you are very lonesome and very anxious for the time to come that I will again be with you. I also long for that time dearest, I dream of you nearly every night and then when I awake and find myself alone, over eight thousand miles from you,

it makes me feel quite blue, but let us press on dearest, and feel that, that happy time is coming, when you and I shall again live together.

Now dearest I hardly know how to answer your last letter. You seem to be worrying a great deal about where we are going to live when I come home. I don't know where we will live, but as long as God will bless us with health and strength, I can't see why you and I won't be able to get a home as well as anyone else. True enough we may be in debt when I come back, but I hope we will have something to show for that debt. Please don't think you are going to live outdoors or in a tent, you don't think I would drag you into such a place do you? Yes dearest we want to live alone by ourselves, but don't you think it will be impossible for me to buy a lot of furniture and secure a house the very first day I come home? I am sure my dearest wife don't think for a moment but what I want to live with her alone just as soon I get home and can get settled down. Dearest you have a husband who thinks the world of you and he will do all in his power to please you and make you happy. I am indeed glad to note that you think I am yours and yours only and that you want me all by yourself, for this shows your love, and shows that you want to be where you can act as a wife to your loving husband. Now my dearest let us live in hope and faith and not think for a moment but what our living together will be one of joy and happiness. Oh! dearest how I wish I had you here where I could talk to you. My letter cannot do justice to my thoughts. I never have anyone to talk English to now and I get quite lonesome, but I will have to get used to talking Swedish for that is what I am sent out to do.

You seem to have done pretty well with your sewing, for the little time you have sewed \$9.00 isn't so awful much but every little helps. Now dearest please inform me as to your financial condition, of course I am unable to give you money but I can make arrangements with my brothers if you are in need. Don't suffer for the sake of a few dollars. I suppose the time is drawing near to when you expect to be sick. I certainly wish I could be with you, but dearest keep up courage and I think all will go well. May God bless us with health and strength and wisdom is the prayer of your loving husband. Niels. xxxooooxox Write soon. Yes I have written to Aunt Lettie, hasn't she received it?

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 2, 1909

My dear darling Husband:

I rec'd your welcome letter yesterday. I went out to Carrie's with your ma and Stena and we called at the post office on the way out. There was a letter from you for me and one for your mother too. That was a pretty card you sent me. You asked if I got that card with the ship on, yes I got it alright too. I guess I have got all you have sent.

It was nearly ten o'clock when we left Carrie's. Jens and Lavina were there, Mrs. and Mr. Clayton, Don Clayton and his wife and Cornelia. Carrie read the letter she got from you out to us all and they thot it was alright especially the part where you described Carrie at the piano. That's what tickled Jens.

Do you remember Mr. Banks, Annie's father-in-law? You saw him last spring when he was over. He died Wednesday night. Annie has been over there since Sunday. It's

awfully lonesome here since she left and I don't know when she will be back.

Ike has bought that lot across the street west from Joe Schoell's. He is going to give \$575.00 for it. He is putting it in strawberries. I wonder where we'll live. We'll have to rent a house as soon as you come won't we? Because you know we are not going to live with your folks any more. Just as soon as you get home you will have to hunt a place for us to live.

I do hope that they don't keep you any longer than two years but I'll bet it will be closer to three. I don't think they ought to keep you so long and I wish almost that you hadn't gone at all. That won't be very nice if you have to go back to that place alone after Elder Monson is released. Why don't you tell them you won't go back till they get you a partner?

Esther and Ike got that letter you wrote them. Did you ever get that letter that Annie wrote to you? I have asked you two or three times and you never answer. She wrote it about Xmas and you have never said a word about it yet.

I am going to plant a garden one of these days. It's so nice and sunny outdoors that I can hardly stay in the house. Esther goes out in the field with Ike and is out with him nearly all the time.

On Easter we are going up Provo Canyon. Yes I will eat a couple of eggs for you but I wish I could send them to you so you could eat them yourself.

It will be six months now since you left home but it seems to me like it has been long enough to be a year.

Joe Clark's hall has got the roof on and looks quite nice on the outside but isn't finished yet. Maybe you can dance at the first dance they have in it after all, they are so slow about it. I don't know of any more news so will close for this time. Write again soon to yours forever Viola. xxxxxooo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Apr. 4, 1909
[Envelope forwarded to Sundsvall]

Dear Brother

I just merely throwed a chair under me and took hold of the pen handle and started to scribble. Yes, well it is quite a while since I wrote to you and no doubt you are wondering if I am going to live up to the statement I made when I said once a month is enough to write. I merely said so for fun but it seems as though I meant it. We like to hear from you often and no doubt you like to hear from us just as often. I have been crowded with work and at night I am so sleepy that I can't write. So much for an excuse.

Chris went to Salt Lake City yesterday and stayed in there for conference today. I was to Salt Lake City two weeks ago tomorrow and went to Ogden the Wed. following to buy some buggies and was laid up the balance of the week. The week just ended has kept me

on the jump and for that matter we are busy all the time. I just finished lighting Manila meetinghouse yesterday and Atwoods can be finished in an hour. I have two more hours to wire out there. Little Magnus and Julia Wadleys but there are only two lights to go in each so that is only a day's work. It has kept us busy about the shop as we have had good sale this spring for our line. We thought we were doing it when we ordered 8 spring tooth harrows in the car of goods we got but it wasn't half enough. Of course we get them from the house but it means more freight. We are also having a good run on plows. We got 23 in the car and they are about half gone. We got 4 binders which we expect to sell; a dozen mowers but this may be too many but the house will carry them over to next year. Have sold 3 wagons, 1 heavy delivery wagon, 4 buggies, 2 plows besides other goods all during the last 4 or 5 weeks. It was a month yesterday since we planted the wheat. It is up. We will sow the oats tomorrow, the beets in a few days. They planted Ceder P. Larsons and Thomases (not doubting Thomas) yesterday. It looks stormy and it is cold today so we will wait as it is better after a storm especially when it is early enough. Lucerne and all vegetation is coming right along. The apricots has bloomed out the last couple of days. I don't think the fruit is as far along as it has been the last two years at this season of the year. And we will have plenty of water this year as there are piles of snow in the mountains. Provo canyon has been a record breaker this year for snow and landslides. "Crimeny" [Alma Radmall] has contracted to prune the peach trees, but he is slow getting at it.

[Letter from Jens, continued, next set.]

[Continued, letter of April 4th 1909 from Jens.]

I told you I went to Ogden to buy some buggies. You will perhaps wonder what we want more buggies for when we got a carload last fall. We are out of auto seat top buggies, and then there is a chance of buying right. You have perhaps heard me talk of Barnett buggies. Well C.L. Barnett was president of Barnett Carriage Co. of Ohio. He got Sears Roebuck their buggyman and knows the ins and outs of the buggy business. He represents 5 or 6 companies and may be termed a traveling jobber. By buying of him there will be a saving of 20% and over. These 6 jobs gives us a start and then we need the style. We have sold a harness with each job gone out so far. We got in 12 single harnesses yesterday, so let em come along.

We are glad to note that you feel well both physically and otherwise and I hope you will enjoy yourself all the while and take advantage of what there is to see and learn and I hope you will not have to stay as long as I did although the time may go fast enough. [Went to Denmark and Norway.] It is a good school for one to take a mission whether he can see any results from his labor or not. Well I don't know of anything particular to write about. I guess Chris or Stena will write about tomorrow and send you the money you wrote about. Vär sneler gåse och må brå Helsä all dem der Svedes from your big brother J.P.F.

Pleasant Grove, Apr. 4th 1909

Dear Brother:

Your welcome letter of Mar. 3rd was received just two weeks ago last night and I certainly think it is our turn to apologize for being slow to write. We are all so anxious to hear from you and your letters are read and re-read with such interest and pleasure that it is really unkind to not give a letter oftener in return for the pleasure your letters afford us. It is certainly gratifying to note that time is passing swiftly by for you. That speaks for itself. It shows that you are interested in your work and your every letter is stamped with progress. We ask that the Lord will continue to bless you spiritually and physically in humility and research, and your labors will be crowned with success. You express your regrets at not being able to handle the language better than you do. Never mind, "Actions speak louder than words," and while you are getting acquainted and learning the language, you are setting an example worthy for them to follow, then perhaps they will be more ready to listen to the message of truth you are bringing them by showing them your life is governed by the "hope that is within you." Am not trying to preach to you, I only meant to say that your good conduct and example would help to preach sermons for you.

You ask if Clark's dancing hall is ever to be completed. Truly, that is rather a hard question to answer. Some say it will be finished for July 4th, others say it will do well to be finished for Xmas and others predict even worse. However, the roof is on and it is commencing to look nice from the outside.

Your statement concerning the world's population and the relative position that Christianity holds in the same is appalling. Yes Niels, it does present an outlook for a tremendous amount of missionary work to be done. I had begun to believe that

Christianity, in one form or another, had been introduced and was gaining foothold into almost every known nation of the globe. Those things would be worthwhile for one to study up on and then keep in touch with this advancement and spread of truth. Say Niels, do you know that your descriptive powers are positively wonderful!! I imagine I can see that “kind, big hearted, blessed, long faced Christian” who had the “kindness and presence of mind to warn the people against you Mormon apostles.” It may be a means of advertising you and working good for the cause in the long run and the more opposition you get that way, the more determined you get, I believe, to fight for the right. In a way it seems strange that all denominations should join hands in their scorn and ridicule of our faith and in trying to overthrow the same, and yet it is only natural. It has been so ever since the gospel was first revealed unto man. You say you are happy to have the privilege of being scorned and kicked about for the cause of truth. That reminds me of what Sister Laura Boley said once. She stated that she was never more supremely happy than at one time especially when they were taken prisoners and persecuted for the gospel sake. I think she said also they sang praises to the Lord while being persecuted.

Ora [Galli, John and Lavina's niece] has been down with scarlet fever recently but recovered from it pretty easily and yesterday she came down here and today went to conference. They were only quarantined two weeks or a little more. On Mar. 23rd Johnny [J. and L.'s brother], Joe [Ora's father] and Annie [Ora's mother] and myself went to Riverton surprise mother on her 60th birthday. When she saw us she didn't know whether to laugh or cry or faint so she just made a mix up of all three and let it go at that. That is the first we have any of us been to her birthday for seven years. The old man treated us fine. Two weeks ago Stena and I went to Salt Lake together. We got her a swell suit. Oh it is a beauty, and as I am getting sporty I got me a long coat. You see I could get one now at half price. It is a nice coat and the one I have worn for a little more than seven years will be converted into a school coat for Vida. They tell us long coats have come to stay for a while yet and I wanted a good article without paying three prices and wish it to stay with me for some time. Last Wednesday we all went out to John's, it being Apr. 1st. Somehow we can't help missing you in our gatherings. However we had a nice time and especially were we interested in, and even moved to tears by your eloquent description of Carrie's Accomplishments at the piano. We had a nice moonlight ride home. Everything went OK. Must tell you that Jess Oler's house is ready for the roof, also Frank Bank's and Dick Wadley soon will be. Must say like you do, will write again before you come home so had better be saving on the paper and your time as well. The children and all send best wishes to yourself and Brother Alma. Write Soon to your wee little Bro. & Sis. at home. Lavina.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., April 5th, 1909 [Letter forwarded to Sunsvall]

Dear Brother –

We received your welcome letter the other day and we were very glad to hear from you and to note that you were well. We are all able to be about, just the same as usual. It is quite cold here now, it has been blowing today but it is quite calm tonight. It is conference time now, there is quite a number of people that have gone to conference. Chris went Saturday morning and returned Sunday night. He said the tabernacle and assembly hall were filled and there was about 2,000 outside so they held an outdoor

meeting. Mr. & Mrs. Lim went this morning.

Mother and I went out to Mrs. Gustaveson's birthday, she is feeling about the same as she was when you were home. There were about all the people her little house would hold. Mrs. Sophie Johnson, Mrs. Allen Martin, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Poulson, Mrs. Magnuson, and us. So you see there was quite a little crowd. Mrs. Gussy told me to helsen you so much and to tell you she had sold her cow, the one that was so hard to milk. She cannot get around like she did a couple of years ago but she played the organ and danced some for us.

Mother, Viola, Ernest and I went out to Carrie's April 1st in the surrey and Jens and his family in the buggy. We had a nice time. Claytons folks were over too. Carrie had received a letter from you a few days before her birthday and she read it to the crowd. I wish you could have seen us while she was reading it especially your description of Sis at the piano and everybody being charmed with the melodious strains that she brought forth. I thought we would have laughed until we had taken a fit. I had Viola read my letter, she was quite amused by the description of your beard that you haven't got.

Next Sunday is Easter. I wish I could send you a dozen eggs, they are only 15 cents per dozen here, don't you wish that was all they were there? Then you could afford to have at least four for Easter. The Sunday School are going to have a nice programme Easter Sunday. They have a committee to decorate the meetinghouse. I wonder if they will decorate it as nicely as it was last Easter.

I was talking to Mrs. R. Holund today, she told me to helsen you and tell you that she had written you a letter and had sent a dollar in the letter, she hopes you will receive it and that you can read her letter. She sent one to Mart the same day as she sent yours. I suppose she will worry about it until she learns that you have received it. Bertha Nelson Magnus is home now on a visit, she is going back to Salt Lake in a few days, she is a nurse now. Clara is in Salt Lake City too, she is learning to be a tailor, she is getting six dollars a week now and expects a raise soon. Maybe she will be able to make you a suit of clothes when you come home.

The boys are still busy. Jens finished wiring the Manila meetinghouse Saturday. Chris is busy selling plow points and cultivators and a buggy once in awhile. Lew has been planting oats today. I believe that finishes the grain unless you call beets grain but don't, do you. Mother is sitting in the middle of the floor under the electric light reading Ben Hur, it is a very good book and I believe she is interested because she doesn't have time to even look up. Chris is sitting in the rocker asleep, dreaming sweet dreams about Emma Bush, and Ernest is to bed dreaming too. Ernest goes down in the field with Lew every day. He just loves to go in the field, he is looking like a farmer, somewhat sun burnt you know. I don't suppose you look as farmerish this spring as you generally do. When you want me to send you your cowboy hat just let me know. Lew wears your high topped shoes, they got so bad he could not wear them, now he wears just the tops for leggings, that looks sporty. Lavina and I went to Salt Lake a couple of weeks ago, she bought herself a new long coat and I bought myself a suit. They are both brown. We are getting sporty in our old days. Say kid, I am weaving carpets. Mother fixes the warp and I weave a yd. once in awhile. I am only going to weave a hundred yards. [Note, this

loom is in the Daughters of the Pioneers Museum downtown.]

George Shoell got married last week and Oh yes! John Boulter and Nellie Hardman are married. They came home from conference tonight and about twenty others. Bro. Fred Thorne is dead, I don't remember whether I have written to you about it before or not. He died quite suddenly. His wife Margaret Ann was up to Idaho staying with Annie Fugal, her dater, when he died. Annie has been very sick but is getting better now. Aunt Margaret came home from Idaho last Saturday night, she has been there all winter. Mrs. Oscarson has got a baby boy born April the 2nd, she is doing fine. Edith Jeppson has a baby boy too. Her husband Mr. Hallet has just returned from California.

My mind is blank tonight. I cannot think of anything to write that would interest you and my epistle sounds like locals in a newspaper. You stated in your letter that you thought they would release Alma from the Luleå Conference. I hope they will give you a good companion. You stated that they might send you back alone. I would not go back alone. I would absolutely refuse to go back alone. You might have to be alone a long time if they do not give you a partner at conference and it is not very pleasant to be alone, cook your meals alone and sit down and eat them all alone, and your expenses will be more alone. It would not be so bad but there is such a few saints where you are, and it makes anyone feel much stronger where there are two of you. So dear brother, stick up for your rights. I do not mean for you to be rebellious, only to stick up for your rights and don't let them put you up as near the north pole as you can get, alone. You will find enclosed a money order and trust you are well and enjoying yourself and that you will have a good time at conference and at all times and write soon. I am your Loving Sis Stena.

The folks sends their love. Pardon me for not writing before, I will try to do better.

The money order is sent by Stena Clayton. I went over to American Fork today and bought it, Chris says maybe you have to know whose name was signed. I did not think about it or I could just as well have signed Fugal Bros. The enclosed money order was sent by Stena Clayton in case you have to know when you cash it.

Your Life Insurance premium is paid. Chris got it paid in time. The Odeon paid 5 percent in cash and 5 percent in stock at dividend this year. They have a thousand dollars on hand to pay their installments when business is dull during summer months. At that ratio when paid up which will be in 2 years it will pay about 20 percent. Chris attended the stockholders meeting last Saturday. If it keeps on it will be a good investment. Chris would like you to write him how Sallie Jenson account was when you were home. As near as you can remember.

Svartösten, April 5, 1909

Dear Loving Wife –

It is always a pleasure to write to you for it causes me to think about my darling wife. Another of your welcome letters came to hand and I was glad to note that you are well and getting along OK. You can't imagine how glad I am to hear from you for you know dear, I worry about you as well as you do, and each letter is received with great pleasure.

It is gratifying to note that my folks were so kind to you as you say they are, I thought they would be and I hope they will continue to extend their kindness. It is very nice of Mother to give you that \$5 gold piece for you will no doubt need it before long. Yes dearest, it will be nice when it is all over and you are well again. It will be nice warm days of June then and you can expend a good deal of time out in the fresh air with your darling child. You will be more happy then and perhaps the time will pass more rapidly, for you will have the little one to attract your attention. In one way it is too bad that you are in such a condition, for it ties you up so you can't go out much nor have any good times. If it wasn't for that you could attend meetings and Sunday School regularly and perhaps get interested in the same by taking part, but you will have to make the best of it as the condition is, and then perhaps next year you can continue with the various meetings. Be careful not to exert yourself in any way, but exercise in the fresh air every day is very essential and will strengthen you.

In referring to the weather again, I will say that it is quite nice here now but last week I thought Svartösten would be blown away and I would be snowed in. The way it was snowing and drifting wasn't slow. After it settled down I had a job shoveling snow for an hour or so in order to get a trail out to the street and one to the backhouse. Of course the latter was important. Many of the fences are completely covered with snow and there are many drifts on the streets five to ten feet deep. The sun shines about fifteen hours each day now but still it isn't warm enough to melt the snow. I don't suppose we will have spring until about May 15th. It certainly will be nice for spring and summer to come for I have had enough winter for once and I am longing to see mother earth and her green grass once more.

I received a letter from Elder Monson two days ago and he states that there is very little snow where he is, but it rains nearly all the time. I would sooner have snow than rain so I will be contented with the wintry north. Elder Monson stopped in Stockholm a couple of days and he said he had a nice time. You know Mart is there so he had quite a chat with him and they took in the sights of the city. He said all the missionaries sympathize with me way up here in the frozen north alone, but of course that don't help me any nor keep me company. I suppose I will get a companion when I go to conference at least I hope so for it isn't exactly pleasant to be alone. The time seems to pass about the same as it did when Monson was here but it isn't so pleasant. I am getting interested in reading Swedish now but I can't understand all I read. I have to use the dictionary a great deal and that makes reading quite slow.

I wish I had you here to interpret for me and tell me how to pronounce the words. We would show the Swedes how it was done, wouldn't we dearest? So Jens was having a conversation about polygamy with Mrs. Chatterton? That is what I have to run up against nearly every day for the people hate that principle more than any other, and they think we practice it now. I tell them that we don't practice it now but the principle is OK if it is lived according to commandments. There is no principle of our church but what is OK but all Mormons do not live them as they should, and the church is judged by its members in most cases by the Gentiles.

Stena tells me that Mrs. Nick Poulson (Otto's mother) left a dollar there for me. Please give her credit on the contribution list, and also Jacob Carlson for \$1 if I haven't told you

to do so before. How is Perlinda and Alma making it? Aren't they ever going to get married or don't you know anything about their business? Well my darling be good to yourself and take things as easy as possible and think often of your husband for he does of you. Give your folks my best regards. I am yours forever Niels Fugal. Please accept these xxxooooxxx.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 8, 1909 [Forwarded to Sundsvall]

My dear darling Husband:

Last night Ike and Esther were here so Ike went down town and brought me back a letter from you and I was so glad to hear from you again. It is too bad that they have taken your companion away and I do hope that you will soon have another. I don't like to think that you are three alone and I will be pleased when I hear you have another companion. I'll bet you are lonesome living there all by yourself. I do wish that I could come and live with you but I guess that is impossible. In two years from now maybe we will be living together, that is what we hope anyhow isn't it dearest?

You remember Mr. Banks, Annie's father-in-law, he died a week ago yesterday. Annie was over there all last week and you can't imagine how lonesome I was while she was gone. She came back Tuesday. I am going to help her quilt today and I guess she is almost ready to start so I will finish this letter tonight after we get thru.

Well dearest we have got the quilt out and had supper so I will finish my letter. It is just six o'clock now and it was nearly noon when we started. Esther came down about three o'clock so there was four of us doing it. I am quite tired now, my back aches some. I haven't done any sewing since I told you about it last. I doesn't agree with me now. When I get well if Annie has plenty of sewing I may help her again.

It has been quite cold here for about a week but is warmer today. It snowed quite a bit Tuesday and we have had some frost but I don't know whether it hurt the fruit much or not.

I am glad you have had your picture taken and will be waiting anxiously till I get it so you must send it as soon as you get it. We are going to make another quilt tomorrow so I don't know whether I will go up to your mother's this week or not. I usually go up once a week. Stena was here to see me Sunday. She didn't go to meeting but came down here instead and stayed all afternoon.

I told you in my other letter that we were going up the Provo canyon on Easter, that will be next Sunday. We still intend to go if it is warm but if it is too cold we won't go. I will tell you about it in my next. I was so glad to get your last letter, I am to get all of them, but it hadn't been quite a week since I heard and I wasn't hardly expecting it so it was a very pleasant surprise. Dearest Nels I can't help but think of you away up there alone and I would give anything if I could just run over and see you for a little while. Well Nels I don't go any place so I can't tell you the news. Will have to close for this time, goodbye darling and write soon. May the Lord bless you and take care of you at all times is the constant prayer of your loving Viola. xxxxxxooo

I will put a few violets in to remind you of Home Sweet Home. [She did, folded in a paper and wrote in it:] I picked these out on the lawn. Do you remember where they grow out under the evergreen? I guess you won't know what they are when they get there. [Actually, I can still tell what they are, though brown.]

Provo Bench, April 10th, 1909 [Letter forwarded to Sundsvall]

My Dear Brother

Again I take pleasure in writing to you, I received your letter of March 12 and were very glad to hear from you, but it made me feel guilty for not writing oftener, but time goes so fast. I keep putting it off, I will think well tonight I will write to Niels but it seems like something is sure to come up to stop me. You must not think that I don't think of you even if I don't write often.

I note in your letter that you are feeling well, and I hope and pray that you will continue to feel fine during your absence from home. I also note in your letter that we have a piano and that I am taking lessons and will say that those melodious vibrations are not so charming as you describe them to be but never mind, maybe I will be able to play Yankee Doodle for you when you get home. The piece of poetry of yours tickled John. I can tell you, the folks were all out on my birthday and I had to read that letter to all of them, Jens laughed till I thot he would be sick, in fact they all had a good hearty laugh. Grandpa is with us again, he has been staying to Lavina's all winter. [Andreas died in 1894 and his father Christian died in 1889. Hannah's father Nils died in 1901. He must be John and Lavina's father.]

John is planting trees on the street sides of the fifteen acres, that will make it look quite a bit better. He has got all his pruning done and the limbs all burned. Annie & Joe was down on a visit two weeks ago now. Ora is down on a visit. We have been having some fine weather for a while but today it is quite windy. I was over to ma's yesterday, and found the folks all well. Viola came up in the afternoon and we all had a nice time, course we had coffee and something to go with it. Tomorrow is Easter. I hope someone treats you to some eggs so you will know it is Easter. Well Dear Bro. I have no more to tell you this time so will close hoping this letter will find you well and wishing you success and trusting you will take good care of yourself, I remain Your Loving Sister Carrie. Write soon.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 15th 1909 [Forwarded to Sundsvall]

Dear Bro. –

Received your very welcome letter of March 25 and was more than pleased to hear from you. Glad you are well but sorry to note that you are left without a companion, we hope that they will give you another one before long. I would insist on them giving you a companion at conference time, the time passes so much better when you are two. But dear brother, do not get discouraged because when we are trying to do right we are not left entirely alone for I think you will be blest. You will have to visit more while you are

alone, the time will pass so much faster. It seems strange that there isn't enough missionaries so there can be more than one missionary in a branch. But live in hopes and everything will be alright. I wrote you a letter April 6th and it contained a check. I hope you have received it alright so you can go to conference. While you are alone your expenses will be more and I suppose you will be out of money before you received this.

We received your photos alright, they are just fine. I think it is the best picture of you that we have. By the looks of your picture, it doesn't look like you are suffering any, potatoes still agrees with you. You do not look as though the cold weather has hurt you any and indeed it had not ought to wearing such a cap. Everybody that has seen your photo thinks it is just fine. Viola sat her looking at your photo for about an hour noticing your shiny rubbers, your striped gloves, your satchel with a long strap, the smile on your lips, the overcoat, and at the same time your wonderful cap. The cap drew our attention the first thing. It as very nice that you had your pictures taken together when you did or you would not have had a chance perhaps. I sent you the photo of Clarence [her deceased husband] and I quite a long time ago, did you receive it? [Do not have a good enough copy of this photo to reproduce it.]

Today is such a lovely day, it is almost like summer. We have all the doors open and wear our big straw hats. The boys have their crops planted now except the potatoes. They have their beets planted, they decided to try raising beets for another year. By the way kid Little Lewis is out here loading up some potatoes. He buys the little potatoes, he can only handle about a peck at a time. I suppose we will have lots of nice peaches this year. We do not look for any culls because Crimeny has done the pruning this year. He has been pruning and visiting for about six weeks. He has been working by the contract, Jens paid him ten cents a tree if I am rightfully informed. I would not hire him by the day any more. Lew is still here. I guess he will stay all summer.

Last Sunday was Easter, how many eggs did you eat? The Sunday School had a programme, they all took their parts just fine. They had two recitations from the kindergarten, they were so cute. The weather was very cold Easter, the sun would shine one minute and the next minute it would snow. The meetinghouse was decorated very pretty, they used a lot of green and white tissue paper as decorations, it looked very nice. The YMMIA have discontinued their meetings for this spring but the Young Ladies still hold forth. The Young Ladies had a social in the basement of the meetinghouse. The refreshments were cake and lemonade. We had a good time. Today mother has gone out to Pete Carlson's, it is Mrs. Pete's birthday.

You stated in your letter that you weighed a 160 lbs naked, that is doing pretty good. I don't suppose you would have weighed 172 lbs. if you had stayed in P.G. I hope you will soon weight 180. It shows that you are a pretty good cook to gain like that. We are all so glad that you have such good health, that is one of the greatest blessings anyone can have. It makes no difference what anyone has, if they have not health they cannot enjoy it. You asked for Mrs. Van Horn's address. I will write it down before I forget. I am sure Birdy would like to hear from you and also the one that calls her honey. Mrs. Hervey Van Horn, Gypsum, Colorado.

Chris is still rushing Mrs. Bush. When I ask him "how is Sister Bush" he says, "Oh she's

fine.” He has not got so he has to see her every day yet so it could be worse you know. The children are all fine, they are growing so fast you will hardly know them when you get home. They all knew you. Ernest keeps on wanting to know when you are coming home. I guess he thinks you are making a long visit. We are all feeling fine and hope you are enjoying yourself and that you may gain friends so the time will pass rapidly as well as prosperously to you. I am as always Your Sis Stena.

Ernest thanks you very much for the cards you have sent him.

Dear Niels, you will find enclosed a dollar from your ma. [Her handwriting.]

Svartösten, April 15 – 09

My Dear Darling Wife –

Today is Thursday and I have been expecting a letter from you ever since last Saturday but it hasn't come yet. It is over a week since I wrote to you so I feel it a duty and a pleasure to write to you again today. It is now 9:30 a.m. and I have had breakfast, washed the dishes and done my general housework, so I will now write a few lines to you and then I am going to Luleå to tract. I can't help but think how nice it would be to have you here to keep me company and cook for your husband. It isn't exactly fun to be here alone with no one to talk to, only when I go off, or once in a while when a friend happens to call on me. Of course I am supposed to get out among the people with my glad message, but at night I am home and that is the time I would like to have someone to talk to.

There is a man here who is about forty five years old and he seems to have taken a liking to me and I to him. He has read nearly all the books I have here and he comes to see me quite often. Last Sunday he went with me to Karlsvik to visit a saint and her family so you see we are quite chummy. I have several friends and investigators so I don't feel discouraged nor despondent, but I wish I was wise and could enlighten them with the glorious principles which our gospel has to offer but you see what little I do know I have to speak in a new language and it is hard to bring it out in an intelligent and influential way. I haven't had the privilege of conversing in the English language since Monson left so when I do talk it is in the Swedish and that gives one good practice.

President Schade wrote to me and said, “It is an ill wind that blows no good.” He said, I would “learn the language sooner by not having anyone to talk English to,” and of course that is true. Well dearest, I received a letter from President Schade the other day and he said I could come to Sundsvall as soon as I can get ready. He said I may as well be down there with them as to be up here alone being as conference is so near at hand, and I have to come down anyway. There are three elders at Sundsvall so it will no doubt be more pleasant to be down with them than to be here alone. I intend to leave next Tuesday April 19. I can't leave before for I have to wait until the saint gets my clothes washed and ironed. I will be gone three weeks or perhaps a month, but I will have my mail transferred so you must keep writing to the same address. I expect I will have a partner with me when I come back but of course it all depends if there are any to get. If there aren't I will have to make the best of it alone.



Niels and Alma Monson, Sweden

I received a letter from Elder Monson and he says, "There is very little snow in southern Sweden but it rains nearly every day." I don't envy him of the rain, for I like snow better than rain. He is feeling fine and says he thinks he will like Norrköping better than Luleå for there are more saints down there. Well he has been here ten months so it is no more than fair that he should be changed. I will be willing to change places next fall, but I have a desire to remain here over summer to experience the perpetual daylight and see the midnight sun, and perhaps if all is well I will take a trip to the coast and see the beautiful fjords of Norway.

I received a letter from Mart the other day, trying to encourage me in my lonely condition and he wishes to be remembered to you. He is still in Stockholm and he thinks he is liable to remain there the full length of his time. He thought some of paying me a visit next summer and seeing the midnight sun but now he has give it up for it will cost him too much. I don't suppose I will see him until we get home but if I don't I think I can live through it alright. It would be much nicer to see my darling wife who has my heart.

Well dearest, I have two more names for you to chalk down on the contribution list. Oscar Nelson's mother, and Mrs. R. H. Lund each \$1. I received a letter from Mrs. Lund containing the \$1, but Mrs. Nelson gave the \$1 to mother. Mrs. Lund's letter was Danish and it was hard to read it but I made it out alright and will write her a Swedish one sometime. Well dear wife I hope you are well and feeling encouraged and bearing your lot bravely. Give your folks my best regards. I will close with the best of love and a hundred kisses. Write soon to your husband Niels. oxxxxoooox

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 15, 1909
[Forwarded to Sundsvall]

My Dear husband:

It is just six months today since you left Pleasant Grove so you have spent about one fourth of your time now. In three more six months we will be expecting you home. I got your picture and was very glad to see that you are looking so well. I think you look lots better than you did when you left. The picture is just fine and I am so glad you had it taken for it seems a little like seeing you. I do wish I could see you and talk to you for a little while now. I guess you are quite lonesome since Alma left but I hope they will soon give you another partner conference time. I don't think they ought to keep you up there alone so long.

It is a week yesterday since I got your letter but we haven't been to the post office since Tuesday so I guess there is one there now. I can't go to the office myself and so I have to depend on someone else to bring me letters and they won't go only when they feel like it but it won't be very much longer till I can go myself and then I won't have to depend on anyone else. I hope you will get this letter before conference. I can't get it posted till tomorrow but then it will have nearly three weeks to get there in.

I was up to your mother's yesterday and got the picture. Aunt Stena told me they had it and that's the first I knew about it. It is just like summer today, hot and sultry. Is there any snow on the ground there yet? Aunt Lettie never got that letter you wrote. We didn't go up to the canyon Easter, we had everything ready but it snowed Sat. night and was snowing Sunday morning and was too cold to go up there so Esther and Ike came down here and we ate our Easter dinner here.

I have written to Aunt Esther [her mother's sister, married to a Banks] and asked her to come over and stay with me after while but I don't know whether she will or not, she hasn't answered yet. If she comes I will have one of these doctors in town and if she doesn't I don't know what I will do. I can't have Mrs. Steel because I can't go and get her and she hasn't any way to come only on the train and there might not be one when I wanted her but maybe there will be some way when the time comes. You don't know how glad I'll be when it is all over with. I can't help but worry about it now. I hope Aunt Esther will come, she has had quite a bit of experience. I wrote to her Saturday.

How do you pass the time away now you are alone? I should think you would get tired of reading and studying all the time.

Esther was down yesterday and the day before. She was intending to come today but she hasn't come yet. The fruit trees are not in bloom yet and the frost has killed some of the apricots and early cherries but I guess there will be enough fruit anyhow. I don't know of any news so I guess this is all for this time. Write soon to your loving Wife xxxxxooxxo
Viola.

Svartösten, April 19 – 09

My Dear Viola –

It is now 10:30 p.m. but I must write you a few lines tonight for tomorrow morning at 6:10 I must be at the Luleå station which is about 1-1/2 miles from here, for I am going to Sundsvall as I stated in the previous letter. That means I will have to get up at 4:30 in the morning in order to get a little breakfast into my storehouse before leaving. After I get this letter written I won't have any too much time to sleep, so I hope you will pardon me if the letter isn't quite as long as usual. I have been to Karlsvik today and got my clothes so I am already for the journey which is 100 Swedish miles or about 650 English miles. I will have to change trains and perhaps have to lay over for some time tomorrow night, at a place named Ånge, but I don't suppose you can pronounce all Swedish words, for I know I can't. I have just come from visiting a family who are quite friendly to me. I only intended to go and bid them goodbye, but we became interested in a gospel conversation and I stayed three hours.

I received a welcome letter from you the same day as I sent you the last one and now tonight I was happily surprised to receive another from my dear wife, I thank you very much dearest and when I get home I will kiss you ten times for it, if you will let me. Will you please let me, dearest? I'll kiss you if you will. I also received a letter from Joe Halliday tonight which was welcomed for I wrote to him quite a while ago. He said P.G. is growing a little and perhaps I won't know it when I come home, but I will try not to get lost among its skyscrapers.

I am glad to note that you go out quite a bit dear for that will do you good. It no doubt was pleasant to be down the fields with Esther and Ike, and I hope you went up Provo canyon as you said you were thinking of doing. Yes my dearest it certainly would be nice if I were home so we could be together like Esther and Ike and it almost makes one shed tears when I think of the long time it will be before we have that pleasure, but we will have to put up with it and wait patiently for that time. Yes dearest it is hard to tell how long I will have to remain here before I am released, but I don't think it will be over two years for most are released at that time. I hope you don't mean what you say when you say that you wish I hadn't went on a mission for you know dearest it is a great privilege that we should feel proud of to work for our God by carrying that glad message which our glorious gospel contains. It seems quite hard to be separated from loved ones and home and be sent out in the cold world and be scorned by the people in general, but I believe if we don't receive a reward in this life for our good deeds that we will be amply paid for our works by a just Judge who rewards all for our actions whether they be good or bad. I know you feel the same as I and it is almost unnecessary for me to write this way, but I know you are anxious to meet your husband and be with him for you have chosen me for your companion from henceforth on, both in this world and the next and it is no more than right that you be entitled to live with one. It certainly will be a happy reunion and we will always stay happy, won't we my dear? We will make the happy reunion so warm that it can never get cold, but if anything it will grow warmer.

Now I pray the Lord to bless my beloved wife that she will bear her burden bravely and will always feel grateful that she was born under the new and everlasting covenant. I will write when I get settled in Sundsvall. It is now 11:30 so I bid you good night and pleasant dreams. I am your loving husband Niels. xxxooo

American Fork, Utah, Apr. 19th [Forwarded to Sundsvall] [Hannah's younger brother John Jacob ("Pa"?), 60 at this time, lived in A.F., but there may well have been other Carlson relatives there.]

Dear Cousin

We received your most loving and welcome letter the other day. We were glad to hear that you were well and enjoying your mission labors. We are all well out here. It certainly is a great surprise to hear some of the world great things which you related. When I got your letter I did not know who it was from but just the minute Pa saw it he said it was from Neils Fugal. Then he told me to read it aloud to the family which I did.

Well I guess you know by this time that you have another little cousin. And that Vida is dead. It has been raining all afternoon which is going to help the farmers good. Pa told me to answer your letter for him, his sight is too poor to write to you in the evening so you see that is the reason he does not answer your letter and too busy in the daytime.

We have been having fine weather for a few days. The crops are looking fine out here now. If you see Elder Alma Monson say hello for me and tell him to drop a few lines and let us know how he is and his mission labors. That is, if you see him. I hope that God will help you in your labor and that you may have good success in your time there. Ben and Annie sends their best regards to you. I wish that you could labor with someone so you would not feel so lonely.

Well I guess I will close for this time hoping to hear from you soon again. May God also be with you. From your cousin Liddie S. Carlson.

Best regards and blessing to you from Allen.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 22, 1909

My Dear Darling Husband:

I have got two letters since I wrote to you last, one Saturday and another yesterday, and I was very glad to get them both. I wish you wasn't so far away, and then we could get letters oftener. By the time you get this letter I hope you will have another companion and I hope you will like him as well as you did Elder Monson.

Yesterday was the Horse Show in Provo. Do you remember that other Horse Show that you went to see? You asked me when Perlinda and Allie were going to be married. I am sure I don't know but I don't think they ever will. Allie was trimming trees over to your place the other day when I went up and Perlinda was standing over by the fence talking to him. He said he was trying to make her go home so he could work but she wouldn't do it. I don't think he was trying very hard.

We had quite a rain storm here Monday afternoon. It just poured down for a little while. You said in your letter that you didn't think I could expect you to buy a lot of furniture and get a house the very first day you came home. I didn't ask you to buy a lot of

furniture when you come home. I don't want anything, only what we have to have to keep house until we can afford to get some more and I think you can get that the first day as easy as you can two or three weeks after. We will have just as much money, we will have to go into debt anyhow I suppose. You said you would have to get settled down first. You won't have anything to settle only yourself until you do get some furniture so you had just as well get it first as last. If we start to living up to your place you will get settled there and you won't want to leave. You know dearest, I am so tired of living in with other people that I don't want to a minute longer than we have to so please don't tell me that I will have to live in with your folks when you come for two or three weeks, will you dearest?

I told you in my last letter that I had written to Aunt Esther asking her to come over and stay while I am sick. I got a letter yesterday and she said she would come, to just let her know in plenty of time. I am so glad she is coming I won't worry so much about it now. I have been worrying about who I could send for Mrs. Steel but now I won't need to bother anybody. I can have one of the doctors here. I would lots sooner have Mrs. Steel and you bet if you were here to go for her she is the very one I would have but you know dearest, I can't very well get up and go for her myself and I haven't anyone to send. If it happens in the night Pa can't go because he can't see after dark and if in the daytime I guess he wouldn't go anyhow because he don't know where she lives and I could be dead and buried before he gets back. I was quite worried about it before I got Aunt Esther's letter but now I feel lots better. Annie had been talking to me about it and she made me feel like I don't know what every way. I'd mention about how I would get a doctor, she would mention a lot of objections and at last I told her if I couldn't get anyone else to go I guessed I have to go myself.

She is going to Spanish Fork Decoration Day the 30th of May and that is just when I will be expecting to be sick any day and you know how long she stays when she goes there so you see I can't depend on her for anything. I had the blues so bad the other day I was going to write and tell you lots of things but since I got Aunt Esther's letter I feel better. I guess Esther [sister] will be sick in September.

Well dearest I am going to help Annie sew some more now. I don't feel much like sewing but if I don't she will never get it done and I want to get the house cleaning done before very long and then you know I will get some more money too and that is what we all want. Yesterday I washed and after I got thru and went in and sewed till six o'clock and then I was so tired I couldn't hardly sleep.

Yes dear Nels your mother is very good to me, if I don't go up every week she says it seems so long since she saw me and I must come oftener. I was up Tuesday. I must close now, goodbye dearest, write often, Yours forever, Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 23rd 1909

Dearest Brother –

Received your welcome letter two days ago and was very glad to hear from you April 26th. I just got started to write your letter the other day and got interrupted and had to quit

so I will endeavor to finish it today or know the reason why. I suppose you are very lonesome now since Alma has gone but you must keep up courage, it will only be three weeks until conference and not that so I suppose the time will pass somehow. When you go to conference I would make them give me a companion or I would refuse to go back until they did. Would you just as soon labor in the north as some other part of Sweden? I guess it will not be so cold during the summer months.

Last Thursday Martin Peterson had a little child 21 months old that fell in the ditch by Jeppa Nielson's and got drowned. The child had been in the ditch for half an hour or more before they found it. The child was washed down the stream as far as Steven Jenson's dam and lodged there. The mother is almost frenzied, she has two other children, one three years and the other four months, the poor thing certainly has her hands full. Last Friday morning Alfred Harvey Sr. died, he died suddenly, he had been ailing for some time but he was not bedfast. He got up about five o'clock and went outdoors, they thought he stayed out rather long and so they went out to see, he was in the closet dead. They just had his funeral yesterday after the afternoon meeting, there was a large turn out. The speakers were Ben Driggs, John Nelson, Orlander Herron, Bishop Thorne and Hans Jergenson. John Nelson stood up to the pulpit, looked at the floor, then strait ahead, then at the floor, then up at the ceiling. Then he swung his neck around like you know how I mean. Then he said his little say and finished up with advising the boys if they could not lead a better life than their father had, to lead one just as good. There is one thing about him, he always minded his own business and never grumbled and that is more than we can say about everybody.

A week ago Sunday night they had a missionary party for Roy West. He leaves the first part of May for his mission. I think he does pretty well to go and leave his wife and two children. It seems like everyone that goes and performs a mission are always blest. There is no one yet that a mission has made poor. Last week the bishop made public in meeting that John Albean and Frankie Banks were cut off from the church. It makes it so bad when men lead such lives that they are not worthy of being a member of the church. Mrs. Albean feels quite bad about the way John does. That is natural enough that a mother worries about her children's welfare. Emma Young Carter has a baby boy so you have a new cousin, don't you know. Jennie Rassmuson has a son too. She lives down to Celia Christiansens.

The boys are quite busy. Jens is having his old apple trees pulled up. About half of them are pulled up now. Lew was trimming the limbs off all day Saturday, today he has gone down to the hay field to take some of the stock down there. They will not have hay enough if they keep all the animals home. Hay is very high now, it is seventeen dollars per ton on the Bench. Isn't that a going some? Potatoes are 80 cents per bushel and wheat is way up. It will keep anyone with a large family a scratching to fill his kids with bread and spuds. But that is alright, if we only had a lot to sell.

Lizzie was up here last night. She said Louis was doing fine, he is president of the Iowa Conference so you see he has worked himself up. He is the boy that has got the stick-to-it-ness if anyone has and plenty of gall. He has been gone for two years and a half and does not know when he will be released. Gilbert Kundson is doing fine too, his sister Carrie and her husband were over to see us last week. He has been gone for two years, he

expects to get released soon. When Roy West goes there will be ten missionaries from this ward out in the field, that is pretty good to have that many out at once.

There was stake conference at Lehi Saturday and Sunday, they are talking of dividing the P.G. ward but I don't know yet whether they will or not. You stated in your letter that you had received my photo. I was glad to hear that. I believe that you have received all the letters I have written you since you came to Sweden. Hope you have received your letter with the check, it was sent on the 6th of April.

We are all feeling fine, mother is about the same as usual. Ernest's overalls does considerable flying, it makes no difference what time of the day it is, he is on the go. That's what makes him grow so fast. Lavina's children are all well. Delbert and Vida still go to school. [Somewhat younger photo of Delbert, Vida and Alda.] Well take good care of yourself Niels as Ernest says and write soon to your Loving Sister Stena.

Dear Child, if you were here you could sometimes hear the loom a going, you know some kind of music is necessary. Mother fixes the wash and I do the weaving. I am only going to make 100 yds. to keep me out of mischief. I did not think it was right to send this little space without a little writing on it because you have lots of time to read and you can stand to read a little trash. I bought me a suit this spring, a brown one, I paid \$17.50 for it so you see I am somewhat sporty. You have to be a little in the style or die. Hope you are enjoying yourself immensely. Amen.

Pl. Grove April 26/09 [Forwarded to Sundsvall, then to Östersund]

Dear Bro. Neils,

I am at last taking time to write you a word. I have been letting Stena do all the writing. I got your letter OK. I suppose before you get this letter you will have received the \$50 we sent you and you will have been to conference. I hope they find you a good partner when you go back again. Don't let them send you back alone. I hope you are getting along pretty fair. As yet we haven't sold so very many buggies. We have sold four. But we have some good prospects, expect to see all the buggies sold as we have not got lots of opposition. We think we will have them pretty well cleaned out by fall. I tell you we are busy now. Jens has a few plumbing jobs that are waiting for him and we have to build a fence around the meetinghouse. I guess we will get there in the sweet by and by. I expect I will have to go over to Isaac Sundbergs to get the wagon we sold him, he hasn't paid a cent since you left.

I have an idea that I will be canned down to Bushes, I am going to find out soon. If I get canned I believe I will go up to Tom Larsons or else out to Poleydors. I will let you know when I get married. I will have to write more some other time. Be good. From your Bro. C.A.F.

Sundsvall, April 26 – 09

My Dear Viola –



Delbert, Vida, Alda
(Jens')

It is just one week today since I wrote to you and received your last letter. I arrived in Sundsvall OK last Wednesday and enjoyed my trip very well only it was quite lonesome because there were no one I knew on the train, so I did very little talking. I had to lay over in Ånge from 12:30 Wednesday morning until 8:20 Wednesday morning and arrived here at about 11 a.m. A person can't see very much that tickles the eye in traveling in northern Sweden, in the winter, for everything looks the same. It is only snow and scrubby forests; and the country is composed of rolling hills so it is impossible to see off very far. I would sooner travel in Utah, where a person while riding on the train can see a great deal of country in passing through the valleys and over the mountains.

When I arrived here of course I was welcomed by the elders, and they all said I was so fat that they hardly knew me. I believe they are stretching it a little for I don't feel so much different now than last Fall, although I am feeling fine. I have gained eighteen pounds so there is no doubt some difference in my looks. The night of the same day I arrived here we had choir practice and I want to tell you it seemed nice to me, for it was about six months since I heard the sweet voices of a choir. They have practice on Wednesday nights and then after meeting on Sundays. They have quite a few saints here and some investigators so it is more pleasant here than up in the distant Luleå, but I will have to make the best of it in Luleå until Fall conference.

We had a meeting yesterday and I thought sure President Schade would call on me to preach but as luck would have it he didn't, so I suppose I will have to prepare a sermon for next Sunday. I don't exactly dislike to talk but I feel my weakness and don't like to show my ignorance. I suppose a person will always feel that way so the main thing is to always do the best we can and be satisfied.

The names of the elders laboring are as follows – Elder Schade from Huntsville, Utah, Elder Woodard from Sevier Co. Utah, and Elder Liljenquist from Rexburg, Idaho. They are all better Swedes than myself, so I am what you might call the kid of the family, but perhaps I will grow and in a year or so be able to tell them something in the Swedish language.

Well dearest I have your last letter with me and I don't believe I answered all that was in it, in my last letter, so I will endeavor to do so now. Yes I remember Mr. Banks and I remember the day he was there as if it were but yesterday. That day you and Esther and I went down to Geneva and had sport skating. Do you remember that sweetheart? I can call to mind many pleasant times we have had in those gone by days of our courting and also since our marrying. Pleasant days have passed away but we must also think that there are others coming, though they seem quite distant.

So Bro. Ike has bought that piece of ground! That is nice. Perhaps he will have a house built on it when I get back, so I can visit him at their new home. So you wonder where we will live? So do I, but I suppose we will find a place that can either be rented or bought, so we will be as happy as any two birds in a cage with our beloved young one to amuse us.

I suppose you have that garden planted which you spoke of? I wish I could be with you and help you for it would be pleasant to do a little work now after resting all winter and

getting suh nice soft hands that haven't a blister. Do you remember when you and Esther were hoeing last spring and I came and helped you, but I was so weak that I couldn't hoe any better than you, for you remember it was just after my sickness? I hope your garden will be a success and you will enjoy eating the goodies taken from it.

You say it is about six months since I left you and it seems long enough to be a year. Well dearest it does seem a long time since I left you at S. L. Depot and I suppose it will be a long time before we meet at the P.G. depot, but let us keep up courage for every day brings us nearer to that time, and before we are aware we will be living together again. Yes and if Joe Clark don't hustle, you and I will dance the first waltz in it, I mean the hall. Well my dear wife I will now close my letter with the best of love and wishes. I hope you are still well and getting along fine and taking plenty of exercise in the nice spring air. I am as ever your loving husband and deary Nels. Goodbye honey, write often to your Lovey. xxxooooxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., April 29, 1909
[Not forwarded.]

My Dearest Nels:

Once gain I take great pleasure in writing to my darling husband who is so far away. It is just a week since I wrote last. I haven't got a letter from you yet this week but we didn't go to the office yesterday and I am expecting one today. I have been helping Annie sew this week and when we finish what we have to do now I will have about \$4.40, isn't that pretty good dear? When we get thru sewing we are going to house clean. I believe I told you in my last letter that Aunt Esther is coming over and stay with me when I am sick. I will have her come a while before so she will be here at the time and I am anxious to get the house cleaning done.

Joe, my brother and his wife came Sunday night. They came up in a wagon and Joe went to Salt Lake Tuesday. Valeria is here yet. He is going to get work with his team and rent a house and then send for her and I guess they will live there this summer. Their baby is just a year old now and she expects another in August.

It has been quite stormy this week. It snowed a little last night but it doesn't show much now. It seems to me like we are having a late spring, there are just a few of the trees in bloom now. There is just one more week of school here. I haven't been up to your mother's for over a week but I have been too busy sewing and when we quit I am too tired to do anything.

Well dearest I hope you will have a companion when you get this letter. It is just a little over a week until Conference. Have you heard that Old Man Harvey is dead? A week ago today there was a baby nearly two years old drowned in that ditch that runs thru Jeppie Nielsons lot. They didn't find it for over a half hour after it had fallen in and then it was way up by John West's caught on something in the ditch. The child belonged to those Petersons that live in that brick house across the street west from Jeppie's. Well Nels I don't know of any more news and it is nearly time for me to get to work so I will close for this time. I would give anything if I could see you for a little while. It



Valeria and baby
(Joe's)

seems to me like two years will never pass. Goodbye dearest darling, write soon to your loving wife Viola.

Sundsvall, May 3, 1909

Dear Darling Wife –

Just a few lines to let you know I am well and enjoying myself in Sundsvall. The weather is quite nice but there is still quite a lot of snow in places and there is still so much ice that the boats can't sail. The streets in the city are dry and I want to tell you that it seems nice to see the earth again and the green grass and plants which are commencing to sprout and show that spring is near at hand. When I left Luleå there wasn't any dry places there and I suppose there will be some snow when I get back. The spring is somewhat later this year than usual, but it looks as though we will have nice summer days before very long. So much for the weather.

I received your most welcome letter the day after I wrote the last one to you. I also received one from Stena containing \$50 and one from Lavina and Jens the same day and one from Carrie the following day. I had lots of nice news to read, but now I am ready to receive some more, and no doubt I will be made glad with another from my dear wife in just a day or two.

Your letter stated that you were busy making quilts and that you get tired so much easier than you used to. I certainly will be glad when I hear that you are well again and have passed through that ordeal and sickness which we are awaiting. I would like very much to be with my darling at that time, when she would need me the most, but of course I can't, so we will have to make the best of it, and hope that I will be with you the next time. Keep up courage sweetheart, and be determined and I think all will be well. Of course I haven't had any experience in what I am writing about but I have my ideas about it anyhow. From now on I will be very anxious to hear from you so I may know just how you are feeling.

Last Saturday was quite a lively day here in Sundsvall. The first of May is celebrated here about the same as labor day is in Utah. They had a large parade composed of all the different lodges and unions. There were a half dozen bands out so I heard some lively music for a change which seemed very nice and caused me to think about our wonderful band in P.G. Do you know how the band is making it now in Pleasant Grove?

I was in company with Elder Siljinqvist May 1st and we took in the sights of the city and then climbed (not clum) to the top of a large hill, which the people here think is a mountain, and there obtained a very good view of the city and the country in the neighborhood and also the water which leads out into the gulf of Bothnia. Whenever I am out taking in sights, I always think of you, and wish I had you with me, so you could also see, but it is impossible so we will have to put up with it and look forward to the time that we will be together and probably have a chance to have some pleasure trips.

I hope you went up Provo canyon on Easter and enjoyed the day by climbing the hills and cracking eggs and viewing the beautiful natural scenery which that canyon affords. I have



eaten four eggs since I came here to Sundsvall but they are all I have had since I left America. It seems nice to be here because I don't have to do any cooking. There is a sister who lives in one room of the house and she does all the work for her board, and then she does other work to earn money to buy clothes.

Well dearest in one week from today conference will be over and then I won't be long until I will be back to Luleå. I don't know whether I will get a partner or not to commence with but I suppose I will as soon as some new elders come. I have been alone for a month and I suppose I can stand it for one more if necessary. Elder Lavin from Gefle Branch arrived here this morning. He came so soon to practice the songs with us. He is a tenor singer. Wednesday the elders from Östersund will be here and by Friday or Saturday the others will be here. President Sundvall and Elder Krantz from Stockholm will be here for conference so there will be about twelve of us all told.

Well my darling now I will stop writing for this time and probably write again before leaving Sundsvall. I have had my photo taken since I came here so I will with the greatest of pleasure present one to you. I will send some to my folks also. I have two different sittings and I will send some of each to the folks and I want you to tell me which you like the best. Now dearest I will close hoping you are feeling well and encouraged. May God bless you. Your loving husband Niels. Write soon. xxxxxxooooo



Mission Conference, Sundsvall

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 11th, 1909

Dear Brother,

You must please excuse me for not writing for so long, it is two weeks today since I wrote you last so I thought I had better sit right down and scratch off a line to you. We are all well except mother and she is as well as she generally is. I suppose by the time you have received this letter you will have been to conference and returned to Bachelors Hall. We were all so glad that you did not have to stay at Svartösten any longer than you did. It was so much nicer to go where the other missionaries are. Can you preach yet?

Well Niels, you won't have a chance to hear your Little Louis talk any more, he is dead [age 62]. Last Thursday he went to the river to fish and when he was just about home he tipped his buggy off the bridge there by Warburtons and then went for someone to help him get it out. Warburtons came to help him. But when they got the rig out they could not find Louis, he had been washed down the stream. They found him two hours after, drowned. His funeral was Saturday in the meetinghouse. Jeffa Christenson in Manila died about 2 weeks ago, he was the oldest man in that ward, he was nearly ninety years old.

[There are apparently two Lewis/Louis Nelson/Nielsons, as you will note this one dies yet one who works for Jens doing the farming continues to be spoken of. Commonly (to complicate matters), they would write Louis/Lewis, Lou/Lew, and both could mean the same person. I am wondering if the one who continues in the letters is a relative, possibly through Karna Carlson (Hannah's sister, Karna=Caroline=Carrie) and Magnus Nielson (Nelson per FamilySearch), as at some point in time they lived nearby. (Not a son, however, per FamilySearch.) There is also a Louis Fugal (the son of Christian, brother of Andreas, and Margaret Jensen Fugal, who had lived at 455 E. 700 N., but part of the time frame of these letters Louis may have been on a mission). The "Little Louis" referred to in the paragraph above, was so named because he was just over five feet tall. He is the cousin of Carl Coffee Oscar Olson, also mentioned in the letters, who lived with his uncle Jens (Louis' brother) and aunt Ellen Nielson (apparently not relatives of Magnus, though Magnus' son Charley married into the family). A third brother, Shaky Andrew, was written of by Ruby Radmall Warnick (b. 1906, descendant of Joseph Radmall, whose brother Alma was Allie's father). Though Ruby claimed Louis and Andrew were brothers, cemetery stones are Nelson and Nielson. Direct descendant of Andrew, Ellen Turner Monson Larsen, verifies they are brothers though Louis' line changed to Nelson. Andrew was old in Ruby's childhood memory (b. 1945), and even his voice shook from the palsy. He wore wooden shoes cut from a tree stump with leather across the front. His eyes were always red and watery and he seemed to suffer from colds and allergies. He had one daughter, Annie, who married Ed Turner. He was also called "Little Andrew," as he was no taller than Lewis. He made deliveries of fresh meat and groceries from town several times a day to northeast P.G., pushing a two-wheeled cart as no one but the very rich had ice boxes. Sometimes he would lie down and rest. He was paid 10 or 15 cents per delivery and lots of people let him keep their theatre trade tickets from Clark's Dry Goods which he sold. He was hit by a car in the intersection at Center and Third East (1920). The lady who hit him was inconsolable but Ruby thought it was a better way to

go than ending up at the Poor House (infirmary) between Provo and Springville.]

There's lots talk of dividing our ward, the Stake presidency and Joseph F. Smith are coming next Sunday for that purpose. It is the largest ward in the stake. They intend to divide it in three wards. It will be a hard thing to get things running smoothly again. Everybody will have to turn out and do something to make it a go. The Sunday School is just lovely the way it is now. I don't know who they will get to be superintendents. I will make a diagram and show you how the ward will be divided as nearly as I can with the information that I have at present. All south of the mercantile store both east and west will be one ward. All west and north of the street running north and south by Jonathan Harvey's [323 E. 100 S.] will be another ward. All north and east of the same street will be another ward. What do you think about that eh? Neither the bishop, meetinghouse, chorister, organist, and lots others will be in our ward. So it will be a new outfit. Oh yes, we will have James Walker for bishop and if you were here we would have you for one of the counselors or no, choir leader, or anything you want to be. We will say like the old maid, 'What's to be will be.' I suppose things will go the way the leaders want them to so we just as well be contented because it will do no good to kick.

Jens has all his trees pulled now and Lew has most of them sawed, it makes quite a difference in the looks of the place. His house shows up prominently now, I can tell you. The boys have their beets planted and they have left a whole acre of ground to fill with spuds so I guess we will have a carload of potatoes to sell next fall. They sold three buggies last week, there is still about twenty five on hand. They expect to sell most of them this summer.

A couple of weeks ago all the trees were out in bloom, they looked like a beautiful flower garden. Then it snowed and froze for two nights so most of the fruit is frozen. Today it is cold again, the air is quite keen. Hope it doesn't freeze all the fruit, if there is only a little we will get a good price for that and that will be better than it was last year.

Today is mother Clayton's birthday. Mother, Ernest and I are going out to see her this afternoon. We have not been on the bench since the 1st of April. Viola and Esther were up to see us yesterday, they seemed to be feeling fine. Esther had not been here since she was married until yesterday.

P.G. is about the same as usual, there are no particular changes. I have not seen Mrs. R. H. Lund yet but I will tell her you have received her letter and thank her just the same. Mrs. Gustaveson received the letter you wrote to her in March and thanks you a thousand times. She sent us the letter to read with Elisha Mayhew and also five dollars for her boy. Isn't she a good generous soul. We will send it to you next time we send you a check. Is it just as well to send you green backs or do you have any bother with them? I mean just a dollar or two at the time once in a great while. You know what I mean – I am a man – That is you know I am a man, that is – Well of a course you know I am a man. I don't suppose you wear glasses or have a feather cushion to sit on so I will take pity on you this time and write again before Christmas. Hope you have a good companion to labor with and enjoy yourself very much while you are sprogan Swedish. When you write to Mart tell him hello and take good care of Niels and do not wait so long before you write to us as I have this time writing to you. Your Loving Sis Stena Clayton

P.S. Roy West left yesterday for his mission, his wife and children are going to live with his folks until he gets back. He has rented his place to Ed Smith and his wife. Oh yes. John Smith bought our surrey and harness for \$45.00. Sant Walker bought our red cow (Betsy's calf) today for beef, he paid \$39.00 for her. Amen.

Sundsvall, May 11, 09

Dear Darling Wife –

With great pleasure I will endeavor to write a few lines to you, but I don't know whether I will succeed or not for all the elders are here and they are talking and laughing so it is quite difficult to center my thoughts on what I would like to tell you. I received your last welcome letter today, and also one about a week ago, since I wrote to you last.

Well dearest, conference is over now and this evening President Sundvall and the two elders who labor in Gefle Branch, left here but the rest won't leave for a couple of days yet. A new elder arrived here with President Sundvall but I was not lucky enough to have him go with me back to Luleå. Elder Liljenquist is released to visit his friends in southern Sweden and then return home to Idaho, so the new elder was appointed to take his place and labor here in Sundsvall. I have the pleasure of going back to Luleå without a companion, but I have a promise from President Sundvall that I will soon get a partner, and that a good one, for the Luleå Branch is about the dullest branch in the conference and he will send an elder who has had some experience. I don't know how long I will be alone but I suppose it will be a month or so. I have been here alone one month so I suppose I can stand it for another if necessary. I intend to stay here until next week about May 18th or 19th and then jump the train and be off for my future destination.

[Thus far, the mission president's name seems spelled two ways, with the 's' like the city of Sundsvall, and without. It is, however, apparently Sundwall.]

We have certainly had an enjoyable time at conference and feel well paid for our trip to Sundsvall. We have heard very interesting remarks and instructions and are filled with a determination to perform our labors with renewed energy. At our meeting Sunday night there were about two hundred people present and they paid good attention to what was said. The other meetings were also well attended so perhaps some friends received some good instructions which will help them on their way to salvation. We had a very good priesthood meeting yesterday which lasted for four hours. We were all so anxious to talk about our experiences that it took that long for us all to bear our testimonies. It is now 7:15 p.m. and it is getting dark that I can't see to write without a light so I will close for tonight and finish in the morning. Good night.

May 12 – 09

The night has gone and another night's rest has been enjoyed by us all. We just had breakfast so I will now finish my letter. It is quite nice weather but it is unsettled. It has been snowing some the last few days, so the streets are quite muddy. There is still snow in some places, but the roads are bare. The first boats came into Sundsvall just two days

ago, and they had to force themselves through a layer of ice about ten inches thick. Yesterday we elders with hundreds of other anxious people were down at the docks and watched several boats come in. It is over five months since the boats were running so the people were quite glad to see them in motion again.

Well sweetheart I am glad you received the photo with Elder Monson and myself, and also glad to note that you think I look so nice. I suppose you have also received my other photo now and have also passed your opinion on that. I have traded photos with all the elders so I will have quite a few to show you when I come home.

Well my dear, I suppose about the time you get this letter, you will be expecting to be sick at any moment. I am very far from you, but I want to tell you that my thoughts are upon you a great deal of the time. I believe I will be just as tickled as you when I hear that it is all over with and that you are doing fine. I am very glad that Aunt Esther is going to be with you for it is nice to have someone that you are so well acquainted with, and (as you say) one that has had experience in that line of work. I hope you will keep up courage, and face your condition bravely. I will be quite worried until I learn that you have passed through that ordeal and are both doing nicely. Now that I am going to be alone I suppose my mind will be upon the matter more than ever, but I will try to be contented and keep on with my labors as much as possible. It is too bad that I can't be with you at that time when you would need me the most, but it is impossible dearest, so we will have to make the best of it.

Yes dearest it would be nice if we could talk to each other for a while, just as you said. We certainly would have a great deal to talk about, but I am afraid it would be harder than ever to part the second time, as we have had some experience now in being away from each other. Well dear wife I will now close for this time praying the Lord to bless you in your condition, which I believe he will, and hoping to hear good news from you soon. Your loving husband Niels. xxxoo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 14, 1909 [Letter not posted until May 20]

My Dear Husband:

It is just a week since I wrote to you last and so I take great pleasure in writing again. I rec'd your last letter Wednesday and was glad to hear that you were having such a good time with the others. I guess you are back in Svartösten by now and I hope you have a new companion and like him as well as you did the other one.

We are having nice warm weather here now and I do wish you could be here for a little while. I guess nearly all the fruit is frozen. Ike has gone to Salt Lake to work and Esther is staying here while he is gone. I guess he will rent a house in there and move her in in about two weeks. He went Monday and he gets \$4.00 a day. Isn't that pretty good. Joe and Valeria are in there too but I don't know what he is doing, we haven't heard from him. He has a team. Have you heard that Little Louis is dead? He got in the ditch and was drowned.

Yesterday Annie and Esther and I went way up past Aunt Lettie's, nearly up to where

those Smiths live to get some dirt to plant flowers. We came back and stopped to Aunt Lettie's and had dinner and rested awhile and then came on home.

Well dearest we got the house cleaning done and you don't know what a relief it is. I was so tired when we got thru that I didn't do anything for two or three days after but am alright again now. Esther came down and helped us. I am going to send for Aunt Esther the last of this month. By the time you get this letter you won't know whether I am alive or not, will you Nels? I guess I'll be alright though. I will be so glad when it is over. Day after tomorrow will just be seven months since you left Salt Lake City. It seems lots longer than that to me. When you come home I am going to meet you in Salt Lake if possible. I do hope they won't keep you any longer than two years. I don't think they ought to, do you dear? I can't help but wonder where we will live when you come home. You know I want to live alone with you for if we start to living in with people we never will have anything for ourselves.

They are going to have the ward divided next Sunday but I don't know how they are going to divide it. Pres. Smith is coming down. If you was here maybe you would have the chance to help build some new meetinghouses. I can't think of any more news this time so goodbye, write soon and don't forget Your loving xxxxxxxxooo Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 20, 1909

My Dearest Nels:

I rec'd your welcome letter Tuesday and also the picture. Thank you very much for it. I think it is alright. I am glad that you are so well and I hope you don't get poor again before you come home. I didn't hardly know you at first, you were so thin when you left. I took the picture up and showed it to your folks, they hadn't rec'd theirs then and so they were glad to see mine. They all thot it was so good and Stena just about went up over it. I haven't seen the others so I can't tell you which I like best but will tell you next time. Well dearest I don't like to think that you are alone again and I do hope that you have a companion by now. I was glad to hear that you were having such a good time in Sundsvall and will expect to hear all about conference in your next letter.

Last Sunday Pres. Smith was down and they divided Pleasant Grove into three wards. All south of that street that runs east and west, south of the mercantile is the First Ward and Ed Alpine [Olpin] is Bishop. The rest is divided by the street that runs east of the meetinghouse. The west part is the Second Ward and Bishop Swenson is the Bishop there. All east of that street is the Third Ward and Bro. Walker Bishop. They haven't chose any counselors yet. We live in the Third Ward. They are going to hold meetings the same for awhile and when they are able will build three new meetinghouses, one in each ward.

Ike is in Salt Lake now working. He gets \$4. a day. He is coming down Saturday night and get Esther and they are going to live in there for a while.

I am going to write to Aunt Esther in a day or two and have her come over a week from Monday. I got Pa to speak to the Doctor for me the other day when he was down. I told

him I didn't care which one he saw so he spoke to Vance. You know they always engage the doctor awhile before. I would soon have had Mrs. Steel but I didn't have anyone to send for her and so I will have to take who I can get but Aunt Esther will be here too so I don't care so much. Mrs. Sundberg told Esther to tell me whatever I did not to have Vance. You know he waited on Viola Carlson when her first baby was born and when they operated on her the Doctor from Salt Lake said that a piece of the afterbirth had been left in her and had rotted to her side. Mrs. Sundberg said she believed Viola would have been alive now if they had had a good doctor when her baby was born. But there are lots of people that don't like Grua so I believe Vance will be alright. I do wish you could be here Nels but of course you can't so I will have to get along without you but write often for I do like to get letters from you. Take care of yourself dearest and the time will soon pass and we will be together again. Write soon. I will write again next week and then the next if I can but if you don't get any more that one after this you will know that I can't write.

Goodbye Dearest. Yours forever and ever, Viola.

Östersund, May 18, 1909

My Dear Loving Wife –

Once more I take the pleasure to write a few lines to my darling wife. Conference is all over now and as the heading shows I am at present in Östersund, a city which is about one hundred and fifty miles northwest of Sundsvall. Being as I were sent back to Luleå without a companion, all the elders seemed to sympathize with me, and the Östersund elders wanted me to spend a few days with them. Östersund is just a short distance out of the way on my trip to Luleå so I decided to accompany them home and stay with them a few days. We arrived here Friday night and I expect to stay till tomorrow night which is Wednesday and then proceed with my trip to Luleå. I will arrive there Thursday night at about 11:30. It will be just one month since I left Luleå and I must say that month has gone quick and I have had quite a nice time. I hope the next month will seem to pass so fast but I suppose it won't. I don't know when I will get a companion but I don't expect on for at least a month. There is going to be a general conference held at Stockholm about the last of June and if my companion don't come for a couple of weeks yet, I have an idea that he will want to remain in Stockholm until after that conference, which wouldn't be any more than right providing he wants to attend conference. It wouldn't hardly pay for him to go way up to Luleå and then come back to Stockholm, inside of a few weeks. Of course we are not compelled to attend that conference, but it would no doubt be very nice to be there and meet all the elders in Sweden. There is also going to be a large fair in Stockholm about the same time so a nice time is almost certain. There are five P.G. boys in Sweden and it would be nice to see their faces once more in the near future.

The elders in this branch have many friends and they have some very good times. Last night the saints got together with the friends and they prepared a nice supper for us. We had choir practice first and then had a nice feast. We had meeting here Sunday and of course I had to preach. I had never talked more than fifteen or twenty minutes at a meeting before but last Sunday I spoke for a half hour. I am learning the language pretty

fare but it is hard to talk on one subject. I have to ramble all over and talk first on one thing and then on another. Bu I am not used to preaching so I must not expect to be able to deliver a discourse like a professor would. We learn to do by doing, so perhaps if I stay with it I will be able to preach a little after a while. I have the dullest branch in the whole conference, but perhaps will be able to get a few out to preach to. I feel very weak in trying to hold meetings alone, but that is what I am sent out for and I am going to make the best of it. I can't learn any younger.

So you don't think Allie and Perlinda will get married? Well it does look quite doubtful, but they are liable to surprise us one of these days. I haven't written to him yet. I suppose he thinks is I am a lazy chum, but I can't find time to write to everyone I know. I am sorry Aunt Lettie never received the letter I sent her shortly after Xmas. I shall write her another in the near future. Give her my very best regards if you happen to see her.

Yes dearest I remember the horse show which you have reference to. It is just a little over two years since that happy time. Think what a change has taken place since then. We don't know what will take place in the next two years, but I hope what does take place will be for the betterment and advancement. I suppose two more years will see us together again and settled down and enjoying life better than we ever did before. It may seem quite dark for you now dearest. But don't allow yourself to give up to bad feelings, overcome them as much as possible, because they don't originate from a good source. If we give up to our feelings, sometimes we will find ourselves in very great sorrow, and we feel like everything is against us, but if we overcome our trials and sorrows we are always becoming stronger and forming better character. I suppose about the time you receive this letter is the time you would need the help and consolation of your loving husband, but as it is impossible dear wife, I hope and pray that all will be well and that God will bless you with sufficient strength to pass through your ordeal with success. With best love and wishes I am your loving husband Niels. xxxoxxxx

Svartösten, May 25 – 09

My Dear Darling Wife –

There is nothing I would like better than to talk to you now, for I am all to my lonesome and haven't anyone to talk to only when I go out tracting or visiting. It's pretty lonesome to be here alone, but the evenings go by pretty fast when I get interested in reading. My books are my best friends and I make pretty good use of them. It is nice to be alone sometimes when we want to study, but it isn't healthy for a man to be alone all the time.

I arrived in this magnificent town last Thursday night at 12:00 o'clock, and now it is Tuesday. When I hit this town I hardly knew it, for all the snow is melted, exposing some of the deformities of the town. Svartösten is situated on a hill which is composed of red sand and large rocks, which are so prominent that a person is obliged to keep his spectacles on to prevent colliding with some of the monsters. The sand is very loose, making it very hard to walk. Perhaps a little of Svartösten history might interest you, so I will endeavor to write you a little. If we analyze the word Svartösten and give the definition in the English language we have as follows – Svart means black, ö means island, and staden means city, so you see we have Blackislandcity. There used to be a

smelter here which is torn down now, all but the smokestacks, and the smoke which was continually coming from these smokestacks caused everything to turn black, that is the reason it is called black. It is situated on an isthmus which is almost an island, that is how it derived the syllable ö. The last part, staden, gives us to understand that it is a city, but I would call it a town. I think they ought to call it redsandhillstown, which would be more appropriate. They tell me the town is about sixteen years old, so you see it must be a great place. All the houses are built of logs and lumber and nearly all of them are in line with the sidewalks, leaving no space for lawns nor flowers, and giving the people a good chance to look through the windows as they pass by, which they do, especially when they pass the Mormons' house. All the houses are painted either red or yellow, making them look like railroad stations.

[For anyone who can actually read Swedish, I must point out that though I find the names on maps and postmarks, many times he will write an ö as an ò or vice versa. Perhaps it's an 'Istanbul/Constantinople' thing.]

Svartösten came into existence in a very short time, but it seems as though it is going out of existence just as fast. There used to be lots of work here and in Luleå for a few years and that is why it was built so quick. They tell me that men would come from all parts of Sweden and bring their families with them and put their families on a spot where they wanted to live and then the carpenters would build a house around them and before the families knew it they were enclosed in their own house. Carpenters were working all the time (for you know it never gets dark here in the summer) so in a very short time all the houses were made. I have heard some people say that Pleasant Grove is a dull town, but I would just like to invite the critics to spend a week in Svartösten and then return to P.G.; and I believe they would think P.G. was a Chicago. You may ask the question why don't you leave the town if you don't like it. Well that is just what I am going to do as soon as I get my release. There used to be about twelve saints in this town but now there are only two. The elders used to have lively meetings here, but now it is almost impossible to get enough people out so we can hold a meeting. I tried last Sunday, but failed, I am going to try again next Sunday, so probably I will meet with better success. I have been thinking of moving to some other town, but I hardly think I will, for during the summer probably I can get out in the different towns and the country and hold cottage meetings. The rent is very cheap here, only ten crowns per months, it would cost three times as much if I should move to Luleå and probably I would get no better results for there are no saints there. I can live just as cheap here as any other place in northern Sweden. The month that I was alone it only cost me 16 crowns for food. Most of the other elders have paid double and some three times that amount. I suppose this letter isn't very interesting so I better close.

I must say I receive another of your welcome letters yesterday and the contents were read with great pleasure. It contained good news, only that you stated all the fruit was frozen. I was reading in the Deseret News today about the late frosts you have had in Utah. So Valeria and Joe made a call at your house? If you see them again in the near future tell them hello from me, and that I am the same old stick. I will now close hoping this letter will find you as well as can be expected, and that the letters which I am anxiously awaiting will bring good news concerning my darling wife. Your loving husband Niels. Write soon. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., May 26/09

Dear Bro:

No doubt you think we have utterly forgotten you by now but I pity you if you had rec'd as many letters from us as written in our minds. Say kid, there is never a day but what we miss you and our wishes for your welfare are for you but somehow we are so slow to write. I have started two letters but the one is just a month old. Must tell you how it is. Joe and Annie came down since I wrote you last, then Ora. After that Hattie Barrett (my sister Mary's girl) spent a week with me and now my lonesome little sister Berthena just went back from a three week's visit with us. Between times, I had all the children sick, first with tonsillitis, then with a new disease as that is going around and the doctors don't know what is. The children act like they might have eaten something poisonous and it stays with them from a week to ten days. And of course I had to have my turn and try how it was to be sick a few days. We are all OK now but the baby. He is still quite feverish and cries with those mean cramps that go with that new disease.

Am telling you all our troubles so you will partly excuse us for not writing oftener. Jens just started a letter to you tonight when Bishop Walker called for him to come down to John Nelson's. Stena told you that Bro. Hilton and John Nelson were Walker's councilors and tonight they are going to try to get Jens accept the Superintendency of Sunday Schools and they also wish to get your cousin Louis as first assistant. Louis will be fine. I tell you Niels, it fills one's heart with joy to get a good missionary handshake and partake of the beautiful spirit which seems to fairly radiate about our returned elders. Louis is fleshy and heavy set now. Ike is certainly looking and feeling fine. Judging from your portrait you seem to be OK physically and your letters show that you are OK spiritually. One thing you mentioned in your letter to Stena what reminded me of Paul when his friends tried to persuade him to not go up to Jerusalem and he told them that, not only was he ready to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. Of course, while we all feel that it would be much nicer and more comforting too for you to have a companion to go back with you, yet the way you write and feel about it is an inspiration and it is all these little trials cheerfully shouldered and borne that go to make one stronger. And as you say, you are not alone. May the Lord continue to bless you with health and strength and that your desire and efforts to do good will be crowned with success.

Your dear little wife was up here a little while yesterday and this afternoon she came up to see your mother and Stena. She was sweet as ever.

Well Niels, I guess you have noticed that the Utah fruit is pretty well taken by the frost. Perhaps it is a reminder to us that we are prone to be forgetful of our many blessings, how little we amount to of ourselves and how easily the Lord can change our prospects.

John and Carrie received word from Hurler to be out of their house by July 1st so perhaps they are sold out after all. Berthena and Geo. are moving on the Reservation this week. It seems hard to see them go. Last winter there was a whole family perished out there in the snow and on Mar. 22nd or 23rd one man was brot from there to SLC to have both arms

and legs amputated. I tell you it looks tough to see one's sister move out to a place like that with three little babies.

The water has been unusually high all over this spring and it makes traveling bad. Around here the water will get the best of us once in a while. It has done some damage to our upper orchard and as the creek south of us is nearly filled with gravel it won't take much to run it in on our lower orchard. But all we can do is fight it. The city is also busy fighting it. All our large apple trees except those three at the corner of the house are out and chopped up and the ground is nearly in shape for potatoes. Joe Green made a mistake and planted too many beets and as they seemed to be doing so nicely, they are just left, so this piece of ground comes in good for potatoes. Well Niels, Jens says they would not let him off so I guess that next Sunday his name will be presented with those of the assistants he must choose. He is at a loss yet, whom to call upon but he has three whole days to think it over. If he is voted in, remember your little brother in your prayers and write him encouragingly. He feels like it is more than he is equal to I but feel like it is fine thing for him. It will cut out this Sunday work at the shop and then too I believe that every Latter Day Saint needs to brush up and keep in touch with the gospel and the best way to do that is to become an active worker in it. And the more work we do in that line the dearer it becomes to us.

Reva Cooper is to be our organist and Clarence Hilton chorister, if they will accept. Our ward is lame in music but has fully as many workers as the other wards. It will be uphill pulling for a time but we are most all becoming converted to the good that will result from it. I guess I had better stop now or I fear another set of blue sheets like this will not be welcome. With love from the children and best wishes for your welfare and success, I remain Your Sister Lavina

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 28, 1909

My Dear Husband:

I received your letter Tuesday night. I was expecting it Tuesday but it didn't come so I got Annie to go down with me that night and it was there alright so I felt well paid for my walk. I was glad to hear that you enjoyed conference so well but was sorry that you had to go back alone. I guess you are lonesome and I do hope that it won't be long before you will have a companion.

Esther and Ike moved in to Salt Lake Tuesday morning. They went in the wagon and Clinton went with them to bring the team back. It made me think of the time that you and I went in the wagon to Salt Lake and Oh I do wish that you were here. I wonder when we will ride in a wagon together again. I do hope they don't keep you over two years. Mrs. Christiansen said yesterday that she heard you was called for three years and I told her we didn't know how long you was called for.

I wrote to Aunt Esther again the first of this week and she is coming over Sunday or Monday. Dr. Vance was here to see me yesterday. You know Annie kept telling me that I would have to speak to one of the Doctors so when Pa went down town I told him he could speak to one of them for me but I didn't care which so he spoke to Vance. I didn't have the least idea that he would come and see me before I sent for him so you can imagine my surprise when he came. He asked me a few questions about how I felt. If I had a good appetite and I said yes. If I had the headache and I said I hardly ever had it. If my feet swelled and I said no. And then he said he believed I was what physicians call "distressingly healthy" and he thought I would get along alright but not to put off sending for him but to send as soon as I took sick. Then he had to tell me about a young couple in Lindon that he just brought a pair of twin boys, their first, and then he said, "so you see you don't know what I might take out of my satchel for you. Wouldn't Niels be surprised if we should write and tell him he is the father of twins." Then he laughed and it made me feel so foolish I didn't know which way to look. I felt like knocking him down but Pa was in there too so I guess it's alright. He asked me all about you and I showed him your picture and he said you looked fine. He said that was the best thing you could have done for your health, you know, to go up there. He asked me if your side bothered you any and I told him no.

Well dearest before you get this letter it will be all over with and I guess I will be almost well. It rained quite hard last night and is dark and cloudy today. Write to me often dearest for I do like to get your letters. I was up to your mother's Wednesday and it may be quite awhile before I go again. But maybe I will go again before I am sick.

Have you heard that your cousin Louis Fugal is home? [Eight years older than Niels (first marriage 1914), the son of Christian (brother of Andreas) and Margaret Fugal, lived a block north, 455 E. 700 N., where those of us who knew Parley Christiansen came to live for many years.] I haven't seen him but the folks were telling me about it. Goodbye now dearest. Write soon to your loving wife, Viola. xxxxxooo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 30, 1909

Dear Brother:

It is about time I was writing you again. When I wrote last I thot that I would not let it go so long again, but have been so busy in the day time and tired at night that I kept putting it off.

They don't seem to think I have enough to do so they have put me in as chief cook in the S.S. of the third ward (monkey town ward) or all north and east of J. L. Harvey's corner. 1st ward is all south of Main St. or of Harvey's street, and 2nd ward all north and west of said corner. Ed Olpin, Wm. Marrott and Sant Walker is bishopric of 1st ward. S.L.S. [Swenson], W. L. Hays, S. H. Smith of the 2nd, J. H. Walker, Jos. Hilton and John Nelson of the third. The auxiliary organization officers set apart today were as follows. 1st ward Mrs. Halliday Supt. Relief Society, Geo. Hays Supt. YMMIA, Luzine Harper YLMIA, Effie Marrott Primary. 2nd ward McGee Bullock YMMIA, F.S. Humphries Supt. S. School, Mrs. Stewart Supt. Relief Society and Lydia Lund and Mrs. Weeks aides, Luisy Swenson Primary. Third ward John Adamson Supt. YMMIA, Adeline Nelson Supt. Relief S., Hellen Harvey and Mary Adamson aides, J.P.F. [himself] Supt. S.S., F. Newman 1 assistant and will likely have Ike Carlson for 2nd asst. Luella Thorne YLMIA. I omitted Hally Hays, Supt. For Young Ladies. The new move is to make presiding officers superintendents in place of presidents as heretofore. I am not in favor of dividing the ward yet altho it has been done for two weeks now. It will perhaps be a benefit so we must make the best of it. The stake presidency have been asking to have the ward divided for a long time and said it would make more workers which is true, but it is generally the willing horse that gets more to do.

May 31. I got sleepy last night so will finish this morning. I have watered John and made the fire and it is now six o'clock. It is a fine morning, everything is so nice and fresh after the storm which we have had enough of. It has been a nice spring time excepting the frost. The third water turn has been around but we haven't used it nor do I think we will use the 4th.

The first crop of hay will be light again this year as will also the fruit crop. You of course know the peaches are gone as also the apricots and cherries except 4 or 5 percent of sour cherries and they got hit the other day in the hail storm. There is a fair crop of apples and pears. We spent about \$22 in pruning and spraying this year and doesn't count my trees as they have been pulled out. If we will only be blessed with a good season from now we will do fine as the grain crops are very good so far. We missed it this spring in selling potatoes and wheat. We sold about 250 to 300 bu. wheat for \$1.00 to \$1.20 a bu. Shortly after could have got \$1.25 at the mill which has been the price to recent time. We got a good price and are getting and have been getting for 2 months \$1.25 for chicken wheat. We sold about a ton of oats for less than \$1.75, \$2.00 and up has been the price for over a month. Sold a ton of oats 2 or 3 weeks ago for \$2.25 per c but have not more than a ton left. We thot we got a fair price for spuds when we sold them 45 per bu. but they went up to more than double so you see we missed it. About twelve carloads went out from here, if they had been kept here of course the price would not have gone up so much. We kept about 2 loads and have sold some at 90 per bu., take them as they come. Sold nearly all

the Ohios at 60 to 75 a bu., little and big as they come. Hay has been almost out of the question with us as we had but little more than we need. Sold 18 c at \$11.00, 28 at \$12.00 and 15 at \$12.00, for a month hay has been \$20.00 a ton. We will pull thro nicely and will be satisfied.

Skank and Bess and their colts are keeping the clover in the orchard down, it looks nice and they are doing little harm if any. They have also been in my lot until now where they spoiled our lawn and flowers. We bred both of them to Bullocks this year. The colt from the company horse is the poorest again this year, the last year's colts are in the hay field and will soon go on the hills. I have done the roughing in at Dick Wadley's and some of the wiring. The two jobs I am getting \$3.05 for. I must close my letter and get down to Chas. Olsen where I am putting in set of fixtures. He has built a kitchen and bathroom. Chunky is waiting for me to get his and W. W. Lim's house will be ready for me in about 10 days. Adjö so longe, your little but big Bro. Jens.

Sunday, May 30. My letter has been waiting to accompany Jens' letter to Sweden and in the meantime we have received another of those welcome missives from our little Swedish brother. The first thing we discovered upon opening it was a photo of some 200 pounder. Say Niels, it is easy to see that you are not hauling hay, digging spuds or ploughing sage brush. That photo looks good to us and we just want you to keep looking that way. "Jeg taker saa meget for fotografi," that is supposed to be Danish, not the photo but the thanks.

Friday noon we had the liveliest hailstorm I ever witnessed. It lasted about ten minutes and when we opened the south door there were at least four inches of hail piled up against it. The hailstones were about the size of the small sour cherries. It didn't do a thing to the trees and vegetation. Oh no! The leaves look like they might have been so many targets for sportsmen. Just so we get no more such hail blizzards we must be content.

And so you are going to have a big conference in June. It will do you good to be in the swim with the rest and to see the boys from P.G. You want to be sure to go. You will go back to work with a lighter heart. It is getting late and we must get up early in the morning so will say good night. Be good to Niels and when you have the time to spare remember we are always glad to hear from you. L.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 2, 1909

My Dear Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I now take the time to write to you once again. Yesterday I didn't think I would write to you again for some time. When I got up I was sick and I had pain all day. Aunt Esther came over on the noon train. I went to bed about half past nine and had two hard pains and so they sent to the doctor but when he got here I hadn't had any more. He stayed till one o'clock and then after he went I felt alright and went to sleep and this morning I am feeling fine and I guess I will wait for a few days longer. The doctor said that they sometimes have these pains two or three weeks before they are confined. He didn't come in to see me until just before he went and I was glad he didn't. He just asked me two or three questions. Aunt Esther and Annie were both in and just as

he was going he said, "Well I'll leave my satchel and if either of you decide to be confined tonight just help yourselves to anything there is in it, boy, girl, twins or anything else you want."

You know when Pa engaged him he asked me when I wanted him and I said the first of June. Of course meant the first part so when he came last night it was the first day of June and he said when Lavina phoned for him he thot we had things down to a pretty fine point for beginners because I had told him the exact day. Well dearest I do wish you were here and I was wishing last night that you was but that won't do any good. I will have someone write to you as soon as it is over so you can expect another letter any time. Vance is coming this morning for his satchel but I don't care to see him. I suppose I will see all I want of him later on. Well dearest I guess I will close for this time, write soon to your loving Viola. xxxoo

Sundsvall, June 7 – 09

Dear Brother:

Your favor of May 29th at hand and contents duly noted, am pleased to learn that you are again enjoying good health, a thing which is very essential in our missionary work. Remember the instructions of the apostles – take good care of your health, as your life is precious. Am glad to hear that sister Lofva is back again, as she is a good sister and will without doubt be a good help to you in Svartö, hälsa så godt ifråmmig.

Now brother Fugal you must not allow yourself to become discouraged because of opposition and obstacles which come in the way, but rather let them be an incentive for you to work harder. You know Nephi says in 2nd Nephi 2 that an opposite is necessary in all things, and then you know the Savior did not promise his true followers that they should walk on a path strewn with roses, but said they should be hated by all for His name's sake, they should be persecuted, driven from synagogues and even suffer death, but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. So if the world hates us, let it not cause us to be downcast, but let it be a testimony to us that the Gospel we are sent to teach is true and thank the Lord because of it. It is too bad that the bookstore manager in Luleå is so narrow minded in his views, that he would not handle the B. of M. for us but you have the satisfaction of knowing that you have done your duty and that is worth a great deal.

And so sister Lydia has joined the nyleterhetsförening; well I don't know as there is any particular harm in that, but I can't see that any good will come to her thru it. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is the best good-templar society in the world, and she need not join any society other than that in order to work for the cause of temperance, and for any church members to absent him or herself from meeting to attend lodge, is highly improper, and is apt to lead to apostasy. The saints should learn to live up to the temperance law of the Word of Wisdom and then they can teach the world by example, which is better than all the preaching they can do.

Love and best regards to you and the saints, I am always your Bro. in the great cause, I. W. Schade

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 10, 1909

My Dear Husband:

It has been about a week since I wrote to you last and when I wrote that letter I didn't think I would be writing again so soon. I am still alright but don't know how long I will be. I guess you are up there alone now but I hope by the time you get this letter you will have a companion. Stena got her picture of you and she brought it down to show me. It is a fine picture but I believe I like the one you sent me best. The front view.

I forgot to tell you in my last letter that Jens is superintendent of the Sunday School in our ward and Fred Newman is one assistant but I haven't heard who the other is. Louella Thorne is President of the Young Ladies with Hazel Newman and Stena for counselors and Lavina class teacher. I suppose you have heard that Bro. Hilton and John Nelson are Counselors to the Bishop and that Adeline Nelson is President of the Relief Society and John Adamson is President of the Young Men. Frank Humphries is Superintendent of the Sunday School in the Second Ward and Will Hayes and Sam Smith are Counselors to the Bishop in that ward.

I got a letter from Esther the other day. They are living in one room and pay \$5 a month rent. Milt and Clint, Ike's two brothers, are boarding with them and they each pay \$4 a week for board. They have got their cow in there. They keep her in a pasture close by where they live and pay \$2 a month for pasture. They are selling some milk and get 5¢ a quart so I guess they can sell enough to pay for the pasture besides having all they can use themselves. Joe and Valeria are living in there too and she said they had been to see them once. They live quite a way apart. Esther lives out in Forest Dale and Joe lives in the northeastern part of the city.

I haven't been up to your mother's for over two weeks. Stena has been down but I haven't seen your mother since I was up. Aunt Esther is here now. Berly West is back here again, she is staying over to Ellis. I don't know how long she is going to stay.

Our roses are just beginning to come out now. Everything is later this year than it was last. The snowballs weren't out a bit pretty for Decoration and they aren't all gone yet. Pa is out cutting the lawn this morning. I cut it last summer but I haven't cut it at all this year and I don't suppose I will.

Well dearest I guess I have told you everything I know now. O no, I had almost forgotten. Lavina brought Old Mack and the buggy down the other day and so Annie, Aunt Esther and I took a buggy ride. Don't you think she was pretty good? That was the first buggy ride I had had for quite a while and they thought perhaps it would be the last for awhile. Well Nels I guess this will be all for this time. Write to me often and be sure you don't forget your loving Wife Viola. xxxooo

Töre, June 12 – 09

My Dear Loving Viola –

You remember that last Xmas Elder Monson and I spent ten days in a place called Töre, visiting the Lindgren family of saints. As you see by the heading, there is where I am at present. I left Luleå on the 8th inst. in the morning riding the train six miles, then I walked twenty miles, tracting the houses which were along the road, and after reaching a town called Råniå. I spent three hours tracting in it, after which I was so tired that I could hardly stand and besides it was about 8 o'clock so it was time to quit for that day, although the sun was still high in the sky. I then engaged a room in a public inn which cost 1-1/2 kronor and slept like a log until about 8 o'clock the following morning, when I arose and continued on my journey to Töre, which was two Swedish miles or about thirteen English miles. I tracted all the houses along the road and arrived in Töre about 4 o'clock, finding the saints all well and very pleased to see me. I had written them a letter stating when I would leave Luleå, and when they saw me they were greatly surprised for they didn't expect me until the following day. They said that I must travel "like a horse" to make it in such a short time and also tract the houses along the way. Well I certainly walked and I was quite stiff the next day, but now I am good for another journey just like it. Today is Saturday and I expect to leave here Monday or Tuesday by way of boat to Luleå.

Must say that I received your last two welcome letters on the same day. They were written on different dates, but I notice they have left P.G. the same date. I am certainly anxious to get the next couple letters from you so I will know how you are making it.

You wrote that Aunt Esther was coming May 31st so I surmise that you have passed through that ordeal and are feeling much better. It is as you wrote in your letter that by the time I received it, I wouldn't know whether you were alive or not. I think about it so much now that I dream about you nearly every night. Of course I suppose everything has went OK but it will be quite a relief when I learn all about it. By the time you receive this I hope you will be out of bed and that you will (both) be well and doing fine. How nice it would be if I could only spend a week with you now, while you most need me, but of course I can't so I will have to be contented and patiently await good news. I am glad Aunt Esther is with you for it is nice to have someone that is experienced and you say she is, so I surmise that will be a great help to you.

So Esther and Ike live in Salt Lake City now? Well that is nice that Ike has such a good job, I am glad to hear it and I also hope that Joe is making it alright in SLC. Don't Joe like farming? Or can he make more money at something else? When I get out in the country here and see the farmers at work, it almost makes one have a longing for the farm for I like that kind of work. I was raised on a farm so I suppose it is natural for me to enjoy it. Perhaps if I was born a bookseller I would like that work just as well. There are many things we will have to do in this life that probably doesn't suit our wishes so the main thing is to prepare for the best, be ready for the worst, and take what God sends.

I am certainly glad that I have embraced the only true church and that I have been counted worthy to go out in the world and teach them of life and salvation. Perhaps I don't always receive the best kind of treatment but I am getting used to it and every day I learn something new and can see how great that our glorious gospel is compared with the world's different ideas. There are scores of different denominations here and they all think they are right and that they don't need any Mormon to show them where they are

wrong. They can't understand that Christ's true church has been taken from the earth and now restored again through the prophet Joseph Smith and that it is necessary to follow those plans and principles which Joseph Smith taught in order for them to receive an exaltation in the kingdom of God.

I hope that I may be blessed with words to speak so that I can prove to them that our gospel is the only system by which people can be saved, and that it has come to this earth by a divine messenger who was the last prophet on this earth before the time of Joseph Smith, viz. the angel Moroni.

I held a meeting in Svartösten last Sunday with an attendance of four grown persons and two kids. Wasn't that a multitude? It seems as though it will almost be impossible to hold meetings during the summer for people are so eager to make use of the short time of perpetual daylight either in work or sports that they don't take time to bother with religious meetings and especially ours.

Well dearest I am without a companion as yet and don't expect one until after the conference which they intend to hold in Stockholm. If they have the conference I expect to be present and partake of the good time which will no doubt be had. I hope I have a partner come with me back for I think I have been alone about long enough now. I will have spent a week here by the time I leave here so of course I haven't been alone during that week, but I will soon be back to my bachelor's hall in Svartösten.

This is quite a nice place. It is no city but it is quite a nice country town with a river running past this house and green grass all over so it is quite pleasant. Bro. Lindgren is a blacksmith and is the foreman in quite a large machine shop here so I spend considerable of the time with him and enjoy myself watching the men work for you know I am quite interested in machinery myself. I intend to go out tracting this afternoon and see if I can be kicked out like I almost was last winter when I was here. I will draw to a close with love and kisses, hoping you are doing fine. Niels. xxxxxoox

Provo Bench, June 12th, 1909

My Dear Bro

It is a long time since I wrote, but I have been writing mind letters all the while. I guess you think I write better mind letters than real ones. We have had quite a lot of work here by the river being so high we were afraid our canal would be washed out. There were men working there night and day to keep the water in the old channel. The river was higher than it has been in the history of Utah. The days and nights have been much cooler of late, so the river has dropped 3 feet, so our canal is out of danger. We had a late frost here which damaged our peach crop, we will have very few peaches and few cherries, no apricots, but we will have a large crop apples, prunes and pears, so you see we will have fruit any how.

Next Monday is Mother's birthday, I am going to pick our first peas and take over, wish you could fly over and help eat them. We won't have potatoes for that day this year, the season has been backward, but we will have them after a while.

Perlinda and Allie are going to be married some day this month and so is Cousin Hyrum Carlson and a Wilson girl, I have forgotten her name. John and Erval has gone to the lake to fish today, Erval would go every day if we would let him. Lily Clayton and her husband are home on a visit, she is as big and fat as I am and he is much fatter.

Well Dear Bro. I hear they sent you back without a partner, I feel very sorry for you, it must be heck to be there alone, but I hope and pray you will get along OK and that you will have a companion by the time you get this letter. I am glad the days will be longer, it will be much more pleasant for you than those short days. I imagine the summer will be much more pleasant than winter. This letter leaves us all well, and I trust it will find you the same, and wish you success in all your undertakings and that you will take good care of yourself. Your Loving Sister Carrie. Write Soon. Ha. Ha.

Pleasant Grove, June the 15th, 1909 [First letter from his father-in-law.]

Mr. Niels Fugal

I received your letter so long ago that I cannot tell but I was pleased to hear from you direct tho. You know Viola is writing quite often and I get to hear from her of you and I am pleased with the integrity and faith that has characterized your mission so far. I can testify to you that the Lord is with his people and I adjure you for the love of Christ to be humble and faithful and continue to labor diligently to convince the people of that far off region of the Saving Grace of the gospel as taught by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

We have been all anxiety and sympathy on Viola's acct. since early last night till me as well as her were relieved by the birth of a fine Baby Girl weighing 9-3/4 lbs., the Baby is all right, a fine Girl with a beautiful contralto voice and with a little cultivation will be a leading chorister. Altho the ordeal was very severe on Viola she is resting nicely and feels as well as anyone could expect. All is well with your folks. Lavina has been down to see the baby. Your mother was celebrating her birthday yesterday. Joe is here on his way to American Fork Canyon to work in the mine. They are well.

With kindly wishes I am Your Friend and Brother in the Covenant of Peace. Leroy Young

Viola says she will write in a day or two.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 17th, 1909

[There is a photo of Leroy on the Grant Fugal family CD but too pixeled when printed.]

Dear Brother Niels –

Your most welcome letter of May 28th was received a couple of days ago and we were very pleased to hear from you. I can tell you also we received your photo, it is just grand, it is the best picture you have ever had taken. Everybody that sees it says, "My he looks fine! Isn't he getting fat." So you can know the opinion that the people here have of you. I can imagine how lonesome you are these long days. The days are long and hot here. I

am sitting by the open window puffing for breath and mother is sitting in the door binding a quilt that we have just finished.

I asked Chris if he would write a page in this letter but he said he was so busy in the shop and when he sits down he goes to sleep. The anvil is just more than ringing at this minute. Ike is helping him this afternoon. The old mowers are just more than rattling and have to be fixed and they have also sold six new ones. I thought it would be interesting to tell you that the buggy shed is not so crowded now, they have sold quite a number of buggies this season, but I do not look for it to get empty this year, and they will always have one on hand, at least one with a yellow running gear, it is a hummer. Jens has been busy with the bees lately, he has had quite a number of swarms, and they have to be tended to.

The most important news in town at present is that you are a father, isn't it wonderful. Too bad you cannot see what a sweet little fat big girl you have any way. It is the cutest little thing you ever saw to be so young. She looks around on this big world as smart as anything and has long black hair. I was down to see Viola last night, she is as well as can be expected after the ordeal she has gone through. She is all smiles when she looks at the little miss.

Mother's birthday was last Monday, there were quite a number here to celebrate. There were thirty-two in all, we had quite a nice time. Mrs. Gustaveson has not been here yet, she said she would come and see us as soon as she could. She has not been here since she came with you, her horse has not been used all winter and spring and she is afraid to use her now. She thinks she would be too foxy. I am going out to get her some morning and bring her back at night. She said she would come. Louis has moved out on Davy Adamson's farm now he is not going to work for us any more this summer. He feels like he can make more living out there, the boys offered him \$1.50 every day till Xmas if he would stay but he thought he could do better working for Davy. Roland [Rulan?] Lim works here steady since Louis left, he generally quits at six o'clock sharp. The boys think he is a good worker and he is trusty, they can send him any place alone and he does the work. That is worth something too. I do not know of anyone they can get that is better. The men at the brick yard receive \$1.75 per day and that is what they have to pay Roland also. Even Harry Hogan gets \$1.75 per day at the brick yard. The beets are thinned now, the boys hired Will Walker's boys to thin them and the kid came up today and said they were all done. They have planted some over four acres of beets this year and about an acre of potatoes down the field and 3/4 of an acre in Jens' lot where he had the apple trees removed.

Perlinda and Ally were joined in wedlock yesterday in the temple at S. L. City. They are going to have their reception tonight at the home of the bride. We are all invited and intend to attend. I understand they are going to have a large crowd and big time. The Christiansen family is about as large as the name is long. Ally is all smiles, had the privilege of congratulating him this morning.

Augusta Carlson is married, she is sixteen and her husband is forty-six, some fellow in Salt Lake City. Lee Warburton and Edna Kruze were married yesterday and had their reception at Kruze's and danced in Clark's Hall. Hyrum Carlson and May Wilson are

going to get wed next Wednesday in the S. L. Temple. They say that there are going to be more marriages but I do not know.

Say kid, wish you could have stepped in to dinner today, we had garden peas. It is easy to have them this year on account the late spring. John sent them to us. You asked in your letter if John had fruit this year or rather if the canyon breeze saved it. He will not have any apricots but he will have a fair crop of the most kinds of peaches. The frost struck the bench too but nothing like it did us. He has an excellent crop of pears, prunes and apples. I think we will have one or two peaches if they stay on the trees. I have not noticed them closely for some time.

Tom Fenton has returned from his mission to Australia. He looks fine, he is quite fat too, wears glasses tied on with a string and just more than preaches. If he does what he says he feels like doing now he will be alright. No doubt you will be surprised to learn that John Nelson is in the bishopric. You stated in your letter that he is the only man in the ward that has any push but would not have time to go to meeting. He takes time to go to meeting now, they have got him a going. He said he had been to some kind of a meeting nearly every night lately. If he keeps on I think he will learn to control his neck. I think he will be alright when he gets broke in. Walker and Hilton are fine and if everyone does their duty I think the 3rd ward will be OK.

Trust that you have a good companion by the time you receive this. Take good care of yourself and write often to your long winded Sister Mons. [Stena – I have no idea why she wrote Mons but no doubt it is tongue-in-cheek. Later on in a letter, Jens calls her Mons.]

Svartösten, June 19/09

Dear Wife –

I came back from Töre the day before yesterday and found a welcome letter from you awaiting me, and I also received another of your ever welcomed letters today, so it is with the greatest of pleasure that I take time to write my darling wife a few lines. The first of the two letters mentioned Dr. Vance's first call to see you and the last mentioned his second call, when he was sent for. I am very anxious to hear about the third call, which I surmise was shortly after the second, and I hope you passed through your ordeal successfully and that you are now well again. Yes dearest, you no doubt wished that you could have had your husband with you and I certainly wish the same, not as I could do any particular good in easing your pains but I would know just exactly how you are, which I am worrying about now, but I am glad that you are going to have someone write to me soon and inform me of conditions. Dr. Vance is certainly quite comical and doesn't lack for anything to say. I certainly would be surprised if I should learn that I was the father of twins and I hope you didn't let him take more than one out of his satchel for you like he did for that young couple out in Lindon. Ha! ha! ha! but of course if you decided to do so it will be agreeable with me.

Well dear, your condition reminds me that time is going. It will soon be a year since we were married and then it won't be very long until one year has elapsed since our farewell at Salt Lake City. I have served one third of my time now if they only keep me two years, but according to Mrs. Christiansen's report I am booked for three years. I suppose she said that only to be talking and make you a little excited. I, nor no one else know how long I will stay but I intend to stay until I receive an honorable release.

I received a letter from Mart yesterday and he stated that they wouldn't have that general conference until about the 24th of July, and that four new elders had arrived but none for the north. He said that President Sundwall didn't think he would send any up here until after the conference. That is just what I expected when I was sent back alone, and I told the President so, but he said he would send me a partner as soon as some new elders come. I have been without a partner three months so I suppose I can stand it for another month. Just so I get a partner after conference I don't care. I hope I get one then and that I get released from this branch at autumn conference. I can live just as cheap here as any other place but it isn't quite so pleasant because there are so few saints and then it isn't so nice to stay in one place all the time. I am glad however that I was sent up here at first for I am having a chance to see some of the wonders of the world. I expect to take a trip north in ten days or two weeks and visit some saints and see the midnight sun, and perhaps go to the coast of Norway and take a good feast on natural scenery, which is plentiful in the land of the midnight sun during the summer. Probably Elder Jensen in Östersund will accompany me on the trip and if he does I suppose we will go to Hammerfest [Norway], the most northern city in the world. It won't be so very pleasant to go alone, but if he won't go with me, I will at least take a trip to the midnight sun which is only about sixty miles northwest from here. That is, the sun is farther than that but I will be able to see it at that place.

I suppose you understand what I would say if I could talk, don't you dearest? I feel a

little lonesome at present, since I came back from the family of saints in Töre. It isn't fun to be alone ten thousand miles away from home and if it wasn't because I am an ambassador of God's great work I don't think I would be here. But if I am only fortunate enough to retain good health, all will be well, for no matter how many people are against me, I know I am on the right side and in the end I will come out victorious. Very often when I go out for a walk and pass a crowd of either boys or girls they snicker and after I get passed I hear them say something about me and then laugh, but that doesn't hurt me, it only strengthens my testimony, for Christ never promised his true followers that their path would be strewn with roses, but said they should be hated by all for His name's sake; they should be persecuted and even suffer death, but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. So if the world hates me, that proves that we are not of the world but that we are preaching true doctrine and we should thank the Lord for it.

I will now draw to a close and write you again in about a week. Hoping that this letter finds you well and in a happy condition, and that I will soon receive another letter learning very good news which will cause me to rejoice, is the sincere desire of your loving husband forever, Niels Fugal. xxxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 21, 1909

My Dear Nels:

I guess you got Pa's letter telling you about baby. She is six days old today and so I thot I would like to write to you. I am feeling fine today and expect to be up in five or six days more. I had a hard time, the baby was so large the doctor had to take her with the instruments. She was so big she couldn't be born without and oh Nels you can't imagine what it is to go thru. I didn't have any idea how hard it really is. But it is worth it all, she is the sweetest little thing that ever lived. She has black hair and dark blue eyes and is just as fat and cute as she can be. I would have given anything if you had been here. Pa and Aunt Hanner, Annie and Aunt Esther and the Doctor were all here doing their best to help me. Pa was so scared that he just trembled. The Doctor said the reason I had such a hard time I was too small to have such a large baby. Well dearest I am sitting up in bed for the first time. The first two days after I couldn't move at all, not even my legs or arms. Aunt Esther won't let me write any more now but next time I will be able to write more. Goodbye dearest, don't worry about me for they say I am getting along fine. Write often. From your loving Wife and Baby.

What shall we name her?

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 26, 1909

My Dear Husband:

I am sitting up in the chair for a while today but I can't walk around any yet. I have been in bed for nearly two weeks and it does seem good to be up again. I sat up a little while yesterday and a little while the day before but they won't let me sit up very long at a time. Aunt Esther went home day before yesterday. She is the dearest old soul that ever lived. I don't know what I would have done without her. She couldn't have done more for me if

I had been her own daughter and she wouldn't take any pay. She wants me to go over to Provo and stay a week or two just as soon as I am able and so I guess I will go. The baby is crying now so I will finish some other time.

Baby is asleep now so I will finish my letter if she sleeps long enough. I have only got one letter from you since I was sick and it had been a week when I was sick since I got one. It seems so lonesome since Aunt Esther went. I wish you would write oftener. What shall we name the baby Nels. I can't think of anything pretty enough for her. Wouldn't you like to see her dear? In the last Citizen it said, "A little stranger came to the home of Mrs. Niels Fugal on Tuesday. Bro. Fugal is away on a mission so it will be some time before he makes the acquaintance of his little daughter."

Lavina brought me some oranges when I was first sick, then she brot me some fresh strawberries and some put up, and yesterday she brot a half a doz. bottles of root beer. Stena brought some oranges and a bottle of strawberries, and Carrie brot some green peas and new potatoes so you see I have had all I could eat since I was sick. Then Aunt Stena sent me down some fresh strawberries. The baby was quite cross yesterday and day before but she sleeps good at night. She has been good today. I do wish you was here Nels, I am so lonesome but it will be better when I get so I can walk around. Lavina wants to take my washing up there and do it but I hate to have her do it because she has so much to do herself. I won't be able to wash for a month. The baby is just as fat as she can be. I will send you a lock of her hair when it grows a little more.

I got a letter from Esther the other day, she asked me a lot of questions about babe and said that Ike nearly got killed. The scaffold broke and he fell from the second story and lit on his head, it cut his face and knocked his teeth loose but he went right back to work.

Everybody thinks it is too bad that you won't see her for so long. I wish I cold jut run over there and show her to you. Did you get the card Dr. Vance sent you. He sent it right after baby was born. When baby was born the Doctor said he never saw a woman suffer as much as I did and make as little noise over it. He said if it had been most women they would have been screaming long before I made any noise over it. They gave me nearly a bottle of Chloroform and he didn't have any more of that so he gave me Ether. I didn't think I could live thru it but I did and I will soon be alright. Now I wish you could see baby and kiss her, she is so bright and sweet. Jens and Lavina were here Sunday and Jens is going to write you about her.

You know Jens is Superintendent of the third ward Sunday School now and he is quite enthusiastic. He said I should come to Sunday School next Sunday and bring baby, that would make two more, but I don't think I will go for a few Sundays. It's Saturday and I haven't been out in the other room yet and Aunt Esther said I couldn't go outdoors for a long time yet. I wish you was here to talk to me, sometimes I get so lonesome when they are all busy and I am in here all alone. I can't read yet, I am too weak, but it won't be long now till I can. Write to me often dearest. Goodbye from Your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxxxoooo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 24th, 1909 – Get your cushion ready, Niels.

Dear Brother Niels –

It is with pleasure that I answer your welcome letter that I received today. Pleased to note that you are well, and sorry that your toe has been bothering you. If you can get a little turpentine and soak a little rag in it and put it on your toe when you go to bed at night, it will take the tenderness out of it. You must repeat the dose. And if you wash your feet every day when you walk lots it will make you rested.

I suppose you are having a good time at Stockholm today as it is the 24th of June. Mother says they celebrate about right in Sweden. You will know how they celebrate by the time you receive this.

You stated in your letter that you had not received a letter from home for ten days and if you did not receive one the day you wrote of course it would be longer, but I do hope you did receive one that day. I sent you a letter on June 7th and another last Friday and in May they were far between.

Last night there was another Tom Larson dance in Clark's Hall, there was a large mob there but not so many boys and men. Chris said they went in the hole but everybody had a good time, the girls danced together and then there was ice cream to sell on the stand. I don't know if they made anything much on that or not, all I know about is that the ice cream was good. No! Delicious.

I am getting sleepy. I have been up late two nights and today I have felt like a pot of mush more than anything else. So good night.

I will endeavor to finish my letter this morning. I have a pan of strawberries on the stove a boiling. I wish I could send you a dish but I guess you will have to wait until you get home. We had not bought any until the other day then we had our fill. The raspberries are commencing to grow, it will not be very long until they will be ripe. The hay will soon be ready to mow, some of the farmers have started to mow and some to haul.

Hyrum Carlson and May Wilson, Minnie Roach and Perry Clark from Alpine, are married this week. There was a paragraph in the Am. Fork Citizen that read some like this: A baby arrived at the home of Mrs. Niels Fugal, it will be some time before Bro. Fugal will have the pleasure of making acquaintance of his little daughter as he is on a mission in Norway. I was down to see your wife and daughter last night, they seem to be feeling fine. Viola sat up a little while, she is somewhat weak yet. Ernest thinks his little cousin is cute.

Chris is still busy in the shop selling implements, extras, and a buggy once in a while. They have not so very many on hand but I do not think they will sell them all this season. I can sit here by the window and see the pie cherries getting red, they will soon be ripe. The sweet cherries froze so we will not have any trouble to get those picked. The birds and kids think the pie cherries will do to eat. Don't you wish you could have some? Your ma is knitting a quilt today. I will have to stop a little while. I tied a few knots. The quit is done now and it looks OK.

It is very warm now and the roads are so dusty that when anyone passes you can hardly see for dust. Jens is busy doing plumbing over to Willie Lim's and Dick Wadley's, he goes from one place to the other and tends bees in between, and Chris is so busy he said he did not have time to write anything in this letter either. When he comes in at night and starts to read or write he falls asleep. Well brother, he has sold all the sheep but five and they do not make any noise like they did last summer when there was a whole herd.

Last Sunday the third ward had their Sunday School in the school house. Supt. Jens P. Fugal in charge. It seemed quite odd to meet in the school after being used to the meetinghouse. I expect we will have to get used to it. We had a pretty good school for a starter. There are quite a number of new teachers put in as well as all of those who taught before. Willie Harvey, Joseph Anderson, Ethel Hilton and myself are the teachers of the 2nd intermediate departments. We have the south room on the 2nd floor for our class work. It seems a little strange to have a whole room to ourselves. We will be all right when we get used to it and used to these other teachers. Our bishopric had charge of the sacrament meeting last Sunday, they are going to take turns.

The P.G. Choir had a party last Friday night in Beer's Hall. It was a kind of farewell party. The choir has not broke up yet and when it does I do not know who will be the singers. Clarence Hilton is chorister in Sunday School and perhaps he will lead the singing in meeting too. In my last letter I told you that Frank Humphries was supt. of the 2nd ward S.S. but they changed and put Bro. Thomas in as the supt. and let Frank be 1st counselor and Ben Blake as 2nd. Joseph Adams is the supt. of the 1st ward S.S., Wm. Frampton Sr. and Alva Chipman as assistants. Joseph Halliday I think told them that he was not going to stay in town all the time. He does not clerk in the mercantile store now, I don't know what he is doing. I cannot think of any news for this time, everything is about the same as usual. Rulan Lim is still working here, he is in the field cultivating today. Mrs. Brita was here to see us last Saturday. I read her a few of your letters and especially the one where you told us to thank her for the \$2.00 and helsen her so much. She seemed well pleased and sends her love to you. Mrs. R. H. Lund has received your letter, she says she was pleased and that she could read most all of it.

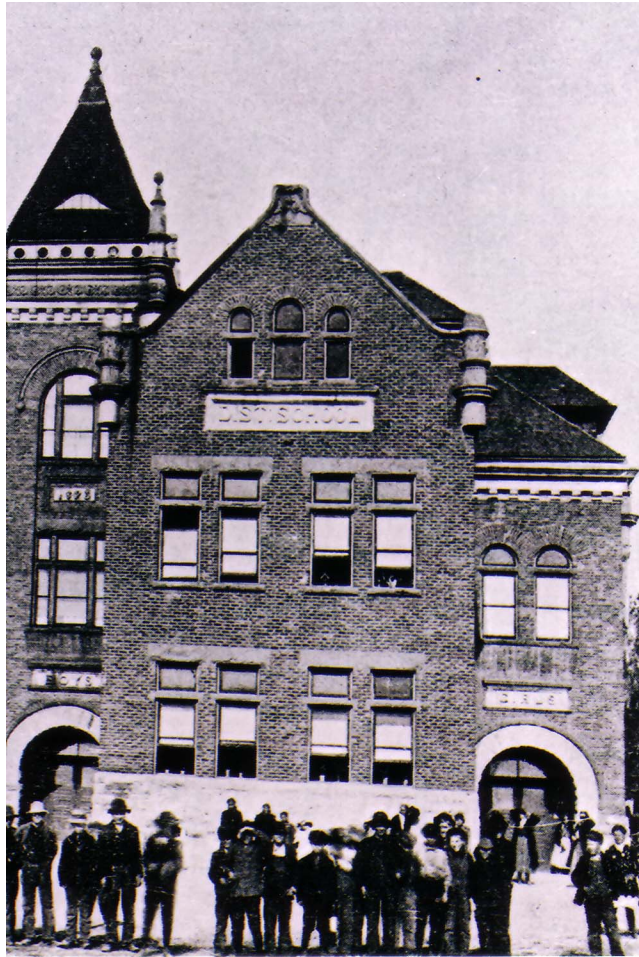
Be good to yourself and write to your Sis Stena.

Hope you have a good companion by now.

Svartösten, June 28 – 09

My Dear Loving Wife:

Another of your welcome missives came to hand day before yesterday and I was indeed glad to hear from you again. Your letter stated that you hardly expected to be writing to me again so soon, and when I received your preceding letter I hardly expected this last letter to bring the news which it did. I am still in a state of anxiety and looking for reports concerning my darling wife. My thoughts are about you a great deal of the time and I am wondering how you are at this very minute. How nice it would be if I could pay you a visit at this very instant or if we had a wireless telephone strong enough to carry words to each other so we might know just how conditions are. You no doubt have passed through



School Church

a great deal of pain and distress and have felt somewhat downcast and disheartened but I hope you have fought the battle bravely and that you are again enjoying sound health and are feeling encouraged and are feeling happy for your prize which is a reward for your agony.

When I read in your letter about your father cutting the lawn, your roses just beginning to bloom and the snowballs not being out very nice on decoration day, etc., etc., it caused my mind to wandering and before I knew of it I was lost in thoughts of the pleasant past. I could almost see the dear old place in reality where during the last year I was home I spent the happiest hours of my life wooing the fair maiden who is now my loving wife. How pleasant it is to reflect back upon the happy pleasant incidents which happened during that period of blissness and what an unlimited craving I have for such good times to come again. In those gone by days as I toiled earnestly each day, I had the consolation and happiness to know, "tonight I will again be with my own true love" and "oh! how many nice things I have to tell her tonight which will gratify her affection and perhaps will cause a growing in her love for the one who is so anxious to receive it." But now conditions are different; I have many nice thoughts about my sweetheart which I would like to present to her while she might be sitting on my lap with loving arms so gracefully twisted about my neck, and her ears ever open to receive the thoughts expressed in whispers which proceed from the very bottom of her lover's heart; but all in vain; as conditions are, I try to express my thoughts on paper, but I am afraid by the time they reach the other side of this world they have passed through so many different climates that they have lost their temper and don't make the impression that they would, could the reader receive them in reality from her loving husband. But what a blessing it is that we may receive letters from each other even if they are nearly three weeks old by the time we get them and that by the time they reach their destination, the news they contain is almost forgotten by the writer; still they are welcomed and read with all the more eagerness.

I get the Deseret News so I can keep in touch with what is going on in Utah and in reading the last paper I notice you have had a great deal of high water in the various rivers and that considerable damage has been done and that Utah Lake is so high that much of the lowlands are covered. I received a letter from Carrie today and it stated that Provo river was higher this year than ever before in the history of Utah. It seems as though Brigham Young's prophecy may be fulfilled someday. He prophesied that someday Provo city would be under water and advised the people not to build the city there but instead build it on the bench. He also said that someday there would be a large city on Provo Bench; and it may be that the time is approaching.

Well dearest I heard that Allie and Perlinda are at last going to make connections, but Allie seems to be changeable as the wind. I also hear that Hyrum Carlson is going to get married to May Wilson. It seems as though single life doesn't agree with him for he is in quite a big hurry to get married again. When I hear of others getting married it causes me to think about that happy day which will come no more, when you and I were made one by wedlock, but the time is coming when we again will be united and be as happy as ever.

I will now draw to a close with the very best of love and wishes, hoping this letter will find you well and enjoying yourself as it leaves me. I will now seal the letter with a dozen kisses and then take it to Luleå. Your Loving husband Niels. oxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxoo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, July 8th 1909

Dear Brother Niels,

It is now a little over a week since I wrote you last and I thought I would not wait any longer as no doubt you are anxious to hear from us. We are all as well as usual and very busy at present. The cherries are ripe and so are the raspberries. We picked fifty pounds of cherries and I will have to get up in the morning and pick raspberries. We will not have as large a crop of berries this year nor cherries either but we will have enough to put up and a few to sell.

Last Tuesday your wife and dater were up to see us, isn't that fine. Your little dater is as cute as she can be. Don't you wish you could see her? I bet you do.

Well brother it is 9 p.m., your ma is out on the lawn holding the hose. We water the lawn some of the time with the hose and it is somewhat dry tonight so mother thought it would be a good way to cool off. It is nice and warm these days.

Chris has just come in and is having a little nap in the chair in the same old place. Ernest is undressing, preparing for bed. Jens is down the cellar under the granary straightening up a bit. He is going to have the honey put down there. Mr. Hone that lives in Mrs. Alldredge's house is in the bee business, he does nothing but tend bees, he has ours on shares, he has put top boxes on for further orders and in a few days he is going to extract. He uses a big machine and turns the honey out with a crank. I wish you could have come. I think we will make more by letting the bees. Jens has so much to do that he cannot tend to everything. He is somewhat busy with business. Well since I wrote you last the boys have sold four buggies and two binders and o yes! the buggy with the yellow running gear is sold. High Hieselt bought it, it is just the thing for him. He has the rough roads to travel and lots of shopping to do. I don't suppose the buggy shed will get empty because they are always buying one or two more. I wish you were here so you could help me count the old buggies that they have taken on the new ones. I don't believe I can count them, there is a string from the shop to the mill ditch. Times are progressive, you know. The first crop of hay is in the barn. Rulan is still working here when there isn't anything else to do, he hoes weeds. Mother has been to Sandy to visit with Ellen for a week, she had a very nice time, all the Judges folks were well and feeling fine.

I was talking to Mrs. R. H. Lund the other day, she was very pleased to hear from you, she seemed quite tickled about it. Alex and Annie have moved here again, they live down in their own home. They lost their baby about two months ago, I do not remember whether I told you or not. There have been quite a number of P.G. folks that have got married in June. Cora Peterson and an American Fork boy. Marian Adamson and a girl from Wallsburg, besides those I have mentioned before. It appears as though I have not got the 2nd ward of P.G.'s S.S. superintendency right yet. In my last letter I stated that the superintendent was Mr. Thomas, it was Mr. Thomas but I forgot to add Gleason, so you see it is Mr. Thomas Gleason that is the Supt.

We were down to see Br. Walters about the paper, he said he would see to it as soon as

possible, the paper will be sent direct to you.

Last Sunday the three wards held their fast meeting separately. It seemed quite strange to meet by ourselves. There were fourteen that were baptized Saturday, just in the 3^d ward, they were confirmed Sunday. And one baby blessed belonging to Emma Young Carter. Linnie Christianson and two of her sisters got baptized last Sunday and Dr. Jones did too. So you see there are a few converts at home too. I hope they will take a holt and do something now. There will be something for all of us to do. Lettie Scow [Ida's sister] is working in Carterville again this year, she was over to see us last week. She stays at the same place that she did last summer. I don't know of any news, everything is about the same as usual. Hope you will have a good companion before now. Take good care of yourself Niels, and write soon to your loving sister Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., July 9, 1909

My Dear Nels:

I jut rec'd a letter from you today but I had been looking for it about a week before it came. I am feeling alright now and I had the Baby up to your mother's the day she was three weeks old. Esther and Ike were down for the Fourth, they came down just to see the Baby. I do wish you could see her. I will have her picture taken as soon as possible. I cut a piece of her hair off this morning to send you. Don't you think it is quite long for such a little Baby? I was thinking of naming her Melba, how do you like that? I guess I will have her named next fast day. I think Melba Fugal is quite a pretty name, don't you? Annie wants me to name her Iona. Do you like that as well as Melba.

Ike got a surrey and took Esther and I down to the Grove on the Fourth but we didn't get out. We had a drink of soda water and a dish of ice cream and then went up to Sundberg's for dinner. [Apparently the Grove was where the city park is now, as I find reference to it being near the high school circa 1922. The original "Grove," by which the city takes its name, was a creek area behind the Grove Ward building, 455 E. 200 N. where big Cottonwoods grew.] The Baby was as good as could be and slept all the time I was gone. She is always good in the forenoon but is quite cross in the afternoons. I wish you was here to help tend her. She sleeps good at night. I haven't had to get up with her at all so far. I hope you have a good time at conference and also on your other trip.

Dr. Vance charged \$20. He said it was \$15 for just a natural confinement but when he used instruments he charged \$25 but as you was an old patient of his and was away he just charged me \$20. Pa gave me \$10.00. I have paid all my debts and still have a little left so I guess I will get along alright.

I was down town the other day and got baby a little hood, it is quite cute. When I was up to your mother's that day she gave baby 50¢ so that is a pretty good start isn't it Nels? I don't have as much time to write now as I had before, it takes nearly all my time to tend the baby. She is sleeping now for a change, she has been cross all day. Joe and Valeria are still in Salt Lake. I got a card from her the other day. It is so hot here I almost melt. They are just starting to pick raspberries now. It will be nine months since you left and I do wish you was home. Everybody thinks it is too bad that you can't see the baby for so

long. Would you like to see her dearest? Your mother makes quite a fuss over the baby but she's so sweet anyone can't help it. She smiles at us once in awhile already.

Dr. Vance said he was talking to Old Lady Gustaveson and he was saying what a nice big baby it was and he thot she had been to see me but she hasn't. She has been to your mother's since baby was born but she hasn't been to see the Baby. Chris didn't see her until I took her up that day and John hasn't seen her yet and she will soon be a month old. Jens came to see me once when I was in bed.

Well Nels I don't know of any more news. Did you get the card Dr. Vance sent you? Goodbye for this time. Write soon to your loving Wife Viola. xxxxxxxxooo from Baby

[Dr. Vance came to Pleasant Grove in 1902, and suffered an untimely death in 1918.]

Narvik, Norway, July 12th, 1909 [Letter forwarded from P.G. to Esther's in Forest Dale by Leroy with a note added, "Hello to you & Baby."]

My Darling Wife –

Two weeks have passed since I wrote you last, so you are no doubt anxious to receive another. I wrote to your father last week, stating that I was going to Norway so you no doubt are anxious to learn a little of my trip and how I have enjoyed myself. I was certainly very glad to receive that letter from your father, for I had been anxiously awaiting it for some time, so I could learn that you had passed thro your ordeal. I hope I have a letter from you awaiting me at Svartö, that will contain good news concerning my darling wife and child.

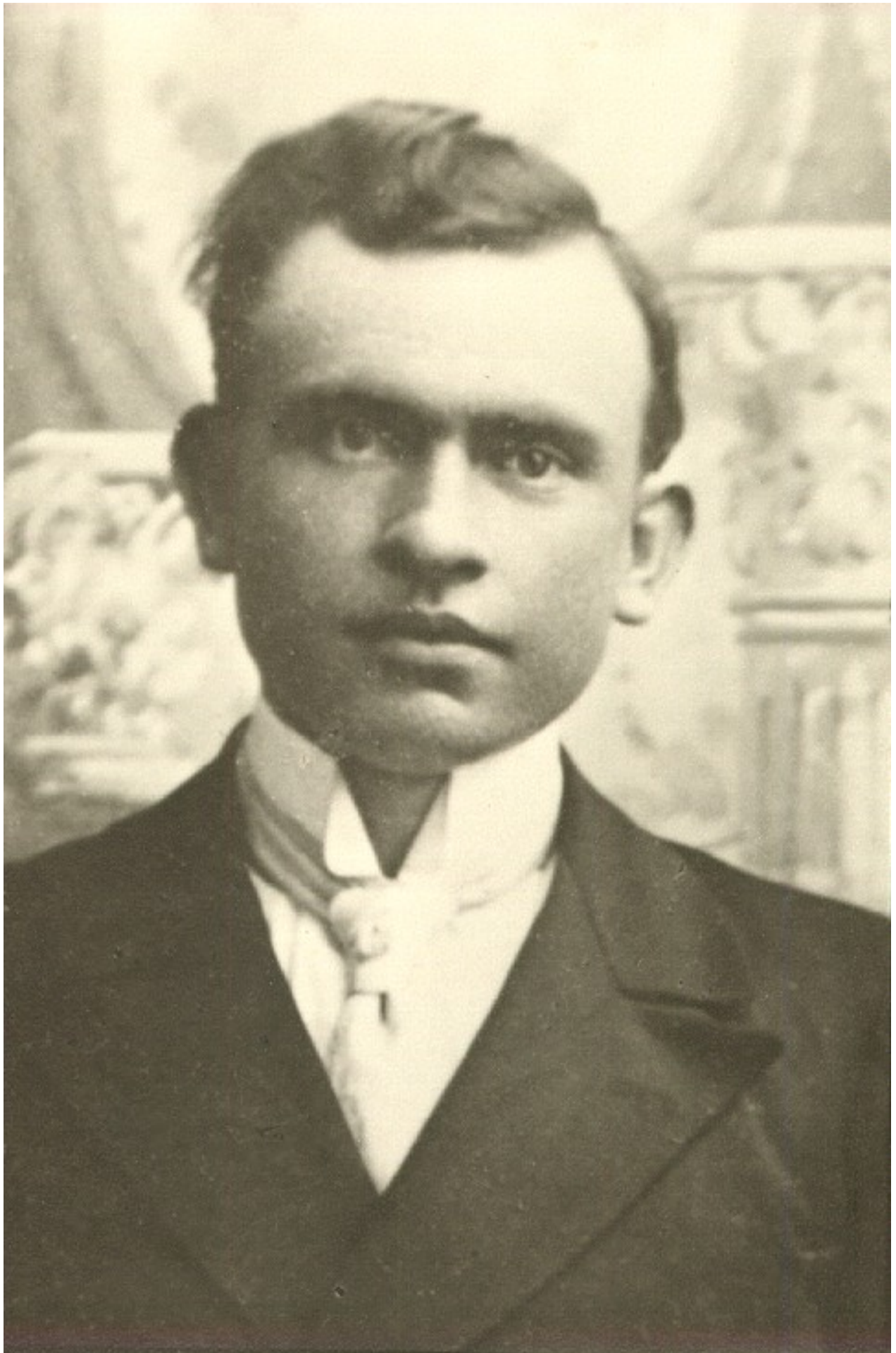
A week ago today, July 5th, I left Luleå for my trip to the northern part of the world. I arrived in a mining camp called Kiruna at 4:30 p.m. and the first thing I did was to hunt up the saints that are living in this place. I found them well and very glad to see an elder, for it was a year since they saw the last one. I remained in Kiruna two days during which time I visited the iron mines which are here, and in tracting the town I met with good success in tracting and selling books. At night July 6th I climbed to the top of the Suossavaara Mt. to view the midnight sun, but it was so cloudy that I didn't get a very good view of it. For about five minutes it shined down upon some water which lies between us and the horizon, making a very beautiful picture to view. There were about twenty people on the mt. that night and I met two Hollanders who could speak English, and also a Swede that had been in America nineteen years. It certainly was nice to have a chance to talk English once more for it was over a month since I had that pleasure.

The following day July 7th I left Kiruna for my trip to the beautiful Norway. The train had not gone far when I discovered my American friend was also on the train. We talked for a while and then he took me in and gave me an introduction to his wife. We talked for some time and then after learning that I was from Utah they were anxious for me to tell them something about our western state, as they were from Chicago. I did so with pleasure but nothing was said about the Mormons. They stopped off at a place where most tourists stop, before coming to the boundary line between Norway and Sweden, but the next day I saw them again in Narvik, and left Narvik on the same boat as they did, but

we didn't go far together, because they were on the way to Stockholm and of course I was bound for the north. The trip from Sweden thro the mts. to Narvik was certainly very interesting and I was wishing that you could be with me and view the very beautiful scenery. The railroad which is the most northerly in the world passed thro twenty two tunnels and it is way up on the side of the mt. where we can get a very good view of the blue water which is a few hundred feet below, and in looking overhead we can see the high snow capped mts. which reminded me of dear old Utah.

On arriving at Narvik at 10 p.m. I soon found the two elders who are laboring in this part of the Lord's vineyard. They were glad to see me and I certainly was happy to again shake hands with my fellow laborers. I had never seen the elders before but we always feel acquainted as soon as we meet each other. The one is from Idaho and the other from Salem, Utah. The weather was beautiful and the air nice and cool, so we went out for a walk and viewed some of the principal places in the town. We had no trouble in finding a bed for me in a neighboring rooming house where I enjoyed a peaceful night's sleep. The next day July 8th passed by very rapidly for we were interested in hearing each other relate our experiences and talk about our affairs at home. Of course I received congratulations when I told them that I was a happy husband and father. They have both got sweethearts at home but I don't believe they are as happy as I am, in fact they both said they thought it would be nice for me to come back home and have a wife and child to welcome me. It certainly is nice, dearest, and I hope and pray that you may both be blessed with the best of health so I may meet you in a good condition.

[Letter from Niels to Viola, continued, next set.]



1909 Niels Fugal, Sweden

[Continued letter to Viola, Narvik, Norway, July 12, 1909.]

You no doubt have been waiting anxiously for this letter but I couldn't get it off before as I just got back from Hammerfest yesterday and the mail doesn't leave until this afternoon. I wrote while I was on the ship a letter to Stena but they will both leave here today. In my next letter I will continue my experiences in Norway, so you may get an idea of all my travels. I am now with the elders and will leave Narvik for Luleå tomorrow morning at 8:30. When I reach Luleå I hope I will receive good news concerning you and daughter, so I can continue my labors with pleasure and a light heart. Kiss the baby once for me and tell her that her daddy is feeling fine and dandy in the far off frigid zone of the north. I will close with the very best of love and wishes hoping that all is well at home. Your darling Nels. xxxxoo

P.S. Sunday morning July 18 I am going to leave Luleå for Stockholm where I will no doubt have a very nice time. It will be nice to meet the six Pleasant Grove boys who are in Sweden and to hear some very good instructions. President Penrose from England, Andrew Jensen from Denmark, and President Anthon H. Lund from S.L.C. will all be there so it will certainly be pleasant to meet with them. I am as ever your husband Nels.

The Swedish Mission
of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [printed stationery]
Stockholm, Sweden, July 26, 1909

My Dear Wife;

It has been over a week since I wrote to you, so you no doubt are very anxious to hear from me again. I left Luleå July 18th and arrived at Stockholm July 20th. The trip wasn't so very pleasant for it was stormy weather all the way, and the way the ship rocked wasn't slow. They had to tie everything in the ship to keep it from rolling all over from one side to another. Nearly all the passengers were sick but your little Willie never gets sick, no matter how the ship is tossed about.

I was met at the docks by my friend Mart, and it was certainly nice to once more see someone from P.G. We sleep together and we have so much to talk about that we almost forget to go to sleep. I labor farther away from Stockholm than any of the others but I was the first one to get to Stockholm. You see I have been alone so long that I was very anxious to get to Stockholm where I could meet so many elders, therefore I came when I did, and I am not sorry, for there is much to see here and the time is going very fast. Three are six of us P.G. fellows here so I feel almost to home. We had our photos taken together today and when I receive them I shall send you one. All the boys gave me a good handshake and congratulated me on being papa, and the two Monson boys and Mart and some of the others told me to send you their best regards and congratulations.

President Anthon H. Lund with wife and daughter have been in Stockholm the last ten days, but I think they are going to leave tomorrow and continue their trip thru Europe and then return to Utah. They had a very interesting concert Saturday night and yesterday we had the pleasure of attending three meetings and one Sunday School. The meetings were well attended with an attendance of about four hundred and we certainly heard some very



PG Sweden: Niels—Mart C—Alma M—E Oscarson—Lawrence M—?

good preaching by well experienced elders and Presidents Sundwall and Lund. I can't hardly write because there are so many elders around me making all kinds of noise and I am standing up while I am writing so I hope you will excuse me for my scribbling and uninteresting letter.

Last Wednesday we went out and seen the fair which was quite nice but nothing so very great. It was an industrial and art fair but I like a fair that shows the products and high bred animals of a country. As yet I haven't been out to take in sights of the city, but probably I will stay here all this week so I may see a little yet. There are about sixty five elders here and I want to tell you we are having a nice time shaking hands most of the time. There are many saints as well as elders and after the meetings we almost have a stampede crowding around each other and shaking hands. Say but it's nice and it almost makes one think I have come to a heaven since leaving that wilderness in the far north. The boys are all taking about playing baseball and tomorrow I think we will have a game.

We were expecting Andrew Jensen and President Penrose to be with us for conference but they have been taking a trip in the land of the midnight sun and got late, but we have learned that they will be here next Thursday so we will then have the pleasure of hearing some more good preachings. I hear we are going to have a social tonight where the saints are going to treat us to strawberries and cake. I wish you could be with us. It is certainly very nice to be here, but when I am sent back to Luleå perhaps I will get a little lonesome for a while until I get settled down again. I don't know yet whether I will get a partner or not but I suppose I will. If I don't I am afraid there will be a row in camp for I think I have been alone as long as I care to be. I haven't said anything to the president yet so I don't know what he intends to do.

Well dearest I am quite anxious to hear from you again but I won't receive any letters till I get back to Luleå. I hope you are well now and that the little daughter is OK. You must kiss her lots for her papa and as soon as possible get your photo taken with her in your arms and send it to me. I will now close with my very best love and wishes and then join the crowd who are making so much noise that my ears are ringing. It is raining today so most of the elders are in. Your Loving Nels. Write soon.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug. 4, 1909

My Dear Nels:

It has been quite a long time since I wrote you last but I don't have as much time to write as I used to have. I was glad to hear that you took that trip to Norway and enjoyed it so much. I suppose you have been to Stockholm and are back again by now. Was you glad to see Mart and did you have a good time?

I have been to Salt Lake on a visit and just got back night before last. You know Esther has got a Baby Boy, it was born the 12th of July, not quite a month after our Baby. She was reaching to hang a curtain and reached too far and the baby came too soon. She wasn't looking for it till September. She nearly bled to death but is alright. He is such a cute little bit of a thing not half as big as our Baby. Joe is living in there too and they had a Baby Boy born on the 14th of July. He is quite a big baby, lots larger than Esther's. He

weighs 8-1/2 lbs. now and our Baby weighs 12-1/4 but our Baby is a month the oldest. We had quite a baby show and oh you don't know how I wished you were here too. Ike and Joe make such a fuss over their kids and our little Baby didn't have any papa there to love her. It's too bad you can't see her now she is so little and cute and is getting now so she will laugh when you talk to her. Your mother makes quite a fuss over her whenever I go up, she holds her and talks to her all the time. She says it is her Baby's Baby and she thinks she is alright. Uncle Gene, Pa's Bro. was here, he said he came down just on purpose to see the Baby. He brought her a little pair of white shoes just as cute as they can be. He bought them in Salt Lake and brot them down to her. My cousin, Pa's sister's girl sent Baby a little pair of white stockings and Aunt Esther sent her a dress to have her blessed in. I haven't had her named yet but I guess I will next fast day. I was thinking of naming her Melba. How do you like that? Uncle Gene wants me to name her Iona. Which do you like the best? Baby is quite cross in the afternoons and I often wish you was here to help tend her.

Ringling Bros. Circus was in Provo yesterday and I went with your folks in the wagon. They all went but your mother. I haven't seen her since before I went to Salt Lake and I was in there 10 days. I was sick the first three or four days I was there. The Baby wasn't quite six weeks and the trip was too much for me. I started to flow again and bled so much that they got scared and telephoned to their doctor and he said it was dangerous and for me to go right to bed and stay. The next day he came to see me, gave me medicine and a lot of instructions. He told me to stay in bed for three or four days and whatever I did not to carry my big Baby around. I am alright now again and just feeling fine. Annie is in Salt Lake yet she has been staying with Esther ever since she was sick. She had the kids with her but Elias wanted to come back with me so he is here now.

Pa has sold his place to Shoemaker Swenson for \$2,000. We have to move in October. He hasn't got any place yet and I don't know where he will go but I don't think he will stay in Pleasant Grove so you see you don't know where I will be when you come back. I just hate to leave Pleasant Grove but I guess I will have to.

Well dearest I guess this is all for this time. Write soon and tell me which name you like best because I want to have her blessed next fast day. Don't you wish you was here to bless her. Esther and Joe were going to have their babies blessed then too. Did you get that lock of hair I sent you. I will have her picture taken as soon as she is big enough. Nearly everybody says she looks like you. I don't know who she looks like, I can't tell yet. Write soon dear to your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxxxxxxooo

I took Baby down to the Grove on the 24th and everybody would say, Let me see that Baby. Frank Humphries was looking at her and he says that baby belongs to the choir and pa said she's a good singer alright. He said he was going to write to you. Goodbye dearest, Viola. Carrie brought her baby buggy in for me to use, it's a dandy.

Gefle, Sweden, August 6th 1909

My Dear Darling Wife –

Last Monday night, in company with Elder Jensen from Östersund, I left Stockholm for

my journey to the far north. We arrived at a place called Gefle Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock and have been here ever since and expect to stay until Monday. The elders laboring in this part of the Lord's vineyard were desirous of us stopping in Gefle with them a few days and participate in their meeting which they held last night. We had planned to leave here and go to Sundsvall this evening but sickness came into our midst and broke the plans. On our way from Stockholm we took 3rd class passage and it was quite cold so I must of caught a bad cold for I was sick in bed from Tuesday morning till Thursday morning and just only able to be up part of yesterday, but today I feel much better and believe I will soon be OK again.

I believe it is soon two weeks since I wrote to you so you no doubt are wondering why I don't write oftener, but you will pardon me when you learn the cause. I was intending to write you last Tuesday but of course sickness changed the plans. It is so long since I heard from you now that I am very anxious to get back to Luleå and receive my mail which is awaiting me there but it will be nearly another week before I reach Luleå for I am going to stop off at Sundsvall a couple of days, as we have a new president now and he would like to have us meet him at Sundsvall and get acquainted with him. We were thinking of leaving here either today or tomorrow but the elders want us to stay over Sunday and help them hold meetings, so I suppose we will accept their invitation. They have Sunday School here and they will hold one meeting in a neighboring town at 2:30 and one here at 5 o'clock so I think it will be just as interesting to stay in Gefle over Sunday as in Sundsvall.

I must say that I have enjoyed myself immensely during my visit to Stockholm and have heard very good instructions and sermons from those who are placed over us and the elders who have spent as high as three years here. I tell you it sounds good to hear them preach and gives a person a desire to dig in and get a good knowledge of the gospel like they have. Last Thursday President Penrose and Andrew Jensen and their wives and Jensen's two daughters were in Stockholm and we had a very good meeting in the evening and also a priesthood meeting in the afternoon. Penrose spoke English and had one of the elders as interpreter and Jensen spoke Danish so everything went off fine and I believe everyone present were interested in the speeches. Last night we had a nice little meeting here and of course they had to hear from the new brethren so Elders Jensen and Fugal had the privilege of addressing the audience. As yet I haven't been able to go out and see the sights of this city, but I think I shall do so before Sunday. They say there is a very beautiful park here, one of the best in Sweden.

There is a great strike in Sweden now, nearly all work is closed down and very few boats are going so we will be compelled to take the train to Sundsvall. I hope that the boats will start again so I can go by water to Luleå because it is cheaper. I don't see why the strike is on, but I suppose it is division that causes it. The people are not any too flush with means so I can't see how they can afford to be without labor. The strike may last a month or more. I don't think the railroad will strike, if it does I won't be able to send you any mail, nor receive any from you. There has been some talk of stopping the trains but I hardly think other nations would allow them to do so, for it would stop all mail.

Well dearest I hope you and babe are OK and enjoying yourself. It certainly would be nice to see you now and talk to you about everything and know just how you are. I



Niels and 3 fellow missionaries

suppose you have lots of nice fruit to eat now and can spend part of your time out in the orchard where everything smells so nice. I wish I could go into a nice orchard now for a few hours, but I can't nor don't expect to have that privilege for some time yet. I have had some cherries and strawberries since I left Luleå. They tasted fine. I expect to leave here and go to Sundsvall Monday Aug. 9th and will leave there a couple of days later for Luleå. I don't know yet if I will get a partner, but perhaps I will learn when I get to Sundsvall. Just so I don't have to stay in Luleå next winter I don't care if I do have to stay alone till conference, which will be held the latter part of September.

Time is rolling on, in a few more days it will be one year since we were joined in wedlock, and then it won't be long till it is one year since we parted at S.L. I will close with love and best wishes, kiss the daughter once for papa. Your Loving Husband Nels.
xxxxxooox

P.S. The following brethren want you to accept their best regards. George Lavin, Wm. Beckstrom, and Lewis Jensen – Nels.

Pleasant Grove, Aug. 8th 1909

Dear Bro:

Another of your most welcome letters was received on the 6th and really it smote my conscience for not having answered the previous one. I knew it was more than I deserved but just the same it is appreciated and has been read by all of us with much interest. Really we have no excuse for not writing oftener only we keep waiting for a favorable time when the children are quiet and then usually we too are tired and retire. The days have been long you know. When we heard you were going to be alone Jens and I thot we would send you a deluge of letters but they have perished in the tides of imagination.

I suppose Stena has told you that there was hardly half a crop of berries this year. We had our last picking Friday with the exception of a few for the table. Most other patches were done for, from a week to ten days ago. There will be just a few peaches and about a dozen apricots but quite a few prunes and some plums. There will not be many apples as they are wormy and dropping off fast. Our fruit will not make us rich but as you said, it is almost as well this way as the way to went last year. Stena and I can easily pick all there will be.

Well Niels, it is just nine years ago today since Jens and I were married. How the time does fly! And next Thursday will be the anniversary of your wedding day. Viola and I were talking of it last Thursday. By the time another year has rolled by we will be counting the weeks before your home coming.

We have had some very good and enjoyable celebrations this year. That little doll wife of yours was down on the 24th and I just wished you could have seen her. Never saw her look sweeter. She wore her wedding dress and looked like a fairy. Say old boy, you have no idea what a dear little treasure you have at home and yes it looks like its papa too. At first it had wrinkles on its forehead just like its dad's but they are all filled out now. Its nose is its mamma's and its eyes? Well I don't know whose they look like, only they are

pretty, large eyes that seem full of expression even now. No, it isn't bald headed and we wouldn't care if she were. She would be pretty anyhow. She smiles already and puckers up her little mouth as tho she were fixing it up for a kiss from dad. By the way, Viola went to Provo Friday and she called me up today. Said that both baby and herself were feeling fine.

Last Monday we all went to the circus. It is better each year I believe. We went over in the wagon and at noon drove up by the cannery where we spread lunch on the grass. Annie and Joe were down with their family and John and Carrie and Lettie Scow. All told we were 30 in our crowd. We enjoyed the day but were very tired by night. People say they were never in such a crowd before as at that circus. One old man fainted and plenty looked like they were ready to drop.

Guess you have heard that father Young has sold out. He was up here this evening and talked some of buying in P.G. again. Hope he does. Say kid, somehow I would liked to have seen you get that place. But no one knew it was to be sold so soon apparently. It is sold now anyhow and for only \$2,000! There have so many things transpired since I wrote you last that I only remember the more recent events but I can tell you some real news I believe. You know Maggie Sorenson, "of a course." Well she is to be married soon. And that isn't all. Yesterday Chris received an invitation to Nephi Nelson's bundle shower. Mrs. Holman says her daughters cannot go with[out] her consent and people are worked up to indignation generally. All sorts of unpleasant things are expressed with regard to his true sentiments toward his first wife. Next Tuesday will be three months since her death. However, that is their business I suppose.

Well Niels we have all been pleased to follow you in your travels thru your letters and are glad to think you have been well and had the privilege of seeing so much wonderful and beautiful scenery and as you say it is a privilege not every American enjoys. You certainly have had a siege of it alone but we are in hopes you have good partner with you by this time and that the coming winter they will have you going south. I can just imagine you had a nice time at conference and we were looking forward to it with pleasure for your sake.

Jens was just tired out tonight so he piled off to bed. He has not been feeling well the last two or three days and you know how it is. They must work anyway so perhaps my letter must go unaccompanied by it this time. The threshing machine has already been out and Tuesday night will go out to Davy Adamson's. Guess it will keep busy then. You thanked me for Viola. No thanks due kid. Any little kindness shown her has been a pleasure. So long. Love and best wishes from all. Write soon to your sister, Lavina.

Aug. 12th. P.S. This letter has been waiting for Jens but he has been alone the last couple of days and still feeling tough so here go my hen scratches alone. Tuesday night old man Stagg died. It is really a blessing for him and all concerned. John and Carrie went to Salt Lake to see the grand old war veterans and went in Tuesday. Came back last night. They say it was a grand affair. Next week John and Carrie are going to take a month's trip to the reservation to see Berthena. Poor kid says it is a tough life out there for it is chiefly made up of Indians, tramps, scorpions, mosquitoes, grease wood and ground dogs. They had potatoes, corn and a nice garden of about three acres planted and doing fine, when

one morning recently they awoke to see it every bit gone. About 100 head of cattle did the mischief.

Enclosed is a tiny paper for your birthday. Get yourself more stuff to eat, kid. It doesn't seem good to think of you skimping and us with plenty at home.

Svartösten, August 14th 1909

My Dear Wife Viola;

Once again I am back to my destination, with no one to quarrel with, nor any one to talk matters over with and make out plans for the advancement of the work in this part of the Lord's vineyard, where there ought to be two level heads instead of one dead-head, to make a success in converting the heathens into Mormons. It seems as though it falls to my lot to be alone a great deal of the time, not having the pleasure of sharing the pleasures and sorrows to a companion, but I will have to make the best of it and live in fond hopes of better days. I hardly see why I should be left alone so long, for there are four elders in Sundsvall where there have only been three before, and I am the only elder in Sweden that is laboring alone. When I was in Stockholm, I talked to both mission and conference presidents and asked them what they could do for me, but they seemed very puzzled what to do. President Sundwall said he could send me an inexperienced elder along, but he didn't want to. He said Luleå needs a good experienced elder and if he can't get one perhaps there won't be any elders in Luleå next winter. I was expecting to be changed to a new branch next conference but it looks quite different now. It would be very inconvenient for two new elders to come up here next fall as they would be unacquainted with everything. If any came next fall, likely I'll be one of them, but of course I am not sure and I'm not going to worry my head much about it. If they have gall enough to send me back after conference, I have gall enough to go, but there is one sure thing, and that is I am not going to come back without a partner next time, even if it causes a dishonorable release and I am sent to Utah. But I don't think anything like that will happen, after I have been without a partner for five months I hardly think they would be cold-blooded enough to ask one to winter alone in the far north. Nearly all the elders sympathize with me and think I have had a hard row to hoe, and many of them told me they would refuse to do what I have done, but I am thankful I am blessed with patience and don't fly off of the handle at every little thing. I believe I will get along in this world just as well as those who are always complaining and never satisfied with their lot. I believe in honoring and obeying authority and I believe a blessing is derived in doing so, but I hope authority will see fit to give me a partner in the near future.

Well dearest I suppose I better not trouble you with my troubles, but instead enter into some other subject. I spent one pleasant week in Gefle and three pleasant days in Östersund and arrived in Luleå last night at 12 o'clock. It is over three weeks since I left Luleå so I went to the office today expecting to get a whole armful of mail but I only got a pocketful. I only received one letter from my darling wife and that arrived here July 24th so I am expecting more in a hurry. I hope it is a delay in the mail and no fault of yours caused by sickness or anything. Your letter contains very good news and a nice lock of hair from the only baby in the world; that is, the only one I have. I am pleased to note you are happy and proud over your darling child and no doubt her daddy would be just as

proud if he could see her. Carrie and Stena have both written to me and they say the same as you, "that she is the cutest little thing that ever lived." The name you have selected is very pretty and I think Iona is very pretty too, but I like Melba better. I don't believe I ever heard the name Melba before. Where do you get it from? [A novel.] I am glad you are going to send me her photo, but I want her to be in your arms when you have it taken, for I want to see you too. She has nice long black hair to be so young and I bet she is very sweet. Yes, I certainly would like to see her, but it will be very nice when I do see her, for she will be able to talk a little then, and perhaps she can say Hallo! Papa, glad to see you back. It's nice to learn that you are up again and were up to another's three weeks after baby was born. Pleased to note you celebrated the 4th a little, by riding down town with Ike and Esther and I hope you may have many pleasant times while I am away. I will close hoping you and baby are both well and the best of friends. Your Husband
xxxxxxooxx Nels. Kiss her once for me.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug. 15, 1909

My Dear Nels:

It has been over a week since I wrote to you so I suppose you will be glad to get this letter. I told you in my last letter that I had been to Salt Lake. I just stayed home three days and then went to Provo to see Aunt Esther and just got home again yesterday. I just had a fine time while I was there and they were all so glad to see Baby. They just about eat her up. I believe I told you before that Pa has sold the place. He is going down to Hinckley Thursday to see about getting a place down there and go into farming again. I hate to go away down there but I suppose I will have to. I do wish you was here. Ike is going down with Pa to look at the country and Esther is coming here and stay till they get back.

I had the Baby's picture taken when I was in Provo and will send you one just as soon as I get them. I would give anything if you could see her. She gets sweeter every day. Isn't it too bad dearest that you will never know how sweet she was when she was a baby. She laughs when you talk to her now and tries to talk. It is her birthday today, Nels, she is just two months old. Did you remember that it was our wedding day on the 12th? I was over to Provo on that day and I was thinking about you all day and wishing that you were here. I felt so lonely and homesick all day. Annie is in Provo now and is going over to Spanish before she comes home. I was very glad that you had such a good time in Stockholm. I'll bet it did seem good to see your old friends again. I will be very glad to get one of your pictures. Well dear Nels, it is getting late so I guess I will close for this time. I haven't felt quite so good since I went to Salt Lake. I did before but will soon be alright again. Goodbye dearest. Write often to your loving Wife and Baby.

I hope you have a companion. If I were you I wouldn't stay there alone. Viola.
xxxxxxooxx

Pleasant Grove, Aug. 15, 1909

Dear Friend

I will now write a few lines to you and hope it finds you enjoying good health and your labors. I am not as well as I used to be. We are having some very warm weather here at present but we look for warm weather this time of the year. They are beginning to thrash the grain now and everyone seems busy at present. Lerina and me were over and had coffee with your mother and Stena while Lerina was down. While there Stena read to us a very beautiful letter from you telling about your trip to see the midnight sun. It was such a grand letter it seemed just like you were talking to us.

Arthur is home now and he sends his regards to you. There is not much fruit this year. We had a few berries and plums. We have picked and sold them all for this year. I won't work much with fruit this summer. They have had a great time in Salt Lake City this month, the 42 National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic. They say the parade was ten miles long, there were 1200 children in the living flag alone. I will send you a small token in memory of your birthday and hope you live to enjoy many more birthdays. We will be pleased to hear from you at any time if you have time to write to us. Wishing you a pleasant birthday. I will close with Best Regards from All. I remain your Sincere Friend, Mrs. Lim.

Aug. 22 – 09

My Dear Viola –

Your most welcome letter of Aug. 4th came to hand yesterday and I was indeed very glad and anxious to hear from you once more, for your previous letter was written July 9th, just lacking 5 days in being one month apart.

I almost wore out a pair of shoes in chasing to the office every night before I received the letter, so I value it highly and have read it over three or four times. I realize you are more busy now than before but I hope you can find time enough to write a litter oftener than that. I am glad to hear you are well and feeling fine after your sick spell, in Salt Lake City. You must be careful, dearest, and not strain yourself, for you know you will not receive your normal strength for some time after such a severe ordeal that you have passed through. I am glad baby is good and don't cause you much trouble at nights, so you may sleep in peace, for that will help you gain your lost strength. I am quite surprised to learn Esther has a baby so soon. Too bad it was accidentally and she had a narrow escape, but I hope all will be well. When you see Ike or Esther or write to them, extend my congratulations on their first kid, to them. I wonder if they are ever going to write to me again. When a person is alone out in the cold, unaccommodating world, a letter occasionally from his friends at home is always welcomed and aids in keeping him from losing courage.

So Valeria has presented Joe with another boy? Zion seems to be growing quite rapidly. The Young Family seems to be adding lots of young ones to the list. Nothing like it; I believe that is the easiest way of making converts. The main thing is to keep them converted as they grow up to become men and women.

I am surprised to learn that your father has sold his place and intends to leave PG. I hope he decides to buy another place in P.G. for I would like to see you stay there so you can

visit my folks quite often. I know you would be welcomed to live with my folks, but I surmise you would rather live with your father. What is your father's idea for selling out? Don't the orchard pay pretty well? Well dearest, we will have to make the best of it and take things as they come. Time is going and it won't be so very long before we will once more be living together.

It seems like Baby is receiving lots of gifts already from your relatives. It is nice that she is honored so much. It would be nice to be home now and help you take good care of her, but I suppose she will have to get along without her papa for some time yet.

I am glad you had the pleasure of seeing the big circus. I saw one while I was in Stockholm but it wasn't anything like the Ringling Bros. It is about a year now since we saw Buffalo Bill's show. When I stop to reflect it seems a very long time since then, and quite a few events have happened since that time. Since then I have been married one year, have a daughter and spent ten months on a mission. I think the record is pretty good and I am proud of it. It is quite a sacrifice to leave home, wife and friends for two years, but I believe a blessing will be derived therefrom and everything will go just as smoothly when I get back, and we won't detect any great hindrance in our worldly prosperity. I am glad I was called when I was, though it was hard to break away, for I realize it would be worse to leave you in a few years, after we have made a start in our unity. I only hope I may accomplish some good while here, that my mission may not be in vain, but as yet I don't see as I have made any success. I often wish I had a partner, to talk over affairs with, for two heads are better than one.

[Continued, next set, letter to Viola from Niels.]

[Continued, letter from Niels to Viola, dated August 22, 1909.]

Today is Sunday and I feel quite lonesome. It would be nice if I could be where they hold meetings and where more saints are, but I will have to hammer away as best I can and try my luck again in trying to hold meetings. I tell you it is pretty tough to be in this kind of a box, for I feel my weakness in standing before a congregation, without a partner to encourage one on, trying to present to them our gospel, in a new language. A person must exercise faith, humility, and talent in order to make any headway. We must expect to be led by the Holy Spirit but we are also obliged to store our heads with knowledge, for it is hard to draw water out of a dry well. Then again knowing a thing and being able to present it to others in an intelligent and interesting manner is a gift that we are not all blessed with. I suppose you can judge by this letter about how I feel but I will try to cheer up and think there are brighter days coming. It won't be so very long till we have conference and then I hope they will be kind enough to give me a partner. It is five months since I owned such a thing and I have almost forgotten how it goes to live two in a house.

Our nice light summer has elapsed now and winter seems to be nearing. It gets dark about 8 and daylight about 4 o'clock. The lamp has come in handy again and it won't be long till the chilly autumn winds will cause us to know the delightful summer has gone. I will now draw to a close, hoping you are all well and enjoying the comforts and blessings which are so prevalent in dear old Utah. Write soon to your loving Nels. xxxxxooxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug. 22, 1909

My Dear Nels:

I just read your letter last night and was so glad to hear from you again. I was very sorry to hear that you had been sick and I do hope that you are alright again by now. You must take care of yourself my dearest Nels and not get sick any more.

Dear Nels, I feel so tired and discontented tonight, I don't know what to do. Pa has sold this place and I suppose he will buy a place in Hinckley. I hate to go down there because I won't have any way of making any money and Baby and I will have to have some clothes. Annie is thinking of buying a place in Provo and she wants me to come and stay with her and sew. I would like to do that alright if it wasn't for Louisa, and you know how Annie is about her. It's bad enough like we are now when I live in home most of the time. Then Louisa can't keep her hands off the Baby, she is always making her cry some way, but I can get away from her some time here. If I was living with them I don't know what I would do. Dear Nels I do wish you was here, I am so sick and tired of living with other people.

They say that there is going to be a war in Sweden and if there is that they will send the missionaries home. I wish they would send you home Nels. I think I need you as bad as they do out there. Do you think they will dear? Well Nels I thot sure I would have one of baby's pictures to send you. The photographer said he sent them over Wednesday morning and it is Sunday and I haven't got them yet so I suppose they are lost, so that's another dollar and a half gone to _____. Your mother is going to Mayfield in the morning.

I hope that you are feeling good again by now and Oh Nels I would give anything if you was home. Take care of yourself dearest, write soon. Baby weighs 13-1/2 pounds now and gets sweeter every day. xxxxxxoo from Viola.

Dear Nels, I just got the pictures so will send you one. The Baby was asleep and I couldn't hardly wake her up to have it taken. Her eyes are only half open so you see this picture isn't nearly as pretty as she is but it looks like her when she is nearly asleep. Everybody that sees her says what pretty eyes she has, they are so large and dark. She was just two months old when this was taken. When she is six months I will have it taken again. Don't you think she is sweet dear? I guess you will wonder where her long black hair is. It is on the back of her head. She did have some on top but it all came out, it is coming in again as thick as can be. Did you get that lock of her hair I sent you? Goodbye, Viola.

It is Sunday night and I am so lonesome and tired of everything. I don't know what makes me feel so discontented. I don't know what I will do dearest if I can't get letters from you, you will have to come home I guess. I do wish they would send you home. Write soon to your loving Wife and Baby.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug. 23rd 1909

Dear Brother,

Received your most welcome letter a few days ago and was very pleased to hear from you. Glad that you enjoyed your visit at Stockholm. You must have been in a very crowded place being as you had to stand up to write. I bet you enjoyed being to a good meeting and hearing the choir sing.

Viola was up a few minutes last night and said she had rec'd a letter from you and that you were sick. We do hope you are well now. We have been so pleased to hear you write in all your letters that you are well, that is certainly a good blessing to enjoy. You must take care of your health. Don't neglect your health to save a few cents, it doesn't pay in the long run. By the way it reads in the Deseret News Sweden is having a tuff time of it, we do hope that their trouble will not affect you so you cannot get the things you need. Of course in war time there isn't much chance for missionary work.

The boys have got all their grain cut but they haven't started to haul yet. Rulan was down the south field last week and mowed the hay. They intended to haul the hay this morning but Saturday night we had a big rain storm. It lightning and thundered all night. There was a cloud burst in Battle Creek Canyon and it done some little damage. Ben Adams is going to build a new house somewhere east of his father's residence. The foundation was done and the masons were going to commence the brick today. His cellar got filled with water, it washed all his sand away, and spoiled most of his adobe. It seems too bad to have such storms but it can't be helped.

Everything is looking quite nice after the rain, the dust got settled. Mother left this morning for Mayfield, it is Aunt Scow's birthday tomorrow and mother has gone to surprise her. [Aunt Scow was the fond name used for Kersten Marie Fugal, sister of

Andreas, married to Peter Christian Scow, children Stena, Hannah, Peter, Conrad, Zenobia, Ida, Nettie and Lettie. They were asked by the church to help settle Mayfield, Utah, below Manti.] I hope she will have a nice time. She has hardly been anywhere for a long time. She told me to helsen you and wish you many happy birthdays. I think you will receive this letter for your birthday. Mrs. Lim will enclose a letter written with mine and she also gave us a dollar to send you. She wished me to send it to you for her. Being as we send you a check with this letter, it is enclosed in that. We thought we would not send a check and green backs in the same letter. Lims have threshed today, he generally aims to get it threshed as soon as it is hauled. [Enclosed Lim letter written August 15^h, preceding.]

I spent two days out to Carrie's last week. Carrie and John are going to take a trip out to the Indian Reservation. Berthena lives there and then they like to see the country. Mr. Hurley that bought there place is going to take care of it until they come back and perhaps keep it so they will have to find some place to move to. They do not know yet where they will live. Nephi Magnus and his new girl are married now. They got married last Wednesday. I suppose Nephi is going to buy and keep the place but I am afraid he will never get it paid.

Yesterday we had mothers and daughters meeting. Laura Boley from Am. Fork was over and lectured, she is certainly grand, she spoke as fast as she could talk for about an hour and could have talked an hour longer, she is a regular preacher. My last letter was so long that I told you everything I knew and everything I didn't. It is as still as anything here, I cannot hear a sound except the clock ticking. Chris is to sleep in his chair and it is about bedtime. Wish you many happy birthdays and a long and prosperous life. Write soon to Your Loving Sister Stena. Chris told me to tell you Yes Well – of course I don't know.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Aug. 28, 1909

My Dear Nels:

I haven't rec'd a letter from you this week but thot I would write again so you will get it for your birthday. The last letter I got you was sick. I do hope you are alright again and that you won't get sick any more. Thurs. Lavina, Ora, Stena, Annie and I went to Lehi. The MIA were having a big time. P.G. and Lehi played baseball and P.G. got beat. We went to Knutson's and had supper. We had a dandy time. Wed. Lavina took me and Baby out on Provo Bench for a buggy ride so you see we are just flying around lately. Esther came down and stayed a few days while Ike went down to Hinckley with Pa. Pa hasn't bought a place yet but I think he will go south. Well dearest, the Baby is crying so I will have to write more next time. I guess you got her picture alright. Your mother is in Mayfield. Goodbye dearest. Write soon From Viola and Baby with lots of kisses.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Sept. 8, 1909 [Forwarded to Sundsvall, then Gefle.]

My Dear Nels:

I just rec'd your letter today and was very glad to hear from you again. I am sorry I disappointed you so by not writing sooner and will try and do better in the future. I know

how I feel when I don't get a letter from you every week but I didn't think it would make much difference to you because you get so many other letters you wouldn't miss mine much as long as you hear from Stena and your folks. I got your picture and thank you very much for it but I could hardly tell which was you at first. I took it up and showed it to your folks tonight.

Well dearest I will soon be without any house and I don't know what we are going to do. Pa has bought land in Abraham and is going down there in about two weeks. Annie wants me to stay with her but she has to get out of here and she can't get a house. She went to Provo but couldn't find any place for less than \$10 a month. I don't know what to do. Mrs. Banks wants Annie to come and live with her and if she does I guess I will have to go to Abraham. I am going up to your mother's for dinner tomorrow and I do wish you could be there too. Well Nels I have been sewing today and then running all over the country hunting houses. It is now eleven o'clock and I am tired and sleepy. Mrs. Banks, Annie's mother-in-law is here. School started today.

The Baby gets sweeter every day. I took her to meeting Sun. and had her blessed. Pa named the Baby. Perlinda was carrying the Baby home from Conjoint and she said "My she is nearly as big as her mother, if she keeps on Nels won't know which is which when he gets home." I call her Melba but Jens calls it Elbow. She was as good as she could be in meeting, never cried once and everybody was saying what a good baby she is. I went to Conjoint at night and took her and she slept all the time. I wish I could fly over there where you are for awhile and then I wouldn't have to worry about houses for awhile. Well dearest, write soon and don't stop writing because I do not write so often for you know you get lots of letters and I don't get any, only what you write to me. Goodbye dearest, with lots of love from Viola and Melba.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Sep. 20th, 1909 [Forwarded to Gefle.]

Dear Brother –

Your letter of Sept. 3rd came to hand a couple of days ago and we were certainly glad to hear from you and to note that you are well. At the same time we are disappointed to learn that you are still alone. Get the president to send you to a different branch, it isn't fair to keep you in the north but one winter, and you have already had that. If he tells you that he needs you to stay in the far north being as you have had experience, tell him that you had not had any experience when he sent you there. And the gall that man can have to let you be alone all these months! You cannot enjoy your mission so much in a place like that as you can where there are saints so you can hold S.S. and meetings. I understand that Mart is president of the YMMIA in Stockholm, he wrote to Perlinda and said that he was going to stay in Stockholm for the rest of his mission. I think he is having a snap – he gets most of his meals given to him and I suppose he goes lording around like some professor. It is good that all does not have it so hard as my little brother. I guess I must be a little dull because I cannot see that you are treated half right. If you are not changed at conference I am going to write to your president. Is his address Sundsvall, Sweden or is it something else?

Glad you got the money that Lavina sent you and I suppose you have received your check

before now, and no doubt you are greatly in need of it too. Do not wait too long before you ask for more money because sometimes it takes six or seven weeks from the time you write until you receive it. And we do not want you to suffer for anything. I suppose you felt somewhat lonesome during the stormy weather. Being as your palace leaks you will get your floor washed once in a while. There is nothing nicer than to have your house cleaned. I should think that some of those Swedish girls would clean your palace for you. Or haven't you converted them yet? I don't think there is any danger of you having a dirty house.

Your ma has started to weave rugs, she is sitting here tearing some rags now. She is somewhat fussy with business. Nothing like having something to do you know. Yesterday was stake MIA conference, it was held here in Pl. Grove, there is certainly some good active workers in Alpine Stake. Lavina and I fixed to take some home to dinner but we did not get any as those who lived close by had fixed for more than they got. So we all spent the day together to Lavina's.

John and Carrie came over too, we had not seen them since they came home from the Reservation. It was very interesting to hear them relate their experiences, they had some narrow escapes. They think the reservation is the worst place on earth. There were many people leaving there. They almost starved to death. There was one man leaving there that had lived there three years. He says he came to the res. with a fine team and implements and two thousand dollars in cash. His father-in-law came to the reservation to get him out of there as he was dead broke. He said he would not live there for anything in the world.

Many of the bridges are washed out on account of the floods. We have not got our threshing done yet, only one stack. The boys started to haul and before they got the stack finished it started to rain and, I tell you, it rained some for a little while. They thought they had better finish the stack and it was too wet to keep so John Nelson took pity on the wet stack and threshed it, but did not have time to do any more. We have two stacks out here now ready to thresh when our turn comes. They are thoroughly dry so it does not matter. The boys are getting lots of grain from the two machines. I heard them say the other day that the thresh machines were very paying property. It is good to have something that pays.

Well Niels I told myself the question that I ought to pick prunes today, then I thought no I would much sooner write you an epistle, as you stated in your letter that it was almost three weeks since you had received a letter from me. That is not a very nice record for me and I will try hard that it shall not occur again if I can help it. If you forgive me this time I will do it again.

Oh yes! Joe Halliday wants to know if you have received his last letter. Vern Thorne died last week of diphtheria, Stella has come home to Sundbergs to live, it is very sad. I feel so sorry for Stella. Mrs. Geo Thorne was buried today, she has been sick for a couple of weeks. She was seventy nine years old.

There is a big dance in Joe Clark's hall every week. Always a big crowd they say. I am not a regular attender you know. Don't you wish you were home so you could have a

whirl sometime? It is getting to be kind of fally here, it is cool at nights. Chris sold a spring express wagon buggy with yellow wheels the other day to Jim Peterson, it was not the handsomest rig in the world but one person likes one thing and one another. They have only four or five buggies left. I hope they can sell some more so they won't have to keep them over winter. Chris lives on corn flake mush now. He eats it for breakfast and supper, and food for dinner. It seems to agree with him pretty well. [Suffers from digestive ailments.] Ernest goes to school, he goes just in the forenoon. The beginners have half day sessions only. He seems to like school quite well.

The YLMIA meetings have commenced, we are going to have a social tomorrow night, the three wards conjointly. We will have melons and grapes to eat. Thursday the Sunday schools are going to have a surprise on Sam Smith in the meetinghouse. We are going to give him a watch as a token of respect. Will write you all about it in my next letter.

We are all glad that Viola is going to stay in town. She and Annie are going to live together. They are going to live in Old Man Armitstead's front house. We would like to have had them live close by but there was not any house they could get. We can see them once in awhile, they will not live far from the stores. Your baby is so cute, she is as plump as a butterball. Mother says for you to buy yourself some boots for the winter, take good care of your feet, she says to put a little linen rag dipped in water between your toes when they get galled. It is a sure cure. Hope you can enjoy yourself while you are away. By the way the North Pole is discovered, no doubt you have read about it in the paper. Mother says to keep the rag between your toes night and day. She encloses a dollar bill in this letter for her baby son. Take good care of yourself Niels and write soon to your long winded Sister and servant Stena, and the folks says to helsen you.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Sept. 21, 1909 [Forwarded to Sundsvall, then Gefle.]

My Dear Nels:

I don't remember how long it has been since I wrote you but I suppose it has been over a week. We have been quite busy trying to find a place to live. I guess I will stay with Annie for awhile anyway. She has rented that house of Armitstead just south of Singletons. Pa has bought a 40 acre farm in Abraham and is going down there sometime this month. Pa gave me the sewing machine and rocking chair. He didn't want to take the table down there so he said if I wanted it I could have it and we could pay him for it after you get home when we get the money. It is \$7.50 and I am going to take it. So now we have got a table, machine, rocking chair and bedstead, that's pretty good isn't it Nels? I took my dishes and things up to your mother's because I didn't want to move them around. [This house they are moving out of, still stands, at 420 N. 300 E.]

I sent you the Baby's picture and I guess you have got it before this, don't you think she is sweet? She gets sweeter every day and I do wish you could see her. I am going to shorten her [hair] as soon as we get moved. Lavina gave her \$5.00 when she was three months old. Lavina has got an organ, just a dandy. I believe she said it used to belong to Harry Wadley. They got it for \$25. I hope you have a companion long before you get this letter. It will soon be a year now since you left and I hope that in another year you will be home. We have got everything upside down now for we are moving. We took



LeRoy Young Home, Pleasant Grove



E. O. Menlove
TRAV. PHOTOGRAPHER

1910 Melba (6 mos)



1910 Viola and Melba Fugal

one carpet up and took it down to the other place yesterday and are going to take another down today. I do wish you were here to help us move.

I guess you have heard that Vern Thorne is dead, he had diphtheria. Poor Stella is left alone, her baby is about a year old. It is a little girl, they call it Viola for her sister. I haven't heard whether either of them took the disease or not. Esther and Ike were coming to the funeral but when they heard it was diphtheria they didn't come. They didn't know he had it till after he was dead. Carrie and John are back from the Reservation and they never want to see it again. From their description I don't know whether I want to take that trip you spoke of or not but I think it would be nice to take a trip to Hinckley, don't you dear? Pa would like to have you buy some land down there but I told him I didn't think you would like to leave P.G.

I have got quite a bad cold and so has little Melba, so we don't feel twice as good as we could. I guess I will have to quit now and get to work. Annie is ready to take the carpet up. Oh Nels, I do wish you didn't have to stay so long, it is so lonesome here. Write soon dear. From your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxxxxxxxxooo

Gefle, Gulf of Bothnia, Sweden

Sept. 24th, 1909 Please sent my mail to the above address and tell the folks also too.

Dear Viola:

At present I am smoothly skimming over the peaceful waters on my way to conference. The boat was to leave Luleå at 4 a.m. Sept. 23 so I arose from my slumbers at 2 a.m. and fried a few potatoes and warmed some water, and after partaking of the same I pursued my walk through the dark, foggy atmosphere and arrived at the boat at a quarter to 4. A dense fog prevented us from leaving Luleå until 8 a.m. when the fog seemed to clear away. But we didn't go over three miles till the fog covered the waters again and we were obliged to anchor. In about 15 minutes we were again able to find our way and we went another three miles when the omnipresent heavy fog swallowed us, and we were again compelled to lower anchor. Here we lay lost at sea for about 24 hours. All day and all night the mean fog prevented the captain from moving the boat, until 8 this morning, the sun kissed the waters with his smiling rays, and in a few minutes the fog arose, giving us the pleasure of beholding the clear blue sky, and the distant islands, which marked our route. It is now 10:30 a.m. and the boat is skimming the deep blue water causing waves to roll from both sides of the boat, rolling on and on over the quiet peaceful sea until they kiss the shores, when they have reached their destination and their life is ended. I was commencing to feel quite discouraged for it looked as though I would not reach Sundsvall by Saturday evening, when we are to hold our first meeting, but now prospects look brighter and if we are not lost any more in the fog we will no doubt arrive in Sundsvall early in the evening tomorrow. We have about 300 miles to go so I will consider myself lucky if I get in time for the first meeting. I could have went by way of rail but I could save 2 crowns by taking the boat so I preferred the latter. I am riding second class so I have a bed and am feeling quite comfortable. The price is 13 crowns.

I have bid all the saints and my friends goodbye for I don't know if I will ever again have the pleasure of seeing Luleå. I have packed my trunk so if I am sent [page missing?]....

...motion and as it gently rocked us it cut its way through the water. The more light-hearted passengers soon were fast asleep, imagining they had landed on the isle of dream-land. When I awoke it was daylight and in looking out through the little round glass in the end of my hut I perceived that the sea was being peppered with trickling raindrops. Thinks I, rain is welcomed any day while on the water, in preference to fog so with a feeling of relief I turned over on a fresh side and slept with content. About 8 o'clock all my sides seemed rested so I managed to dress myself and go up on deck. I asked the steerman what prospects there were of getting to Sundsvall early this evening. His answer was that we would arrive at Sundsvall about 12 or 1 o'clock tonight providing we met no more fog. So you see I will miss the first meeting of our conference and will consider myself lucky if I arrive in time for the saints meeting which will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. Although I have spent 2-1/2 days on the water now, still the time seems to have gone very quick for I had a companion with me in my hut up till yesterday afternoon and we had engaged in some good gospel conversations. I showed him my wife's and baby's photo and he said you were beautiful, and couldn't see how I could leave you for two years. I hope this doesn't offend you or make you feel conceited. If it does just let me know and I will tell you that perhaps he didn't mean it. I have two Deseret News papers with me and also some other books so my time is not going to waste even if I am late.

Sept. 26th, Dear Wife, I arrived in Sundsvall last night at 12 o'clock and soon found myself with the elders. They held one meeting last night and we will have two today. Two of the Sundsvall elders have the small pox and are in the pest house. That makes it bad but I hope we will have a successful conference anyway. It seems nice to once more be with the elders after being alone so long, for it seems almost like being to home. Well I will now draw to a close and tell you about our conference in my next letter. I hope you and babe are OK and that all is well at home. Your loving husband Nels.

P.S. We have now had one meeting in which I had to preach and where we all got our appointments. I am sent to the best branch in the conference, which is Gefle.

[I have a notebook, purchased in Sweden, that Niels kept. It has accounting sections for his time in Luleå and in Gefle. It also has notes which he no doubt referred to when he preached, some in English and some in Swedish, such as Fönta Uppståndelsen and Terrestrial Härlighet, the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in English and Swedish, and many hymns in Swedish. There is Utah O Utah in Swedish, and only one song in English, My Lovely Girl!, about falling in love and wedding a girl with pretty dark blue eyes. The accounting portion tracks by the month such things as door knockings, books loaned and sold, tracts, invitations, gospel conversations, meetings attended, visits to nonmembers, visits to members, hours spent in study. In November 1908 he studied 29 hours (arrived midmonth), 109 in December, 224 in January. He also lists daily what town he is in and, once he lost his companion, what he did each evening.]

Gefle, Oct. 4th, 1909

My Dear Wife –

It is with great pleasure that I once more write my loving wife a few lines. I know you are

very anxious to hear from me as often as I can find time to write. I have received one letter from you since I came to Gefle. You say you will soon be without a home, but I hope that will not happen. I hope you will get some place to stay and I would like very much (for your sake) to see you stay in P.G. for I believe you will enjoy yourself there more than any other place. It certainly would be nice if I was home so we could get a place and live together to keep you from leaving the town which you no doubt hate to do, but if you have to go with your father to Abraham I hope you will make the best of it and try to content yourself. We have this consolation dearest, that some day in the near future we will again be together living in a state of happiness and with the satisfaction of knowing I have performed a mission and won't be expecting another call for some time. How nice it would be if you were with me!

In the six months that I have been living alone I believe I have learned to appreciate a companion. I have not once regretted that I am married, thinking back that would be much nicer. I have learned that a wife is the best thing a man can have for without her he cannot make much progress. I am thankful that the time has come that I again have a partner in the mission field and I believe from now on my mission will be more of a pleasure to me. I have experienced many dark, discouraging hours but I have tried to master them and not allow the evil spirit to get the best of me and drag me into a state of despondency. I am glad I have had that experience but I don't want it again. I wouldn't have cared if they sent me back to Luleå with a partner but I had no desire to go alone. I feel that I have left much work undone in Luleå and wouldn't mind spending a little more work there but I suppose I will find sufficient to take my time and attention in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

I told you in my last letter that I was called to labor in the best branch of the Sundsvall conference and I think I told you the truth for this is certainly a lively branch with quite a number of saints. There are about sixty members in the whole branch, about half of them living in this city of Gefle. I suppose I will have to trim up a bit and put on my preaching shoes now for I suppose it will fall to my lot to preach about every Sunday from now on. I have got out of that ordeal to a great extent so far and now I feel my weakness in starting to be at the pulpit every Sunday and sometimes during the week between Sundays, but I hope I can get interested in the work and can lay our principles before the people in a plain and intelligent manner.

On Sundays we have a Bible Class at 10 a.m., S. School at 11 a.m. and public meeting at 5 p.m., and on fast days we have saints meeting at 9 p.m. Elder Wm. O. Beckstrom from Lake Shore, Utah Co., is my companion. He is 50 years old and has been on a mission for 18 months now so he is well prepared to carry his share of the load and give me many valuable instructions. He was born in Sweden but emigrated to Utah when he was three years so he had not learned the language, and it is quite hard for him to master it now but he has a good knowledge of the gospel and is what I call a first class missionary companion. There is no doubt but what we will get along OK for you know I am not much of a kid myself but quite old in my ways.

Elder George Lavin who has been laboring here the last year was released from the Sundsvall conference and appointed to labor in the Stockholm conference. He came back to Gefle from conference with us Sept. 29, and just left this morning. The saints hated to

part with him for he certainly is a fine young man. He is only twenty two years but he has a fine knowledge of the gospel and has the gift of speech so he can interest a congregation in presenting the gospel to them. He has been on a mission 29 months now and is liable to be held until spring. It seems like they are slow in releasing a good elder for their time is worth so much more than those who are not so capable of explaining the gospel. According to that I will be released as soon as I have been here two years for I feel like I am one of the weakest in the field.

We certainly had a joyous time yesterday in saints meeting where all the saints bore their testimonies. A good spirit was manifest touching the hearts of everyone present, causing the tears to roll down their cheeks. In the public meeting Elder Lavin gave us a very interesting discourse of his labors and travels in the mission field and bore a strong testimony concerning the work he had been engaged in. If I could preach like he can I believe I would sooner do that than eat.

Saturday evening two more friends were born of the water and the following day in saints meeting were confirmed members of the only true church of Christ. They have had pretty good success in this branch the last few years and my wishes are that the work will not be checked any by me coming into the branch but that it will still continue to go forward and that the rolling stone may enlarge by collecting particles which harmonize with our work. We have several investigators so perhaps there is a crop growing that will soon be ripe for the harvest. I will now close, dear wife, with the warmest love and best wishes, hoping you are OK and not suffering in any way. May the Lord bless you and little Melba is my prayer for you from your Loving Nels. Write soon. xxxxxoooox

Pleasant Grove, Oct. 10, 1909

My Dear Nels.

I guess you have been looking for this letter for quite awhile. We have been so busy since we moved that I haven't had time to write before. I am living with Annie in the old Armitstead place and Pa has gone down to Abraham. We have been busy sewing ever since we moved down here and we have five dresses in the house now to make. I have shortened the Baby and she is so cute, I would give anything if you could see her. She wears little blue stockings and white shoes. I am going up to your mother's today.

I saw your picture where you six fellows were taken together and wouldn't mind having one if you have one to spare. Lavina got hers two weeks ago today and I have been waiting and watching for one ever since but all in vain. You can imagine how I feel about it if you think how you would feel if I should send my picture to someone over there and not send you one. You told me you had it taken and so I was looking for one before Lavina got hers and then after she showed me hers I thot sure I would get one in the next letter but I have got two letters since but no picture [p. 141].

The last letter I got was the one you wrote on the boat when you was going to conference. I am so glad that you are sent to such a good place and hope that you will like it and will soon have lots of friends. I am writing with the Baby on my lap and she is crying and kicking so you will have to excuse this writing. I read in Lavina's letter that you had the small pox. I hope that you are alright now and don't get sick any more. Stena and Jens and Lavina went to Salt Lake to conference.

Well dearest it will soon be a year since you left home and I hope that the next year won't be as long as the last one has been. We are thinking some of going down to Pa's for Xmas. I guess Esther and Ike will go too. I guess you have heard that Vern Thorne is dead. I went to meeting last Sunday but I didn't go today.

Oh Nels I would give anything if you could see the baby, she is so little and cute. She laughs out loud and tries to talk. She weighed 16 pounds when she was 3-1/2 months old, she is nearly 4 now but I haven't weighed her lately. I am glad you liked the picture. I like yours too and would like to have one if it isn't too much bother.

I can't think of any more to say. Write soon to your loving Viola and Melba.
xxxxxxxxxxooo

Gefle, Oct. 13th 1909

My Dear Viola;

Another of your welcome letters came to hand yesterday so I will now take the time and pleasure to write you a few lines. I am glad to learn that you are going to stay in P.G. for I believe you will like to better there than in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. So your father has bought a 40 acre farm? That's quite a bit for him to tend to but I hope he makes a success of it. [Leroy is 57 at this point in time.] I don't know whether I would like to

buy land down there or not. I would first have to see the place and no doubt my little wife and I will take a trip down there some time when I come back home. Of course I like P.G. OK but if I find a place I like better I think I could leave P.G. The future will have to decide that matter.

So you have moved down on main street where the fancy people live? That's quite a long distance from my folks but I suppose you can visit them occasionally anyway. Does Annie have much sewing now? I hope she will do well in the business. It was very kind of your father to give you the sewing machine and rocker. That will add to our furniture list, alright. It is OK that you also took the table for we would have to get one anyway and I suppose I will be able to earn some money to pay for it when I get home again.

That was quite a present Lavina gave Melba. I suppose five one dollar bills would almost cover her would they not? Nothing like having some good relations when a man is on a mission. I am quite surprised to learn that Lavina has an organ. I hope she will be able to play me a few selections on it when I get home. I wish you had one too so you could pass some of your lonesome hours in practicing some nice pieces to play for me when we meet again.

Well dearest it seems quite tough to be away from you so long but then when we compare our condition with that of poor Stella Thorne's we have a cause to rejoice for I don't think we are separated for such a long while as they are. It is certainly sad that death should come in and separate such a newly married couple, but the ways of the Lord are not our ways therefore we often wonder why such events should take place. I hope that awful disease will not go any farther. You say you have quite a bad cold. I hope you are well now and also little Melba. You must take good care of yourself dearest so you won't get sick for it seems like it doesn't take much to cause people to get under the weather.

Well dearest everything is going pretty good here and I like the place OK but I certainly have to study to be prepared at our MIA meetings, our bible class and S. School on Sundays and worst of all be prepared to preach every Sunday. It is quite a task but I suppose it will be the making of me. While I was in Luleå I wasn't crowded like I am here but I feel that a place like this will be good for me. Bro. Beckstrom has roped me in as Pres. of the MIA so he means for me to do something. We have well attended meetings and I hope we can interest the people even if we are weak. I was tracting yesterday for the first time in Gefle and met with some pretty good success and some opposition. I came in contact with a very devilish man who had no more reasoning power than an old mad bull. He could talk English and it wasn't long till we were engaged in a very unpleasant conversation. He said all manner of bad things about me and my religion which made me feel like fighting but I controlled my temper and tried to show him that he didn't know what he was talking about. That was quite a discouraging introduction but I am going out again today and see what luck I have. I met some nice people yesterday who seemed to be interested in what I had to tell them and one of them wanted to read the Book of Mormon so I let her take it. It is certainly quite an experience to go out tracting for we meet so many different dispositioned people. Some are nice but some seem to have the devil in them.

Well dearest I will now draw to a close hoping that this letter finds you well and feeling

well in your new home. Give Annie and the children my best regards and accept a goodly portion yourself. Bro. Becktrom wishes to be remembered to you, he says he was well acquainted with you mother and also knows your father. May heaven's richest blessings be yours is the prayer of your husband Nels. Write soon. xxxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Oct. 14th 1909

Dear Brother –

I have been thinking of writing to you for the last week but have not got at it yet, it seems like the longer anyone puts off writing the harder it is to write. We received your welcome letter of Sept. 19th the other day and we were certainly glad to hear from you, and to note that you had received your check OK.

Mrs. Lim was over here yesterday and we told her you had received her letter and dollar OK and that you would write her in the near future. We were also glad to note that you spent your birthday so well. [September 14th.] I was afraid maybe you would spend it all alone in Bachelors Hall and have to cook your own dinner. I suppose it seemed nice to have the privilege to wire that man's house, that is a job you don't have every day.

Viola was up a little while Sunday and she said that they had changed you to another branch. That is certainly a blessing and we do hope you will have a good companion also. It is a good thing that you visited the Lindgren family when you did or you would not have had the chance to visit them again. We do hope that you will labor in a good branch this time and hope also that there will be some saints. I suppose though that you were commencing to feel at home in Luleå. A change is as good as a rest, isn't it? I will bet that the last six months have been long ones to you. When you would go out tracting or off any place you would be alone when you got back and no one to sympathize with you. Still you have not been alone for the Lord takes care of his servants when they try to do right.

Since I wrote you last Old Lady Warburton has passed away. She was eighty years old. And old Han White has had a runaway. He has his leg broken and bruised up pretty bad. But not so bad but what he can recover alright. And Mrs. Alldredge has had another stroke, she is in Salt Lake with her daughter Mat. The doctors say she cannot recover this time. She is unable to talk or swallow. Clarence Hilton had his ankle broken about a month ago, he is getting around now, he is able to go out doors, he walks on crutches but will soon be OK.

The MIA meetings have commenced now for the winter. We had our first meeting together last Tuesday night. We the 3rd ward meet in the School house and the 1st and 2nd wards hold forth in the meetinghouse. There was a large turn out in our ward for a starter. The D. H. Robison room was almost full. If we have as good meetings the rest of the season as that one was it will be alright.

Ben Walker the postman and family live in our ward, they live in part of Gunnar Rassmuson's house. Robert Walker and May Richards are married and live in part of Maggie Sorenson's house, and Mr. McMullon one of the high school teachers lives in

Jimmie Thorne's house. Jimmie D. and his wife lives in an addition built on back of the post office. They belong to our ward even if they do live down town. So you see we will have some talent if not much. We are as many in numbers as the 2nd ward. It isn't the easiest thing there is to be divided up into little wards, but I guess it will be OK twenty years from now.

The threshing in P.G. is all done and the 3rd crop is on the wagon now. I suppose they will leave it there and feed from the wagon. The weather this week is nice. Rulan has started to dig potatoes but has not got many dug yet, the crop is not as good as it should be. They got an extra watering of about four days once last summer when they had been watered plenty. The boys did not know that they had water on them so no one is to blame if the potatoes got drowned. Rulan says he has been digging the poorest rows, they make four bushels to the row. Hence the large crop! It may be that the crop will be better than we think.

The boys have sold a wagon today to Ed Wadley. It is for a sheep wagon, they are working now to fix a new cover on the old top. His wagon was so dilapidated that the sheep herders refused to take it to camp again, so he had to get a new one. The buggy business is not very rushing at present.

Just think kid, Lavina, Jens and I went to Salt Lake to conference this fall. There was certainly a large crowd there and the sermons were just fine. We went in Sun. and came back late Tuesday night. The main theme was to teach the children how to work and not let them grow up in idleness. Idleness causes wickedness. We went to the State fair also, there were many grand things to see. I did not expect to see so much fruit but there was any amount of it. There was a good crop of fruit in Bountiful and a fair one at Provo Bench on most places. We have not suffered any here either only we have not been very flush with peaches and we have had enough to eat of the other fruits if we have not had any to sell.

Since I last wrote you Alva Chipman has gone on a mission to the Northern States. His wife has gone to Logan to live with her folks until he comes back. They have a nice baby boy about ten months or so. Lee Harper has come home from his mission, he came just the other day. I have not seen him yet. Lucene is still clerking in the store, she is going to clerk until New Years. H. M. Nielson is going on a mission to Scandinavia next month, he leaves on the 12th Nov. I do not know of any more that are going at present. I heard Bishop Walker say that they was going to try to send two missionaries a year from this ward. So it would keep four in the field all the time. Well dear brother I have just finished washing the dinner dishes and mother and I thought we would take a drive out and see Mrs. Gustaveson and I want to post this letter on the way. Mrs. Gussie does not come to see us now, she never comes to town, she is afraid to drive her horse, he has not been used for a year or more. We are going to see your little daughter and wife while we are out. She is cuter than ever now that she is shortened, she looks like a doll. Hope you are feeling fine and dandy. Write soon to your Sister Stena.

Mother sends her love and the money to you.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Oct. 16, 1909

My Dear Husband:

It will be just one week tomorrow since I wrote to you last but I don't think I will have time to write tomorrow so I will write tonight. We just got home from your mother's, we went up there and had supper and tomorrow Stena and your mother are coming down here to see me on my birthday. A year ago I was feeling quite lonesome, it was just the day after you left Salt Lake. It has been a long old year and I do hope the next one won't seem so long. Has it been very long for you?

It seems to me like I have lived a lifetime that year. I am lonesome tonight. We went up past the old place and it gave me the blues. It is lonesome without Pa. I don't see how I can ever get along without him. I got a letter from him the other day and he asks me to tell him how you get along.

I am so glad that you were sent to such a good place and have a companion at last. I was reading Stena's letter tonight she just got and you told her your companion was from Lake Shore. If he has lived there very long he will no doubt be acquainted with Aunt Esther Banks, she lived there for years before they moved to Idaho. She was living there when Esther and I lived with her after our mother died.

Stena got the picture of you six elders. I suppose everybody in Pleasant Grove saw that picture before I did and I don't feel very good about it either. I have quit looking for one now but I think it was too bad you couldn't send me one. You can imagine how I feel to have nearly everyone I meet telling me that they saw your picture and how good it was and then I have to tell them that I haven't seen it yet. It has been three weeks since Lavina got hers. Stena just got hers and I don't care much now whether I have one or not.

Lee Harper is home and Luzine is still in the store. He came on the midnight train and she went to the store the next morning and hasn't missed a day. I should have thought she would have stayed out the first day anyhow, shouldn't you? Allen's wife has got another baby, it was born on the 10th. It is a girl so they have got four girls now and only one boy.

Melba is just growing fine, she is getting so big and fat and she gets cuter every day. I do wish you could see her. Sometimes I think it is too bad that you will never get to see her while she is so little and cute and when I get her fixed up with her little white dress, blue stockings and white sandals I feel like I would give anything if you could see her. And then when she smiles she is so sweet anyone could almost eat her up. Isn't it too bad you can't see her Nels?

Well Nels I went with your mother and Stena out to see the Old Lady last Thursday. She had never seen the baby before and she thot she was alright. I don't think it would have hurt her to have come and seen the baby before being as she pretends to think so much of you but maybe it is alright. Since we moved your mother has been down to see us three or four times and so has Stena but any of the others haven't been down yet.

Mrs. Banks asked me to come over to Spanish with Annie for Thanksgiving but I don't

know whether I will or not. Esther and Ike may come down here for then. I am helping Annie sew again and we have got so much to do we don't know which way to turn.

Well Nels I suppose it is after eleven o'clock so I had better quit and go to bed, if I have time tomorrow I will write some more on the back of this but if I don't I will send it just as it is. Goodnight Dear Nels and write soon to your loving Wife and Baby, Viola and Melba. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Oct. 20th 1909

Dear Brother –

We received your very welcome letter a couple of days ago and was very pleased to hear from you.

We were all tickled to note that you were assigned to a good field of labor and that you have a good companion. It is a good thing that you have a companion that is old because you have been alone in the far north so long that you need somebody to hold you down, now that you are in such a large city. Nothing like having lots to do, that is when things will be lively and where you will get the actual experience.

Well brother, I have run out of writing material and my pen is like the prongs of a fork so I will have to write with lead pencil this time too. I am going down town this afternoon and I want to take this letter with me.

Last Sunday was your wife's birthday. Mother, Ernest and I went down to see her, we had a very nice time. I wish you could have been there too. Of course Viola doesn't, Eh? We told her she would have one more birthday before you came home. The baby is sweeter than ever. She is growing very fast.

Last Sunday Lee Harper spoke in meeting, he is looking fine, he says he feels fine. It was quite hard for him to express himself in the English language, the way he wanted to. Thearl Aydelotte is doing fine. Lee saw him while he was on the Islands. Mrs. Alldredge is dead, she was buried yesterday. Clara is looking very badly, I don't suppose that she will live much longer if you can tell by looks.

The boys have got their potatoes down the field dug, they got about fifty bushel of saleable potatoes and quite a number of little ones. The potatoes on Jens' place are not dug yet. The boys finished threshing beans today and run them through the ____ mill, they have 700 lbs. Isn't that fine? Just a little patch too. It is a good thing that something turned out nice.

Rulan and a number of boys are digging beets, the weather is fine and if they stay at it they can be through in another week. They say the beets are good. We have a nice crop of honey this year, the bees have certainly done well. We have more honey this year than we have ever had, I think.

We were out to see Mrs. Gustaveson last week, she is feeling pretty good but she is not so

strong as she used to be. She said to helsen you so good. She still takes an interest in her Niels. Your pictures are just fine, it is very natural of every one of you. By the way your picture doesn't look like you have suffered any for food. It is a good way to see you look so.

Perlinda and Ally live in her mother's front room, they moved to themselves Monday. Ally is working at the sugar factory.

Chris is busy talking to Orlander Herron out in the shop. I can hear his gentle voice very distinctly. Mother is reading, she has just come in from putting a piece of carpet in the loom for me to weave. Ernest is out playing, he goes to school until noon and then puts in the rest of the day playing and he loses no time I can tell. "Don't you think I knew why I have experimented."

Well brother I wrote you a long letter last time and I am just scribbling this one so I don't know whether you can make her out or not. You must take good care of yourself Niels as Ernest says, and write soon to your Sister Stena.

Mother sends her love and Chris will write next time. Mother says for you to get you some nice warm shoes now that winter will soon be here. She wants you to take good care of your corns.

Pleasant Grove, Oct., 29, 1909

My Dear Husband.

It has been nearly two weeks since I wrote to you last and so I guess you are ready for another. I am quite busy now helping Annie sew so I have neglected to write as often as I should. I would have written last Sunday but it was Stena's birthday and so I had to go up there. I got a letter from you last Tuesday and I will soon be looking for another. I got the pretty birthday card in the last one and thank you very much for it.

It has been a year now since you left and it has been a long old year to me. I do hope that the next year won't seem so long. Don't you dear?

I guess you have heard that Aunt Jane Alldredge is dead. [Relative of Aunt Lettie; her mother was an Alldredge.] She went to Salt Lake and had another stroke while she was there. They brought her home after she died and buried her here.

We have so much to do now that we don't have time to go any place.

Oh Nels I do wish you could see little Melba, she is so sweet and is getting cuter every day. You said that you guessed five dollar bills would cover her up. You must think she is little, that wouldn't cover her bottom. She is 26 in. tall and the last time I weighed her which was nearly two months ago she weighed sixteen pounds. I suppose she will weigh eighteen now. Her foot is 4 in. long and her leg just above the knee is 10 in. around, so you see she isn't so small. She is just as fat as she can be and as good as she can be. She isn't a bit cross and sits in the chair all day while I sew. She laughs out loud and tries to

talk and Oh I would give anything if you could see her.

I wonder where we will live when you come home Nels. I do wish I knew. I wish we could go to ourselves as soon as you come for I am anxious to start to keeping house. Tell me what you think we will do. I would like to talk to you a little while. I hear that they are expecting Lawrence Monson home this fall. I hope they don't keep you there any longer than two years. Don't you dearest? I started this letter last night but was too sleepy to finish it. It has been raining and snowing all day today, this is the first snow we have had this year.

Bishop Olpin was here today and invited me to a surprise party on Lee Harper tomorrow night but I don't think I will go. They invite all the missionaries wives. That is two parties I have been invited to since I moved into the First ward. Bro. Olpin asked me how you was.

You asked me to send you a copy of your Patriarchal Blessing. I haven't got it but will get it the next time I go up to your place and then copy it and send it to you.

Well Nels I went and registered the other day so I guess I will vote this year. It doesn't seem possible that I am twenty one but I guess I am. I wouldn't have thought of voting if Chris hadn't of lectured me about it the last time I was up. Well Nels I wish you was here to wire this house for us. It is so dark in here that we are going to have the lights put in.

Well dearest I will close for this time because I want to run up and post this letter before dark. Melba is making so much noise I don't know what I am writing. She isn't crying but just talking, you know. Goodnight dear, write often to your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxx from Melba.

Provo Bench, Nov. 4, 1909

My Dear Brother,

It is such a long time since I wrote to you and still longer since I had a letter from you, that I feel like it is high time I was writing some more. If everyone was so slow at writing as I am you would not know much about home affairs, tho I guess you know this without me telling you.

The last time I wrote to you we were at Vernal. I don't know if you got that letter or not. We got home Sept. 15, at night, and found all of Hurler's folk here. The house was so littered up that it didn't seem much like home. Erma says "Mamma, this don't seem a bit like home." They have a grown daughter and son, they're to school at Provo now, then they have three babies, their ages are 3, 2 and 10 months respectively so you see the woman has her hands full. We lived all together for three weeks then we divided rooms, they have the north part of the house and we have the south part, so it is much better for both of us now they can keep house the way they please and so can we.

In my last letter I think I told you that he had paid us two thousand dollars and he owed us \$2,250.00 more on first payment, he kept on telling us he would sure have it next week,

till we began to wonder if he would ever get it, but he sold part of his place now so he paid us the balance of first payment last week. John went all over the Bench trying to get a place for rent, but there isn't one to be got so he went to Provo to see if he could rent one there but the people down there won't rent for more than a month at a time, so John was afraid to rent any of them for fear we would have to move in the middle of the winter, so take on safe side he bought a small place down there. It has a 3 rod front and 12 rod back with a neat little brick house on. There is two rooms 14x12 feet, a nice little pantry and a clothes closet with a wardrobe built in it, has a front porch, out back of the house is a summer kitchen, cool shed and back house, it also has a good picket fence around it, there is plenty of room out back for John to build a barn for hay and horses. He paid twelve hundred eighty dollars for it. The people all tell him he got a snap. It is in third ward, 1-1/2 blocks from public school house, not far from the Academy and near the meetinghouse.

We were going to move right away but I took sick last Thurs. a week ago today [October 28], so we can't move for some time yet. A baby boy came to our house but sorry to say it just lived 30 hours, it was a nice looking baby, perfect in every way but it jut weighed 2-1/2 lbs. so you can see it didn't have much chance to live, we had it blessed and named John.

Stena is staying with me so you know I have good care. Ernest is home with ma going to school. Stena got a letter form you the other day, I am so pleased to hear that you are moved to a good place and that you have a good companion, you certainly deserve it, you have had more patience than any one else would have had. I hope you may always be blessed in a good place from now on, that you may keep well and enjoy your labors. I suppose the next time I write you we will be living in Provo. The children are well and going to school, John is delivering hay today, he has sold all we raised this year.

We have sold Bert our brown horse, the pigs and chickens to Hurlers. Our cow bloated and died a couple of weeks ago but John has bought another one. We have also sold our piano as it as so big to move around and besides we didn't have room for it so I guess I won't play one of those nice tunes you imagined you could hear when you get home.

Well dear Bro I have no more to tell you this time so will close. Trusting all is well with you, and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I remain your Loving Sister Carrie. Write soon.

Provo Bench, Nov. 4th 1909

Dear Brother –

It is some time since I wrote you so I thought I had better scratch off a line and send with Carrie's letter. I have been out here to Carrie's for over a week so I do not know many news that have happened at home.

Carrie has told you about her troubles. We were quite surprised to have anything like that happen, she is getting along a swell as she can, today is the seventh day. I went over home a couple of hours last Tuesday to vote, you know it was election day. They just had

two tickets, a citizen ticket and a republican ticket. The citizen was for prohibition and the other was not. A. E. Cooper is mayor. Westphal was snowed under and P.G. goes dry. Isn't that alright? I think prohibition is a fine thing if it is carried out right. Westphal was drunk the night of the election. Wouldn't he be a grand father of the city?

I feel a little lonesome out here on account of Ernest being in P.G., but I couldn't have him out here because he would miss school and he seems to be quite interested. Mother is taking care of him. I know that is hard on her but she said she could manage alright for a week or two. [Hannah is 61 at this point in time.]

I happened to see Viola and baby when I was over Tuesday, both were well. Baby grows so fast and is so sweet and you know how sweet your wife is.

I received your letter Tuesday and Ernest's card and thank you very much. I cannot write much this time but will write again as soon as I can. I do not know whether I will write before I go home or not but will try to. Erval is sitting here making a bow and arrow and Erma is cleaning the supper dishes and John is upstairs with Carrie. Lavina phoned out tonight and said the folks were well. Be good to yourself and write soon to your Sis. Stena. I think I will be back home when you receive this.

[Viola's last letter to Niels is dated October 29 and the next one in the shoebox from her is dated January 12th. The sequencing isn't very accurately marked, but the letters have been numbered and there appears to be about seven missing.]

Gefle, Nov. 9th, 1909

My Dear Wife –

Once more I take the time and pleasure to write you a few lines. Your welcome letter came to hand a few days ago and I was pleased to hear from you again, even if you did give me another send off because I had forgotten to send you a photo and Stena and Lavina had received each one. But I hope you have received one now and will forgive me for my mistake that I have made.

The last letter I received was the one you wrote on the night before your birthday, just one year since you last saw your husband. You say the year has seemed a lifetime to you. Well dear wife I'll bet it does seem a long while for you, for you have been tied up considerable and your pleasures have been limited. I realize it has been a harder row for you to hoe than it has for me, for while I have left my dear wife and friends and come into a new country still I have had much to draw my time and attention and time has passed quite smoothly although my thought often wanders back to home sweet home. I am glad mother and Stena spent your birthday with you and I wouldn't mind having the pleasure of doing so myself but we must live in hopes dear wife that many more of your birthdays won't pass before I am with you. I hardly think I will be with you next time but if all goes well I will be there at the next. I have no idea yet as to when I will get released but according to the way they are keeping the rest of them I don't know whether I will spend Xmas of 1910 with you or not. Of course there is no use worrying about that matter yet for only one year has passed since I landed in Sweden.

I believe you when you say it gives you the blues when you pass your old home and your father is not there. I wish he had worked another year before selling his place for it would have been more pleasant on your account, but I suppose he has done it for the best and time will tell the results. I hope you have a nice time on Thanksgiving day and if you have any turkey, eat a piece for me.

So that was the first time Mrs. Gustaveson saw the baby? Stena says she is afraid to drive her horse and don't come to town very often so I presume that is the reason she hasn't paid you a visit. So Lee Harper is back home from his three year's mission? It does seem a little strange that Luzine went to work the day after he came home. I think I would want to be with my wife all the time and not allow her to clerk for at least a few days. Say, dearest, I can just imagine how nice it will be when I come back to my loving wife and baby.

So Melba is getting cuter every day is she? I certainly would like to see her in her pretty costume which you described. You must be sure to have her photo taken again when she gets six months so I can see how cute she is. It is a shame that I can't see her while she is so young but she will also be cute when I come home. Don't you think so dearest?

Well dearest since I last wrote to you I have had the pleasure of performing a baptism, the first time in my life. The man I baptized was fifty one years old and a year ago he was an infidel so you can see what a change he has taken since the elders have worked with him. The Sacred Ordinance was performed in a river and the water was quite fresh so we got cooled off pretty well, but we are willing to baptize in the middle of winter if anyone applies for baptism.

Well dearest I just came home from tracting so I will finish this letter and send it off tonight. Tracting is certainly quite an experience for we receive nearly all manner of questions. It seems like nearly everyone I visited today had something to say about polygamy so my head is stirred up somewhat and it seems as though I can almost see those awfully cruel Mormons back in Utah mistreating their poor, pitiful, overworked wives and oh! what a terrible sight it is. The people here are so completely filled with this about slavery in Utah, that it is almost impossible to get them to listen to some truth. O course some will talk to us but the majority are not looking for anything in the shape of religion. I often wonder what is going to become of such people, but I suppose there is a just God who will reward each one for their words and deeds. My desire is to continue to seek learning by study and to encourage others to do the same for it is impossible for a person to be saved in ignorance as the glory of God is intelligence. There is work enough to do for myself and kindred too. Now dear wife I will draw to a close with my very best love hoping you are well and enjoying yourself as much as can be expected. Give my regards to Annie and the children and write soon to your loving Nels.

P.S. Bro. Beckstrom says he is acquainted with your Aunt Esther, you mother and all her brothers and sisters, and your mother's father and mother, and the Banks family. He sends best regards.

Provo Bench, Nov. 12, 1909

Dear Brother:

I received your welcome letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you and to note that you are well, O that you are in a good place. I am glad that you are kept so busy, for it will do you good. The more you do in that line the more you will be able to do. I know that you are doing alright. I felt so sorry for you all the while that you were in the north, and I was so angry at your president for leaving you alone so long, if I had know his address I would have given him a good talking to, so maybe it was good I didn't know it. It would have made him think your sister was a fright. If you are in such a good place now you certainly deserve being there, you ought to have the very best place in Sweden to make up for what you didn't have the past year, but as you say I suppose you gained much experience you could not have got other ways. After the time has past and you look back, I guess you don't mind it, but I'll be you wonder how you stood it.

We have had some stormy weather of late, but yesterday and today is just beautiful. John took a load of kindling wood to Provo today. That is the first load. We are going to move soon as I am well enough. Stena has been home for two days to wash and iron, she came back last night, she is going to stay with me another week, if all is well at home.

John says if he knew what kind of a house to build he would be digging a cellar now, soon as the weather will permit next spring we are going to commence building. I will be glad when we get built once more, you know that is where John's work will be. I think it is much nicer to live on the farm than in town. When our house and barn gets built John is going to set out a small orchard, he says about three acres. We are not going to have a large orchard anymore, it is too much work, you know.

Well dear brother, I haven't any more to tell you this time so will close, trusting all is well with you, and hope that you may keep well and enjoy your labors while you are away and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I remain your Loving Sister Carrie. Write soon. I thank you very much for the picture you sent me, I think it is very nice. You look so fine.

Provo Bench, Nov. 13th 1909

Dear Brother,

I have about five minutes to scratch off a line to send with Carrie's letter and I thought it a shame to have it go off without a line from me too.

I was over home Wednesday and Thursday and came back on the bench Thurs. night. The folks were feeling pretty well, mother has a cold, but was feeling better then than she had. Ernest was feeling fine, he says he has to take care of grandma while I am to Aunt Carrie's. He likes school just fine. Chris was busy looking over book accounts and working in the shop, and Jens is fussy with business too. Delbert has had the chicken pox but was about well when I was home. The rest of the kids was fine. The most exciting thing over there then was the reports of the election (I mean city election). The boys were ready to crow. Ed Warburton and his brother killed a couple of bears up Grove Creek canyon. Wasn't that nice! Out here to Carrie's there is something a doing, Carrie is downstairs now and it makes us all toe the mark. She isn't able to go out doors yet, today she is doing fancy work. I think they will move to Provo next week, and I am going home to stay in a few days. It is quite cloudy today, she looks like she is going to snow.

I don't know any news so will close till next time. Hope you are enjoying good health and your labors. Take good care of yourself, Niels, and write soon to Your Sister Stena.

Pl. Grove, Nov. 26/09

Dear Bro:

I take pleasure in writing you a few lines. I am feeling pretty well and am getting on pretty fair. And hope you are the same. I received your welcome letter the other day and note you are getting in to the harvest a little more. I think that is all right because that will give you practice. If you haven't a whole lot to say pound the pulpit till the stuffing comes out and holler just as loud as possible. Then they will think you are from Utah and that you are a fine preacher.

Well Neils we are getting along all right with our fall work. We have the manure out



Bear and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Warburton

except what is over to Jens's. We have 6 or 7 acres plowed. It is good plowing. John Christiansen is helping us a few days. We had a fine thanksgiving. All we wanted to eat. Viola and the kid was up here. I hope you had a mess of [looks like maybe a Swedish dish, "Sel__fler"]. We have done all right in business except collections are slow. I counted up \$1400 on the ledger all good but slow. We have over \$3000 in notes, they are most all coming in. Jens has a quite bit out for plumbing. We have a chance to buy Beers store [NW of Center on 100 N.] for \$2000 and we still have a chance to get part of Williamsons shop ground. But we are undecided what to do. There is always expense to move. Business would be better I think down in town. But I suppose we can think about it anyway.

[Hans and Chris Williamson in partnership with Ole Christiansen owned a blacksmith shop at the head of Main.]

We are sending you a draft for \$50.00 which I suppose you will need by the time it reaches you. I will close by wishing God's speed. Your Bro. C.A. Fugal

Dear Niels. The folks sends their love. Carrie said to helsen you. Her address now is: Mrs. John E. Christensen, 366 West 4th North, Provo, Utah. [Stena] [This home is no more; torn down for apartments.]

Gefle, Nov. 26, 1909

Dear Wife Viola:

Your short but sweet letter came to hand a few days since and now I will endeavor to write you a few lines in return. I am glad to learn that you are busy but I hope you won't get too industrious and overdo yourself. It is gratifying to know that Annie has lots of sewing for I suppose that is what she depends on to support her now, and it is also nice to know that you can help her and probably receive a little compensation in so doing, for you are almost the same as a widow with a child until I return home. I often wonder how you are making it financially and I would be glad if you will tell me your condition in that line. You don't know how I would like to be with you so I could have a right good chat with you. It seems a long time since I spoke to you and it will yet be a long time before I have the pleasure of conversing with my own true love. I am not homesick but my thoughts are often there anyway and in my prayers you are always remembered. I hope my dear wife attends to her prayers regularly and there is no doubt in my mind but what you do. I fell well blessed in my labors and I believe that the many prayers that are offered to God in my behalf have a great deal to do with it.

We are interested in our labors here in Gefle and desirous to make good progress in converting souls to follow the plans of God which have been made for the salvation of people. Opposition stares us in the face but still we feel like pressing on and endeavor to work in harmony with the promptings of the Holy Ghost and through work, humility and faith attain some good results.

We have with us at present President Anthon Pehrson and Hyrum Hansen both from Sundsvall Branch. They arrived here yesterday morning and will remain until Monday,

when they will return to Sundsvall. It is Friday today. Elder Hansen came with to practice us up in singing and we certainly need it. They were with us at our mutual last night and we had a very nice program arranged and also gave our worthy president the pleasure of speaking to us. This evening we will have choir practice so I will see how good my lungs are and try to make the windows rattle with my tremendous bass voice.

I hear that the saints are going to prepare a little feast and lively time here tomorrow night in honor of our visitors so I surmise a good time is insured. Sunday we will hold as usual Bible Class, Sunday S. and Public meeting at 5 p.m. and then at 8 p.m. we will hold another public meeting in a large hall that we have hired for the purpose. We have placed an announcement in the paper stating that the "Mormons" will hold services in said hall so a crowd is expected, and a crowd is what we want if there is any show. We have tried to talk the Pres. into the notion of letting Elder Hansen stay with us a week longer to practice us up in singing, but our persuading seems to have no effect for he claims that Elder Hansen is needed just as much in Sundsvall. We appreciate the short visit, but would like it extended. We need a choir leader here for we have some pretty good material if we only had someone to place the material in harmony.

Nov. 27. Good morning, dear. I had to stop writing last night to prepare supper and after supper we had choir practice. It is now 7:30 a.m. and I have been up about one hour. The house is warm and the supper dishes are washed so now I will finish the letter so it will leave here at noon. Today I must go and notify a few families of friends, which I have met while tracting, to attend our meeting Sunday night. I must also prepare the Sunday school lesson and also try to store my head with something to say tomorrow, for fear I am called on to preach.

I am quite surprised to learn of the bad luck that sister Carrie had. It's too bad such a thing should happen but I am pleased to note that she is getting along nicely. I tell you I am glad our little Melba came to this world safe and sound and I hope she will continue to be well like you say she is at present. Say dearest, it will be nice to meet you and daughter in the sweet by and by and I am quite anxious for that time to come. So Chris brot your winter potatoes did he? Do you remember those pleasant times when I brot potatoes to you in S. L. City. Say dearest when I think of the pleasant times that have entered into the pages of history it almost makes one wish they would come again, but I suppose there are others just as pleasant that are awaiting us and the future is rich with great opportunities if we will endeavor to seek after them. Goodbye dearest loving wife. God bless you and baby is the prayer of your true and loving husband Nels. Write soon. Kiss Melba a few for papa and accept these xxxxxxxoo.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Nov1. 26th 1909

Dear Brother –

Say Niels, I guess you think I have entirely deserted you as far as writing goes, but I have thot of you every day and thot I should write but still I have put it off. John Nelson has been up here for a couple of hours and Chris has been playing the phonograph to entertain us. John and Carrie and the kids came over to see us yesterday as it was Thanksgiving and they are going to visit until Sunday. It seems a treat, they haven't been over since

they moved to Provo. Carrie is feeling pretty good now. I came home last Saturday. Viola and baby were up to see us Thanksgiving too and were feeling fine. The baby is as cute as it can be, she is as fat as a butterball. I bet you wish you could see her.

I haven't been anywhere only to Sunday school and there was a nice entertainment Tuesday night. It was New Zealanders that took the parts. A highly educated New Zealander, his wife and a daughter, they were just fine. Then a man to run the magic lantern, they showed so many New Zealand scenes. I hadn't any idea that New Zealand was such a pretty place. The people have been civilized only sixty years and now they are doing fine. There will be three other entertainments, the school stands at the head and the four entertainments cost \$300.00. So it ought to be high class entertainments.

Say kid I did not get my letter finished last night and there is an agent here talking implements, he has been here nearly all day. These agents are enough to make anyone tired. Maybe it is a good thing to be in the business proper but I don't see it. It looks big to me.

Today it is as cold as blazes. When we go outside we are not slow in coming in again. Jens and John are in the field ploughing but I guess they can keep warm.

I don't know of any news, only Jens' children have the chicken pox. Delbert has had them and commenced school again. The children are doing fine considering. Oh yes! Delila Radmall and Lawrence Walker got married lat Wed. Dr. Jones and Caddie Stewart got married Thursday. Bro. Atwood got buried yesterday, he had another stroke. It seems too bad, he was not a very old man.

This is a very rambling letter, no doubt you think I have talked about everything and told you nothing. So I will close with sending you a little Xmas present. It will be almost Christmas by the time that you receive this letter. Hannah Vorhees is in the Holy Cross Hospital at Salt Lake, she was operated on by five doctors, it lasted for 8 hours 10 min. She had a tumor and other things were wrong. She is very low but is doing as well as can be expected. Her husband is with her. She said she had not been north of Sanpete. It is too bad that her first trip should be like this.

Write soon to your Sister Stena. Regards to your companion.

Gefle, Dec. 6th 1909

My Dear Darling Wife;

My happiest moments are when my thoughts wander home to my dear wife. It seems quite nice to try to express my thoughts in a letter, but oh! how much nicer it would be to talk to you face to face. You often write you would give anything if I were home with you, and I want to tell you that my feelings are so that I can sanction your desires and wish that I were with you too. But time is rolling on quite smoothly and I am feeling fine both physically and spiritually and hope that the present finds you in the same condition. While I don't always enjoy the best kind of pleasure and treatment here in my field of labor, still, I feel that my darling wife has the harder row to hoe of the two. I realize that

you are pretty well tied up and are trying to earn something by the tiresome needlework, and that your pleasures are not many, but I hope my darling will not get despondent or discouraged but will fight her trials bravely and as much as possible look on the bright side of things. I hope you have a bright and pleasurable future before you and I want to tell you (my dear sweetheart) that if love and labor will cause you to become a happy wife, you certainly will become one, for my love for you is greater than I can find words to express and my intentions to work are good. They say "absence makes the heart grow fonder," but I believe my wife's presence would make my heart grow fondest, and by reading your letters I can tell that your soul is full of hope for a pleasant future.

Received your last letter a few days since and it was the one that contained the shape of Melba's hand. She is a little fatty alright, and I hope she will always be as healthy as you claim she is at present. You say that she sits in the chair all day and doesn't get tended at all, but I hardly think you could keep your hands off the dear little soul for a whole day at a time. There is no doubt in my mind but what little Melba receives first class treatment from her good mother.

Well dearest I am glad you are interested in our future welfare and that you have your mind upon the same to some extent. Your thoughts about buying Alldredge's place harmonize with mine and I think I shall write to Chris and tell him to keep his eyes open, and if he can buy it for a reasonable price to do so, for I don't know of a more suitable location for you and I to make our abode. We must have a place and we just as well go in debt first as last. If we never try anything we will never succeed. By the way your letter reads I may find you living in Provo when I return home. Well I suppose you are not so very particular where you live from now and till I come home, but I think it would be more pleasant for you to stay in P.G.

How is your father and Aunt Hanna making it way down south? You better send me their address so I can drop them a line. Give them my best regards when you write them, also the rest of the folks down there in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. If you can afford it I will be very pleased for you to have yours and the baby's photo taken before long and send one to me, for I am anxious to see how you both look together now.

Well dearest we are still pegging away the best we can and trying to convert sinners. Our Sunday School and meetings are pretty well attended and we feel quite encouraged in the work. Last night we had quite a number of visitors at our meeting and I held them down for fifty minutes trying to prove from the bible what is necessary for people to do to become members of the Kingdom of God. I tell you I am quite a Swedish orator, but I guess the benches became quite hard for the guests who are compelled to feast on fifty minutes worth of tastily decorated phrases as they were served by such a dignified preacher. I don't know whether I will amount to much or not but I am here trying and willing to let the consequence follow. I often wonder how the saints can stand to hear us every Sunday but it looks like some of them wouldn't miss a meeting for anything. I feel like, that anyone who can stand to hear us every Sunday can easily stand to hear Bro. Ben Peterson bear his testimony every Sunday. Oh! yes, I don't believe I have told you about our worthy President's and Elder Hansen's visit here at Gefle. While they were here we held an extra meeting in a large hall which we hired and we had quite a nice attendance and Pres. Pehrson fed them on gospel facts with such a flavor that I believe they could

digest them alright. The brethren left us a week ago today and if I remember right I think I wrote to you last the day after their arrival here so it is about ten days since I wrote you last but I hope you will excuse me for any procrastination and not think that my thoughts are from you even if the letters don't come so very often. I am always very anxious to hear from you and I know that you like to hear from me. Will close now, hoping to hear from you soon. Your loving husband. Niels Fugal xxxxxooxxx

Provo, Utah, Dec. 6 1909

Dear Brother

It is with pleasure I write you a few lines, although I feel as tho I had nothing to write about.

As you have heard we are living in Provo. It is nearly three weeks since we came down, in that time we haven't had any of our neighbors call on us, and don't think they are very sociable. We went to meeting last Sunday – it was fast meeting. The people seemed quite interested, they bore some very good testimonies, they keep jumping up so fast one after the other that I was begining to think they weren't going to give the bishop a chance to dismiss, but they did. We spent Thanksgiving over to ma's, I don't know what we are going to do for Xmas. We have a nice coat of snow here, if it will just snow a little more we will have sleighing.

John has got material here to build a barn, he is waiting for Jens to come help him build it, but it looks as tho he will have to take it out in waiting, Jens has so many jobs on hand. Well Niels I was so glad that you are in a better place now, and that you are so busy. Where you have plenty to do, time goes so much better. I hope you may keep well, and that you will enjoy your labors. Take good care of yourself so you may keep well. I have no more to tell you this time so will close. Trusting all is well with you and wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, I remain as ever Your Loving Sister Carrie.

Enclosed you will find Ten Dollars, which John sends you for Xmas. Write soon.

Pl. Grove, Dec. 9/09

Dear Bro.

I take pleasure in writing you a few words. I am the Same Old Chicken yet. Everything is moving slowly. It is hard to get money from people who are owing us. We have about \$2000.00 in book account that is for plumbing as well as other accounts. But I think they pretty much all come up. It is winter now but we have plenty to do. Jens just started to plumb Nels Fenton at present.

I forget to tell you that we have the Estate under way for Probation. I am Administrator. I think the way it will be settled that mother gets a deed on the property, she is to have as long as she lives, then it will be mine and yours. I don't know yet what property she will get but I think the house and part of the 14 acres. Stena will get \$300.00, Carrie will withdraw her portion. It is in court now but it won't be settled until some time near as 6

month's notice has to be given to creditors. It is the same as we have talked about before. When we get far enough along papers will be sent to you for your signature. I thought the sooner the better to get that matter fixed up. We are thinking some about having a Scandinavian dance just before the holidays. I have thought some of going to Sanpete Christmas but I don't know yet. Prowsman, the man who lives in Alldredges house is waiting for me so I will cut loose here. I hope you are getting on in good shape. With best regards from your Bro. C. A. Fugal

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 10th 1909

Dear Brother –

We received your welcome letter of Nov. 14th and was pleased to hear from you and especially to note that you are well. Mother just reminded me that it was almost two weeks since we sent our last letter so it is time I commenced this letter. We are all well at present except mother and she is able to be about. She is about the same as usual.

If you could peep in this minute you would see mother in the rocking chair, knitting to beat the band. She is finishing her fourth pair this last month. She wants to get them washed and colored before Christmas. Chris is sitting by the table scratching off a few lines to you, and Ernest is out making a snowman. We have a couple of inches of snow here but no sleighing. It is thawing now so I don't suppose we will have a sleigh ride for some time yet. You stated that the sleigh bells were ringing where you are. I rather like the snow when it isn't too cold, I like it so much better than mud. I am going to send Ernest down to the office with this letter, he likes to do that.

All the children are commencing to talk about Santa Claus. I think Santa will have to get busy if he brings all they want. Ernest wants a sleigh and drum and several other things that he can think of and some he can't. He likes school just fine.

Lavina's children have all had the chicken pox but are all well again. Delbert and Vida go to school again. Jens is busy plumbing, he is working now for Nels Fenton. I was telling Jens this morning that he was working for a man that does not have much patience (somewhat hotheaded you know).

We have not heard from John and Carrie since they went home, they do not have the telephone in their house and none of their neighbors have the Bell phone. I suppose they are OK or they would let us know.

Say kid, the missionary committee gave a dance in the new hall, a very large crowd attended, mostly married folks. There was a basketball just before the dance played by the married men of the 3rd against the married men of the 1st and 2nd wards. It was men that had never played before and they had never had a practice so you can tell it was very amusing to watch, many came just to see the game. The men that played of the 3rd ward were: Ed Warburton, Ole Christianson, Tom Richins, Jens Fugal and Mayor C. F. Westphal. Of the 1st and 2nd wards were Ben Blake, Henry Jeppson, Santford Walker Sr., Chucky Adams and Albert Olpin. The game was 12 to 6 in favor of the 3rd ward. Hurrah! The committee sold refreshments. I don't think they made much out of the

refreshments. They are going to send the missionaries a Xmas present. The money will be divided between them all. I have not yet learned how much the proceeds are.

Allie Radmall has gone to the sheep herd. He gets a different job every new moon. Rulan Lim has gone to the sheep herd for the winter. The boys do not have enough work to pay them to hire a man now. He could not do much more than chores and that would not pay.

Lew Nielson and Davy Adamson have had a flare up. Lew has moved to town again. I suppose he would be glad to come back and work for us by the way he acts. I don't think he done the right thing by the boys last summer after they had given him employment all winter to pick up and leave in the rush. I think they have promised Rulan a job in the spring.

I saw Viola and baby the other day, both were looking fine. The baby is sweeter than ever.

I don't know of any news so will close wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be good to yourself and don't forget to feed the stove so you can keep warm. Write soon to your Loving Sis. Stena.

Mother thanks you very much for her letter, she would be glad to answer it if she could only write, you know. Love from her and all.

[Viola's last letter to Niels is dated October 29 and the next one in the shoebox from her is dated January 12th. The sequencing isn't very accurately marked, but the letters have been numbered and there appears to be about seven missing.]

Gefle, Dec. 13th 1909

My Dear Wife;

It is just a week since I last wrote to you so I will endeavor to favor you with another. I haven't received one from you since I last wrote so I am expecting one from you any time. I received a letter from Stena and Chris just a few minutes ago and besides the news it also contained fifty-five dollars which were received with great pleasure as I was obliged to borrow about \$5 of my companion. I am pretty well hooked up now for a few months as far as money is concerned and I will try to retain a good spirit so I can enjoy my labors and probably be a useful instrument in the hands of the Lord, in promulgating a portion of his great work in this part of the world.

We received a welcome letter yesterday from our Pres. stating the he would send us another elder this week to help us roll on the work. They have received four new elders in the Sundsvall Conference so they will send two to Luleå. I am glad that some elders are going to commence work again in Luleå but I can't say that I would desire to be there myself, for since I have been in this branch for a while, I feel more contented and satisfied than I ever did in the far north. It will take considerable labor to get Luleå woke up to Mormonism so I hope they will send two well qualified elders there. The Pres. says that the elder we are to receive is good in singing so I hope we can get a choir woke up and make things a little lively and more enticing so we can draw a larger crowd at our meetings, although we have our hall about full as it is, nearly every Sunday. If we had a good choir and a larger hall I think we would draw a pretty good crowd for it seems like they enjoy our songs from Zion as they have such a tasty melody. We have five girls who belong to the church and we also have a couple who regularly attend our meetings who are not members but intend to be so if we get them all interested. I think we can work out a nice little choir. We are quite short for material on the men's side but I will try to hold them down on the bass and probably our new comer can sing tenor. I wish you were here and we would certainly use you in singing soprano. Probably baby could help us out a little also for I remember in the letter that your father sent me, that he said she was a fine contralto singer. When I take my second mission I want to have my little wife with me for it would be much ore pleasant if you were here.

I received a letter from Mart the other day which stated he had received one from Ethel and that she wrote you looked just as young and cute as ever if you were a married woman and had a baby. It also stated that Melba was just as cute a little girl as her papa. Is he a cute girl? That isn't saying much for baby, but I surmise Ethel meant different to what she wrote. I have yours and Melba's photo taken on a stamp photo now and wear it in my watch, so every time I look at the time I can see my whole family. Isn't that nice Viola?

Last week I sent you a little Xmas present. A broach with my photo in it. It isn't much of a present dearest but I hope you will accept it with pleasure. Everything in the line of

jewelry is very expensive here so you know I couldn't afford to buy anything so very nice. Say dearest, you better send me my ring because it is the custom for married men to wear rings and if you don't have one, they think we are single and of course you know I don't want any one to get that idea about me. I could buy one here but they are quite expensive and then I just as well have my own anyway. Send it by mail in a little box and be sure to send it by registered mail so if it should go lost we could trace it.

Say dearest, did Aunt Lettie ever get the second letter I sent her? I haven't heard yet whether she did or not. There are lots that I should write to but I haven't time. The days go so fast that I can't do half that I should do and still we don't sleep our time away for we get up at 7 a.m. and don't get to bed before 10, 11 and 12 p.m.

Well I suppose Xmas will be past when this reaches you so I must wish you a happy New Year with lots of pleasure. Chris said in his letter that you and the kid were up there for Thanksgiving day. I suppose you will also be there for Xmas so Melba can represent me and make the family just as large as when I was home. Will close now with lots of love and kisses to you both. Your Loving Niels. Write soon. xxxxxxxx

Regards from Beckstrom.

Gefle, Dec. 21st 1909

My Dear Darling Viola;

Just arrived from a two hour walk out in the country with some papers which we call "The Swedish Star." This paper comes twice a month so then we have to deliver them to the different places. Talk about cold weather, we certainly have it here. It makes us draw our overcoats tightly around us and turn up the collar. The cap which shows on the photo which I sent you last winter comes in very handy as it covers the little ears so they won't freeze. We have lots of snow now, about three feet on the level so you see there is fine sleighing here.

Well dearest I received another of your welcomed letters a couple of days since. It was two weeks since I received your last one so I was indeed glad to hear from you again. I wish I could talk to you face to face dearest for I am afraid my letters cannot represent my feelings which I have for you. I can tell by your letters that you wish I was home with you and I know you are anxiously awaiting that time to come. I hope you will keep up courage sweetheart and not feel like everything is going against you, for it is not. You say that both you and baby have good health and I want to tell you that that is worth everything even if it isn't more than what everybody ought to have and could have if they would only live in conformity with God's commandments.

I feel sorry that you have to work so hard with your sewing which you say you are tired of but I will promise you dearest that you won't have to sew for anyone else after I come home so try to bear your load as pleasantly as you can, and peek into the future with fond hopes. I suppose you have already experienced that married life is not all sunshine but I hope you will not allow yourself to become discouraged or despondent. If I was home everything would be much better, would it not dearest? I am sorry to learn that

Allredge's place is sold for I am like you in that matter. I believe I would like to make that our home. I wrote to Chris and told him to keep his eye on the place, but now that it is once sold probably it would be hard to get it. I often wonder where we are going to live in the future but I can't settle my mind on any definite place. I sometimes think that if I am going to stay with farming that the best thing we can do is to go to some new place where we can work our way up with less difficulty and more rapidly than we can in P.G. I don't hardly know where I would like to go, but I suppose the future will take care of itself.

I had better not allow my mind to be on that matter too much or I will lose interest in my present work which strains all my thinking nerves now in order for me to hold up my end of the work that is to be done in this branch. I feel very weak in my position but with the help of the Lord probably I can accomplish something that will be for the advancement of the latter day work in this region of the world.

Our new elder John Benson from Spring City, Sanpete Co., arrived here last night. He looks nearly like Allie Radmall and he reminds me lots of Allie only he doesn't say crimeny all mighty. Well we have lots of work to do in this branch so we can use him to advantage in peddling books and preaching sermons. He is unacquainted with the language so I don't suppose he will pound the pulpit so very hard the first year. I have been here a year and I don't pound her very hard and I don't think I ever will be so worked up that I lose control of my fists.

Say it certainly would be nice if I could receive a photo of baby showing her bare arms and legs but according to your letter I won't have that pleasure. You may send one of her with her clothes on just as soon as you can get to it.

As Xmas will be past when this letter reaches you I will say that I hope you have enjoyed a nice Xmas with lots of luxuries and a good appetite to eat them. I don't suppose you will be so busy with your sewing now when Xmas is over so if you can, try to write me once a week for you know I am always glad to hear from you. I don't receive nearly so many letters now as I used to, but I suppose it is because I don't write as many as I used to. Goodbye honey. Your Loving Nels.

Kiss Melba a few for me and accept these yourself, xxxoxxxoox.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 27, 1909

(Dear Niels, mother wishes you to discourage the boys buying down town because they are so much in debt now. Don't let them know that we ask you to do it. I am of the same opinion as mother, they are paying so much interest now on borrowed money and they have a good shed here for their implements.)

Dear Bro –

I have received two letters from you since I wrote to you, so it is about time I endeavor to answer them. I have been thinking of writing every day for the last week but as yet that is as far as I have got. Your letter was read with great pleasure, we were certainly pleased to

hear that your health is good and that you are enjoying your missionary work. There is nothing like being busy, you know, the time passes much more rapidly. Last Tuesday Jens went to Provo to build a barn for John (there was no stable on the place he bought) and he came back Thurs. night, he did not get it done but he could not stay any longer, that trip.

The Sunday Schools of the three wards joined together and had a cantata. They had it last Thursday night, it was good, the choruses were splendid. The Sunday Schools of the three wards gave a dance Xmas for the children. Santa Claus was there and gave each child a sack of candy and nuts. They enjoyed it I can tell you. John and Carrie came over from Provo and spent Xmas with us. They went home today. Jens went with them, he is going to finish John's barn. The weather is milder than it was a couple of weeks ago so they are anxious to get it finished before another storm. He thinks he can be back in three days. Perhaps they will be over to spend New Years.

Last Tuesday night Chris, Lavina and I went to Lehi to attend Alice Knudson's wedding. She married a young man from Rock Island Ill., he has been working at Garfield, he has an uncle living there and Alice had been staying with her sister Laura, she lives at Garfield too, that is where they got acquainted. He is as pretty as a peach. They have gone to Illinois to spend their honeymoon with Mr. Frank's mother. I think there was about two hundred and fifty at the reception. Mr. Knudson has his new house just about finished, the downstairs is done, that is where the reception was held so there was plenty of room and plenty of everything else. The supper was swell I can tell you. Gilbert Knudson returned home from his mission on the 19 inst. He says he has enjoyed his mission very much although he has had chills and fires and been ailing since last June. He looks fine considering and has a gab just like his mother, just running over with fun. So much for the wedding, it is enough too isn't it.

Last Sunday the 3rd ward Sunday school had a Xmas program, it was quite nice. We had two Stake officers with us. And the Sunday before Lottie Owens was here so we have plenty of visitors. Lewis Fugal goes to school at Salt Lake City, he is taking a civil engineering course or some such name, he intends to make something out of himself. He has gone to Mayfield to spend Christmas, says he hasn't been there for fifteen years.

I wrote you some time ago that cousin Hannah Voorhees was operated on at the Holy Cross Hospital, she has gone back to Mayfield, she got through the operation fine but of course she is very weak yet and will be for about a year. Mrs. Lim was over today and brought a card for you from Lerina. She said she had received a card from Mart, she seemed to appreciate it so much. It would be nice if you could send her a card sometime say for Valentine or the 1st of March, that is her birthday you know. She just dotes on anything like that and seems to take quite an interest in you too.

Santa Claus visited us this year, he brought Ernest a sleigh or sled I mean. Chris made it, it is a good one, a ball, a pocket knife, a watch and a horn, and a top. So you see he was not forgotten. We all got some little remembrances, too numerous to mention them all.

Esther and Ike spent Xmas with Viola and Annie this time. Ike went back to Salt Lake last night. Esther will stay until New Years. We did not have a family reunion on Xmas

like we generally do but we will try to get together later. We were all to Lavina's to dinner yesterday, we had a nice time. Pete Carlson and his wife were there too.

Last night Bro. Booth, judge Booth's brother, lectured in the tabernacle about Palestine, he has been on a mission in Turkey for ten years, he knows something I can tell you. He had a map and pointed out different things that happened in the history of the bible about Moses, Abraham, Joseph and everybody else, his talk was very interesting. He explained different passages in the bible that were not easy to comprehend. One was where Elijah was in hiding from Ahab by a stream of water and the ravens brought him food. He said that ravens in that case did not mean birds but men that belonged to the Arab tribe, they were a very dark people and one of the tribes was named ravens hence the streams gave Elijah water and the ravens brought him food. That seems much more reasonable than ravens or birds that feed on dead carcasses should bring a man food. There are two tribes of Indians living at Montana called the snakes and the crows and he said if any history was written about them it would not mean reptiles and birds and he said it was the same in olden days. If we could understand the conditions of the people when the history of the bible was written it would not be so hard to comprehend.

In Turkey the people eat out of one dish, they have always maintained that custom, that is how it was that Jesus said "he that dips in the dish the same time as I do he shall betray me." The reason that that could easily happen is because they all ate out of the same dish. Bro. Booth also explained other passages that were hard to understand, I wish you could have heard it. Viola went with us to the meeting and also your little daughter. Say kid, she is as cute as anything can be cute. I did not think a couple of months ago that she could get any cuter but she does anyhow.

If you were here now the organs of your stomach would have to take a contract to digest quite an amount of cake and honey. No doubt you will not starve during holidays. As mother was saying the other day that it made no difference how little people had to eat the rest of the year, they always had something to eat on Christmas and were willing to treat. So I hope your stomach has made a good contract.

Say Niels, I am glad to note in your last letter that you are not only a minister but also a poet. Keep on and you will be OK. You also stated that you did not know whether you would be home for next Xmas or not, but we do hope you are. You also stated that you would like to know more about the farm and things.

The boys had to pit five loads of their beets last fall. They hauled them to Rulan Lim's place and covered them up. Nels Fenton sent word the other day that the factory would take them now. Ren Benson hauled one load of them last Friday and has gone with another load today. They are hauling them to Lehi factory, they get 50 cents per ton more and the horses are not busy and the roads are pretty good so they decided to haul them to Lehi. I expect they will get them all hauled this week. They talk like they will plant fully as many beets this next year. All the fall plowing is not done, the weather has been cold since Thanksgiving, the ground is frozen so hard that they cannot plow now. But most of it is done. The boys sent six herd of stock in the dry herd, all six returned well and sound. Last week they sold a cow, Rheumatics' calf to the butcher and received \$38.90 for her. They have two steers that they are fattening now. I suppose they will soon be ready for

sale. Hay is \$12.00 per ton in the stack and grain is high too. Wheat is \$1.05 per bu. so you see it costs something to feed so many cattle and horses.

Jens is through at Fenton's. Chris is about the same as usual, he is getting to be quite a chore boy now. He says he does not mind being chore boy but he does not love to milk, he has had it to do the last week while Jens has been off. Rheumatics has got a calf, it is too young to take all the milk so Chris has had her to milk too, he makes such a fuss that we laugh at him. He says we do not need to laugh because it makes his fingers cramp, but he will grin and bear it. I did not notice that my letter was getting so long so I had better quit until next year. Hope you have had a merry Xmas and we all wish you a Happy New Year. Write soon to your Sis Stena.

We hope that you have received your money, there was \$5.00 in green backs with the check, hope you received all OK.

Dear Bro. Niels.

I take pleasure in filling out this space (blank side of Stena's last page). I am still on the sod and trying to still be in the ring. I am trying to do a little in the shop but it takes a quite bit of my time doing chores. We have always something to do. We are going to go to Salt Lake a day to make arrangements for next year's goods. We are thinking some of getting Beers store, they want \$2000 for it. If we could get it for about 12 or 15 hundred we might take it. We can still get a 39' front by the blacksmith shop for \$700 ... but Beers place is already built and plenty of room. There is 40 ac. of dry land in Alpine we are trying to get, we have offered \$1000. They don't want to sell yet. With best wishes, Chris.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Jan. 6th 1910

Dear Brother –

It isn't long since I last wrote you and we have not heard from you since I wrote, but nevertheless I feel like going ahead and scratch off a few lines. The last time I put off writing until I had received two letters from you.

This new years finds us all a kicking, it is somewhat cold so we have to exercise to keep warm or else sit by the stove. Today I suppose is a holiday in Sweden. It is the day they celebrate the Three Holy Kings birthday and mother is cooking rice. Don't you wish you could have some – hum!? No doubt but you will get all the rice and pulse you can eat these days. Mother said she would like to send you a pot of honey but she is afraid you would not do anything but sit by the jar and get stuck up.

John and Carrie came over and spent New Years. Jens got their barn finished and came home before New Years. We had a pretty nice time but we did not go to the dance. There was a good theatre here entitled The Belle of Japan. They all took their parts fine, it was a traveling troop. We have not any home dramatic company now. I always enjoyed them, the plays I mean, when we did have a home play.

The most talked of event this week is that Hogan is not road supervisor and Miley Smith is city marshal and road supervisor too. He is to get a salary of \$75.00 per month. Some thinks it isn't fair to give one man two offices. O Yes! Jens is the superintendent of the water works so somebody else feels blue. His salary is \$275.00 per year. He thinks he can take care of the water and be plumber and electrician also.

Our pres. of the YLMIA, Luella Thorne is going to resign as the law of the church is that they have to work in the ward that they live. You know they live down town by the post office. They have made an addition to the office and now they run a café and office too. I don't believe that she cares much, I rather think she is glad because she thinks more of the café than she does the MIA. I do not know who will be the president but another will be chosen right away. I don't like to see her leave as she had such good influence with the girls. Things doesn't always run smoothly.

Last Sunday night we had a dandy conjoint meeting. Bro. Badger from Salt Lake was here and lectured, it was just fine and Bro. Paxman sang a solo, he is a splendid singer. Monday night a man from Philadelphia was here and lectured under the direction of the schools. He travels most all over the United States. He could pound the pulpit.

Lew Nielson and Davy Adamson have had a fall out so Lew lives in town now and works around when he gets the chance. He has been cleaning out the drain in the field for about the last week. The work is contracted so he works when he feels like it. All the beets are to the Lehi factory now so that is off our minds. Lew hauled the last load day before New Years. The boys have sold one of the steers, he came to \$33.00. They have one more to sell as soon as he gets fat. Beef is 8 cents per pound now. It is very cold now and has been for a month so they have to have lots to eat. John has offered \$200.00 for Kate but the boys do not know whether to sell her or not. She is such a dandy buggy horse, she goes like a streak. They feel like they can spare her for the work that they have. She will bring a larger price than any of the others. They have not decided to sell her yet.

Last week Ernest fell through the barn down to the side of one of the horses. The horse got frightened and plunged back and struck him on the head with her front foot, the cut was not deep and is almost well now. But he got scared, I can tell you. I am so glad that he did not have to stay out of school. There was but one week of holidays this year, we have always had two weeks before. Pearl Galli [John and Lavina's niece] is married and lives in Park City, she is quite young to get married. Chris is the same old boy, he was working at the Manila school house yesterday. Don't know of any news. P.G. is about the same as usual, so will close wishing you a happy and prosperous new year. Write soon to your sister, Stena.

The folks send their best wishes to you and your companion.

P.S. Roy West has returned home from his mission. They sent for him to come home on account of his mother's health. She was out of her head worrying about him. Roy says he feels sorry that he had to leave his mission as he was just getting interested, he has been gone since May. S.C.

Dear Niels – Chris just now came from the post office and had receive a letter from you

containing two cards for mother and I thank you very much for same. In your letter you stated that you would like a calendar, we will send you one with this letter in separate parcel. It isn't very pretty, in fact it is not pretty at all but will serve the purpose. We have some that are pretty but they are stiff cardboard and are apt to break. [Note this calendar in the photo of Niels washing dishes.]

Just heard the sad news that Mason Johnson's little daughter Lerina was dead. She died last night of croup. I feel so sorry for them. Just received a card from Carrie, they are all feeling fine. Viola was up Sunday and gave us a picture of Melba, she is sweet as ever. Ernest and I are going down town and he is standing here watching me write and asking when I am ready to go. So goodbye. Be good to yourself, as E. says. S.C.

Chris will write in the near future.

Gefle, Jan. 7th, 1910

My Dear Wife;

I now take the time and pleasure to write you a few lines. It is over a week since I last wrote you so it is time that I was remembering you with another. I am quite busy now and if I am not careful more than a week will elapse between the letters which I write to my darling wife. I realize that you are always anxious to receive letters from your husband and I consider it my duty to write to my dear wife as often as possible. I don't always write the best of news to you nor give you the best words of encouragement but I hope you like to get my letters at any rate and become consoled somewhat by their contents. It would be a greater pleasure than can be expressed in words if I was only with you now instead of sitting here trying to write something that will be of interest to you. I have written you so many letters now and it seems like I write about the same thing every time, so I don't know whether they give you much encouragement or not. It is too bad that we have to be separated so long but I hope the time will pass quickly so we can get together again and keep house as you stated in your last letter. Your desires are that we will be living together next Xmas and that we will have a place of our own. Well my Dear Viola, those are also my wishes but whether they will be fulfilled or not I am not in a condition to judge, but I think I ought to be released about next Xmas, for I have a loving wife and babe at home who need my presence and then it will be over two years since I arrived in Sweden. I am blessed with good health and I realize that this is a very good school for me but still when I look at it from another view I think that I should be home with my wife and babe and try to comfort them. My heart strings are strained when I think of the condition you are in and that I cannot be home and support you but I hope dearest that you will pull through another year OK and won't stand in need for anything. It is too bad you can't get a new dress this Xmas being as your sister Annie and my sisters are getting dresses. I don't like to hear that you are standing in need for anything and I would much sooner suffer myself than for you and Melba to suffer. You haven't told me that you were suffering, but I know you are tight run and have to pull through with as little as possible. I hope your future will be brighter, and if a husband's love and work can make it brighter it certainly shall be.

I am glad to note that you went to that theatre and I hope you also went to the



1910 calendar sent from home

Scandinavian dance which you wrote of, for a little recreation will do you good and make you feel more like a live person. I suppose it is about a year now since you had your last dance so it would no doubt be something new and pleasant for you to indulge in. I wouldn't mind having a dance myself but I suppose I will have to wait until I get back home again.

We are having quite a nice Xmas but it is nothing like the times I spent with you during Xmas. I must say that I have felt more to home this Xmas than I did last for I can talk the language a little better and am more used to the ways of these Swedes in this man's land. The Swedes are a very jealous sort of people and they can't hardly stand to see anyone else to get ahead in anything. I am so disgusted with them at times that I almost feel inclined to tell them what I think of them, but it seems as though an elder has to put up with lots and try to keep peace and harmony in the family. There are ill feelings existing between the saints now and I believe some of them are quite sore at Bro. Beckstrom and myself in the stand we take, but we can't help it nor we don't intend to be dictated by a lot of jealous creatures who don't know what they do want. I was glad when I was sent to this place but now I am not very particular whether I stay here or not. But I suppose all these trials will only develop me and prepare me to meet the conditions of this life.

If the saints were united much good could be accomplished and the work would have better progress. We intend to leave the city next week and go off into some other town for a few days to tract and probably hold a meeting. I like preaching better now than I did at first but I still paralyze the language somewhat and don't know whether I can interest anyone in any wonderful discourses or not. I am right here trying and hope that God will lead me and prepare me as an instrument to accomplish some of his glorious work.

Now my dear wife be of cheer and pray to the Lord that He will protect you from sickness and danger, and that in due time He will bring back to you your loving husband. Nels.

Kiss my daughter a few for me and accept best love from your husband. xxxxoxxo

Pl. Grove, Ut, Jan. 12, 1910, letter in Swedish from Isaac Carlson, Hannah's brother.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 12, 1910

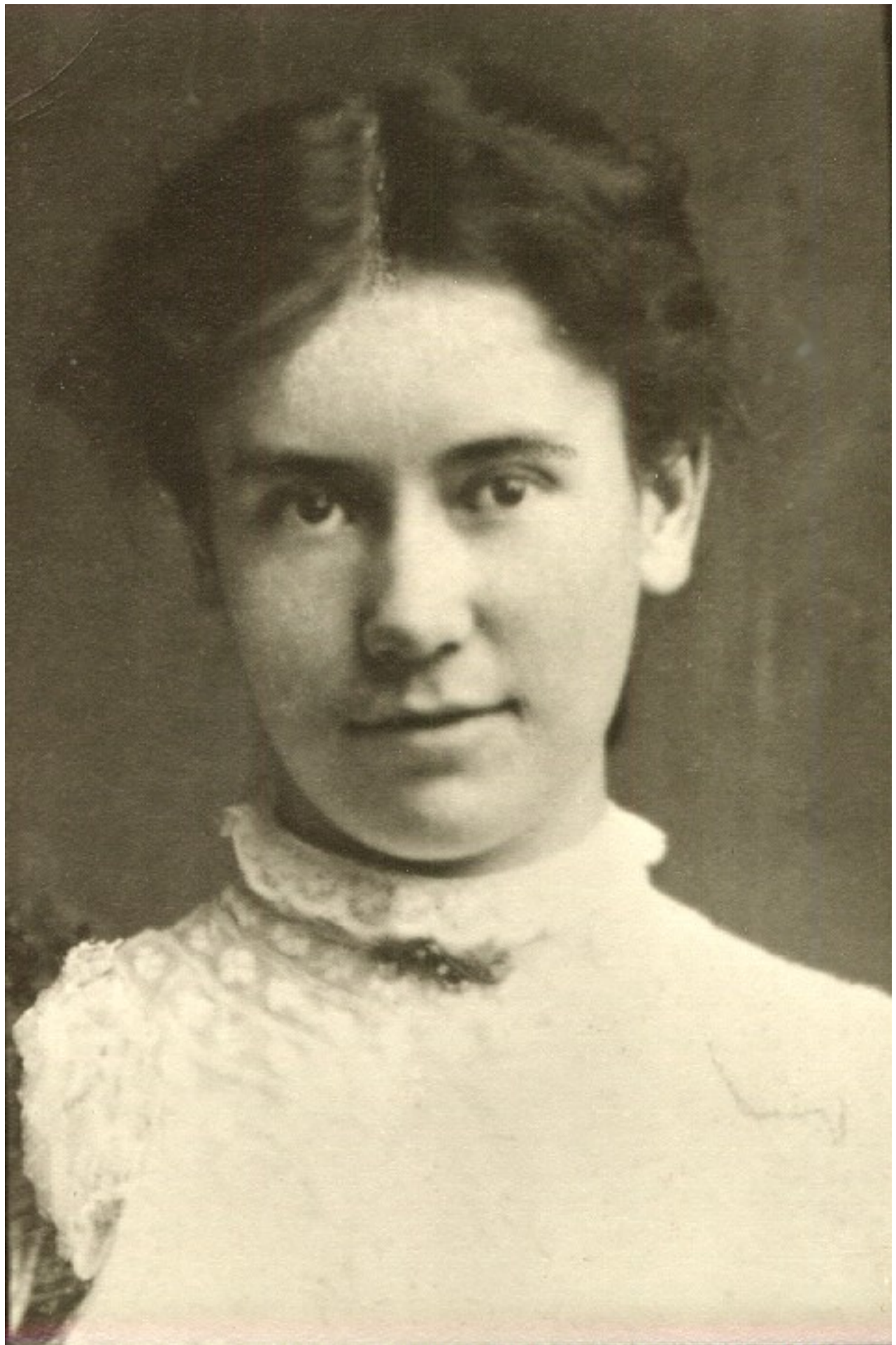
My Dear Nels.

I don't remember how long it has been since I wrote to you but I guess it is time to write again. I sent you Melba's picture and your ring and you must be sure and tell me if you get them alright. Since I wrote to you last Melba has been quite sick. She has an awful cold but she is lots better now, but she has got lots thinner. She isn't near as fat as she was when her picture was taken. I was awake two nights nearly all night with her and then walk the floor all day, but she is better now and I do hope she will get well and then not get sick any more. We have all had sore throats and I didn't feel good all during Holidays but am alright now. I hope that you are well and enjoying yourself. You must take good care of yourself and not get sick. Oh Nels I do wish you were here. I would give anything to see you now. I do hope they won't keep you any longer than two years for I can't live any longer than that without you.

Annie is going to Salt Lake this week or next and I guess I will go up to your mother's and stay till she comes back. I have got me a new dress Nels and it is pretty but I don't know when I will get it made. We haven't got any sewing to do now for anyone else but I have so much to do for myself and Melba that I don't know when I will get it done. I haven't been able to do anything since she was sick. I gave Esther one of Melba's pictures and she says that everyone that sees it says she certainly is a fine looking Baby. Don't you feel quite proud? I do wish you could see her when she laughs and when she is dancing. You can't imagine how sweet she is Nels. I do think it is too bad that you can't see her when she is so little and cute.

I started this letter last night but Melba woke up crying so I didn't get to finish it. I was up all night long with her, she was feverish and crying, but she is better this morning and is asleep now. I didn't sleep at all last night so I don't feel twice as good as I could. The only way I could get her to stop crying was to walk the floor with her and she is so heavy I nearly broke my back. But I don't care for that for she is lots better now and has been asleep quite awhile. Elias had the croup this morning about six o'clock and Annie got scared and run up and got Dr. Vance so while he was here I asked him about Melba and he said she had fever and was delirious, that's what made her cry that way. He is going to give me some medicine for her today so she will be alright in a little while.

I don't know of any news so will say goodbye for this time. Write often to your loving Wife and Baby. Melba sends kisses to papa. xxxxxxxxxxxxoox



1909 Viola Young Fugal

Gefle, Jan. 16h 1910

My Dear Viola;

Today is Monday and the busy Sunday is passed once more, so I will take time to write my darling a few lines being as it is so long since I favored you with the last one.

In my last letter I believe I told you that we were going off to another town to canvass and to hold meeting if possible. Well we did so and a very nice time we had. We were gone three days and while away we gave away about 800 tracts and disposed of about 80 books. After considerable trouble and chasing around from one person to another, being referred a place to hold a meeting, we at last were fortunate to hire a hall for 5 kr. and 50 öre where we held a very good meeting. There were about 60 people who came out to hear the Mormons preach and it seemed as though they were quite interested in our talks for they gave us perfect attention and kept their eyes upon us all the time. We sang three Swedish songs and one English one during the meeting and after meeting was dismissed they wanted us to sing another English song, which we did with pleasure. They thanked us for our service and gave us an invitation to come back to their town whenever opportunity will permit. We feel well paid for our trip and intend to go again sometime in the near future. It makes us feel encouraged in our work and we feel to give God the glory for our success. We intend to visit other towns and see if we can wake up some interest in Mormonism among people who are seeking for truth. Last night we had a well attended meeting and Elder Fugal was the main speaker, Bro. Beckstrom making a few closing remarks.

In your short letter you wrote that you have forgotten how I look and that you can't imagine how I talk. Well dearest I wish you could be present some time when I am trying to speak Swedish, and see if you could understand what your husband has to say. Perhaps when I return to you I will mix so much Swedish in with my English that it will be uninteresting to you for me to talk to you, but we will try to clear up that difficulty, won't we dear?

Elder Benson who arrived here about a month ago very often calls me down when we are talking here at the office and asks Bro. Beckstrom and myself which language we are speaking, Swedish or English. Well it is quite a task to keep from mixing the languages when we are obliged to speak them both, every day. While I was at Luleå I never had the chance to speak English and I realize that it helped me wonderfully in the language, but nevertheless I am glad I have two companions now for it causes the time to go much more pleasantly.

Just think dearest how much time has gone since I last saw you; one and one quarter of a year has elapsed since we parted at the Salt Lake depot, when it seemed as though my heart strings would break for I knew that I would be away from you a longer time than I had been acquainted with you and we knew not what would happen before we would meet again. But we must thank the Lord for His protecting care over us so far and pray that He will continually bless us with health and strength that we may be able to perform our duties in an acceptable manner before Him.

Well my dear Viola, I am pleased to note that you went to that Scandinavian dance and enjoyed yourself. Hope you will attend quite often so you can have some enjoyment in your lonesomeness while your husband is away. Yes it would be very nice if I were home to give you a sleigh ride being as you have sleighing in that part of the world. We have not had snow here for over two months but I haven't been in a sleigh at all this winter and perhaps I won't have a sleigh ride at all this winter. It will be nice when all the snow melts and the grass begins to grow and the leaves decorate the barren trees. I hope this will be my last winter in Sweden but I don't know whether it will or not. It will be so nice to get back to my little wife and daughter. I suppose Melba will be afraid of her papa at first but I will soon cause her to feel to home on her papa's lap. It will be nice to have my wife on one knee and baby on the other. Oh! how I long for that time to come, and I know you do also. No, I don't think you are extravagant because you have a new dress for Xmas and you know I would like for you to have lots of nice things but I am unable to get them for you. I would like to see you in your new dress for I know you will look cute no matter how the dress looks.

Excuse me dearest for my procrastination this time and I will try to do better in the future. You understand I was away three days and then when I came home I had to prepare for Sunday. God bless you, Viola. Your loving husband. Nels.

Gefle, Jan. 24th, 1910

My Dear Viola;

I now with pen in hand will endeavor to write you a few lines as it is just a week ago today since I favored you with the last one. Dear wife, your beautiful photos came to hand today and I thank you ever so much for same. They certainly are grand and you don't know how happy and proud I feel over my darlings wife and baby. You are both just as cute as you can be and I about feel like eating your photos up. I received the proofs a few days ago and when I looked at Melba's photo I could hardly believe my eyes, she is so beautiful. I have showed the photos to quite a number of the saints and they just about go up over Melba, she is so cute. I try to tease them by saying she looks lots like her papa and that that is the reason she is so cute but they won't agree with me so I suppose we will have to give you the credit for her beauty. They all say I have a beautiful wife but they need not tell me that for I knew that when I married you. They all seem to think that you and I look so much alike; well if you are prettier than I then I think neither one of us have anything to boast of, but that doesn't make any difference, we have the cutest baby in the world, haven't we dearest? I can see that you are not so fat as you were when you had the last photo taken but I suppose that is due to Melba pulling at your breasts every day, isn't it dear? When you wean her you will soon get fat again. I suppose you have your new Xmas dress on in the photo, I think it looks nice and I see your husband is hanging fast to your neck. Pleased to note that you liked the broach and the photo but sorry that I couldn't send you a nicer present for Xmas. [Melba's picture p. 158.]

Well dearest the ring came OK and I have it on my finger now so I suppose the people won't think I am a single man anymore. I have yours and Melba's photo before me now while I am writing and I can't help but keep looking at it. When I first received it I

couldn't keep my eyes off of it for many minutes at a time. Say but it certainly would be nice to be home with my little family. Think how happy we would be, but we must feel happy and thankful anyway, and hope and pray that we will be permitted to be together again in about one more year.

You ask me how I would like to come home to see you and then go right back. I must say that I don't believe I could stand to go right back for it would break my heart to pull away from my wife and child. Often I dream that I am home but that I haven't completed my mission and have to come back to do so; and I tell you that when I wake I am glad that it isn't so that I again have to leave you. Time is rolling on and before we know it the time will arrive that I will once more tread upon American soil and mingle with my loved ones at home. You ask if I don't ever get homesick and you wonder if I wouldn't like to see you. Most assuredly I would be more than glad to see you and talk to you, but I must say that I haven't once been homesick since I arrived in the mission field and I pray to God that I never get the sickness for it no doubt is a bad one. At times I have felt discouraged in the work but never has it entered my mind to give up all and long for home. At present I feel fine in the work, but we have so much division among our saints here in Gefle that I don't know what will be the result. It seems as though the devil has got control of a few of them and is trying to use them as his servants to spoil our game, but we will give him as tough a fight as we can and try to get unity restored in our little assembly.

Elder Beckstrom received a letter from the pres. of the Swedish mission yesterday calling him to preside over the Sundsvall conference as Pres. Pehrson is released to go home. Bro. Beckstrom will leave here in a few days and then I suppose Elder Woodard who has been laboring at Sundsvall over two years will come here to Gefle and be Bro. Beckstrom's successor. I don't like to part with Bro. B. for he is such a nice man and he is just like a father to us, but whenever changes are made by the proper authorities we must be willing to accept them and respond to all calls. Elder Woodard is a very nice young man full of the spirit of work so I think everything will go on just as well at least we will try to make it do so. Elder Benson is quite weak in the language but he is willing to learn and is making pretty good headway. I was afraid that they would leave Bro. Benson and I here alone but today we received a letter from Bro. Pehrson stating that he intended to send Bro. Woodard here, so I feel more easy and can sleep without getting the nightmares.

My dear wife I must close now as it is soon time for my English class to come. Be good yourself and to sweet little Melba. Tell her that papa thinks he has a nice baby. As ever your loving Nels. Best regards to all. Kiss her for me. xxxxooxx

Gefle, Jan. 31st, 1910

My Dear Wife;

Your letter of Jan 12th came to hand OK and contents noted. I notice that sickness has come in your midst and of course that isn't pleasant news to me. I am so glad that you and babe have been blessed with good health in the past and I hope that the sickness you have will soon leave. It's too bad that you had to stay awake a couple of nights with Melba and then walk the floor with her in the day. She no doubt is so heavy that she

would soon wear you out at that rate. I wish I could have helped you when you were in need of a husband. Well dearest, be very careful not to overdo yourself in any way for if you should get sick I am afraid I should worry myself crazy, and would be of no use in the mission field. I hope the next letter will bring me good news stating that you are all well. It certainly is a blessing to have good health and we don't appreciate it until we are afflicted.

So you are going to live with mother while Annie is in Salt Lake City? Well dearest I wish I could pay you a visit while you are there. Say, I believe tears of joy would lubricate my eyes if I could be in your company for awhile. It is so long since I was with you that it seems like a dream but I suppose I will awake from that dream some day and be with you in reality. Time seems to be going very fast for me but I don't care how fast it goes for I am anxious to be with you again. I know the time doesn't go as fast for you as it does for me but I hope you are able to content yourself and find great joy and satisfaction with your sweet little daughter who is the cutest little girl in the world.

So I was mistaken when I wrote you that I could see you had your new Xmas dress on in the photo. Your last letter states that you haven't yet sewed it. Well you look very nice no matter if it isn't your new dress. I feel like I have the cutest little wife and cutest little daughter in the whole world. I hope you will not get too conceited dearest. ha! ha! ha! I hope Melba doesn't get too thin for I think she looks so very nice and cute the way she is. I wonder if she will know her papa when he comes to P.G. I suppose she will be somewhat afraid of me and perhaps you will hardly think I am the same fellow after spending a few years in Sweden.

Some of the Swedes are alright but I hope to goodness that I don't become like some of the jealous sulky one-sided things that are here. But I suppose there are good and bad people no matter where we go, so probably I better not criticize too severely.

Well dearest it is 9 p.m. now and today at 1:37 Bro. Beckstrom left us and went to Sundsvall to preside over the Sundsvall conference. There were quite a number of the saints down to the depot to see him off. I hate very much to part with him for he was just like a father to me but I will have to take my medicine and make the best of it. I suppose Elder David Woodard will be here this week some time to take charge of the branch so I presume everything will be OK and we will soon get used to each other. It doesn't take long for elders to get acquainted with each other and as a rule we form a great love for one another.

Last night our meeting was well attended, our hall would not hold them all so some of them had to sit in the kitchen, but that went OK and we had a very nice meeting. All seemed to be quite interested in our talks and kept very quiet while we were talking. Prospects look quite bright here in Gefle now and if we have good luck and can keep the investigation on the right path I believe we will have a bounteous harvest when warm weather comes so we can baptize. Of course I don't intend to count my fish before they are caught, but I am just expressing my opinions on different matters. I have come in contact with two women who seem very interested and one of them has already expressed her desire to be baptized as soon as weather will permit.

Well dearest I feel fine and I only hope you are in the same condition and feel like the world is one of pleasure and satisfaction. We can make this good earth of ours a heaven or a hell just as we choose and I hope we will be able to make it a heaven through all coming life. Oh dearest I am glad you love me so much that you think you will be unable to live more than one more year without me. We must trust to time and providence and accept what the Lord desires should be done. Will close with love and very best wishes hoping you are all well. Your Loving Nels. Write soon. xxxxxxooxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Feb. 5, 1910

My Dear Nels:

It has been a week since I wrote to you [last in box was Jan. 12], but I guess you won't care if I write again now. When I wrote to you before I was staying up to your mother's. I stayed there for ten days while Annie was visiting in Salt Lake City. I enjoyed myself just fine while I was there and it seems a little lonesome down here since I came back. Annie is going to Spanish Fork a week from today and then I guess I will go up again when she goes. I made my new dress while I was up there and they all think it looks fine.

There was a Scandinavian dance Wednesday night so I went with Stena and wore my new dress. I had a very nice time and it seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves. They served Coffee and Buns so Chris took Stena and I to Coffee. There was quite a large crowd out and Chris said they made about fifteen dollars. They had it in the old Hall because they went behind the last one they had in the new Hall. I wish you could have been there. Jens and Lavina were there and Aunt Lettie and Uncle Friend [Joseph's brother] and Aunt Stena. While I was up there Chris was down town and had a ton of coal sent down here and I didn't know anything about it until we came home and we could see that someone had brought coal so we asked Mrs. Banks and she said that the fellow that brought it said Mr. Fugal sent it. So I guess it was Chris that sent it but I haven't seen him to ask him about it yet. He sent us down a load of kindlings a while back all chopped and ready to use.

I don't believe I ever told you that Carrie gave me her baby buggy. I don't know what I would do without it because Melba is so big I can't carry her very far.

Well Nels I suppose you have got the baby's picture before this so you know what she looks like now. What do you think of her Nels? Do you think she is as sweet as I said she is? The picture looks just like her but Oh if you could only see her when she is laughing and playing. Your mother has got a little bath tub up there just the right size for Melba and I bathed her in it every morning while I was up there and we were wishing we had a Kodak to take her picture while she is in it. She sits up so cute and holds to the sides with both hands and looks up and laughs. Can you imagine you can see that picture? And what would you give to see the real thing?

It had been nearly two weeks since I heard from you when I got your letter today so you see I had been looking for it for quite awhile but you said you had been away tracting and so I guess it is alright but you must write to me just as often as you can, won't you dear? I know I don't write as often as I should but you know I can't write sometimes when

Melba is cross so you know you must write to me often whether I do or not.

I just heard today that Bishop Walker's father died last night. Esther and Ike are trying to get Annie to move to Salt Lake and she is thinking some of moving there in the spring. I will send you a little piece of my dress and also a piece of the lace and braid that it is trimmed with [enclosed].

Well Nels I am getting tired and sleepy so will close for this time. Write soon to your loving Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 8th 1910

Dear Bro. Niels,

Received your very welcome letter a couple of days ago and was more than pleased to hear from you. Whenever a letter from you is brought in the house we all stand around, all attention, until it has been read. Glad to note that you are well because health is one of the greatest blessings anyone can have.

On the 2nd inst. the Scandinavians gave a dance in the Opera house, we had a good time. Viola was there, I think everyone there had a very nice time, a good sociable crowd was out. Jesse Oler knocked the cat out of the barrel. The cat this time was a stuffed dog. They are talking of getting up another dance in the near future.

Last Saturday night the Home Dramatic Co. put on a play entitled "Thompkins Hired Man." It was pretty good, we have hardly got through laughing yet. J.D. Thorne took the part of the hired man. Henry Jeppson was Mr. Thompkins, Joe Halliday the part of the young man in love, Claude Hays a half grown awkward hired boy, a quartet of the high school boys and music teacher. The girls: Old Lady Thompkins, a cross old woman with a secret Deliah Thorne, her daughter, an ill tempered proud thing Lydia Humphries, and adopted daughter that is very sweet tempered and pretty by Leah Halliday, a niece staying at the Thompkins home by Hazel Smith. You can imagine the play.

B.N. Walker's funeral was held in the P.G. tabernacle, it was crowded to over flowing, 784 people attended it. The speakers were A.J. Evans, S.L. Chipman, Mr. Lewis a commissioner, Mr. Loveless and Judge Booth and others. It was the largest funeral I have ever attended. They certainly praised him to the highest and I guess he was a good man. Mrs. Elizabeth Walker died the week before Ben. She was 82 years old and had been ailing for a long time. Strange that mother and son should die so close together.

About the latest news in town is that Tom Larson is water master. Uncle Isaac got left, he put in his application and had a petition too. The boys think that Uncle Isaac would be a good water master. P.G. went dry but for some cause or other there are some that get buzzie, if reports are true. Chris has been out collecting for the water works for the last three or four days.

I am going to give you a pen picture of home. It is now 9 o'clock p.m. Mother is sitting under the light in a rocker reading a book. She is so interested that she has not time to

even look up over her glasses. Chris is sitting by the range in the big rocker asleep. He was trying to sum up how much he had taken in for water works, but somehow or other his pencil refused to add and put the figures in the wrong place. Ernest is sitting at the other side of the table drawing. You would smile if you could see the house he has made. Just now Ernest said, "Ma, I'm sleepy, I'll have to go to bed." The kid is in bed now and I understand that he not so sleepy now as he is singing a song.

Bertha and Clara Nelson are home for a visit, they intend to go back to Salt Lake next week. Bertha is still nursing and Clara is sewing for Cohn's store in Salt Lake. You know W. M. Nelson is on a mission in Denmark and Rose is in Salt Lake. Bertha said Rose liked nursing alright, I guess she likes the dough better. Lew has been trimming trees lately, he has trimmed the ash trees on the side walk. Today he is moving from the Washburn's place to Trinnups, he likes that place much better. Ally Radmall came home yesterday, he has been herding sheep for a couple of months. Owen and Alley are topping their poplar trees.

You stated in your letter that you thought the elders of former days accomplished more than the elders of today. Circumstances are different now than they were then, and you must not get discouraged if you do not convert anyone, you may sow the seed for some other elder to reap. People as a rule are not quite so religious as they used to be. They are more taken up with worldly things. We have no doubts whatever but that you are doing as much good as any one elder can.

Mother thanks you very much for the letter you sent her, she appreciated it very much. She said she wished she was able to write and she'd certainly answer it. It is getting late and I am getting sleeping so will close for tonight. Write soon to your Sister Stena.

Mother enclosed \$5.00 in this letter for you. She said it was a Christmas present but you did not need it as much then as you do now. The folks send their love.

Gefle, Feb. 25th 1910

My Dear Wife;

Your most welcome and kind favor of Feb. 5th came to hand and the contents read with great pleasure. Samples of your dress were in the envelope and I think they are very pretty. I imagine when the goods are made into a dress and placed on my dear wife that they look very nice and I must say I should like very much to see you sometime when you have it on. Pleased to note that you enjoyed yourself while staying at mother's and I hope you will enjoy it next time you go stay while Annie is at Spanish Fork. I should like to have happened to call on you while you were there sewing your dress and see if you would be very surprised. I dream of you very often and that I am with you but when I awake I am quite disappointed to find myself about 10,000 miles from you. Well dearest, time seems to be rolling on quite lively and it won't be so very long before we will meet again and live happily together. I suppose the time doesn't seem to pass as fast for you as it does for me, but I think it will roll on much more smoothly for you this year than last because you will not worry so much and your charming little child will be a great comfort and pastime for you.

Just think, if they don't keep me longer than till Xmas, I have just ten months left, and they will go like a shot out of a gun, for I am so busy that the days seem almost too short. I arise every morning at six o'clock and seldom go to bed before 10:30 p.m. and still I do not seem to be making much headway. I want to make good use of my time while here, for I realize that this is the greatest chance and opportunity of my life to learn something, for I have all my time to spend in this. When I get home I will have something else to take my time and attention so my time for study will be limited. I am certainly thankful that I was sent on a mission for I can already realize wherein it has helped me wonderfully, giving me a much better insight to things and to understand the plan of life and salvation and to realize what we have to work for, and what our destiny will be provided we are faithful and keep on toiling in the right path.

I am experiencing some things that are not at all pleasant but I suppose they are a means of strengthening me and will prove a blessing to me for they cause me to be more cautious and to exercise carefulness in all my words and actions. I am now referring to the discussion that is existing among our saints in this city. It seems as though old perdition is trying his best to destroy the work of the Lord, and some of the so-called saints seem to be possessed with the devil's influence, causing a very foul spirit to be in our midst very often. We elders are invited in our thoughts and efforts and expect to get things bettered before long but it is hard to tell what will happen before peace will be restored. Generally these discussions soon come to a head but it seems like this one is quite long winded. It commenced shortly after I came here and has existed ever since. I do hope I may have the chance of experiencing good feelings among the saints before I am called away from here or else I will not feel satisfied with any work in the Gefle branch. If our saints were united now I think we would have good progress in our works for we have quite a number of good investigators and we are working to get more every day.

Well dearest I have something else to write about now that will probably interest you even if it doesn't concern you in the least. You remember of me telling you there were two elders sent to Luleå? Sorry to say they are not there now. They got it into their heads that they couldn't stay in Luleå so they packed their goods and came back to Sundsvall saying that they couldn't stay in such a place. The one elder who has not been satisfied with his destination since he came last spring was sent to Stockholm to report to the Pres. of the mission and the other is at Sundsvall willing to go back to Luleå as soon as they give him a partner. I think they are quite childish when the two of them couldn't stay in a place a few months where I had stayed alone six months. I think they will realize their error in the near future and regret that they left there without permission from the proper authority. We learn to do great things by doing little things and not by being disobedient. That's all for this time. Will write again before I come home. Yours forever and forever, Niels. Write soon dearest. Kiss Melba a few for me and accept the following from me.
xxxooxxxxxoox

Gefle, March 4th 1910

My Dear Wife Viola;

Tis six o'clock Friday morning. I have made a fire, washed my face, am all dressed, so I feel like a new man after a pleasant night's rest, and feel it both a duty and a pleasure to write you a few lines. I believe it is about a week since I received your last letter so I am looking for another any moment. I decided to write you without first getting one from you.

In your last letter you wrote that I should write to you often whether you returned the favor or not. Well dear wife I will endeavor to write to you once a week but if it happens that it runs a little over a week you must not feel bad and think that I have forgotten you, for sometimes there is something that prevents me from writing at the times when I have thought I should.

Say Sweetheart, it certainly would be nice to talk with you now for a while, and oh! how nice it would be to be in your presence. I hardly know how I would act but I almost think I would be apt to eat you up. Oh! dearest, it certainly will be real happiness when we meet again. I dare not think too about that pleasant time for fear I get homesick.

Yesterday while I was out canvassing I got into a little conversation with a woman who had a pretty little girl that was all full of smiles. I asked the mother how old the baby was and she informed me that she was ten months. In an instant my thoughts dashed over land and water to the valley of Utah where safely in her mother's care lives my baby girl and imagined that I could see sweet little Melba, as the baby which I was admiring and was looking at me with its pretty face all trimmed with smiles. The child cannot walk without aid, but by clinging to chairs and the sofa it could make its way around the room. Melba is soon nine months now so I suppose she is as full of life and vigor as the babe I have made reference to. Just think when I get home she will be at least one and a half years old and oh! what a sweet little topsy she will be. Think of the comfort she will be to the father and mother as they relate their last two year's experiences and draw out resolutions and plans for their future. What can be more happiness to a man than to know that he has a dear loving wife and the most beautiful charming daughter in the whole world.

I thank God for all this and I only hope that I can prove worthy of them so that when these few moments of corruption have elapsed that I may be worthy of a resurrection in the first morning and shall meet the wife that God has given me for all time and eternity. Oh! we will not live alone but sweet little Melba will probably be our nearest neighbor or probably be partaker of the same house as we. And oh! that we live such a life while here in this world of sin that we can gain strength enough to refrain from all evil temptation and thereby be worthy of an exaltation in our Father's house where we can have an endless posterity. Oh! if we could only realize what our destiny will be if we are faithful to the covenant and not idle our time away in degrading foolishness. Think of it as God is, we may become. How? By following the same laws as He has, through His different stages of eternity. Isn't it grand to know that these few moments that we should in this life of mortality will not be the last of our existence. Grand? Why we can't half realize how good our Maker is and what glorious plans He has for his children to follow that they may sometime obtain to the same glory as He at present is in. When I think of these things I become buried in pleasant thoughts and it causes me to thank God that I have been permitted to be born into this world and have a chance with my millions of brothers

and sisters to work out my own salvation. If we would only think of these things constantly I believe it will be much easier to reject all evil and to feel more satisfied with our condition and worldly riches. Intelligence is the Glory of God but we must by intelligence guide us through the proper channel.

Well dear Viola I pray our Heavenly Father to protect you and to give you courage that you may bravely fight the battles of this life and always feel consoled when you know that we are made one for all eternity. I am as every your loving Niels. xxxxxooxxx

Pleasant Grove, Mar. 8th 1910

Dear Brother:

Am ashamed to confess I have some unfinished letters which have been dated all along from 3 months ago until the present date. I don't know how it is but somehow I suppose fate has interfered but I don't intend to let this one be amongst the others if I have to cut it short and run all the way to the office to be sure it gets off.

After receiving such beautiful letters from you it makes me feel like five cents in scrip to think we have not sent you a letter in all these months. When you went away, it was our intention to write you often but there is an old saying that the road to h___ is paved with good intentions and if our intentions to write to you can be called good ones, I am afraid that we have paved a distressingly long distance toward that place.

[Letter from Lavina to Niels continued, next set.]

[Letter from Lavina to Niels Mar. 8th 1910, continued from last set.]

Well Niels, can say we have spent a good winter, although it has been a very long and cold one. There has not been much contagion in town and although the minor ailments are bad enough, we feel blessed that so little of the bad diseases has been prevalent in P.G. After all, P.G. is the best place on earth. "Didn't you think I knew," for I have lived here all my life? I understand we will soon have the pleasure of having Lawrence Monson's verdict on that.

Just think of it, Niels, one year and four months have gone since you left home! In one way it seems impossible that you have been gone so long and we take it from your letters that the time is flying fast for you also. That is good and that speaks for itself. It is a pleasure to read your letters. They have the right ring with them and I don't wonder that somebody feels proud of her baby boy in Sweden.

Must tell you that I was over to your place a few minutes ago and what should I find but a dear little lump of pink and white spooning with Viola. It can say pat-a-cake ever so cute now and just fairly laughs with her bright little eyes. It wears pink stocking and when it gets tired of watching the movements of those chubby little hands, it pulls away at these little pink stockings and then pat-a-cake and "goo goo" to make the picture complete. She has one lover already. Roy [Jens and Lavina's fourth child, three years old] has the manners of a Frenchman. He takes one of Melba's hands in both of his and of course he kneels to her as he kisses her hand. Neither can he resist the temptation of squeezing it.

Say Niels, a lady in Provo told me the other day that she thot I was no more than 20 years of age. Of course I felt quite flattered, but the more I think of it, the more it was due to the pretty dress Viola made for me. In a way I feel ashamed to mention anything about the dress because they turned other sewing away in order to do mine, and when it came to settling up, they refused to take a cent and somehow I felt like a postage stamp that had been licked about twice. However I appreciate it very much but felt that it was an imposition in as much as they turned away other sewing and put off their own.

Am going to talk about the weather now. The last few days it has been simply beautiful. The ground has been drying fast and people are putting in their grain. There have been about a dozen ask for the seeder today. Jens and Lou are plowing. It certainly seems good to be able to go out of doors without rubbers and to be able to get the mud out of the house without the assistance of horse and scraper. We have had some severe winds here and in one storm about three barns went over, according to one of the locals.

John Halliday gave Jens and I for the advocate Sunday night, Roylance and Co.'s packing house would have gone over had not A.K. Thornton and sons had a lean on it. He wondered if they knew of the coming winds and took that necessary precaution rather than pay up.

It is sundown now and soon time for Mutual so I must give this pen and your patience a rest for now and it is my good intention to try them both very soon again. Last night there were ten girls here to study the lesson so I feel that we are partly prepared and that seems good because for the past two months we have hardly known where we were at since

Luella practically dropped out of our association having moved into the second ward. She now says she will stay with us the remainder of the season. That sounds good to us.

The children have written you a number of letters and it is our fault that they have not gone off since our letters have not been ready when theirs were. I haven't the courage to apologize again for not writing oftener but Niels, rest assured that our thots are with you continually and our best wishes are in your behalf. May God bless you with health and strength and in the furtherance of the cause of Truth. With love, I remain, Your Sister, Lavina.

Provo, Utah, Mar. 11th 1910

Dear Bro:

It is a long time since I received your most welcome letter, I was very glad to hear from you. I have been thinking about writing to you for a long time but that is as far as I have got, it is a good thing for you that I am not the only one that writes to you, and of course I hear from you occasionally thro the folks.

Stena was down visiting with us for three days, she couldn't stay longer on account of Ernest, you know, he goes to school. Ma stayed with for ten days, don't you think she did well. We went and visited Mary Carlson Jacobs one afternoon and took coffee with her, then we visited Annie Tell one afternoon and Mrs. Shoemaker Nielson another. We had a good time at all the places. Then we took in the shows and one lecture, Ma seemed to enjoy herself.

We are having some very beautiful weather now the roads are all dry, that does seem such a treat, for we have had a long cold winter, the best winter we have had for years. John has started to haul brick for one new house, he took the third load up today, he just hauls one load a day, then works at the cellar till night. He says it will be quite a job to dig it because when he gets down about two feet it will be so gravelly.

Well Niels, by the time you get this letter you will have been gone for one and one half years, so time is going alright, but I guess it don't go quite so fast for you as it does for us at home. Take good care of yourself so you may keep well, and it won't be long till you can come home. You will have quite a girl when you get home, she is growing so nice and she is just as sweet as she can be, when you see her you will be proud as a peacock of her. It is over one month since I seen her, I don't go home as often as I used to. I have no news to tell you so will close, trusting all is well with you and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I remain your Loving Sis Carrie. Write soon.

Gefle, March 11th 1910

Dear Darling Wife;

It is now 11 a.m. and I have written a letter to Mrs. Brita Gustaveson and one to Mr. Jens Fugal so while I am in a humor to write I will write the third to you. Your welcome long looked for letter of Feb. 20th came to hand and the contents were read with great joy.

[Lots more Viola letters missing. Last one in the box was dated February 5th, and the next one in the box is March 14th.] I am glad you and babe are well and that you seem to be feeling OK. It is always nice to hear that everybody thinks Melba is so sweet and good, but it is no wonder when we stop to notice that her mother is also blessed with these attributes. They say, "by their fruits ye shall know them," so you see we can know what you are by the dear little child you have.

You say you are quite anxious for me to come home. Well I don't blame you at all for I also would like to be with you where we could have a fullness of joy, but wait just a little while and that happy time will come. Time goes very fast to me but I suppose it does not go so fast for you, for you are tied to one place and your life is more of a sameness thereby making it a little tiresome at times, while a missionary has many things to draw his attention making many contrasts and varieties in his experiences.

Today we are invited out to dinner with an old lady and gentleman who are very kind to the elders and who like us to call on them quite often. We have many friends here now and I am making more every day as I canvass the town. I find many people who will not even talk to me when they learn who I am but occasionally we greet someone who is seeking for truth, but it takes so much reasoning, persuading and preaching to convert them of the truth when they hear it. Our division is not vanished yet here in our congregation but I think we will soon have things in good shape again, but we may have to cause some of the members to leave the church if they don't repent from this ungodly slander and backbiting and finding fault with those who are in authority to set them right. I will certainly be glad when peace is restored for the work will seem to roll on much easier then and better results will be derived from our efforts for where there is no harmony the Spirit of God will not dwell and we cannot expect any progress. We have some nice warm investigators now and I believe they will be ripe for baptism when warm weather comes if we can keep them on the right track.

Now while I think of it I want to ask you again if Aunt Lettie ever received that letter I sent her. I have asked you before but you never answered me. Please also send me your father's address so I can write to him. I suppose he thinks I have forgotten my father-in-law but I haven't and I should like to send a Swedish letter to Aunt Hanner.

I understand you have had quite a severe winter so I suppose you will be glad to have the merry spring time make its appearance and set life into every living thing. We will have winter here for about two months yet but that makes no difference to us for we can accomplish our work just the same. It has been quite mild weather the last month and the snow is melting rapidly. We may have another young winter before spring opens up.

Well dearest I received a letter from Stena yesterday which was accompanied by five dollars from Mrs. Gustavson and five dollars from the Scandinavians amusement committee, so you see I have some friends and I feel thankful for them. I hope I may use the money to good advantage in promulgating the work of the Lord in this foreign country where the people need to be taught the gospel of Christ.

We will have conference May 7th and 8th so that time will soon be here and then I suppose there will be some changes made. I think I will be sent back to this place but I am not

sure. I would like just as well to work here as any other place in the mission but I am willing to go wherever they send me. Be good to yourself dear wife and make life as pleasant as possible. Kiss Melba a few for me and accept a dozen from your husband Nels. xxxxxxxxxx Write soon.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 14, 1910

My Dear Husband:

I guess it has been nearly a week since I wrote to you and so I take great pleasure in writing again. We are quite well. Melba is coughing a little again. It seems like she has a cold all the time. I hope that you are well and enjoying yourself. Well dear in about eight more months I will be waiting and watching for you to be released and in ten months I will be looking for you to come home.

I believe I told you about going to that Scandinavian dance and what a nice time we had. The Relief Society are going to have a dance Thursday night and maybe I will go to that too. A week ago Sun. I went to Sunday School and then to afternoon meeting and to Conjoint at night. Last Sunday I didn't go to Sunday School but I went to meeting. We had quite a good meeting. June Hayes was one of the speakers and I enjoyed his talk. Sant Walker was asking about you and he sends his best regards. I went up to your mother's after meeting and spent the afternoon and evening. They played the graphophone and we had a nice time. Ora Harvey and Arnold West are to be married right away. Well Nels the time is passing quickly and about the next thing we know you will be home again. It seems such a long time since you left that it is more like a dream than anything else that I ever knew you. I have heard that Lawrence Monson will soon be home.

I got a letter from Pa the other day. They are all well and he wishes to be remembered to you. I guess you get all the papers so you can read the news yourself. I guess Annie has sold her place and will buy her a home either here or in Provo this summer. Melba is as sweet as ever and is growing so fast she will soon be as big as her mother. I guess this is as long a letter as you care to read so will say goodbye. Write often and longer letters. Your loving Wife Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Mar. 16th 1910

Dear Bro. –

Received your very welcome letter a couple of days ago and was very pleased to hear from you and to note that all is well with you. We are all well and busy. The weather now is just lovely, the ground is dry all over and the farmers are busy putting in grain. Both seeders are extra busy. Yesterday the boys had a carload of machinery come in. Alvin Carlson and Lew were hauling freight all day, if they sell all they have bought they will do a rushing business. Ten movers, four binders, eight spring tooth harrows, a big lot of common plows and harrows, etc., etc. was in the car. It pays better to have it come in bulk but it makes them hard to catch when it does come. Chris told me this morning that the freight on the car was \$384.00 alone. At present there is a good prospect of a good

fruit crop and other crops too. But of course we must not count the chickens before they are hatched.

In my last letter I believe I told you that Lerina's baby was very sick, it is not much better yet. It has had a drainage tube in its side for ten days. The doctor thinks it might pull through.

Say Niels, I am making cake. Mother said just now, "Stena you better take the cake out of the pans," so I will have to quit for about five minutes. Well that job is done, don't you wish you could have some?

Ellen Nielson has just come over to card wool, we are going to make a quilt for Mrs. Gustaveson for her birthday. Mrs. Lim received your letter for her birthday, she seemed pleased to think that you could remember when it was. I notice in the Citizen that Alma Monson and Mart are missionary companions, it is strange that both of you should have the same companion. We are glad that you have a good companion, in fact I understand that you have two. I am glad to note that you are busy, it will be time for you to come home before you know it.

Viola and baby and Annie and her children were up to see us Sunday. They were all feeling fine. A week ago Ernest and I went to Provo to visit Carrie and John, we had a good time.

James T. Thorne of Idaho, Fay's father, died a couple of days ago, everybody in town are very much astonished. He was such an intelligent man. Everybody in town feels so sorry for him and his family. I don't know any news particularly only I am going down town this afternoon. We will send a check for you in this letter, it won't be as large as usual but will send more before long. Be sure and write in plenty time for money cause sometimes the boys are a little slow at sending. The boys are sending \$25.00 and mother \$5.00.

I have stopped writing three times since I started my letter so if you find it somewhat disconnected you will know why. Jens is busy plumbing, it takes lots of time to talk business. Business is business you know. I can hear the anvil ringing and mother's and Ellen's cards a humming, and the children laughing.

D. N. Adamson is arrested for selling booze so I will send a clipping out of the paper. He has not got his sentence yet. Will let you know next letter how it comes out. [Article very lengthy, states three local boys were picked up drunk with bottles of whiskey, confessed where obtained rather than go to jail (city recently voted in prohibition). Adamson owned and operated the Star Saloon at the head of Main Street (1901-1920), and was arrested. [Saloon, top right building in photo. In the row, left next is the Fire Station, The Baxter Building, and the Hawley House (hotel).] Paid his bail of \$250, arrested again with three more counts, adding up to \$1,000 bond, so he remained jailed. He wrote a letter to the city council asking, for the sum of \$200, to be released and he would in exchange not sell, barter nor give away any more liquor and would "take the paint of his windows." The mayor was incensed by this, calling it either an insult or a bribe, and offered his resignation rather than to consider it. The councilmen, Joseph E.

Thorne and John C. Nelson, were embarrassed claiming they thought it their duty to consider any petition. The mayor, A. E. Cooper, pointed out that in addition to the fact that Adamson had offered gold to the three drunks to perjure themselves, petitions from jailbirds were inappropriate.

Good article at <http://www.media.utah.edu/UHE/p/PROHIBITION.html>, locally voted in Utah 1909, went statewide in 1917, federal 1919-33.]

[Coming down the street in the photo, the buildings are: the bank, the pharmacy (became Review office), Mason's Clothing Store (Vilace Radmall's, Allie's younger brother), Clark Hall set back (City Hall), unknown (torn down re City Hall), Clark Brothers Store (the IGA).]

Be good to yourself Niels and write soon. You have been good to write in the past and I know you will be in the future. The folks send their love to you. From your Sis. Stena. P.S. Since I wrote my letter Lerina's baby has died. They are all broke up about it.

Gefle, March 18th 1910

My Dear Darling Wife:

Once more I will be so kind as to do you the honor as to write you a few lines. The weeks pass quite rapidly and I know you like a letter from your man every week, so I take pleasure in trying to satisfy your desires even if I don't receive a letter from you every week.

It is a beautiful Friday morning with the welcome sun adding to the charms of the sky. There is a slight breeze setting the myriads of atmospheric atoms into motion causing the branches of the trees to bow and sway as if they were beckoning to each other. The barren places of the ground have just enough frost in them to make it pleasant walking without getting mud on our rubbers. The atmosphere is very mild and so inviting that it is a great temptation for us to go out and take a morning walk. But I won't find time to go off this forenoon as I am going to press my clothes as soon as I have written this letter.

We are invited this afternoon to visit an old lady who is 72 years old today. She is one of our investigators and the mother to one of our saints. She wishes us to drink chocolate with her today and talk with her so we accepted her invitation with pleasure.

Tomorrow we are invited out for dinner and then at 1:37 p.m. I am going to take the train to a place called Lörstrand which is about 150 miles north from Gefle. We have a nice family of saints there and they would like to have us visit them. Bro. Beckstrom will meet me there and we are going to try to hold some meetings. Elders Woodard and Benson are out of money so they cannot go with, so I wrote to Beckstrom and told him to meet me there if possible and I just received a card from him stating that he would be at Lörstrand Sunday. It will seem nice to get out and preach to a strange congregation for a change. Here in Gefle I have to talk every Sunday and it is difficult to get new talking material each time. We have new investigators every time so it makes it quite encouraging. We are not orators nor great preachers but still it seems as though the



1910s Pleasant Grove

saints never tire of hearing us talk. Some of the members say they would not miss a meeting for anything so you can tell they are quite interested. Our people at home don't realize the great opportunities they have at home and they don't value the good talks that they could hear each Sunday if they would only go to meeting where they belong.

[Mart Christiansen spoke at Niels' funeral in December of 1958, and said: "We were called on a mission together.... We didn't work together in the same conference but we kept in close touch with one another.... I contacted some people who knew him who came down to Stockholm. I said, 'Do you know Brother Fugal?' 'Oh yes,' one girl said, 'You should hear him preach the gospel. He don't stand back of the pulpit, he goes right down in the aisles and he preaches to them on both sides when he preaches the gospel.' ...I visited him and I saw an example of his preaching. That's exactly what he did. He started out, but before he got through he was right down in the aisles talking to the people on both sides and I was wondering why he didn't convert the whole neighborhood."]

In Utah we have some of the best speakers in the world for the simple reasons that they are inspired by the Holy Spirit to say those things which are for the benefit of the saints. There is nothing more nourishing to me than to read the splendid discourses which are found in the Desert News and oh! how much more influence would they not have upon me if I could be present in the great Mormon Tabernacle and hear the words as they fall from the lips of those inspired men. Oh! if the people could only awake from their deep sleep and take a birds-eye-view of the great work which God is causing to be accomplished among his people in this day and age of the world. Think of the many great opportunities that we are allowing to slip through our fingers without as much as seeing what blessings they would be to us if we would but take advantage of them when we know that we cannot be saved faster than we gain knowledge. I think it is high time for people to awake and become acquainted with those principles which are essential for our salvation.

Excuse me dear wife for writing you such a long letter but you know what the heart is full of the mouth speaketh and I can't help but write about these things which look so plain to me. I wish I were with you so we could talk about these glorious things which make life a real joy when we sense them. Oh! dearest I am glad we are married and that we were married the proper way so we will always be one and can go through not only this life together but through all time and eternity. I hope I may be worthy of you at all times and that I will have strength to resist the appearance of evil whenever I come in contact with it. At present my heart is swelled with pure love and I never felt better in my life.

May my feelings and thoughts inspire yours to be in harmony so that we may both exercise pure joy and happiness. Remember me in your prayers dear wife. I remain yours forever Niels. Kiss Melba for her papa. xxxxxooox

Pleasant Grove City, Utah, March 27 1910

[Written on Pleasant Grove City letterhead, which notes: Mayor, A. E. Cooper; Councilmen W. R. Frampton, J. C. Nelson, J. E. Thorne, Alex Thornton, E. F. Wadley; Jos. Hilton, Recorder; Helen Carson, Treasurer; D. M. Smith, Marshal; Mons Monson, Justice of the Peace; Thos. Larson, Watermaster; D. M. Smith, Sup. Streets; F. S.

Humphries, Sexton; S. F. Walker, Poundkeeper; J. P. Fugal, Sup. Waterworks]

Dear Brother:

Your letter of the 11 inst. came today, and we were glad to hear from you once more and to note that you are fairly well. I say fairly well because you do not seem to be so healthy as you have been, perhaps you worry more than one man ought to. If you do, cut it out, as nothing is gained by worrying. I know it is easier to say not to do it than it is to not do it: be that as it may, take care of yourself and don't worry much about the Swedes over there. It is often very unpleasant and no matter what one does he cannot suit everybody.

The Sunday schools were held conjointly today when a good Easter program was given. The tabernacle was full except the choir seats. Stake priesthood meeting was held here this p.m. at 2:30 but I did not go as John and Carrie was over.

By the time they left and milking was over I would be late for sacrament meeting which is held evenings the day we have priesthood meeting and just before doing chores Clarence Hilton and Everet West brought each a load of goods from S. L. Howel Co. which I helped unload. We have two loads more to be brought, one from Utah Imp. Co. and one from Murray. Our car of machinery came about two weeks ago but we did not have enough spring tooth harrows. We only get ten, and have sold 15, and the load from Utah Imp. Co. is more harrows. Our car of buggies will be here in about – well when they get here – but they were shipped on the 20th so 10 more days ought to bring them. The season opened up early so we are a little behind with our buggies as we have some competition. Ringbone Thomas, the lime burner – used to be – the wonderful farmer and a cuss to preach is selling Studebaker's line. We sold out last year and have good hopes for this year.

It is rainy weather now so I don't know just how soon we will be through sowing. We have plowed about 2-1/2 acres of Mrs. Odoe's lucerne, up and planted wheat 3 a. in the old field and are getting 5 acres ready for oats on the 10 a. field and we are going to plant one acre of barley. We got the 2nd contract for this precinct for 6 acres of beets so you see we believe in growing them. I told you in my last letter that the potatoes were almost a failure and it matters not much as Roylance is offering 40¢ bu. at S. Lake City. I have had Swen Nelson, he's helping me 4 days. Alvin Carlson has helped about a week and will likely help me another so I can catch up a little.

This is a duck's mixture of a letter but no doubt you will like it better than none at all. Will try to write more before long, and in closing I wish to impress upon you the necessity of taking care of yourself. With kindest love I am your brother J. P. Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 27h 1910

Dear Bro:

It was with no small degree of pleasure that we rec'd and read another of your ever-welcome letters. Just a few minutes before Chris handed it to me, your mother had asked if we had received a letter from you recently. I could only answer in the negative, saying

with a guilty conscience that we deserved none. Carrie too looked somewhat guilty. By the way, it is Easter Sunday and a very nice time we have had. Carrie and John were over and Viola and her little sweetheart came up this afternoon. The day was not extra warm, yet not so bad that we could be out of doors if we wished. This morning we attended Sunday School and as you will notice in the Citizen, the three wards met together where an excellent program was rendered. The auditorium was full. I just discovered that Jens has told you all I have written, which by the way isn't much.

Your mind picture your dear old P.G. as it looks now with the opening up of spring is very pretty and surprisingly accurate. The apricots have been in full bloom for a week and peach blossoms are just ready to burst forth into the bright sunshine and as you say, the bees are busy gathering nectar from the various blossoms. Our lawns are beautifully green and I don't think that Rheumatics et al would mind a nice stroll out amid the cheat grass. I have pansies, violets and daffodils in bloom and some of the trees are putting forth their leaves. That little crab apple tree by the fireplace over to your home is a picture of verdure. What we are afraid of now is Frost, but we must not cross the bridge until we get to it. During our warm spell a couple of weeks ago, the thermometer reached 86° in the shade and a couple of nights ago it neared the freezing point. The workings of the elements are certainly wonderful.

Well Niels, I will say so long for now. Please excuse such an empty letter. With love and best wishes from all, I Remain Your Sister Lavina.

Be good to Niels. 'Tis well to work and work hard but not too hard.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 27, 1910

Dear Bro. Nels:

I hope you haven't quite forgotten us yet and so that you won't I am sending you these few lines. Viola says you have moved since we heard from you last. I hope it isn't quite so cold where you are now.

Viola and little Melba are going up to Salt Lake with us tomorrow to spend a few weeks. We would like awfully well to have you visit with us but I guess you almost wish that yourself now don't you. You ought to see your little girl, she is the sweetest little darling. We have a sweet little boy now too. Melba would make about two of him. Maybe Viola has told you we are living on a ten acre farm out in Sugar House Ward and I am raising chickens and geese so when you come home and begin farming you can get a start. Write to us and let us know how you are. From Esther, Ike, and Verdell, 2627 South 11th East, Sugar House Station, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Gefle, March 28th, 1910

My Dear Loving Viola;

Yesterday was a very beautiful Easter day and this morning everything is quite pleasant, even if there is a heavy mist of clouds hanging low in the sky. Yesterday as the sun's

bright rays beamed down into the city, giving life to everything and causing the blood to almost boil in my veins, I had a longing for something that I had experienced in the years of my childhood. It caused me to think of the times that I used to join my playmates on Easter Sundays and with a good supply of painted eggs we would ascend the gray hills lying east of P.G. and after wandering for hours we would select some choice place by the source of a creek, or on the green grass on the bank of a clear brook, that was making its way down the rocks and dodging the green pines and husky oaks, finally mingling with a larger stream, which was determined to soon reach the open valley below. There we would make ourselves comfortable while cracking eggs and feasting on them and our other goodies, as we would tell stories and view the beautiful scenery where we anticipated leaving our footprints in that same afternoon. Yes dearest these thoughts came to my mind and then I would think of you and wonder if you were spending a pleasant Easter with sweet little Melba.

But it would not do for me to allow myself to become lost in the thoughts of the past for I was now in Sweden on a mission, supposed to carry a message of great importance to the inhabitants of this northern region, and what was more pressing, in a few hours I would be expected to preach to a couple dozen pairs of ears and eyes that would be assembled in our little hall to hear some more about our glorious doctrines. So notwithstanding the thousands of miles that my mind was traveling, I was very quiet and calm, not even once going out upon the street or sidewalk, but I stood in the open door inhaling the fresh atmosphere that was made comfortable to be in, who was inviting Jack Frost to come out of the frozen lumps of snow and ice and meet him in fair play on the battlegrounds of nature.

[Letter from Niels to Viola, continued, next set.]

[Letter continued from last, set, from Niels to Viola, March 28, 1910.]

Finally the time came that the small hand of the clock was on the V and with one accord strains of sweet music came from the thoraxes of the people assembled as they sang one of the beautiful hymns of Zion. A prayer of thankfulness and protection was offered by one of the members, after which another hymn that was full of thought was sang and we all felt to rejoice on that beautiful "Easter" Sabbath day, as our minds were centered on our merciful Savior, who broke the bonds of death and appeared to his disciples eighteen hundred seventy seven years ago. The humble speakers of the day spoke as they were directed by the Holy Influence that was present, and when the closing hymn was sung everyone felt like singing to make manifest their feelings. The meeting came to a close by the prayer of an elder after which a general hand-shaking took place and one by one left the room with a "pleasant good night" and a "thank you." One new investigator had a desire to converse and ask questions about some points that were not clear to him, so he was kindly invited to remain after the rest had dispersed and a two hour conversation ensued, which was the means of making us better friends, if not fully united in our ideas. The gentleman left us with good feelings and a desire to come again which pleased the elders.

In summing up the whole matter and dividing by two, which is the more pleasant after all? The childhood days on the hills or the present life of a missionary? Oh! the childhood days were very pleasant and are the times that we become wrapped up in nature but they are only the means of preparing us for maturity, when we can receive pure joy by being leaders and teachers of the true principles of life. I love my present condition for I know if I am faithful I can perform a labor that will crown my future with joy and will prove a favor to my family.

Must say that I met with excellent success while at Lörstrand last week. Bro. Beckstrom met with me and we held two meetings that were well attended by intelligent people and after services we sold many books, two of them being Books of Mormon. We were heartily invited to come back at any time. The kindness shown us by the family of saints fills our hearts with joy and inspire us to diligence.

Excuse me dear wife for not writing sooner for I was taken up with very important business that isn't at all pleasant and that caused me to be in such a state of mind that I could not write. We will pursue our line of trouble again today, by visiting a member that has asked to be released from our church. It will be a happy day when peace is restored. I am every your loving husband. Niels Fugal. Write soon. xxxxxxooxx

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 30th 1910

Dearest Brother –

It is with pleasure that I endeavor to scratch off a line to you once more. I thought I would wait and write until we heard from you again, but nevertheless I feel like going ahead and perform my duties. My letters to you have not been so prompt of late, as they should be. A week passes before you know it, and I know a letter to you is always welcome as one from you is.

We are all well and trying to be busy. I believe I stated in my last letter that the boys had received a carload of machinery and are anxiously awaiting a car of buggies or part of a car, I think they said thirty jobs. So you can see that they will have something to do to get them all sold and then something more to do to get the money for what they sell.

Lew is still working here, he has been sorting potatoes for a couple of days, it was so stormy that he could not do much else. Today has been lovely, the sun has been shining nice and warm and today I appreciate the sun so I could do my washing out of doors. Lew is finishing trimming the raspberries. The apricots are out in bloom and have been for a week, the trees are also commencing to leaf out. If we keep on having nice weather it won't be long until the orchard will look like a flower garden. The lawn is nice and green, just lovely now to play on.

Last Sunday John and Carrie, Jens and Lavina, and your little wife were here. You know it was Easter, it rained Sat. and Saturday night, so we would not let the children go on the hills to eat their eggs, so they took their eggs and lunch and went to the top of the lot and clum upon the top of the old threshing machine to eat. You can bet they had a nice time. Even Glen Roy was there to.

Last night the MIA for the young men discontinued for the season. The Young Ladies will hold forth for some time yet. The 3rd ward is not to the foot in any of the organizations but there is always room for improvement. Anyone needs to be a little busy to keep up with the times.

Ally and Perlinda have moved up in Willie Stagg's house, they have rented it for the summer. Ally will be a papa before very long. Willie Stagg and his wife live in Salt Lake City, he has a job in there with his team. Henry got married last week, he lives in Mammoth. Lawrence Monson is on the road home, they expect him home on the 5th of April. I understand that he made a mash while in Sweden. I don't know whether it is true or not, if it is he has changed since he left here. He was so bashful, he did not dare say anything only Yes mum. Last Friday was Mrs. Gustaveson's birthday, mother and I did not go out as mother was not feeling very well. We are going out to see her tomorrow, we have made a nice quilt for her. She has not been to see us since last summer and then we went after her and brought her back. This week Aydelotte is having a sale, he is selling everything in his store, most everything is damaged by the smoke and water. Davy Adamson got fined \$300.00 for selling booze and had to give \$1000.00 bond. I haven't heard of any sprees for a week or two, so perhaps he is somewhat frightened.

Say Niels, your daughter is sweeter than ever. She can walk in a walking chair and will be able to say dad before long. You must take good care of yourself Niels and not work too hard. You must not expect to convert many, you do much good if you don't convert any, and there will be wayward Swedes after you have finished your mission and there always will be.

I have started to weave carpet. I am only going to make four pieces. I am too lazy to weave every day.

Your brother Chris is staying with his last mash, Miss Richardson, he was down to see her last Sunday night and stayed till half past twelve, so I guess they are all right yet. For a while I didn't know but he would be sending for a Swede if you could find one suitable. She is a nice girl but perhaps a little young for him. I will try to get him to put the wedding? off until you come home. [This is Delilah, the young woman he does marry, but not for more than another year ... but we're getting ahead of the story.]

You stated in your letter to Jens that you had lost your surplus flesh, we did not like to hear that as you looked just fine in your picture. Mother told me to tell you that she wants you to eat three big meals every day. You must not be too economical, it doesn't pay. And you must not worry, and not study too hard. I think myself if you follow her instructions you will be benefited thereby.

Ernest is getting ready for bed, he is on the go from morning till night and he is growing like a weed. If he keeps on growing he will be as big as a ten year old when you come back.

I notice that my letter is getting lengthy and there is not much in it either so I will close hoping to hear from you in the near future and hoping also that you are feeling fine. I am as ever Your Sis. Stena.

The folks send their love. Mother enclosed a dollar in this letter.

P.S. Pete Carlson has bought the Alldredge home, he paid \$1300.00 for it. The boys thought some of buying it for you but they thought it wasn't worth that much. The plaster is falling off the walls and it would have to be remodeled right away. They thought it would be better to put that money in a new house.

Provo, Utah, Mar. 31st 1910

My Dear Bro.

Again I take pleasure in writing you a few lines. I don't write to you very often, but I think of you just the same. It is a long time since I heard from you, I hope you are well and enjoying yourself. I imagine I can see you walking along the streets with your book case well filled with books, visiting your friends and some that are not friends, looking like a real president.

The weather is just fine and the roads are good, we have our garden in, peas, onion, carrots, beets and lettuce, and we have a small piece left for potatoes. The soil is very rich here, it looks almost like oat soil so we expect to have quite a nice garden. John has gone on the Bench, he brought the last load of face brick up that we will need for our new house. Next week he is going to start to haul adobes, it will take twice as many of them, because our walls are to be three feet thick. Don Clayton is helping him dig the cellar, that is quite a job, he struck the hard pan two and one half feet from surface.

Last Sunday we spent Easter over to Ma's, we had a good time. Viola and baby was there, they were both well, baby is doing just fine. Mother has been sick but she was

better. Erval went fishing last night after school, he caught about fifty suckers, so you can tell they are quite thick, he says he is going again tonight. Both the children are doing fine in school.

Well Dear bro. I don't know of any more to tell you. News is scarce. So will close hoping you will take good care of yourself so you may keep well as health is the main thing, and wishing you success in all your labors, I remain Your sister Carrie.

I was going to send you a dollar for an Easter dinner but I didn't get at it so will send it now and you can have Easter dinner when it gets there. How do you like Gefle by now? Are the people good to you or are they not nice to you. Ha. Ha. John says I must helsen you so good and that you must be good to Niels.

Salt Lake City, Utah, April 3, 1910

Dear Nels:

It is just a week today since I wrote to you last so I guess you are ready for another. I came in here Tues. in the wagon with Esther and Ike. We left home about nine o'clock and didn't get here till ten o'clock. We almost froze to death and got stuck twice. It was muddy and the roads were quite bad. It is Conference in here now and Pa and Annie came in to Conference this morning. We weren't expecting to see Pa so you see it was quite a pleasant surprise. Annie said that John and Carrie came up this morning on the morning train but I guess I won't get to see them. Stena isn't coming because your mother isn't very well. I don't know how long I will stay in here. Esther wants me to stay all summer but I don't think I shall. Joe is living out to Garfield and I guess I will have to go and see them awhile before I go back. Lawrence Monson is home but his folks are quarantined in with diphtheria so I guess he hasn't been home yet. I guess I will go to Conference tomorrow if it is a good day. It has been snowing all day today so we haven't been any place today. Melba has quite a bad cold, it seems like she has a cold all the time. I don't know what to do for her. I wish you were home, it seems like you have been gone about ten years now and it will seem ten more years before you get back. I am sick and tired of staying around without any place that I can call home. I do hope they don't keep you any longer than two years. I think that is long enough and especially for you. I wish they had sent you home instead of Lawrence Monson but I guess he is glad to get home too. I do wish we had some kind of a home but I don't suppose it will do me any good to wish that. I don't expect to have one for sometime and maybe never.

Do you remember Isabel Smith? Her mother is dead and she left nine children and Isabel is the oldest. Well Melba is crying so I will have to close so goodbye, write soon, Viola.

American Fork, Utah, April 10, 1910

Dear Cousin

It is with great pleasure I answer your letter. We were all glad to hear from you. We are all well and hope this few lines will find you the same. We are now having pleasant weather and the trees are all blooming and the crops growing fine. I expect all this kind

of work is off your mind and much more pleasant ones on it, for from your letter I see you are enjoying the work you have been called to do, and no doubt it is of more needed for there are still many which have not heard the gospel and but for our gospel would be left in the dark. Hoping you will have a good influence among your people together with good health. I will bring my letter to close hoping you will not be so long in answer as before. We all send our best wishes too. From Your Cousin, Ben. Carlson.

American Fork, Utah, April 11, 1910

Dear Nephew

I received your welcum letter and ve was glad to hear from you and was glad to hear that you are feeling well and I hope this lines will find you still feeling well and I am pleased to say that we are all well at present. We have had a good deal of sickness this winter but thank the Lord ve are all well now.

Well I don't know any news to tell you so I will close for this time and I ask the Lord to Bless and Prosper you in your Labor and Protect you from all harm that you may be able to fulfill your mission in honor and Return home in Safety is the Prayer and wish of your Brother. All the folks sends their best regards to you. Please accept the little bill you will find enclosed. I remain yours truly, J. J. Carlson. [John Jacob Carlson, younger brother of Hannah.]

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 13th, 1910

Dear Brother –

Your long looked for and extra welcome letter came to hand a couple of days ago, and contents were noted with pleasure. Glad to note that you are busy, then we know that you have the spirit of your mission but at the same time you must not work too hard. You must leave something for someone else to do. Well Niels, it is one and a half years since you left your old home and to look at it one way it has passed very rapidly and to look at it another it is a long time since we saw your dear red face. Nevertheless we will appreciate it that much more when we do see it.

I suppose you are a regular Swede now and I imagine that I can see you on a Sunday just more than pounding the pulpit (and perhaps swinging your arms as you used to when you gave us Hogan's speech). We were pleased to note also that you had taken a trip out in the country, it always strengthens the saints testimonies to have the missionaries call on them and hold meeting, and it does you good at the same time. Glad you are laboring in a good branch, one can do more good laboring in a good branch than in a poor one, it is more pleasure too. Being as you were sent to Luleå first you appreciate it now to be in a good branch.

Say kid, aren't you glad you are married so it won't do the girls any good to make goo-goo eyes at you. By the way, Lawrence Monson has returned home and he is sporting a young lady from Sweden, folks say he brought her with him. There are two young ladies, I have not met them yet nor Lawrence either. Mons Monsons have been quarantined in

for diphtheria. The flag was removed Monday so I suppose Bro. Lawrence will be out to meeting next Sunday and give us a sermon.

Stella Sundberg Thorne had a baby boy born to her about three months ago, it was burned last Sunday. I feel so sorry for her. Lawrence Monson has been staying to Sundbergs as his folks were quarantined in and that is the reason he could not go to church last Sunday.

I stated in my last letter that Crimeny would soon be a papa and he was papa the day after I wrote. A big fat girl born on 1st of April. Perlinda and baby are doing fine. Ally says, to me when I went up to see them, "Crimeny, I got so much chloroform that I have been awful sick too. Crimeny, I had such a headache for two days I couldn't do a thing." I don't believe he is very busy, he has not been doing much since he came home from the sheep herd about Feb. 1st.

Mother and I went out to see Mrs. Gustaveson about a week after her birthday, she was very pleased to see us and she had received your letter and card. I tell you she was pleased to hear from you, and that part of your letter about the cows and mother Brita particularly tickled her. She has three cows yet and she seems well pleased with her farmers, her place looks nice. She does not get around quite so spry as she used to but she can do her own work OK.

Chris Christiansen (Fisher) is going on a mission to Denmark, he leaves Salt Lake tomorrow. Saturday night the Scandinavians gave him a party in the basement of the meetinghouse. Three were not many out (it is a busy time) but we had a good time, played games and had picnic. He seemed to enjoy it very much, then Sunday night the missionary committee got up a programme for him in the church. The meetinghouse was filled and the programme was very good. They had Chris Fisher make a little speal and among other things that he said, he said he never felt better in all his life than at the present, and that he considered it a great honor to have so many turn out to a social for him. He told Bishop Olpin not to have any doing for him because even if they did no one would turn out anyway, so he was certainly honored. He did not want anyone to donate as he said he had plenty means to pay his own way. He has changed wonderful in the last year or two.

Last night the MIA had a dance in the Apollo at American Fork, there was a large turnout, there were quite a few from P.G., Jens, Lavina and I went from our family. Jens has gone to Salt Lake today and is coming back tonight.

The carload of buggies came in last week, the shed is somewhat full now. They have sold two buggies, one to Mark Richens and the other Harry Hogan. They have opposition in the form of Bro. Thomas so they will not sell so many as they otherwise would. They have hopes of selling them and I certainly hope they can. They have sold quite a number of implements this spring.

Lew is still working here, he is down the field marking off the oats. They have their crops in now, that is the grain, and the beets are being planted today. I understand that they are planting six acres of beets this year. They have five acres of oats planted. They are farming for Aunt Margaret, the crops on her place are sowed and commencing to

come up. [Uncle Christian Fugal died 1895. Aunt Margaret died (in Idaho, living then with son Jim) in 1915.]

Viola and baby are to Salt Lake City visiting with Esther as I suppose you already know, it seems sort of lonesome just to think that they are not in town. The baby is so cute, she gets sweeter all the time.

Mother is cutting carpet rags and Ernest is mowing the lawn, so you see we are busy. I suppose Chris is talking buggy, he is out in the shop.

All the trees are out in bloom, they look beautiful and the air is filled with their perfume. The wind has been blowing a little all day so everything will be dry as cork. We have not started to irrigate yet but will have to if this weather keeps on. John, Carrie and Chris went to conference two days, they had a good time if they only stayed two days.

Mother says to tell you she is going to have a cup of buttermilk and some bread and honey with it. I wish you could have some too. We keep just what milk we need and Lavina gets the rest, she makes butter, so far she can make enough to supply her family and us too where if we divided the milk equally neither one of us could make butter.

I realize that my letter is somewhat rambling and perhaps not very interesting but I know you have plenty time to read it even if you are not sitting on a feather cushion. The Odeon stock paid a premium of \$12.00 and 17 shares of stock this year, isn't that splendid? It has never done so well. We will send you a draft with this letter for twenty dollars. We will send your \$12.00 and I will send you five this time and mother three. You must write and let us know when you need more dough, you have not said you were out of money yet but we thought we would send you some anyway being as we had it so handy. Chris says he will try and write you a line this time so I will close trusting this finds you feeling fine. I am as ever your longwinded Sister, Stena. Excuse me for writing with lead pencil, I was too lazy to write with ink. Lavina says to tell you hello.

Dear Bro. Neils,

I am filling out this space to let you know I am still alive. I am getting ready to make some smudges in the lot tonight, it feels like it is going to freeze, we don't want the fruit froze if we can help it. We have started to sell buggies, we have sold 2 and prospects for more sales. Studebaker outfit are selling a quite a few, old Ringbone Thomas the lime burner is selling them, but we will try to hold our own. If we do as well as we did last year we will do fine but we can't always tell. I am pretty busy in the shop and Jens is busy plumbing so we are not idle. The beets are planted today and we just finished sowing oats, so we are getting along pretty well with our field work. The season is looking fine so far. I haven't felt very good the last 2 days but that is nothing new. I hope you are well and getting along fine, don't worry. From your Bro. Chris.

Provo, Utah, April 20th, 1910

My Dear Brother

It is such a long time since I heard from you. I would very much like to know how you are getting along by now. I hope you are well and enjoying yourself. This letter leaves us all well. We went to Salt Lake to attend the last conference, we attended three meetings, don't you think we did well? We enjoyed the speaking very much. We went with Ora Galli and Hyrum Shelton to the courthouse to witness their marriage. So you see she married her old beau after all. Annie and Joe were both very much against it, but he might turn out to be a good husband. I guess you heard that Pearl Galli got married last December to Joe Street. So Annie [her sister-in-law] has two children married already.

We will live at Provo, I like it real well here, but sometimes I wish it was nearer P.G. so I could run home when I feel like it. You know that used to be quite often. The folks hasn't been down for a long time, they weren't even down on my birthday. That was the first time that I didn't have visitors on my birthday, so I celebrated by doing my washing.

I saw Lawrence Monson the first of the month, he was feeling fine, but he is quite thin. I asked him how you were when he saw you last, he said you were feeling fine and that you were doing some very good work. When I saw him it made me wish that your time was out and that you had got home, but if they don't keep you more than two years you will soon be with us again. Take good care of yourself so you may keep well, then all will be OK.

We attended quarterly conference here in Provo last Sunday. I don't think I ever attended a more interesting meeting before. One man talked about what a great work the missionaries were doing, that they needed more men to go out in the world. I just wish you could have heard what he said, it would have made you feel so good because you are doing just what he said is such a great and glorious work, not only spending your time but also your means, leaving your loved ones at home, for the benefit of mankind. This is all for this time. Trusting all is well with you, and hoping you may receive every blessing that you are in need of. I remain Your Sister Carrie.

Gefle, April 20, 1910

My Dear Wife;

With pleasure I will once more endeavor to write you a few lines, being as you say you are anxious to receive my letters and that they hardly come often enough. I haven't received one since you told me you were going to S. L. City but I surmise you went and I hope you had a pleasant time. Probably you haven't come back to P.G. yet, but I suppose you will receive my letter anyway. It certainly would be nice to have taken the trip with you but perhaps there are good time coming, at least we will hope there are, and try hard to make our wishes come to fulfillment in the sweet by and by. While you were riding to S.L.C. in the wagon, did it call to mind recollections of the time you made a return trip with me on the potato wagon? I'll bet it did, and I almost feel that you were wishing I were with you this time also. Say dearest, I have a longing in my heart for the privilege of accompanying you in a buggy and taking a ride out in the north field and on Provo Bench to renew my memories of the few rides we have taken before. I haven't been in a buggy since I left home and I don't suppose I will have the privilege until I return home again, for they don't use buggies very much in this country; they use dump carts instead

and they go jolting along in the same manner as old Sal Trait. In many respects it will seem like arriving in a new world when I get back home for they are about fifty years behind times here in things, but I will miss the large boats and the harbor when I get back to the Great Basin where it is difficult to find enough water to sail a duck on. Spring has opened up now and the boats both large and small are busy gliding over the blue water for the purpose of traffic. There are small boats that make regular trips to the different towns that are connected by water. It is a very beautiful picture to view the boats at night when the bright gas lights cast beautiful reflections upon the waving water, and the small boats passing under the various bridges that cross the Gefle river.

At present darkness covers the landscape at about 8:30 p.m. but the days are increasing in length and it won't be very long before we will enjoy perpetual daylight for a while. There is a very beautiful park in this city lying on the banks of the river, and the trees are commencing to bud out now and the grass trying to hide the ground with its pretty green dress, and it will soon become very inviting and no doubt we will find ourselves occasionally sitting on a bench under a tall bushy tree; and as we listen to the music of the rustling leaves and the running water, we will content ourselves by reading a good book or engaging in counsel as to how to plan our work that we may establish love and unity and cause the proper spirit to be in our presence so success will crown our efforts encouragingly. After such a long winter and short gloomy days it is with pleasure that we welcome the Merry Spring Time with all its many blessings and beauties of nature.

We will soon leave for conference and then I suppose there will be some changes made. I think Bro. Woodard will be released to go home being as he has been here about thirty months, but I hardly think I will secure a released "yet," dearest, so don't look for your husband this coming 4th of July. I have an idea that I will be fortunate to come back to this place again and engage in the good work, but I do hope that contention and division which has existed during the winter will thaw out and run down to "hell" where it belongs, when the radiant sun fills the atmosphere with warm rays, which ought to give life and happiness to all.

Pleased to receive your father's letter, I shall write him in the near future and give an account of myself. Aunt Hanner shall also be favored with a few lines written in the Swedish language.

We have been busy today covering our sofa with new cloth. I tell you she looks swell now. I wish you could see it. We have things fixed up quite neat now and we are not ashamed to permit anyone to come into our apartment. We anticipate performing a couple of baptisms before conference as Mrs. and Mrs. Johansson have applied for baptism. The future looks quite bright but we never know when the sky will be hid by a large black cloud so I will do no boasting, trusting that the hand of God may direct all things. As ever your loving Nels. Write soon. xxxxxxxoo

Gefle, April 29, 1910

My Dear Wife;

I received a letter from you're a few minutes after I sent you my last one and now I

received another today so I deem it a duty and a pleasure to sit down and write you a few lines. The letter you sent me a week ago or rather the one I received a week ago was not so very encouraging but I will excuse you for all you said that wasn't just right because I realize you wasn't feeling so very good after that awful trip you had through the mud. [Last letter from Viola in the box dated April 2nd; next letter dated dated May 15th.]

I wish I could be with you occasionally to console you for I realize that a letter doesn't have the weight that the person in reality would. It is a blessing that brighter moments appear when we feel a little downhearted and feel as though all is going wrong. You may have been unlucky when you married me, but I hope you don't think so dearest. I am no wealthy man but I am a healthy man and I think the Lord will bless me with health and strength so I will be able to provide for my family. Prospects are not so very bright at present but I hope I may prove worthy of a better opinion than that one you expressed in the letter I received a week ago. It is true that you are homeless at present but it is not my intentions that you remain so forever. However, I shall not make any boasts of what I am going to do in the future for I know not what the future has in store for me. Your last letter was full of cheerfulness and I note that you are enjoying yourself first rate although I know that it isn't your disposition to be wandering about and never settled down to business. I note by your letters that you are anxious for the time to come that we will be settled down to business and I don't blame you at all for it is the nature of people to become located and independent.

[Letter from Niels to Viola continued, next set.]

[Letter dated April 29, 1910 continued, from Niels to Viola.]

I surmise you attended conference regularly being as you had the opportunity and I wish I could have been present and listen to the good sermons that were delivered. It would be a great inspiration to enter that great Mormon tabernacle and give ear to the glorious discourses that are so plentiful in that part of the Lord's vineyard.

I was very pleased to note that you took a trip up in the canyon with Esther and Ike, but I am disappointed to learn that the trip was taken on the Sabbath, for I have learned that the Sabbath is a day of rest and not a day of recreation and excursions. Now my dear wife, don't think I am wicked or radical or trying to find fault with you and your actions for I am not. I realize that during the week people are busy working for a livelihood and therefore turn the Lord's Day into a day of pleasure instead of Divine worship which it has been set apart for. Remember the Sabbath dear wife and try to keep it holy by attending meeting which is a great rest for the mind and which develops us spiritually making us better men and women and placing us more in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

I can see where I have erred in the past and I wish to try to encourage others to profit by my experience. Life is full of desires and regrets. We desire to accomplish much and become more perfect, but as years roll on we regret that we didn't make use of the time which God has given us to prepare ourselves for perfection.

I suppose it was a great pleasure for you to see your father again for it was quite a while that you were parted, and I suppose he thought it was nice to call on you and see your dear little daughter and also Esther's son. Many thanks for sending me the photo of Esther's baby. He's quite a boy. Say dearest I can't give you much advice about when you should wean Melba, but I don't think it would hurt to let her keep the breasts until next fall if you are in good health. You are the boss in that matter.

We baptized five converts last Wednesday evening and also confirmed them members of the church. We feel good about our success and are willing to work all the more to convince others to take that necessary step. I received a letter from Pres. Beckstrom this morning (Friday April 29) and he wishes me to be in Sundsvall next Monday so I can be with them and practice some songs for conference which will be held May 7 and 8. Brother Benson and I will leave here Sunday eve at 7 o'clock by way of rail and Bro. Woodard will stay here until Friday noon. I expect to be sent back here to Gefle and fight out to a finish the disunion that is still existing. Bro. Woodard has been in Sweden thirty months but still he desires to stay until fall and make it three years. I would like to be his companion this summer for I think we are united in our efforts and ideas. With love and best regards. Your loving husband Niels. Kiss dear little Melba for me. Write soon.
xxxooxx

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 30, 1910

Written on "**FUGAL BROTHERS**" stationery
"DEALERS IN
Farm Implements, Buggies, Wagons, Ranges, Stoves, Hardware, Etc.
Harness, Pipe, Plumbing and Supplies, Electrical Supplies, Paints and Oils"

Dear Brother Neils.

I now have found time to write you a few lines to let you know that I will write to you some time. I got your welcome letter a quite while ago. I think it was a good letter. I am glad you are getting along fine for it don't matter what anyone does if they don't make a success of it don't amount to much. It is Sunday morning now and it is raining a little for the first time for a long time, it hasn't amounted to much yet. I tell you if we don't get rain some it will be a hard proposition for the grain and beets. So we can see how dependent upon the All Mighty for all the blessings we receive. It seems to be a peculiar year so far, still it might pan out all right yet. It is all right to have more than one string to pull. Of course the farm don't pay any more than what it takes to pay hired help. The plumbing and blacksmithing get pretty good as there is always something to do. Jens had been quite busy putting a water line from the settling tank to Swen Anderson, Sjoberg, Brickyard, then along the old canal to Thos. Larson and the ditch place and Ben Adams has built on the same line so there will be 6 or 7 takers on the line and that will cut off 2 culinary streams. So P.G. is improving a little all the time.

We are doing a pretty good business everything considered. We have sold quite few plows and spring tooth harrows, we have sold 12 buggies since we got our buggies in on the 8th and some good prospects. We have took 5 old buggies on them but we have done all right at that. We can sell the old buggies. We cleared them out pretty good last fall. We sold the first one to Mark Richins, one to Harry Hogan, 2 to Wadleys, 1 to Adolph Warnick, 1 to Fred Shoell, 1 to Helga Swenson, 1 to Jarvis Hilton's son-in-law, 1 to Neils Hansen, 1 to J. H. Wright, 1 to Henson Heiselt.

You see we have a nice letterhead and we have billheads and statements. Something we have needed very much for a long time.

I have been to meeting and am now trying to finish this letter. Is is fast meeting today and I tell you the meeting was not very large. There could easily have been more. We are going to have conjoint tonight, the 3 wards and Lindon and Manila are joining together for a program. I think it will be a success. Lawrence Monson has given us a couple 5 minute speeches. He is a good speaker but he don't seem to be very longwinded.

Someone scattered some acid on the leatherwork of Studebaker's rigs, damaging them considerable and the same source visited us by cutting one tug of a single harness and by placing a short candle at back of our shed of buggies amongst some papers and crates. The candle had been lit but fortunately for us it had been blown out by a draft, we think. We don't know from what source it came nor for what purpose or for what object they had in view. We only had \$750 insurance so we got \$750 more. Perhaps it was only a scare, we hope so. We haven't any enemies that we know of. We have a hydrant by the shop making a good fire protection in case of fire and also giving people a chance to get a drink.

P.G. is about the same as usual only we are having another drugstore and 1 more [?] store.

I am without a girl again. I think I shall see Miss Mayer or some other miss. So I guess I won't get married this week.

While I am writing to you I am reminded I owe Cousin Lettie a letter. She wrote me a nice letter in Mar. I must write to her or she will go back on me. I will now bring this confab to a close with best wishes to you and hoping you are well and enjoying yourself. I am as ever your Bro. Chris.

Sundsvall, May 6th, 1910

Dear Viola:

As you see by the heading I am now at headquarters of the conference. After an all night's ride Sunday, Bro. Benson and myself arrived in this city Monday morning. Pres. Beckstrom was at the depot to meet us and we were escorted to the home of the elders here at Östermahn 33. Monday evening we had the pleasure of attending their MIA meeting which I don't think is a bit better than ours at Gefle and in fact not so good, however it was interesting and all seemed to take an active part. Of course I was on the program and had to sing a song with Pres. Beckstrom. Both Monday and Tuesday I took a walk with Pres. Beckstrom and he was indeed eager to hear the report which I gave of conditions in Gefle. I certainly had a great deal of experience to relate to him and then I never revealed a thing of it. He seemed to be in favor of letting Bro. Woodard and I go back to Gefle but of course it isn't decided yet nor won't be until Sunday. Then we will all know where we will be called to labor and we will have to take our medicine whether we like it or not. I would sooner be sent back to Gefle for I would like to fight it through even if it isn't so pleasant always.

We have been practicing singing so I think we will be able to entertain the people with some nice songs. We had choir practice Wednesday evening and Thursday evening. It is Friday today and tomorrow evening will be our first meeting. Don't you wish you could be present and hear our great sermons. We have an hundred and fifty posters that will be pasted up today and tomorrow and it will be advertised in one of the papers this evening. Pres. Beckstrom, Bro. Hansen and myself have just come home from a visit to three different newspaper offices where we met with success in only one of them. It seems as though the people won't give us a fair share. They write all kinds of lies about us but they won't allow us to give them an answer, and what is worse they are so narrow contracted that they won't even take in a little announcement advertising our meetings. We are thankful that one firm had the kindness to favor us but we would like to have placed it in at least two of them so it could have a wide circulation.

Bro. Woodard and probably two of the saints from Gefle will be in on the train tonight at 11:55 so I will go down to the depot to meet them. Two or three saints and friends will be in from Härnösand tomorrow night and probably some will be in from the country so we anticipate having a very good conference. If I am sent back to Gefle I intend to stop off at Lörstrand where I was about six months ago and there hold a meeting at the home of Bro. Strandh. Bro. Strandh is here now and one of his daughters is coming tomorrow night. I hope Bro. Woodard is sent back to Gefle and that I have a chance to go with him.

The mailman just came in and the elders are all anxious to get some mail. I am numbered with those who received none. The Deseret News came so I will try to content myself by reading it after I finish this letter.

Well dear Viola I hope you are well and are enjoying yourself no matter where you may be. I don't know where you are now but I suppose you are either with Esther or Joe. I hope the time seems to pass as fast for you as it does for me, for then I know all is OK. I don't know how many more conferences I will have the pleasure of attending before I get my [release] but I suppose it will be about two. I hope I will be able to take a nice May walk with you next year. Pres. Beckstrom has been here two years now and I don't think there will be any show for him to go to his dear wife until next fall. He seems to be enjoying his labors and is in no particular hurry to go home. It is nice to meet the elders again and it is a pleasure to hear them relate some of their experiences. There are three here that I had never seen before.

Well dear wife I will give you a synopsis of our conference in my next letter and reveal to you where my destination will be. Good bless you dear wife and take good care of yourself and my sweet little daughter. I am as ever your loving husband Niels. Write soon. Best regards from Pres. Beckstrom.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 6th 1910

Dear Bro:

Received your very welcome letter yesterday and we were truly pleased to hear from you. Glad you are enjoying good health. Chris wrote you a letter a couple of days ago and sent it without a line from me so I received a letter yesterday and thought I must take the time to answer it tonight. I would have written a page in Chris' letter but I have been very busy this week. We have been cleaning house. Frank Humphries and son came up Monday and repapered both rooms so you can have an idea what a mess we have been in. Peter Larson (Ker) white washed the back rooms.

Viola and baby are back from Salt Lake City, they stayed a month, we missed them very much, it seemed an age since we had seen them. Melba looks fine, she is quite a young lady now. She will be able to say "hello dad" when she sees you alright.

When I stop to think about it, it is a long time since I last wrote. We sent you a draft of \$20 in it. I hope you have received it by now. I did not think you would have enough money to take you to conference. I will see that the boys send you some more money before long. They are quite fussy with business. "Business is business," you know. They have sold quite a few buggies but they have a full shed yet. They expect to sell many more. Lew is still working here and Jens has been quite busy plumbing so he has had Alvin Carlson helping him. Potatoes are way out of sight this spring in price. Roylance pays 25 cents for a hundred pounds. So you see we can well afford to eat potatoes. Breakfast bacon is 35 cents per pound, beef 15¢ and 17-1/2 per pound when we buy it. So you see times are progressive.

Lawrence Monson has made a little speech since he came home, he only had about five

minutes so he could not go into details, perhaps he will have the privilege of speaking next Sunday. We had a surprise on him last Friday night, we had a pretty good time. School has closed now. Ernest got promoted, he is so glad, he will be in the 1st grade next year. The other children got promoted too. They had a time today for the school children at the Lake but we did not go. I haven't learned how they came out. I received a letter from Mayfield, they are all feeling fine. Hannah is better but she isn't strong yet. Aunt is raising chickens, she says she has sixty and many more hens setting.

We are glad you have a good partner and hope you will get another good companion when he is released. You stated that he had been in Sweden for over two years when he became your companion so I expect he is anxious to return to his home.

Hyrum Carlson is a papa again, they have a little son. Ally has gone to herd sheep again. Perlinda is feeling fine. Clara Albean was buried today, she has been living with Ruby all spring, she came back to P.G. last Sunday night and died Wednesday morning. Since her mother died last fall she has merely existed. There was a large turnout at the funeral. John Albean was not there, he has not provided for Clara for a long time. He has been in the state prison for three months for failing to provide, he has been out of jail a month. He wanted to get a divorce but now he doesn't need one. It is a blessing she has found relief because there was no pleasure in this life for her.

Last time I wrote you the trees were full of blossoms but now they are all gone and are full of leaves. She is quite shady now in the shade. Most of our fruit is frozen but we will have a little. Bishop Walker and Fred Smith will have a large crop of peaches so if we do not have enough we will know where to go. The children have mowed the lawn today, it looks quite nice.

Chris doesn't take that girl now, he has not been to see her for four weeks, it is all off with her now. Of course they are friends but that is all. She is only seventeen years old so it is all right. We are not very anxious for Chris to get married, we like to have someone to boss.

The last piece of carpet that we are going to weave this spring is in the loom. We have not done much but I have earned fourteen dollars and you can't earn that much very quick doing anything else. Mother is lots better than she was, she has the rheumatism some yet but she gets around quite a bit. She is baking buns today. I did not finish my letter last night, I got too sleepy.

Chris and Ed Olpin were around to get donations for the meetinghouse, they are anxious to finish it this summer. I hope they can. We will need to build some more as soon as that one gets finished. Write soon and excuse this rambling letter. Ernest says to thank you for the card you sent him, it is very pretty. Lovingly Yours, Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., May 15, 1910

My Dear Husband

It has been a long time since I wrote to you but you mustn't think that I am forgetting you.

I don't know why I haven't written before but I guess I was just too lazy. I had a good time while I was in Salt Lake. I stayed five weeks and they wanted me to stay longer but Annie had quite a bit of sewing so I had to come back and get to work for I needed some more money. It seems like there is always something I have to buy. If it isn't shoes for Melba it's shoes for me or stockings or something else. It takes \$1.25 to get Melba a pair of shoes now so you see we won't have any spare money to buy candy with when you come home like you used to. It will take it all to buy shoes. Melba has had five pairs of shoes already but I think what she has now will last her all summer. Esther and Ike brought me home in the wagon so that trip didn't cost me anything.

I guess you heard that Clara Albean is dead. Alvin Carlson's wife has another baby boy. They have two boys now. You remember their first one was born just before you left home so it isn't two years old yet. That is having them quite close together isn't it dearest. I guess you have heard that May and Hyrum Carlson has a baby boy. Mrs. Gustaveson was here yesterday. Stena brought her. She brought two dresses and a waist for us to make her. I was going up to your mother's today but it is so windy I don't know whether to go or not.

Well Nels in five more months it will be two years since you left, and then I will start looking for you to come home. Do you think you will be released so you can get home before Xmas? I do hope so and I think you ought to be. I don't think they ought to keep you any longer than two years. If you only knew how I long for the time to come when you will be home and we will live together and I can do things as I please and won't have someone bossing me around all the time. We won't live up to your mother's when you come home, will we dearest? Please say that we won't because it's different now to what it was when we lived there before. We have got our baby now and we won't want to live with anybody. Besides I think I have lived with someone else long enough, don't you Nels? It seems to me that you have changed an awful lot since you left home. When I read your letters and think of how you used to talk and act it don't seem like you are the same as you used to be. I wish I could talk to you a little while then I could tell.

I was up to your mother's last Sunday afternoon and Jens took his family out for a buggy ride. I felt so blue that I thot I would give anything if you was here to take me someplace but if I ever do get anyplace I have to walk and carry a kid or be the horse myself and push the buggy. I have just been sick for a buggy ride all spring but of course I couldn't have one. Don't think that I am blaming you or anyone else but I think you had better come home before I apostatize. I am getting pretty discouraged and I will have to do something before long.

You said in one of your letters that you haven't been in a buggy since you left home so when you come back we will make up for lost time, won't we dear? I haven't got a letter from you for over a week and it seems about a month. They always say that the last year goes so much faster than the first but I can't see it that way, it seems to me lots longer. To look ahead the next five months seems an eternity. Won't you be glad when you get your release and start home. Sometimes I think you don't want to come home. You never act a bit homesick in any of your letters and never say you would like to [water damage] and you always say the time goes too fast and to me it seems like every month is an age. Well dearest I guess you are tired of this so I will close for this time. Forgive me

for writing this kind of a letter but I just have to say it to someone and why not you. As ever, your loving wife.

[Had I known she got to feeling this badly, this long, I might have thought twice about typing these letters. Yet perhaps it can be a positive thought, to think that she was this discouraged yet obviously eventually weathered it, and was the maternal influence for so much good that followed in her posterity. So perhaps we too can have hope that our own trials or those of loved ones can be weathered as well.]

Dear Brother

It has been a long time since I heard from you, we are all well and hope you are enjoying good health. "Papa, why didn't you answer my letter that Aunt Annie helped me write last winter, if you don't answer this I will not write again to you, from your daughter, Melba." [Written by Annie; Melba wouldn't have been old enough to have even dictated it. The purported first letter must have been in one of the missing (to us) Viola ones.]

I couldn't finish until I let Melba write, she has been so mad that she wouldn't write before but I believe if you will answer this letter she will forgive you. Well, hoping to hear from you soon and that this great misunderstanding between yourself and daughter be quietly settled and peace in the family reign for ever after, from your sister Annie.

Postscript by Viola: Annie held Melba's hand while she wrote to you. Annie was quite mad because you didn't ans. the other letter she helped Melba write to you. [Melba is less than one year old at the time of this second letter.]

Gefle, May 19, 1910

My Dear Wife.

It is a long time since I wrote to you but it isn't as long as it is since I received your last letter. It is three weeks since I received your last one.

We had a pleasant and satisfactory conference. Saturday evening we held our first meeting which was quite well attended. Sunday at 11 o'clock we held our second session with a good attendance. It s here that the officers of the church were sustained and we elders were assigned to our various fields of labor. Pres. Beckstrom was called to preside over the Sundsvall conference and Sundsvall Branch, with elders Hyrum Hansen and Amos Nielson as helpers. Bro. Woodard was appointed to preside over the Gefle Branch with Elders Niels Fugal and John I. Benson as helpers. Bro. Gustave Oleson with Gustave Larson as helper was appointed to work in Östersund Branch. Bro. Ernest Johnsson with Willford Mortenson was chosen to preside over the Härnösand Branch. The Luleå Branch received no elders but perhaps will in the near future. We were all appointed to our former fields of labor excepting Bro. Conrad Wall who was called to labor in the Norrköping conference (the conference where Bro. Christiansen is laboring).

Sunday evening we held our largest meeting and it was here that Bro. Fugal was given a chance to preach. Monday the following day, we held priesthood meeting which lasted

for four hours. Here we all had a chance to express ourselves and the good testimonies that were given and the spirit which was present caused us all to rejoice and all hearts were touched, causing the cheeks to become moistened by the tears that could not be prevented from leaving the eyes. Everything seemed to be in harmony and the good instructions which were given us by our worthy presidents seemed to have their weight causing us all to feel encouraged and thankful that we were in the mission field as servants of the Lord. In the evening of the same day a nice feast was given us by the kind saints of Sundsvall and a program was rendered which gave life to everyone present. Tuesday was pleasantly spent by conversing with the elders and saints. Two of the Gefle sisters were with us at conference and they seemed well paid for their trip.

On Wednesday morning the Gefle elders in company with the two Gefle saints took the train to Lörstrand (the same place where Bro. Beckstrom and I were about two months ago). We came here with the intention of holding meetings, which we did. The owner of the house where Bro. Strandh lives had forbidden Bro. Strandh to allow us to hold public meeting in his home, so the first evening we held a private meeting which was visited by three besides the Strandh family. The people in Lörstrand wanted to hear the Mormon elders preach so another man offered to let us use his house to hold a meeting in, which we gladly accepted and on the following evening which was Thursday we had the pleasure of preaching to about forty-five people. Elder Lewis Jensen who is released to go home joined us at Lörstrand the same day so he was also present at this meeting. Duty called one of our saints to Gefle so she left us Thursday morning on the same train that Elder Jensen arrived on. Friday Elder Benson left for Gefle but in conformity with the good wishes of the saints and friends at Lörstrand we remained, i.e., Bro. Woodard, Bro. Jensen, Sister Johansson and myself remained at Lörstrand for the purpose of holding more meetings and conversing with the people who seemed very anxious to have us stay. We held no meeting Friday night but instead attended one of their temperance meetings which was in session that evening. Bro. Jensen left for Gefle Saturday, being as he was anxious to visit that place before going south. Our friend let us use his house again Saturday evening and we held another good meeting which was attended by about fifteen eager listeners. At the close of meeting, we announced that we would hold an open air meeting at a stated place and wished all to be present. Our desires were granted and at 3 p.m. the following day which was the day of Pentecost, we opened our meeting with a song which filled the woods with echoes of charming music that caused over a hundred people to gather on the green grass and listen to the Mormon elders. It is certainly remarkable how attentive they were and interested they seemed in the principles which we tried to make clear to them. We tried to follow the example of Peter, when he preached to the 3000 people on that great day of Pentecost. It reminded me somewhat of the sermon on the mount, for we were gathered on a hill and the people sat on the ground with no small degree of interest. The good sisters helped us a great deal for they are good singers and they play the guitars and zither in accompaniment. At the close of meeting we told the people to come forward and accept our tracts free, and buy our small books for 10 öre a piece. They responded to the invitation and we sold quite a number of books.

On Monday ten of us comfortably seated ourselves in two row boats and rowed about two miles to an island where after Bro. Woodard offered up a prayer of thanksgiving and asking our Heavenly Father to bless and purify the water, I led four candidates down into the water and baptized them for the remission of their sins. A jolly little company we

were as we again placed ourselves in the boats and made our way over the glossy waves singing and playing the instruments, causing the sweet strains of music to play on the surface of the waters and being carried to shore, the sounds no doubt pleased the ear of some person who perchance may have been making his way along the lonely road which lies between Lörstrand and Karsjö.

After being landed safely on the shore we soon made our way to Strandh's house where we engaged in a saints meeting that I shall never forget. The Holy Spirit was with us in a rich abundance and seemed to work on everyone present. The four who had been immersed in water were now confirmed members of the Church of Christ, and the four children of the man and woman who now had made a covenant with their Heavenly Father received blessings upon their heads by the humble servants of the Lord. One of Bro. Strandh's daughters received baptism and after she was confirmed she could not bear her testimony for her heart was touched and she could not speak. I have never felt a better spirit than was present in this meeting. We certainly feel fine and encouraged after our success in Lörstrand. We expect to go back soon for the people are anxious for us to come. We left Lörstrand Thursday and in the evening the Gefle saints welcomed us back with a nice social here at the office. Who would not like to be an elder in the mission field?

God bless you dear wife, that you may have health and strength and courage to face your lot. Be good my dear little Melba. As ever your Loving Niels. xxxoo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 23rd 1910

Dear Brother –

I have been trying every day to write for the last week and haven't got at it. I received your welcome letter about a week ago and it was read with pleasure, we are always glad to hear from you. We were glad that you are enjoying good health and that you are going to conference. I expect you are back to Gefle before this. Aren't you glad that you had your first year in Luleå so the last part of your mission can be the best.

Your companion Bro. Woodard certainly has lots of faith to express a desire to remain longer after spending thirty months. He can do lots of good now and it makes it more pleasant for you when you have a good congenial partner. I would like very much to step in your hall some Sunday and hear the sermon you preach and also see you pound the pulpit. You certainly ought to be encouraged to have the privilege of baptizing so many converts. You know there are some elders that spend two years and more in the mission field without having the honor of converting one soul.

Viola brought your picture up to show us the other day, it is just fine, you look quite sporty with your white vest and gold ring. I am glad you are married or I am afraid some pretty little Swedish maid would try to get away with you. Viola and your daughter went to meeting Sunday and came up to see us after meeting. The little miss is quite handsome, she gets cuter all the time. It won't be long until she can talk and walk and she dances now. Chris played the phonograph and she just more than stepped to the music.

The county graduates held their commencement exercises in Pl. Grove on the 17th inst. There were about nine hundred graduates and visitors present. J. D. Thorne prepared dinner for part of them and the Relief Society officers of the 2nd and 3rd wards prepared for 350 in the basement of the meetinghouse. The dinner was delicious, I had the pleasure of helping to wait on the table. Saturday evening the eight grade and high school gave an entertainment, it was splendid. There was something a doing about all week.

All the crops are planted now, the potatoes were planted on the 15th and the beans have commenced to come up. Everything is looking fine but a rain would not be so bad. We have not had a good rain for a long time. The dry farms will not produce much this year. We wrote you sometime ago that the fruit crop was almost destroyed by frost. I think we will have more fruit than we thought we would. I noticed some apricots on the tree by the woodpile. We will have a good crop of pie cherries. The boys have sold quite a number of buggies although they have a large supply on hand yet and they have bought more from Provo. I believe that I stated in my last letter that potatoes were 12-1/2 cents a bushel and you can hardly get rid of them for that. Lew Nielson has taken a load in to Salt Lake, he hasn't come back yet, he hauls them on percentage. We have not many but eighty or ninety bushels are too many to leave in the cellar to rot. He said he thought he could get 35 or 40 cents in Salt Lake if peddled.

[Letter from Stena to Niels, continued next set.]



1910 Niels Fugal and Scriptures

[Letter continued from Stena to Niels, May 23, 1910.]

The boys sold Old Bess the other day to Mr. Knight that lives on this side of American Fork. She will have a good home, but we will miss her, she was the one we drove the buggy. Mack is alright but he works nearly all the time. Kate is a nice animal but we dare not drive her, "she goes like a streak, don't you think I knew." Four horses was really more than they needed so we will be content to have a buggy ride once in awhile. They received \$90.00 for Bess.

Chris is busy working in the shop. The anvil is more than ringing right now. He is setting and fitting tires today. The boys have sold six of their old buggies that they took on the new ones. Armitage is up in the shade of the old apple trees painting old rigs. Your buggy, the surrey, that old wagon buggy and a couple more. The boys believe in being good to the help. Armitage will have a job the biggest part of the summer, he uses his spare time and he believes in short hours. Jens is busy with plumbing, Alvin Carlson still helps him. He has two jobs that he hasn't started yet.

Mother is knitting a pair of stockings for me for next winter so that will keep her employed for some time, they are about two and a half feet long. Mother has the rheumatism some yet, but she gets around pretty well.

Ernest bought a pair of rabbits today of Glen Jacobson, he is so tickled for them, he has fed them a half a dozen times already. Every few minutes he comes and asks me, "Don't you think I better feed my rabbits a little more clover?" He is lying on the floor asleep now dreaming of his rabbits. It is the first time he has slept in the daytime all spring. It is hot today, it is enough to make anyone sleepy.

Last night there was an eclipse of the moon. Did you see it? The moon went totally dark. Have you seen Haley's Comet? We can see it now every night, it looks just about the same as a star only a little larger and dimmer and a dim streak of light for the tail I suppose. Some say the comet has lost its tail. There isn't any of us that has lost any sleep or worried over it.

Well Nielcy, you will find a draft of fifty dollars in this letter. The boys have not been very swift in sending it, but hope you will have got along alright until you receive this. It is my fault as I have been so slow in writing. Be good to yourself. The folks sends their love. Your Sister Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., May 24, 1910

My Dear Husband

I have been trying to find time to write to you ever since I got the letter with your picture but today I just stopped working to write to you. I thank you very much for the picture, it is just as sweet as can be. I think it looks more like you did when you were here. Every time I look at it I feel like I would just like to get hold of you and hug you as hard as I can. You are lots thinner than you were so you must have been working too hard or worrying too much and you must not do either. You look so dignified though I can't

hardly believe it is the same Nels that left home about one year and a half ago.

In your last letter you said you was in Sundsvall but conference hadn't started. I hope you enjoyed the conference and was sent back to Gefle with Bro. Woodard being as you wanted to go so bad.

Yes I was in Salt Lake during conference but I only attended one meeting. You see Esther lives a long way from the Tabernacle and it is quite tiresome to carry a big baby around. The day we went I was just give out when we got home. Melba weighs 22 pounds and then when she has to see everything she is not so easy to carry. Then one day of conference it was snowing and I couldn't take the baby out. I went to meeting here last Sunday. It was Mothers and Daughters meeting and Dr. Kelley from Am. Fork spoke to us. He is a fine speaker and I enjoyed it very much but I didn't get to stay until it was out. Melba got so restless that I had to take her out so I went up to your mother's and spent the rest of the day.

We are quite busy sewing now. We are making a dress for Lavina now and she wants it for the fourth of June as she is going to MIA conference in Salt Lake. I started to write this letter yesterday but Stena came down and so I didn't finish it. Your mother sent five dollars down to me and Stena gave me a dollar because they said they want me to have a new dress. Stena, Lavina and Annie have one and so they think I ought to have one too. I wish they would quit giving me so much money, I hate to take it but I don't know what to do. Can you tell me dear?

You said in your last letter that you thought you would be home to take a May walk with me next year. Don't you think you will be home before that Nels? Just think another whole year. I know I can't live that much longer without you. I don't think it is right if they keep you that long Nels because we need you at home lots worse than you are needed over there. I do hope that you can come home for Xmas. Just think Nels it would just be seven months until I would see you again. If I once get you back I'll never let you leave me again. Would you like to stay till spring or would you sooner come home this fall. If they ask you please do tell them you want to come this fall.

Melba cried so I had to take her on my lap. She is sitting here so nice watching me write and I guess she is wondering what I am doing. She will soon be walking now, she goes all around by chairs and things but she can't stand alone yet. She has two teeth now. Just think Nels by the time you get this letter your little daughter will be one year old. Wouldn't you like to see her though. Just think how it would be if I had never seen her. Oh she is sweet, Nels, it would jut tickle you to death to see her dance. You can tell she is a Fugal alright, she likes to dance so well.

Annie is going to Spanish Fork Saturday for Decoration day and I guess I will go up to your mother's. I guess you are tired of reading this so will close. Write often and longer letters. Melba sends a kiss to papa. Goodbye for this time, your loving Viola.

Gefle, May 28th, 1910

My Dear Wife;

Once more I take time and pleasure in writing you a letter. I like to write to you about every week when I can, even if I don't receive one from you that often. I might state here that it is just four weeks ago yesterday since I received your last letter and I am commencing to wonder what is the matter. I received a letter from Stena a few days ago and she says you have come back from Salt Lake City. I hope you enjoyed yourself while there and that the present finds you in perfect health and happiness, enjoying the cool mountain breezes of Pleasant Grove.

In my letter to you I gave an account of our trip to conference and the rich time we enjoyed while we were at Lörstrand. I would like to write a little more about the same subject and that is concerning a visit to the leprosy hospital which Bro. Woodard and I had the pleasure of taking. There is only one leprosy hospital in Sweden and that one is in a town called Järfös about five miles from Lörstrand. Bro. Woodard and I filled our book sacks with tracts and small books and also one Book of Mormon and after arriving at the hospital and getting permission of the head nurse we entered the various rooms where the afflicted people were and talked to them and gave them freely of our literature. There are forty-two who have this awful disease and to see what affect the disease has upon the poor souls is certainly a sight that causes a healthy person to appreciate his good health. Many of them are blind caused by the disease decaying and eating up the eyes. We saw one lady that had been there for thirty years and her nose and ears were completely gone and her fingers and toes were nearly all gone. She could hear us talk and she would also talk to us but she could not see but a very little. There were many who were in about the same condition as she but they had not been afflicted so long a time. I spoke to a man who was blind and had an artificial leg, and when he told me that he had been there about one and a half years, I thought to myself that is just the same length of time that I have been from my home but thank the Lord it is a mission I am serving and not a confinement to a leprosy hospital. Some of the patients can go about and do a little work but they know they will die sooner or later and never get well from that awful disease. The disease is not contagious but it is caused by impure blood and people inherit the disease. We presented the head nurse a Book of Mormon and told her to let the people read it which she promised to do. We feel well paid for our trip there and hope that our literature will console those who read it that they may rest assured that the time will come when they will have bodies that are free from disease and they won't have to be penned up in a leprosy hospital.

May 30th 1910. Dear wife, I never finished my letter Saturday because before I finished it I went to the depot to meet Pres. Beckstrom and Elder Ernest Johnsson who has just come from Sundsvall. Elder Johnsson is released and is on his way home but will remain in Gefle until tomorrow when he takes the train to Stockholm. Pres. Beckstrom is here paying us a visit and he intends to remain here about ten days. Yesterday he and Elder Johnsson did the preaching so we Gefle elders had the pleasure of listening for once. While Pres. Beckstrom is with us we intend to go off to a town by name of Sandviken and there do some canvassing and try to hold meetings. While Beckstrom and I were partners we went to this same place and were treated kindly and invited back so we all four are going to try our luck for a few days. We leave here tomorrow.

If I don't receive a letter from you today I won't get any until I come back, making it five

weeks since I received your last, but I will rest contented and hope you are well and also dear little Melba. I hope the summer will seem to pass quickly for you so you won't think your husband is too slow in coming home. I suppose you have good warm days in Utah now and from now on it will be pleasant to sit in the shade. I hope you attend your meetings as much as possible, for I know if you will do so, you will acquire an interest in the same, and you will feel more contented, and learn to know the purpose of your existence, and the rules to follow to become perfect, that you may someday become as your Mother in heaven (i.e., your Heavenly Mother). Will now draw to a close with best love and kind wishes hoping to hear from you in the near future, I remain, Niels Fugal.
xxxxooxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 2, 1910

My Darling Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I again take time to write to you. I have been looking for a letter from you for a week but it hasn't come yet and it is two weeks since I got your last. But then I guess I haven't any room to talk because I don't write to you as often as I should but you know you get so many letters it doesn't make so much difference to you whether you get my letters or not. Annie went to Spanish Fork for Decoration Day and I went up to your mother's. I had a very nice time up there and they just about eat Melba up she is so cute now. I wish you could see her. She walks all over by chairs and things but she can't go alone yet.

I went to meeting last Sunday. It was Primary conference and I enjoyed it very much. I saw Alma Christiansen Sunday and he got your address and said he was going to write to you. I saw Lawrence Monson but didn't speak to him. He wears his Prince Albert coat. Joe Walker has gone to Salt Lake to get married. It has been so hot here the last three or four days that we almost melt. Your mother gave me five dollars the other day. Annie is already to go to town now so will have to close, will write you a longer letter next time. Your loving wife. Annie says to tell you hello.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 12, 1910

Dear Bro,

Nearly a week has passed since we received your very welcome letter and contents were noted with pleasure. We are glad that you enjoyed conference and were sent to your old field of labor. No doubt the president thought that would be the best place for you. We were a little surprised that they did not release your companion, Bro. Woodard, being as he had been there so long. It is very nice for you to have a good companion and of course it is nice for him too if he feels like he can stay. He has had experience now so he can accomplish much good. We are glad to learn that the people are being converted to the truth of the gospel as it makes you feel like you are doing some good. A mission is a fine thing for the people and also for the missionary. You gain knowledge that you cannot gain elsewhere. I hope you will pardon me for writing with a lead pencil because I am in a mood to scribble and do not want to bother with ink.

Last Saturday June 4th Lavina and Ernest and I went to Salt Lake City to attend the MIA annual conference, the meetings were well attended and we enjoyed them very much. Lavina came home the same day but Ernest and I stayed until Monday night. Ernest had not seen his grandma Clayton since she moved to the city. The folks were all getting along nicely except Lillie, she is at the LDS Hospital, she underwent a very serious operation about two weeks ago, she is getting along as well as can be expected. Mrs. Clayton does not enjoy the best of health and worry makes her worse. Mr. Clayton works at a soda plant in the city and on his place between times.

Last Wednesday night my Sunday school class had a surprise on me at Lavina's. There were about twenty five. I was certainly surprised, I can tell you. We had a nice time. Wednesday morning Bro. Hilton fell twenty five feet from off a barn that his building for Bishop Walker. He was sitting on a board and reached up to nail another board when the one he was sitting on gave way and he fell over backwards, striking his back and shoulder on the hard ground. He was unconscious for nearly an hour. He is very bruised and sore but no bones are broken. I was up to see him last night. His neck pains him very badly, he thinks he will be able to get up in a week or so. I feel so sorry for Ethel too.

Today I have been to Sunday school and union meeting at American Fork. Our S.S. are doing fairly well for the short time it has been organized. Tuesday will be our mother's birthday and tomorrow I will have to get myself busy making cakes, pies and other goodies to prepare for the event.

Say kid, your baby is sweeter than ever. She can say "how do you do" and bow her head so nice as anybody. She can say "ta-ta" and "no-no" and "colla colla." I guess 'colla colla' stands for Colla Anderson, it is too cute for anything the way she says it. I thought a while ago she looked like you but she does not now as she is too handsome for that (Eh?). Annie and Viola were up this evening, they are feeling fine.

The Scandinavians are going to celebrate on the 24th of June. Perlinda has been practicing some little girls to wind the May pole. She is feeling fine. Ally has gone to the sheep herd and the little miss is fine too. Viola, mother and I went over to see Uncle Jacob Friday afternoon. Your cousins are getting so large you would hardly know them. Oh yes, you would, you could tell them among a thousand.

Rulan Lim is working here now and Lew also. They have their beets thinned now and it will soon be time to mow hay, they have cut a little already for the sake of feed. The boys are still selling implements and buggies once in a while but still have a lot on hand yet and I expect they will have always as they have bought ten buggies since they received that carload. Everything looks dandy, cherries are ripe, the roses are out in bloom, and the grass is green even if we haven't had a rain for two months. Be good to yourself Niels and write to your Sis Stena.

Mother sends her love. We received your photo OK, it is just fine, you look like a minister alright especially with your bible opened. Thank you very much for same. What have you done with your superfluous flesh? It is now Monday morning, mother is getting ready to go to the depot to meet Ellen from Sandy, she is coming to celebrate mother's birthday, and I want to send my epistle with her. Chris was going to write you this time

but he is so busy, the anvil is more than singing this morning. He said to tell you hello and that he would write you a line next time. Yours, Stena. Excuse scribbling.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 15, 1910

My Dear Nels:

I just rec'd your long looked for letter and was very glad to hear from you again. You said it had been four weeks since you had heard from me. I was quite busy for awhile there but I didn't think it was that long between my letters. I know I don't write as often as I should, but you get so many letters it don't make much difference whether you get one from me or not.

Well Nels I was up to your mother's yesterday, it was her birthday you know and I believe she was looking for a letter or something from you to show that you remembered her birthday. I hope that you have sent her a card or a birthday letter for I know she will be disappointed if you forget it because she said to me two or three days ago, "I wonder if Niels will remember my birthday," and I said yes, I don't think he will forget that.

You know today is little Melba's birthday. Mrs. Lim gave Melba 50¢ yesterday and your mother \$1.00 and Mrs. Ellen Gustafson from Sandy gave her 50¢ and Stena 25¢ and a bank. Esther sent some embroidery for to make her a new dress so you see she got quite a few presents on her first birthday. Did you remember the 15th that it was your daughter's first birthday. I had her picture taken the other day and just got the proofs so will send them to you. I hope they won't be faded so you can see how sweet she is. Let me know if they are. I think I will have No. B finished, which do you like best. [Proofs are enclosed but the ravages of time, heat and moisture have taken their toll; they are like a blank negative.]

Dear Nels, I wish you was home, it has been so long since you left. Well dear I guess I will close now, Melba wants me to take her. I got a letter from Pa and he said he got your picture and was much pleased with it. I got mine too and like it so much. I am glad you sent me both kinds for I can't decide which I like best. Thanks very much. Your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxooo Pa sent me \$5 and wrote such a nice letter, he was quite pleased with the letter he got from you.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 16, 1910

My Dear Husband

It hasn't been a week since I wrote but I guess it will be all right with you if I write a few lines tonight and send with Stena's letter. I have been staying up here to your mother's for over a week. Annie went to Salt Lake with Esther and I guess she is there yet. I don't think I will live with Annie any more, we don't get along very well so I think I shall go down and live with Father until you come back and Oh Nels I do hope it won't be long for I know I will be so lonely away down there.

I was so pleased to hear that Mart had come to see you and I hope that you have a nice



1910
Niels Fugal
open scriptures

time together. Did you show him your baby's picture? And what does he think of her? Oh Nels she gets sweeter every day, she runs all over now and just as soon as she sees the door is unhooked she makes a beeline for it. I had to tie her up to the table leg today.

Well Nels I went to Sunday School last Sunday. I think I will go again tomorrow. I got the cards alright and want to thank you for them. Wouldn't it be nice if I could have been standing by the side of you.

You seem to think that your friend Mart is about all right. I am glad to hear that he is doing so well but I think that you are doing just as well even if you don't think so. If we do the very best we can we can't do any more, can we dear? You seem to think it is such an honor to be choir leader but I can't see as it is. We can't all be choir leaders you know and I think it is just as well to be one of the singers. If Mart does lead the choir that's no sign he knows so very much about music. I hope you won't get discouraged Nels but keep on doing your best and be humble and prayerful and I know that you will be successful. I believe I am glad you went on a mission after all for I know it's doing you lots of good. You said in your last letter that you regret that your past life hasn't been better. I suppose the only thing to do after we repent of our sins is to ask God's forgiveness and then live pure and noble lives in the future. I believe that if I had my life to live over that I would be much better but I guess it isn't wise to boast for there are temptations all around us and we are so weak.

[I don't have this letter where it was reported that Mart was the choir director.]

Well dear Nels I hope and pray that you may have health and the spirit of the Lord to be with you so that you may do much good and reach the height of your ambitions and when you have finished your mission there you will return home to your loved ones and we two will take up the journey of life once more and live such lives that we need not be ashamed to face our redeemer.

Tuesday we are going to Provo to see Carrie. She was over here today.

I almost forgot to tell you that I went with the old ladies to Alpine Wednesday and had a very nice time. Everybody noticed Melba and made quite fuss over her. I saw your picture in the Deseret News and was quite proud of it. I sent you Melba's picture, hope you get it alright. Your loving wife.

Melba sends a kiss to Papa. She smacks now and when she wants to kiss me she reaches so cute and smacks.

Pleasant Grove, June 22, 1910

My Darling Husband

I rec'd another of your welcome letters last night and read it with much pleasure. You had just got my long looked for letter and I guess it wasn't hardly worth reading. I think you for your encouragement and advice and I'm sorry I wrote you such a horrid letter but if you will forgive me this time I won't write you any more like it. I also got Pres.

Beckstrom's letter and when you see him or write to him tell him I got it and appreciate it very much. How did he happen to write to me, I was quite surprised.

The Scandinavians are going to have a dance Friday night the 24th of June and I think I shall go. Mrs. Gastaveson was here today and had a cup of coffee with us. I was up to your mother's yesterday helping Stena pick raspberries and cherries, that is Thursday. I started this letter Wed. and it is Friday today and I am just finishing it.

I got a letter from Pa the other day and he said Aunt Hanna got a Swedish letter from you and she prized it very highly. Melba can nearly walk now, she can run all over when she holds to something. I do wish you could see and hear her say how-do-you-do. She puts her head back as far as she can and says "how" and then when she drops it in front she says "do." She says ta-ta and no-no and shakes her head and Oh she is as sweet I could almost eat her up. I don't know what I would do without her for I love her more everyday.

We are going to move to Provo before long. I don't know of anything else to write about, we are all quite well. Melba has a cold now but I think she will soon be alright. I am pleased to note that you are enjoying your labors and hope that you will be successful in doing much good. Well goodbye Nels, write soon, yours with Love, Viola.

Did you think of your little daughter on her first birthday?

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 24th 1910

Dear Brother,

I have tried for a week to write to you but have not got at it as yet. Mother received your very welcome letter on her birthday, and also your photo, it is just fine. She appreciated your letter very much. Chris received his letter too, he is very busy this week. He has put up three binders this week and sold them. One to Wadleys, one to Atwoods and one to John Y. Walker. He has had Oscar Olson working for him last week and this week. Oscar has his pipe in his mouth nine hours out of ten and perhaps he sleeps with it too. Jens is busy planting, it takes lots of time for him to get ready and get off as he is detained somewhat most every day talking and telephoning and so forth.

[Also known as Coffee Oscar, cousin of brothers Shaky (Andrew Nielson) and Little Louis (Nelson). He was a skilled machinist and at some point in time he worked with Williamsons at their blacksmith shop, later building a room onto his house for a lathe. He collected guns which filled his walls. His only love interest was a distant cousin whose mother for this reason successfully objected to a marriage. He was born in 1878 so at this point in time was 32. In later years he drank, according to sometime historian Ruby Radmall Warnick, and the children stepped around him as he lay on the sidewalk between the Star Saloon and home. He died in 1941, at age 63. His headstone is carved "Coffee" Oscar Olson, "pioneer machinist."]

We had quite a nice time on mother's birthday, there was eighteen here. Ellen Gustafson from Sandy was here, she only stayed four days, her husband works at the smelter and she

has to take good care of him you know. The day after mother's birthday mother invited a number of old folks for dinner and to spend the afternoon. There were twenty two that came, there was something a doing I can tell you. Carrie stayed over and helped us. I will mention some that were here so you can tell it was old folks. Old lady Johnson, Clock Christon, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Hecker, Mrs. Rassmuson, S.H.'s mother, old lady Sorenson, Mrs. Stena Anderson, Mrs. Olsen, Aunt Margaret, Mrs. Hebertson, Andrew Thompson, P. C. Larson (Kjar), Mrs. Britty Gustaveson, Mrs. Alcel Peterson, Mrs. Halverson, and so forth. I played them a couple of times on the phonograph but you could hardly hear it for their laughter and talking. Some of them never gets out so it was quite a treat for them. Mother went after the feeble ones in the surrey. It was nice to see them together like that.

The first crop of hay is in the barn, the crop was pretty good. We have not had a rain yet, we thot perhaps we would when the hay was down but we did not. Today is the twenty fourth and there is going to be a big dance in the new hall. Some little girls are going to dance around the May pole. Vida is in it. The girls are smaller this year, that are going to take part, than they were last year. Perlinda has been training them for the last two weeks. She has had her hands full to train some of them but she has persevered and I suppose they will do alright. Your wife is going to the dance tonight. She like myself has not been to a dance for a long time. Say kid, yesterday we had our first picking of raspberries, we had three cases. Viola was up and helped us pick. We have a nice lot of pie cherries too, we sold six cases yesterday.

Last Sunday Lawrence Monson had the pleasure of preaching in meeting, he talked for fifteen minutes, he is not very long winded but he said what he had to say and then sat down. In that respect he is a little different from the other Monsons. In my last letter I told you about Bro. Hilton being hurt, he is up around now, but he is getting along slowly. He hasn't much strength and cannot get around and do anything. Antone Hecker runs a restaurant in the Baxter building and calls it the "Little Knutsford." They are going to celebrate the 4th of July but only in the afternoon so people that wants to go to Amer-ican Fork to see the parade can do so. It is too much work to get up a parade every year.

[This restaurant, per Ruby Radmall Warnick, b. 1906 (and failed to date her articles), was at the head of Main on Center Street (the low building behind the buggy in the photo), two rooms, a kitchen in the back, larger room on the south with five small square tables set with white cloths, separated by a cloth curtain. Walt and Sena Baxter owned it [1911-1930], sold meat pies made fresh every day, huge chunks of beef ground, not ground beef, beef broth and brown gravy. It was called Walt's Place but Sena ruled the roost. Only child married/divorced/married, daughter 9 from first and 20 months from second, declined moving from parents' when second house built (side by side two blocks down). In-laws would not let him see his baby and were feuding over deed. Shot them, first murders committed in P.G. Ruby's article stands corrected after viewing newspapers on microfilm. Husband got 10 years (stopped following case after initial sentencing) in prison (aggravated; threatenings and gun-wavings on both sides).]

Uncle Magnus [Nelson, married Karna (dec. 1908), younger sister of Hannah] handed mother five dollars for you, he sends his very best wishes also, he said he would like to write to you but he is so busy he is peddling and goes twice a week so he has not much

time at present. We will not send it now but will keep it and send it to you when he sends you a larger check. I don't suppose you are out of money yet. Uncle Jacob told us to ask you if you had received the letter he wrote you, he said he had enclosed a dollar and wondered if you had ever got it. While I am on this subject mother sent you five dollars in green backs, shortly after New Years and we wondered if you ever received it as you have not mentioned that five. She will not send green backs any more as we can get bank drafts quite handy, and we are told it is not safe to send money. If you did not receive that money you can just mention in your letter next time, that you did or did not receive the special letter that I referred to. So mother will know.

Say Nels, your little Melba is so cute. She tries to walk now. I expect she will go like a streak by the time you get home. I suppose you are glad that you have your same companion. No doubt you enjoy each other's company. It is now time to get ready for the dance so will close hoping to hear from you soon and trusting you are well and enjoying your mission very much. The folks send their best wishes to you and companion. I am as always, Your Loving Sister Stena. P.S. Please excuse scribbling as I have been in a hurry. S. C.

Gefle, July 6th 1910

Dear Friend.

You will no doubt be surprised to get a little note from me the first since I left home. I would have written before but I have heard from Niels how you are and suppose you have heard from me sometimes through the same source.

[Letter from Mart Christiansen to Viola, continued next set.]

[Letter continued from Mart Christiansen to Viola, July 6, 1910.]

First of all I will say that is certainly a fine looking daughter you have got, something to be proud of and her daddy certainly is that as he shows her to his friends here and walks around so smart when they make some flattering remarks, he seems to think she is about the only one year old on that side of the globe (of course he don't consider this side). I suppose when he gets home she will wonder who that strange man is and what he is doing around there. When he gets home he will be so Swedish that he won't know what she means (I suppose she will talk by that time) if she won't say, "God dag far," so I think you should teach her to say that. Maybe when he reads this he won't send it so I will write something else.

I have been here over a week now visiting Niels which he will no doubt tell you and have had a good time although it has rained every day. I am certainly glad to see the progress Niels has made here, he has the confidence and good will of all the saints and a great deal of nonmembers so it shows he has been doing a good work. I suppose you can imagine it is a great pleasure to us both to meet again in this land and talk over Old Times, but the greatest pleasure is in seeing an old friend progressing so grandly in the good work of the Lord and being able to successfully weather all the storms of the adversary and continue in the path of truth and righteousness as he has done. Well I won't say any more in that line as I suppose you already know my opinions anyway. As for myself I am enjoying my labors and the abundant blessings of the Lord which I receive from time to time and hope that I may be able to continue in the labors and prove worthy of being called a Messenger of Truth.

May the Lord bless you and yours with health and strength and the necessities of life that you may again be united with husband and father and that you may now and hereafter understand and share the fruits of the good seed he is here sowing, is the wish and prayer of your friend and brother in the Great Cause, Martin C.

Gefle, July 6, 1910

My Dear Wife & Daughter;

Once more I will chalk down a few lines and send to you for your inspection. Will first thank you ever so much for the proofs of sweet little Melba which accompanied your welcome letter of June 15th. She certainly is cute and I want to tell you that she takes the eyes of all who have looked at the photos. The people ask me if I don't feel proud over my little daughter and if I am not homesick to see her in reality. Well dearest I certainly am proud and thankful for her and would like very well to see her but I suppose she will keep and when I get home she will be all the cuter for according to your letters and according to the photos she is getting cuter all the time. I don't know which one of the proofs I like the best for they are all so good. I like the one you said you had selected and I also like the one where she is playing with her toes.

Well my dear wife, I was favored with the presence of my friend Mart as I told you I was expecting when I wrote you last. He is with me yet and at present he is writing you a few lines to go in with mine.

It has been raining every since he came here and then some, so it hasn't been so pleasant weather, but we have enjoyed ourselves first rate anyway. He was with us at our MIA meeting Thursday. We got our Sunday School, Fast meeting and Public meeting on Sunday and he had the pleasure of speaking at them all. He has the language pretty fair and he is quite a speaker. He will show you how it's done when he comes home.

Bro. Woodard and Bro. Lavin and his sister came back to Gefle last night. They have had an extraordinary good time on their trip to Hammerfest and all through Norway. They claim to have had a very good feast on natural scenery and I don't doubt their word at all for I have also had the pleasure of seeing a part of that wonderful land. Bro. Lavin's mother is also here at present so they are having quite a reunion in this city. We will hold an extra meeting this eve to give the people another chance to hear Bro. Lavin preach.

Tomorrow morning Elder Christiansen and I will leave Gefle and ride the train to a place named Uppsala. Here we intend to remain over one day and attend the meeting which the elders will hold there. On Friday morning we will continue on our journey and arrive at Stockholm in the forenoon. There is going to be a big conference at Stockholm July 10th and that is the reason I am going to leave Gefle. I suppose you know Pres. Penrose has been released and Pres. Rudger Clauson has taken his place; well Pres. Clauson is making a tour through Europe now visiting all the missions so that is the reason we are going to have a general conference at Stockholm. All the elders are invited to attend but I don't think there will be so many present as there were last summer. Elders Woodard and Benson are also going but they won't go when Mart and I go. It certainly will be nice to visit Stockholm again and partake of the good meeting that will be dealt out to us. Pres. Andrew Jenson from Denmark will also be present at the conference. I wish you could be with, dear wife, so I could show you around in the great city of Stockholm. Mart is pretty well acquainted in the city being as he labored there a little more than a year.

Well dear Viola I am pleased to hear that your father liked the letter which I sent him and that he sent you such a nice letter and the sum of \$5. The people seem to be very good to you and Melba. Probably when I come home you will not think I am half as good as other people are to you. It seems as though they all remembered the birthday of little Melba. I suppose I should have sent her a present but it isn't so safe nor wise to be sending things from here. I can buy her something when I come home instead. I believe it would be pleasant to kiss her nice fat feet now but perhaps I can get you to do that for me and then when I come home I will pay the bill by kissing both you and Melba until you get tired of me. Hope you are all well and making the best of conditions as they are and as they come. Be prayerful dear wife and the Lord will bless you. Be sure to remember your husband in your prayers for he certainly needs them for without the help of the divine inspiration my effort will be in vain. Be good to me dearest and favor me with a letter as often as possible. Your loving husband Niels.

[While we're on the subject of Mart Christiansen, knowing that he only visited Niels once while they were in Sweden, I want to quote a few comments he made at Niels' funeral in 1958: "My folks moved into my grandfather's home when I was about a year old, and that was about the time Niels was born across the street; and we, of course, grew up together. We spent a lot of time together, more than our mothers wanted us to probably.

Sister Fugal was either over after him or mother was after me to get us home to eat and get us home to put us to bed; and as we grew older, I went over there and lived. Three summers I lived with the Fugal family.

“Niels and I operated the farm under the direction of Jens and Chris. I might say that his father died when we were just youngsters...then Jens and Chris were the head of the family; and I would like to digress briefly and pay tribute to them. They organized an organization known as the Fugal Brothers; and Niels and I had a great deal to be grateful for, for the example they set, ...and the things they taught us, how to work and how to operate our own lands; and a great deal of this integrity which you’ve heard here I think can be due to them. I would like to say in honor of Chris who is the last one here today (died 1962, age 86), I honor him, and Jens who has passed away (1945, age 71). They were great individuals....

“Jens taught us how to plow a straight row of corn and potatoes and he taught us so that we could do it just as good as he could or any other farmer in the North Field.... A lot of the farmers out there made the remark, ‘Those two boys do more work than any three men in the North Field.’ We learned how to work and we learned how to operate the team and operate the equipment and put the hay in the barn when we were about fourteen or fifteen years old. Niels was always a strong, hard worker. I was working under him then, of course, but he and I did the farming. About that time, Chris...had the shop... built. Niels says, ‘If you will hire Mart, we can tend mason,’ to Chris, and we did. We mixed the mud and we put the brick on the scaffold and we kept him a going. And we had a lot of fun doing it. We enjoyed it.” While on the subject of passings, Carrie died in 1928, almost age 49, and Stena in 1953, age 71. Their husband John died in 1937, at age 63.]

Pleasant Grove, Ut., July 10, 1910

My Dear Husband:

It has been over a week since I wrote to you and so I guess it’s about time I was writing again. It has been over a week since I rec’d your last letter and it was such a nice letter I wanted to sit right down and answer it then but I was so busy, it was just before the fourth you know and we had lots of sewing and then I was up here to your mother’s two days in the week picking berries. Your mother takes care of Melba while I help with the berries but they will soon be a thing of the past.

What did you do on the fourth Nels? Esther and Ike were down and they and Annie went to Provo but Stena and I picked berries all day. I went to the dance that night with Esther and Ike and had a very nice time. I believe I told you about going to that Scandinavian dance. I had quite a nice time that night but a better one on the fourth. Annie went back up to Salt Lake with Esther and so I have been staying up here since she left. Esther has to have her baby circumcised. I don’t think I will live with Annie any longer, I am thinking quite seriously of going to Abraham and stay till you come home.

I went to Sunday School today in the third ward and enjoyed it very much. If I am up here again next Sunday I will go again. Lavina gave the lesson and she did it very nicely.

If it is always given as well as it was today anyone could learn quite a bit just listening. Melba was as good as could be and she looked just like a little wax doll. Oh I'd give anything if you could see her. Say Nels do you remember when George Larson was married? They have two babies now, isn't that going some! They were married about the same time we were. Well Nels in three more months it will be two years and then I hope it won't be long before you will be home. Next Wednesday the Old Folks are going to Alpine and they came and invited me so if all is well I suppose your mother, Stena and I will go to Alpine.

It's Sunday afternoon and if you were only here we might take a little ride. Melba gets sweeter every day, she is learning to walk all alone and it does look so cute, she shuts her eyes and holds her hands out toward someone and then goes as fast as she can run across the floor. She can say papa now when I tell her to but I guess she doesn't know what it means. She says ta-ta when she wants to go or when anyone else is going. She says kitty kitty when she sees the cat and chick chick when she sees the chickens. She is getting to be quite a talker. Saturday and Sunday the 23 and 24 of July is Alpine Stake Conference to be held here. I don't know of any more news. I hope you are well and enjoying your labors. Write often, your loving Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, July 16th 1910

My Dear Brother –

This is about the third letter I have started to write you and not got it finished. I hope you will pardon my slowness in answering your very welcome letters, I say letters, as I received another today and have not answered the one previously received. Your letter of June 17th contained some interesting news of your conference. I am glad they like to hear you preach, no doubt you can pound the pulpit now. Wish I could step in your meeting some Sunday and hear you preach. There is no danger of us thinking that you will become conceited, that is a trait wherein you are weak if anything. But better be like you are than like Bro. C., he has plenty and some to spare. He had not been gone more than a couple of months till he thought they could not do without him. But I see they are getting along without him. We rather enjoyed your letter telling the nice things the Swedes say about you, because we know they are true and it is nice to know what you are doing and how you are appreciated.

You stated in your letter that I received today that Mart had baptized twelve persons and you only five. You must not get discouraged, as perhaps someone else converted Mart's subjects, and no doubt you are making converts for someone else to baptize a year hence. Who knows? There are some elders that spend their mission without baptizing any converts and they do much good just the same. I don't know but what there is just as much honor in being a bass singer in Gefle as being a choir leader in Norrköping. If I don't stop writing like this you will think I am getting preachy and I don't want you to think that.

This month we have been busy with the raspberries, we pick two days out of the week and sometimes a little more. They are turning out fine, we will have just as many as we did last year and they are higher in price. Uncle Magnus is buying them this year, the

highest we have had is \$1.25 per case and the lowest \$.75, and Charley Magnus got those, so you see that is pretty good. We had our first picking June 27th and last year we did not pick until after the 4th of July. Everything is looking fine in spite of the drought, but say! we had quite a shower this afternoon, she just more than poured for a little while. I think all of the dust is mostly settled. [I would be curious to know where the berry patch was in thinking back to the luscious berries my dad Neil grew behind "the cottage," and I would also like to know where Magnus lived.]

Your wife has been with us for the last week and if you could peek in our house at present you would see us all as follows: it is now 10:30 p.m. Mother, Ernest and Melba are sleeping soundly and Viola is sitting here pencil in hand just more than writing to her Swedish husband, by the way she is writing she does not lack for anything to write about. I am sitting at the other side a scratching off a line to you too, and Chris has gone down town to get a shave as it is Sunday tomorrow.

We sent you "Orson Pratt's Works" yesterday together with the picture of your little daughter, don't you think she is cute? She has started to walk now and she goes like a streak, she is at one door one minute and at the other the next. She keeps her mommy busy watching her. She is cuter than ever now she can say papa and dad and many other things. (Don't you think I knew?) Last Wednesday Viola, Melba, mother, Ernest and I went to Alpine to attend the old folks party of the Alpine Stake, we had a good time and saw Alpine for the first time in our lives. It is quite a nice little place up against the mountains. There was nearly a thousand present at the party. P.G. was well represented. You may soon look for the Liahona, will send it presently.

Some of the dry farmers have commenced threshing, the wheat is pretty good considering but it is not heavy. Chris is very busy in the shop, he has had lots of tire setting to do on account of the dry weather. They have sold lots of binders and other things. Will get Chris to write you all about the shop affairs in the future else I will do it myself. Jens is busy plumbing. John and Carrie were over tonight. We are all well as we hope you are. Be good to yourself and write soon, don't be pokey like I am. Your Sis. Stena.

Gefle, July 22, 1910

My Dear Viola;

Once more I will endeavor to write you some more about myself and affairs here in this part of the world. I am a very long distance from you, but perhaps when you read my letters you can paint some picture in your mind of the place I have been lately, and see me going about my work. It is 4:30 p.m. now and at 3:05 p.m. we were at the depot to bid goodbye to Elder David W. Woodard. I don't know when I will see him again, probably never, but I hope I do, for I love him and I love to be in his company for he is certainly an exemplary man and is ever ready to show kind actions to everybody. It seems pretty hard to part with him, but I suppose it will go OK anyway. I am thankful that I had the privilege of laboring with him five months and now as he has been in Sweden thirty-two months I think it no more than right that he should travel towards home. He has made many friends while in Sweden and the fruits of his labors will no doubt show in the future.

Sister Maria Johansson is going to leave here in the morning for her journey to America also. She will leave Copenhagen in company with Bro. Woodard and Bro. Lavin and his mother and sister. They will be in their company all the way to Salt Lake City. It is almost worse to have her leave us than Bro. Woodard for she is our organist and is the best singer we have. It seems as though it is all coming in on us at once and it leaves us in a bad condition, but it is to be hoped that matters will turn out for the best.

We must never get an idea into our heads that the success of the gospel depends upon one or two persons, but that if it be the will of God that the work shall prosper, He will prepare a way. We haven't anyone else at present that can play chords on the organ so our singing will not be as powerful as heretofore, and you know it is the singing that gives life and in many times the best part of the meeting, especially when such weak mortals as some of our elders are to interest the people with our sermons.

Sister Johansson has been a faithful sister ever since she came into the church last fall and now her empty chair will not make a very pleasant impression. I wish you were here and I would see that you learned to play the organ for us. I am a little downhearted dear wife, but I hope I will soon be a little more cheerful, and be able to see wherein all the dealings of the Lord are blessings, even if at times they appear trials.

Bro. Woodard has promised to call upon you when he gets there, if he possible can, and I think he can. Sister Johansson says she may go with him to Pleasant Grove and see my folks and my wife and child. I hope she does and if so, don't be afraid of her just because she is a Swede, but talk English to her and she will understand you quite well for she has been in America ten months before, and then she has been learning some English from the elders. She intends to get work in S.L.C. but it would be nice for her to spend a week in P.G. to rest up from her trip.

Well dear Viola I am pleased to announce that in about five hours I am going to baptize three converts. They are all ladies over fifty years old. The two of them are my converts and the other one has been investigating for about one year. It seems nice to see fruits of your own work and be able to baptize those who have accepted the glad tidings which you revealed to them. That will make eight that I have led into the waters of baptism, but the most of them are the fruits of previous elders' labors. I hope I may also be able to sow some good seeds that will grow and bear fruit for future elders. I hope we will be able to stir up the hearts of more honest souls while I am here in Gefle and if possible add several more to the fold.

In 1909 they baptized 12 in the Gefle Branch. After tonight we will have reached that number for 1910, and prospects are good for more this year. The gospel is progressing rapidly all over the world. In 1909 there were nearly 15,000 who were added to the church. In Sweden there were 140 added in 1909. Already this year over 100 have joined the church in Sweden. I love Sweden, I love the people and I love to act as an ambassador of God's great latter day work among them, trying to select the chosen seed of Israel from them, and to be a real fisher of men. When I stop to consider, I am nearing the close of my mission, it causes me to reflect back upon my labors, and wonder if I really have accomplished much, but it isn't for me to be judge of these matters. Just be

industrious and try to profit by the many mistakes I have made in the twenty months of my mission and see if I can make a good record in the time I have left. Probably I will never have the privilege of performing a second or a third mission so it is my desire and duty to be faithful to my calling and put forth great efforts.

I will now close my letter, darling wife, hoping you are happy and content in your home in dear old Utah. It is 12 days since I received your last so am waiting anxiously. Kiss dear Melba for me and accept xxxooooxx yourself. Your Nels.

Pleasant Grove, July 29, 1910

Dear Nels:

I rec'd your welcome letter about a week ago and was pleased to hear that you liked the proofs and think your little daughter is sweet. Mart seems to think she is alright too doesn't he Nels. If you could just see how cute she acts you would think she is lots sweeter.

I have been staying up to your mother's ever since a few days after the fourth. We went to Provo in the surrey last week to see Carrie. She has a pretty little place there in Provo. On the 24th of July J.P. Fugal's barn was burned to the ground. They were all down to the celebration and it was almost gone before they could get up to it.

Helen Smith Walker has a baby boy.

I am sorry that your partner has left you and hope that you will soon get another that you like as well.

Esther and Ike were here for the 24th and we all went to the dance at night and had quite a nice time. Lawrence Monson came and shook hands with me and said to give you his best regards. Alma Langston is home from his mission. Pa says he weighs two hundred and has a black mustache. Don't you dare to let your mustache grow Nels for I just can't stand a man with a mustache.

Well dearest it will soon be two years since you left and then I will start to looking for your release. I believe I will be the happiest person in the world.

We were thinking that maybe Aunt Margaret would be living with Lizzie when you come and then we could rent her house. How would you like that Nels?

I don't know of any more news but will write again soon. Melba sends a kiss to Papa. She can say Papa and kisses so cute. Write often to your loving Wife and Baby.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, July 29th 1910

My Dear Brother –

We received your very welcome letter a couple of days ago and it was certainly read with

pleasure. Glad you enjoyed yourself at conference, it does one good to go to conference where they can hear good gospel sermons.

I suppose you are lonesome now that Bro. Woodard has gone home, but you must brace up and bear it, we hope they will send you another good companion so you will not have to work so much. But at the same time the missionaries are divided off in pairs, one heavy weight or good preacher and one that is inexperienced or that cannot preach much. We think that you are a good preacher and will do alright even if your companion is not so much.

It is very nice that you and Mart could be together again, even if it was only for a short time. I am afraid you did not sleep much while you were together as you would have to converse every minute that you could. No doubt you have mentioned everybody and everything in P.G.

Stake conference was held in P.G. last Saturday and Sunday. The meetings were fine. Apostle Penrose was here to all the meetings and spoke in them all. He doesn't lack for anything to say.

The Sunday schools of the three wards celebrated the 24th of July in the Grove on Monday. They all seemed to have a good time. While we were down to the Grove Jens' barn burnt up. It was alright about two o'clock and they put a half a load of wild hay in the barn at noon. Mr. Jarvis phoned down town and there was a large crowd came but nothing could be done as it was already gone. We do not know how it got started. It had a little insurance on it but it is quite a loss.

You asked how many horses we had (in one of your letters). I will mention them. Dan, Mack and Kate are all the horses we have at home. Bess is sold. Skank is up to Corn Jenson waiting until it gets cold weather and then Corn will feed her to the chickens. She was too old to be of any more use. The colts are up on the mountains, there are four of them. The boys have commenced to cut the second crop of lucerne and the wild hay is mowed and some of it hauled. We are through with the raspberries now, they have done very well. The currants and cherries are done for too. We have sold some peaches and we will have a pretty good crop of the later peaches as well. Uncle Magnus is buying our fruit, he has bought all so far. You asked for some addresses. I will write them now before I forget (Mrs. Carl Gustafson and Mrs. Andrew Poulson, Sandy). You will see by the addresses that they have the same mail box. I'll bet that elder from Sandy did laugh when you started to mimic Poulson. Who would not? Ha-ha.

Viola is by the machine sewing herself a nice house dress and your little daughter is helping grandma wash the dishes. You can't imagine what lots of things she can help do. She walks around all over now and jabbars a great deal. I am sure you could understand every word. She would like to have my pencil right now but of course I can't spare it, here is her hand writing: "hello dad."

The boys are very busy at present and have been for some time, both thresher machines are in the yard for repairs and other things. There are between twenty and fifty old buggies on the place at present. If there were any more, I would let you know. Ike

Carlson is helping Chris in the shop, Alvin Carlson is with Jens plumbing and Lew and Rulan are farming.

You will find a check for \$50.00 enclosed in this letter. We thot you would be out of money but somehow have put off sending any until you sent for some. We are all as well as usual and feeling pretty good. I hope you will excuse this scribbling as I have been in a hurry, I want it to go before the bank closes. But you have time to make her out you know. Have you received the Liahona, you should have received two copies when you receive this letter or perhaps but one. Mother is sending a song for you to read, she thought you would enjoy it. Be good to yourself Niels as Ernest says and write soon to your long winded Sis. Stena.

Gefle, July 29, 1910

My Darling Wife;

Your nice letter came to hand and was read with pleasure. It came while I was at Söderhamn so I did not get a chance to read it until I came back. It is over two weeks since I received your last, so you can imagine that it was nice to once more read a few of my darling wife's thoughts written upon paper.

I suppose you have a great dealt to do this time of the year and cannot find time to accomplish as much as you desire. You mentioned in your letter that you had been picking berries up to mother's and that you even was picking on the 4th of July. It is too bad that you couldn't have that day off and have a good time, but I suppose you are not so anxious to celebrate now being as you have a babe to tend and you have no husband to accompany you. Pleased to note that you went to the dance in the evening and that you enjoyed yourself. That's right dear, go to the dances whenever you have the chance and make life as pleasant as possible. If I were home we would certainly have that buggy ride that you mentioned in your letter, and when I do come home, we will see that it happens.

The mailman just came and brought me a letter from Pres. Beckstrom's wife and also that book which I asked Stena to send me. In the book was little Melba anxiously awaiting me to open the cover so she could see her Swedish dad. She could not speak to me but I read on the back of the photo that she had come to see her Swedish dad. Well, she is welcome and I will try to use her well while she is here. She is so cute that it almost makes me homesick. It would be fun to maul her a bit and tickle her feet and kiss her toes. Oh! but she is sweet. Just the picture of her dad. (?) But we had better give her mama the honor of her beauty, for fear she might feel slighted. Many thanks for sending the photo, I appreciate it very much. I was glad to receive the book for I think I can learn a great deal by reading it, and probably can get some good clear principles to present to the people. It was kind of Pres. Beckstrom's wife to send me a letter. It shows that she appreciated the one I sent her.

Well dear, I will now tell you a little about our trip to Söderhamn. We left here on Monday 1:55 p.m. and arrived there the same evening at 5:30. Sister Lindgren received us with a warm handshake and soon we were seated at a nice supper. In the evening after supper she took us to the Engstöm Family of saints. Here we remained a couple of hours

talking and singing after which we went back to Sister Lindgren's and had a good night's rest. The following morning about 11 o'clock in company with Sister Lindgren we walked six miles to a place called Lervik. Bro. and sister Pettersson live here and we found ourselves welcomed here. Sister Pettersson is 78 years old and Bro. Pettersson is 66 years. Sister Lindgren is 52 years old but nevertheless she is good at the walk anyway. It takes a good walker to stay with the elders. In the afternoon we went out tracting and met with good success. I had some good gospel conversations while out. Sister Lindgren went home on the boat, but we remained all night with the saints at Lervik.

The next day Bro. Pettersson who is a lawyer helped us to secure a place in Söderhamn to hold a free or open air meeting. We placed an ad in the paper so as to get the people out. We were to hold the meeting at 8 p.m. and we were there ready to start at that time, but we had no one to listen to us except a few children who had assembled to see the wonderful Mormons. About 8:10 a few came and we opened with a song, prayer and a song. By this time there were about 50 people present and others still coming from every direction. I asked Bro. Pettersson to speak first which he did. He spoke only a short time leaving the time for us. While he was speaking I was trembling like a leaf shaken by a breeze. Bro. Benson spoke for about 5 minutes and the balance of the time was for me. I selected the highest elevation that I could find, and then in my weak and humble way talked to them for an hour.

[Letter from Niels to Viola, continued, next set.]

[Letter from Niels to Viola, continued from last set, July 29, 1910.]

At first I shook so that I know my pants would have come off if it were not for my suspenders, but in about 10 minutes I was warmed up to a high pitch and was not in the least timid of the 200 men and women that were present. They gave me their best attention and I never felt more like talking in my life. I realized the people had gathered to hear something about Mormonism and I tried to tell them something about it. They seemed to like all that I told them except when I spoke of Joseph Smith being a prophet of God. After the meeting we gave away about 200 tracts and sold about 20 books. One old unreasonable woman came up to me and asked me why I didn't spend my time in doing something better and not try to mislead people. I was anxious to explain but she walked away. A few men were a little important and shot questions at us which were easily answered. One man was drunk and became quite noisy but the constable was present and told him the meeting was out and that he better go home. The majority of the people showed that they were interested in the meeting by the way they flocked after tracts and bought books. There were several newsmen present so there will no doubt be something in the papers about the great Mormon open air meeting. Who would not like to be a Mormon elder and enjoy such pleasant experiences.

Goodbye for this time dear Viola. I am your loving husband. Niels. xxxoox

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Aug. 7th, 1910

Dearest Brother –

Viola your beloved wife requested me to write you a line and of course I couldn't refuse as I always do as I am told. (?) At the same time it is with pleasure that I write you a line although my mind is a blank this afternoon and by the way Viola is writing all the news and things that are not news.

The boys are getting along quite nicely with the farm work, they put on a big force of men and got the grain hauled and threshed the next day. I do not remember of ever knowing them to get their threshing done so early. We have always been the tail end. The machine was not busy now and after a few days they will be very busy, everybody will want to thresh at the same time if they could. So you see they were wise for once. The wild hay is hauled, also the 2nd crop of lucerne. Rulan works on the threshing machine now and I think Lew will start on the thresher tomorrow. Alvin Carlson still works here.

Ren Benson received your letter and photo and he seemed quite pleased over it, his mother brought it over here for us to see and read last night. She said she was going to send you her brother's address and other relatives and have you look them up. Mother does not know the present address of her relatives but says she will talk to Uncle Isaac about it and let you know. She says she has lots of cousins in Sweden.

Say Niels your daughter is handsomer than ever now. She bosses her ma around to perfection. She can go like a streak now, and did you ask if she jabbered any? well I guess she does, she will tell you a thing or two when you get home. The only thing she is afraid of and that is the rooster, he comes to the front door and crows, or makes a noise

and she trots to her mother.

Today was Sunday School conference in the 3rd ward, it was OK. Tonight Dr. Woodruff of Salt Lake City is going to lecture in conjoint meeting. I hope there will be a large crowd there to hear him.

John and Carrie were over to see us last Sunday, they are feeling fine and are still living in Provo. Chris has two girls on the string now and doesn't know which one he wants.

Be good to yourself Niels and write soon to your Sis. Stena.

P.S. Mother will enclose a song for you in this letter. Hope you will like it. S.C. Mother encloses a dollar for you in this letter.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug.15, 1910

My Dear Husband:

I rec'd another of your letters yesterday and was so glad to get it. You wrote me about your trip to Löderhamn. I was pleased to hear of your pleasant experience and the successful meeting you held. It must have been a grand experience and Oh how I should like to have been to that meeting and heard my darling husband speak. Wouldn't it be grand if the elders and everyone of God's people could have that spirit with them always, that they have while in the mission field. It seems like he is with them more then and I suppose it is because they live nearer to him.

I was glad to hear that you had rec'd the book and picture and that you liked the picture so well.

Annie has moved over to Provo today and so I brought my machine and a few of my things up here and I do hope that it won't be long until you and I move them again to our little home.

There are quite a few babies sick this time of the year with summer complaint. Esther's baby has been quite bad and he is so thin and weak now. Will Stagg nearly lost their baby and it isn't out of danger yet. I am very thankful that our baby is well yet and I feel like the Lord is blessing us. Esther and Ike are down here with their baby as the doctor told them a change would do him good.

We were weighing the other day and I weighed 103 lbs., Melba weighs 22 lbs., she isn't as fat as she was.

Esther wants me to go back to Salt Lake with them but I haven't decided yet whether to go or not.

I guess you have heard that Lee Harper and Luzine have a baby.

Everyone has gone to bed but me and it seems a little lonely with everything so quiet.

I went to Sunday School Sunday and enjoyed it very much.

Well dear I don't know of any more news, am glad and thankful that you are well and progressing in the work of God. May he continue to bless you is the prayer of your loving Wife. Be humble and prayerful and God will be with you and help you to overcome your difficulties. Viola.

P.S. Stena, your ma, and I went out to see Brita and she said to helsen you. Stena said to tell you hello. Did you remember that it as our wedding day last Friday, or had you forgotten the date.

[Letter written in Swedish, dated August 21, 1910, postmarked Gefle, from Martha (Maria is mentioned in Niels' letter dated July 22) Johansson to "Äldeste (family?) Nils Fugal," Pleasant Grove.]

Pleasant Grove, Utah, August 21st, 1910

My Dear Brother –

Chris and mother received your very welcome letter of August 4th last night and was very glad to hear from you, as we always are when we receive a letter from you. Mother will have to practice up a bit if she is going to talk Swedish to you when you come home. It is plain to see that you are a thorough Swede. No doubt you will find it a little hard to express your thoughts in the English language but you can do it alright.

I am sure you certainly have some opposition by the clipping you sent but you know opposition is a blessing in disguise as it will cause the people to study and do some thinking for themselves. Of course it is not very pleasant to have such awful tales told about one in the newspapers but honest thinking people will know that they are untrue.

Viola and baby have gone to Salt Lake City to visit with Esther, they went Wednesday night and it is very lonesome without them. It seems so quiet not to have little Melba trotting around and jabbering. Annie Banks has moved to Provo as I suppose you already know. She thot she could do better there than she could here. I do hope she can.

There was no Sunday school in our ward today and there will not be any next Sunday either as the trustees are getting the schoolhouse cleaned, the floors are being oiled and the seats are being replaced so we will have a vacation you see. It seems quite odd not to have Sunday School.

Jens and his family have gone to Provo to visit with John and Carrie, they have not been to Provo all summer. John's house is not finished yet. Jens is doing the wiring, they expect to have electric lights on the Bench before many more years. I have not seen their new house yet but they say it is lovely and will be very convenient when finished.

Mother is getting to be quite a reader, she reads a good sized book in a short time. At present she is reading a book about "Utah and the Mormons" written by John F. Meakin,

a resident of Salt Lake City and a very learned man. She is very interested in it.

We were sorry to hear you will be out of money so long. We sent you a draft on July 29, hope you have received it before now. We will try and be more prompt in sending drafts in the future. Send for money in good time as it takes a couple of days to get ready to send it.

I have written to Aunt Scow, it is her birthday next Wednesday. Ida has a son born on the 10th inst. She is getting along fine and so is baby. Lettie writes that the baby has red hair.

John Newman and family have moved to their new home. Leon Jarvis and wife are living in part of Newman's old home and Perlinda and Ally are going to rent part of it. Ally is coming home the last of the month. Willie Stagg and family have come back from the city, their baby is very sick but is a little bit better now, it looks just awful. They have been staying at Stagg's, they cannot move in their own home until Perlinda moves.

I suppose by the time you receive this letter it will be your birthday, just think you will be a fourth of a century. I wish you many happy birthdays. You will find a dollar enclosed in this letter as a little token of remembrance. May you be blest with health and strength so you can enjoy your mission and do much good. I am as ever your Sister Stena.

Dear Niels – Just one more line. Mrs. Lim came over today and handed me a dollar to send you with this letter for your birthday, she wishes you many happy returns of the day and says she enjoys hearing from you very much. We always tell her how you are getting along. Today is Monday, Mr. And Mrs. Clayton and Verena came to see us yesterday and went back to the city today. They seem to be feeling pretty good. They were coming to Ernest's birthday but could not get away then. Lillie is well now and doing her own work. It is almost a miracle the way she is getting along, she underwent a very painful operation in June. I thought Chris would write a few lines in this letter but I am afraid he will not get at it. He is quite busy in the shop. He just came in now and said he would scratch off a few lines so you will be happily disappointed. Write soon to your Sis. Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Aug. 26/10

Dear Bro. Neils in the far off land of the north.

I thought I had better write you a few lines and send with Stena's letter. I received your letter all OK. I am pleased so to note you can write a letter with something in. I am too rusty to write much now. I have been down watering tonight with our small stream, enough for a 1/2 acre of beets. We bought 8 shares of water and can't hardly water 6 acres of beets but I think the beets will pull through as we have a heavy dew at night and the root is deep in the ground.

We just sold a buggy to Curtis Young. We only have 11 jobs of buggies left out of 45 counting 5 we held over from last year. So we have done as well as we could expect. We sold 9 mowers, 4 binders, 4 rakes and about 12 large plows. I think we are doing as well as we could expect.

Everything seems to go all right but my guts they shake me up once in awhile, enough to keep me from pulling on the bits. O yes, the threshers are about through. John Nelson threshed about 1500 bu. and Iron Clad about the same. Maybe a little more. We bought J. H. Wright out so we have 1/4 of the stock in that machine and 1/2 of the P.G. machine. We get more grain from them than we do from our farm. I think that is good property so long as it is ran right. We are thinking of buying 40 ac. of dry land in Alpine next to that Jens Nelson bought. It is a dandy piece, I think we can get it for \$1000. We are so busy we haven't had time to go and see about it. [Niels did end up with a dry farm in Alpine for a number of years; assume this is the same.]

This is all now with best wishes from your Bro. C.A.F. Hope you got the \$50 we sent you before now.

Salt Lake City, Ut., Aug. 25, 1910

My Darling Husband:

Once again I take great pleasure in writing a few lines to my dear Nels. It has been over a week since I wrote so no doubt you are anxiously waiting for this one. I came up here with Esther and Ike a week ago today and I haven't heard from you since nearly a week before I left. It seems at least a month long. I think I shall go back to Pleasant Grove for I just can't feel contented anywhere unless I hear from you once in awhile.

We went out to Garfield Saturday and Joe and Valeria came back with us Sunday. Joe stayed till Tuesday and then went to Idaho, he is going to teach school up there this winter. Valeria is here yet but Joe is going to send for her as soon as he gets a house. Joe wrote you a letter while he was here and I suppose you will get it before this. He didn't know what his address would be but I will send it to you as soon as I get it so you can write to him.

Oh dearest in just a little over a month it will be two years since you left home and I do hope that it won't be much longer until you are released. I do hope that you can be home Xmas.

Aug. 26 – I started this letter last night but I got so sleepy I couldn't finish it. We have been washing today and I am quite tired tonight so I don't think I will write much more. I wanted to see Bro. Woodard and Sister Johnansson but maybe I won't get to if they call in Pleasant Grove while I am up here. I don't think I will stay here much longer and I hope they haven't been there yet when I go back so I can see them.

It is two weeks now since I got a letter from you and Oh it does seem such a long time but I guess there are two for me in Pleasant Grove. Write often dearest for I do love to read your dear letters. Take care of yourself and think of me sometimes. Your loving Wife, Viola Fugal. Mellba sends kisses to Papa. xxxxxooo

Salt Lake City, Ut., Sept. 7, 1910

Dear Husband:

It has been a little over a week since I wrote to you and so I will try and write a few lines today. I rec'd a letter from you the other day and also one from Stena. She said they were all so well as usual. She said it had been a long time since she had a letter from you.

We went to Wandamere the other night and I couldn't help thinking of the last time I was there and wishing that you were with me now. We didn't stay very long it was so cold. We make a quilt yesterday and I suppose we will iron today. I hope you are well and enjoying your labors. We are well. Write often to us. Yours with love, Viola and Melba.
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Lörstrand, Sept. 3, 1910

Dear Wife;

Once more I will endeavor to write you a few lines. As the heading of this letter shows, I am now in Lörstrand. I left Gefle last Tuesday and now it is Saturday. I have been staying with the Strandh Family of Saints and have had a very nice time. Last time Bro. Woodard was here he got mixed in with the priest and some of the leading men of this town, and they told him if any of we Mormon elders came to Lörstrand again they would have us arrested, but I am here now and it doesn't appear as though they care to bother me any. There are quite a number of people here who are interested in what we have to offer them and of course that causes jealousy to arise among the other class of people and they would like to get rid of we elders. Bro. Strandh has no home of his own and the man who he rents of has forbidden him to hold public meetings here. He said nothing about private meetings so we have held two of them while I have been here this week.

Wednesday evening we held a meeting with just the saints and one visitor present, but Thursday eve we had about 25 people present. Bro. Strandh invited them to come so there can be no kick for that, for a person has a right to invite people to come and visit them and while they are at his home he has a right to entertain them in any manner he chooses. So this time they were entertained by listening to a Mormon elder talk on the plan of salvation. They seemed very interested and it was a very easy matter for me to talk to them for one hour and ten minutes without a pause. I felt the spirit in rich abundance and was led to speak without any great effort.

While I have been here I have visited some of our friends and talked gospel to them and yesterday I went to a place called Karsjö and gave away 150 tracts and sold 36 books, so I have had fine success this week. When I left Gefle I hardly thought that I would have a chance to hold a meeting being as the people are so worked up against us here but now I have held two of them and I feel well paid.

I am going to leave here today at 11:39 a.m. and will arrive in Gefle at 3:40 p.m. Bro. Benson is in Gefle, he is out of money so he could not go with me.

The saints here are very glad that I came and they want me to come again in the near future. It will soon be conference again and then I don't know whether or not I will be permitted to come back to this branch, but I think I will. There is no branch in all

Sweden that I would sooner labor in than this one, but perhaps that is because I have not labored in the others except Luleå.

The time that I have left in the mission field will no doubt go in a hurry for I am used to the work now and am nearing the last end of my mission. We are going to have a new Mission President now and I understand that he believes in a three year mission, but I suppose he will let me off before that time. I don't expect to be here another summer but I am liable to see another winter here. Well that time will soon go and I hope you will have patience and not tire waiting for your husband to come home. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" so you will probably love me all the more when I do come. Of course that isn't saying that you don't love me enough now. I hope you grasp my meaning.

Well it is a long time since I had a letter from you but perhaps there is one at Gefle waiting for me. I suppose they are very busy now in P.G. working with the fruit and no doubt you have a hand in it occasionally also. It would be nice to have a few good peaches to eat now for I haven't had any since I left home. It is very little fruit that I see here. There are some berries that grow wild in the forests here and the people seem to think that they are very delicious. I suppose I will be where I can get my fill of fruit next summer. At least I hope so.

I received a letter from Aunt Hanner a couple weeks ago. I don't remember if I told you about it or not. She sent me a dollar with it also. She said in the letter that when I come home I should take my family with me and move down to Abraham. She claims that I could get a piece of land there without much trouble and make my home there. What do you think about that, dear Viola? Would you sooner live in that part of the world, than in P.G.? We will at least take a trip down there when I return home and see what the country looks like and visit our relatives.

It will be nice to get back home dear and be with you. It only seems like a dream that we have lived together two months but that dream will soon come true and we will once more have the pleasure of being in each other's company. I have yours and Melba's photos with me and the saints think that you are both as cute as can be. Kiss Melba a few for me and accept my very best wishes and love. As ever your husband. Niels.

xxxxooxx

Gefle, Sept. 12, 1910

Dear Wife:

I don't know where you are at present but I suppose I better write to you anyhow. Last time I wrote you I was in Lörstrand and the same day I came home to Gefle and found a very nice letter from you. Since then I have received another one from you but it is dated one week before the other one, so I suppose it has been delayed on the way or else you failed to get it mailed in time. Nevertheless both letters were written by you when you were in a very pleasant frame of mind for you wrote such nice things and seemed to be satisfied with your lot even if you are not settled down in a home that you can call your own.

I hope you may always feel contented and satisfied and give God all honor and glory for the many blessings which he has permitted to come down upon you. You boast of the health that has been granted unto both you and Melba and seem to realize that the Lord is merciful and kind to you. There may be many times that we think we have a hard row to hoe and that we are not numbered among those who have much worldly gain, but if we will stop to analyze the subject we will be compelled to admit that we have countless blessing raining down upon us daily. It is true that we were both born from parents who cannot be classed as rich (thank the Lord) and what little we have we have earned by the wear and tear of our own bodies.

It isn't so very many years since God our Father permitted us to take a mission here upon this planet to see how we would act while we were out of his presence, and how many more years he will permit us to remain here, we have no knowledge of, which is also a blessing. Now dear wife we have just grown to manhood and womanhood and made an agreement between us that we would go through this life and also the following one together, if Father will permit it. We are not the heirs of worldly riches, but we are created with the same attributes which are found in our forefathers, and may if we practice cautiousness and wisdom even acquire more than our progenitors have done.

We are now at the base of the great mountain of worldly experience, and God only knows how near the summit we will attain. In previous years we have been under the guardianship of our parents, but now we have broken those precious bands and are independently staring the world in the face. The world with all its riches is before us and not only that, but according to the scriptures, somewhere and sometime in yonder space, will be created a celestial home for all who are worthy of the celestial family circle. Our gospel teaches us glorious principles of both a temporal and spiritual salvation and they go hand in hand with each other. On what grounds or terms can we become rich with these blessings? Is it not on the terms of obedience to the laws which are given us? How can we be obedient to these laws? Is it not by first being united so the influence and inspiration of the Holy Ghost can work upon us?

Dear wife, faith, obedience and work will be necessary for our success and there is no doubt in my mind but what we can be united in these principles. I am certainly glad that you ponder of these things for through thought comes faith and after faith, obedience which requires work. It is gratifying when I think that I have a loving little wife who is interested and anxious for our welfare. God bless you Viola and God bless me, that I may prove worthy of such a noble and dear companion. Dear wife we are now bound together with eternal bands that will never be loosed providing we are faithful. Are you happy? I hope you can say yes and that we can eternally partake of heavenly bliss.

In regard to my mission expenses I will say that I am keeping account of all the money sent by the various parties, nevertheless many thanks for your good advise. It is always wise to be on the safe side. Do you ever feel very anxious to talk to me? If there were ever a time that I craved your presence it is at present. I feel like it would be the same as heavenly or angelic communication.

I learned through the letter which I received from Bro. Joseph Young that you were then in S.L. City. Hope you enjoy yourself wherever you are and not build up too many hopes

on seeing me for another six months for I don't know when I have served my time. We will leave that for the Lord to decide. Joseph wishes me to write him but he gave me no address so please send me it at once so I can give him a few lines. I was glad to hear from him. He wrote a very nice letter.

Tomorrow I am going to take another trip. I will meet the Uppsala elders at a place called Tierp. There we intend to hold meeting two evenings. Then I will return to Gefle. Bro. Benson will remain in Gefle on account of shortage in money. Our conference Pres. will be here for next Sunday. I suppose he wants to see how things are here before conference and probably see who he better send here next. We will leave for conference about Sept. 22. I would like to come back here but I am ready and willing to go wherever they send me, even if it is to Luleå. Pleased to hear that you received a card from Mrs. Lavin and hope you call on her. I received a letter from Bro. Woodard, but he says he couldn't find time to call on you. Be good to yourself and baby and always pour out your love to your husband. Write soon. Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Sep. 14th 1910

Dear Brother,

Your very welcome letter came to hand a couple of days ago and we were all glad to hear from you. Glad that you are well and enjoying your mission and hope you can always feel the same. I am glad too that you have received the Liahona and like it. I have not been very prompt in answering your letter this time but I thot I must write today as it is your birthday. We have been thinking of you all day wondering what you are doing. It is raining here today it rained last night too. It is the first rain we have had for a long time, it will be nice to have the dust settled for once. Does it feel like you are getting old? You will not be old until you reach three fourths of a century. Say kid, mother is cooking a pudding for dinner don't you wish you could have some. That is to celebrate your birthday, you know.

Viola and Melba are still in Salt Lake, it seems an age since I saw them. The baby is too cute for anything, and Mr. Sundberg was here the other day (he had just come home from the city) and he said she gets cuter every day.

Perlinda and Ally have moved to John Newman's former home. Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis live in part of the house. They have a little son three weeks old. Mr. Jarvis is quite proud of it. Willie and Rhoda Stagg were called on to part with their baby, it was seventeen months old. I feel so sorry for them. It was sick for two months or more.

Last night the YLMIA held their first meeting for this season. Each ward met separately. We had twenty six present in our ward. I think that is pretty good for a starter and it was raining too last night. I guess you know that Lavina is president with Hazel Newman and myself as assistants. Hedve Johnson and Miss Finlayson (a school teacher boarding to Coopers) are the class leaders. Amy Cooper is going away to school, so Stella Sundberg Thorne is our organist. Matilda Christiansen is unable to come to Mutual this winter so Anna Rassmuson is Treasurer, and Pearl Radmall is librarian, and Mable Monson Secretary. So you can see what or whom our association consists of. It is all uphill

business and means work to make a success.

The Alpine stake authorities have arranged to have all the union meetings and priesthood meetings the same day at Lehi Tabernacle. We met last Sunday for the first time. Talk about dust, there was quite a long parade too. I believe it reached from Am. Fork to Lehi. We called on Knudsons, they are all feeling fine. Tonight the Sunday school teachers and officers are going to have a surprise on Amy Cooper. She is going to leave for Salt Lake City tomorrow. I do not know who the Sunday School will get for their organist.

Ernest goes to school, he goes just in the forenoon again this year. There are so many in the 1st grade that they have half day sessions. Hazel Newman is his teacher. Florence Bullock Madson is Alda's. Hedve is Vida's and Emma Weeks is Delbert's.

You will find enclosed a draft of twelve dollars from your mother.

Alma Monson has come home but I have not seen him yet. Chris has not been feeling the best for a few days but is better today, he is working in the shop, the anvil has been ringing quite a bit today. Lew is still working here and told me to give you his best regards. Jens is busy with his plumbing. He went to Salt Lake yesterday, is coming back today. Be good to yourself and write soon to Your Sister, Stena.

Salt Lake City, Ut., Sep. 2_, 1910

My Darling Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I now take the time to write a few lines to you. It will soon be a week since I received your last letter and I hope it won't be as long until I get another as it was between your last two letters. There was over two weeks between them and I was beginning to think you had forgotten me entirely. I know that you often have to wait that long for my letters but you can't imagine how long it seems when you don't write every week. It wouldn't be any too often if I got a letter every day.

In your last letter you talked like you didn't think you would be released until spring. I don't know what I will do all winter. I don't know where to go or what to do. I was in hopes you would be home by Xmas. I guess I will manage somehow but Oh Nels it's such a long time till spring. I think I will stay here till after conference and then I don't know where to go but I guess I'll go to Pleasant Grove for awhile. I wish I could do something to make some money but you know I have to take care of the baby and Oh I am so thankful I have her. I don't know what I'd do without her now.

Did you hear about Rhoda and Will Stagg losing their baby? She was just two months older than Melba and she died just a few days ago. Isn't that too bad dear? She came to see me when Melba was born and she had it with her then.

I guess you will think I am a discontented old thing when you read this but I do try to be contented. Of course I know you can't come until you are released but it does seem such a long time and you just can't imagine how it is to be wandering around with no place to call home.

Esther and Ike have moved down here on 9th East now. They have a nice little house here with three rooms and a closet and bathroom, they are fixed as cozy as can be. They pay ten dollars a month rent. Their address now is 2420 South 9th E., Forest Dale, Salt Lake City. We moved down here a week ago and are not entirely straightened up yet.

You know that Mrs. Lavin has been to Sweden. She wrote me a card just before she left Sweden. When I came up here Esther had the phone and I was looking in the book and saw Mrs. Lavin's name and so I called her up. She invited me to come and see her and wanted me to come the next day but I couldn't go then and so I haven't been yet and don't know whether I will or not. I imagined by hearing her talk that she thinks she is quite smart and I guess that is why I haven't been to see her. Tell me what you thought about her.

Esther and Ike have gone down town tonight. They wanted me to go too but it was about eight o'clock when they got ready to go and so I thot I would sooner stay home and write to you. Melba is in bed asleep and Clinton is in the other room reading and I am sitting here writing and as soon as I get thru I will get in bed with little Melba. I have been dreaming quite a bit about you lately and I guess it's because I have been thinking you were soon coming home. I dreamed the other night that I was to a dance in Hinckley and I just sat down and a man came up and stood in front of me and when I looked up it was

you. I didn't know you was released or anything and I was so surprised that I couldn't say a word for a few minutes and then I said, "Is it really you Nels?" Then you put out your hand to shake hands and I woke up. I was just half sitting up in bed and my heart was beating so fast I couldn't go back to sleep for quite awhile. You must be sure and tell me as soon as you are released.

I haven't been feeling twice as good for a day or two but will be all right soon. Melba is well and is trying to talk. I hope that you are well. I was pleased to note that you met with such good success while you were away from Gefle and hope that you will have much success in all your efforts.

I don't remember if I told you before to tell Mart that I got that letter he wrote when he was up there with you and appreciated it very much. I did think I would write him a letter but I haven't got at it yet. You might give him my regards when you write. I was glad to hear that Aunt Hanna had written you a letter and sent you a dollar for you know every little bit helps doesn't it dear?

I got a letter from Stena the other day. She says Allie is home and he and Perlinda are living in part of John Newman's old place. You know John Newman has moved down town.

Well dear please don't let this letter bother you. If there's anything in it you don't like, forget it. And if you're not released till spring that will be alright too, we will be alright. Sometimes I get the Blues but it doesn't amount to anything. Now dearest I have written you a big long letter and I want you to write me a long one. We are as ever yours with bushels of love forever and ever, Viola and Melba.

Gefle, Sept. 25, 1910

My Dear Viola:

Will now endeavor to write you a few lines. As you see by the heading I am now back to Gefle. We left Gefle last Friday, Sept. 23, at 1:55 p.m. and arrived at Sundsvall at midnight. We found our way to the elders' home and there found all the elders of the conference very busily engaged in sleep. After shaking hands with them all we soon had our bed made on the floor and were numbered with the snoozers. Saturday at 11 a.m. Pres. Sundwall and his successor Andreas Petterson arrived in Sundsvall and were numbered with us, making a total of 12. In the evening of the same day we had our first meeting. There were not many people present, but we had quite a nice time anyway. Short speeches were delivered by Gustave Olson, Niels Fugal, Wilford Mortenson, Pres. Fredrick Anderson, Pres. Andreas Petterson and Pres. Peter Sundwall.

Sunday the following day at 11 a.m. we commenced our second meeting. There were not many present at this meeting either. Reports from the various branches were heard by Amos Nilson, Hyrum Hanson, Niels Fugal. A report of the conference was given by Pres. Anderson. Pres. Sundwall then delivered a sermon, after which he appointed the elders to the various branches as follows – Fredrick Anderson as conference president and presiding elder in the Sundsvall Branch with Hyrum E. Hanson, Arthur Davidson and

Harold Bederlund as helpers. Niels Fugal as presiding elder over the Gelfe Branch with Amos C. Nilson as partner. Gustave Olson, as presiding elder, and John I. Benson for the Östersund Branch. Willford Mortenson as presiding elder and Gustave Larson as helper in the Härnösand Branch. There will be none sent to Luleå this winter unless there comes more elders. I received just the partner that I wanted and was sent to the best branch so I feel well satisfied and thankful.

Elder Nilson is about 6 ft. 2 in. tall so I have to look up to him even if I am the boss. He has a pretty good ear for music so I believe he will soon be able to chord on the organ when we sing in the meetings. He has been on a mission nine months so he is getting so he can speak a little. He has been in Luleå the last three months so we will no doubt have some fun talking about that wonderful place in the far north. Well I better give an account of the remainder of the conference.

In the afternoon at 3 o'clock we had saints meeting where all had a chance to bear testimony. In the evening at 8 o'clock we had another meeting with a rather small attendance where Pres. Petterson and Pres. Sundwall took up the time in delivering some good sermons. It is too bad that there were not more to our meetings for Pres. Petterson is certainly a fine speaker. He has performed three missions and now he has come to preside over the Swedish Mission and to release Peter Sundwall who has had that position for two and a half years.

Monday at 10 a.m. we held our priesthood meeting where we all bore our testimony and related some of our experiences, and where we received many timely instructions from our presidents which will give us courage to put forth our best efforts in the work. In the evening we had a nice program and the good sisters gave us a feast. It was so popular that I had to help sing two songs and then sing a solo alone. The solo was The Star Spangled Banner interpreted to Swedish. I want to tell you that I received many good comps on my singing, but it doesn't make my hat too small. Pres. Sundwall said I was getting pretty good in the Swedish language and that I was doing fine in learning to speak so I feel quite encouraged and have some hope.

Tuesday morning at 5:20 in company with Pres. Sundwall and Petterson I left Sundsvall for Gefle. I had telephoned to one of the brethren here in Gefle to hire a hall and put an announcement in the paper stating that we were to hold a meeting and be favored with the presence of these two men who would speak to us. We enjoyed a nice trip to Gefle and in the evening held a very nice meeting. We had a larger attendance than was at our conference so we felt quite encouraged. I felt it quite an honor to have the Presidents come with me to the Gefle Branch and give us a nice meeting and stay with me overnight. Elder Amos Nilson remained in Sundsvall and won't come to Gefle until Friday. Today is Wednesday. I will have to hold mutual alone tomorrow night but that will go all right I suppose.

Can say I am well and enjoying my labors OK and hope the present finds you in a good condition. I don't know when I will be released but I believe they intend to keep me until spring. If such should be the case I hope you will put up with it dear wife and not feel like it is too much of a sacrifice. I should like to come home for Xmas but I know I won't be home then. I feel like the winter will pass rapidly and that I can do a good work while

it is going and then when spring comes, it will be with a heart full of satisfaction that I return to my loved ones.

Well dear wife I will now close with the best of wishes and love hoping that you are enjoying yourself wherever you may be. I must now go down town and pay for the hall we had that evening and then come home and go to bed for I am tired and sleepy. Your loving husband. Niels Fugal.

Salt Lake City, Ut., Oct. 2nd 1910

My Dear Nels

I rec'd another of your welcome letters a few days ago and so I suppose it is time I was writing to you again. We are well and are still in the City. I am going to stay here till after Conference now and then I am going to Pleasant Grove. I have been up here six weeks now and it will be a little over a week until I go back so I think that is a pretty good visit, don't you? I have had quite a nice time since I have been here.

When I get back I will stay in Pleasant Grove awhile and then go to Provo for awhile and then I don't know what I will do. I wish it wasn't so far down to Abraham and I would go down there and stay awhile. Maybe I will go anyhow. I have been hoping all the time that you would be home by Xmas anyway but you talk like you don't think you will come home till spring. That seems such a long time but I guess it will go the same as the rest of the time has gone. If Melba just keeps well I guess I can get along somehow.

I have weaned her now so we haven't got any baby now, she is a regular little lady. I hated to wean her, she enjoyed it so, but she had to be weaned sometime, she is getting so big. She was just as sweet and good about it as could be. She cried a little the first night and I was wishing you were here to get her to sleep. Esther has weaned her baby too and when he cried at night she could just give him to Ike, but I got along alright anyhow. She doesn't bother at all now and it as Wednesday when I started to wean her.

It is quite cold here today, I can hardly keep warm. It rained quite hard last night. I believe I told you in my last letter that Esther and Ike have moved. They have such a cute little house down here and it is fixed up so nice. You can see it when you come home, I think they will be living here, they have paid the rent for seven months. Don't you think you will be home by then. I wish you and I had a place like this and fixed as comfortable as this.

Stena said in her last letter that Allie Radmall is home and he and Perlinda are living in part of John Newman's old place. Did you hear that Charlie Magnus' wife is dead? Stena told me about it in her last letter. She had a miscarriage. I believe they only had one child, a little boy 4 years old. I feel sorry for the little boy.

Esther's baby is just learning to walk. He is almost as tall as Melba but he isn't nearly as heavy. Melba weighs 23-1/2 lbs. and he weighs 18 lbs. I haven't been to see Mrs. Lavin but maybe I will before I go back. I don't know of any more news. I guess you have been to conference. I hope that if you wasn't sent back to Gefle that you are in a place just as

good or better. Write soon and tell me all about it. Melba sends kisses to papa. We are as ever Yours with love, Viola and Melba. Joe's address: Ashton, Idaho.

Abraham, Utah, Oct. 12, 1910

My Darling Husband:

The last time I wrote to you which was about a week ago I was in Salt Lake City and now I am way down here in Abraham. We left Salt Lake Monday night at 11:50 and arrived in Oasis at 5:50 the next morning. [Oasis is just below Delta.] Allen came over to the Depot to meet us and we got here about ten o'clock. The wind has been blowing hard ever since I came.

I didn't intend to come down here for awhile and I had written to Stena and told her I was coming down there Sunday but Pa came up to Conference and Valeria, who had been down here on a visit, went as far as Salt Lake with Pa on her way to Idaho. She got a Conference ticket to Salt Lake so Pa wanted me to go back on it. I didn't hardly want to come down here because I had made up my mind to go to P.G. but Pa wanted me to so I got ready and came with him.

Annie came up to Conference too so I phoned to her to stop off at P.G. and get some things for me. She said that your mother said I just had to come down there so she could see Melba before I came down here but it would have cost me \$2.25 to go down there and then I could only stay one day so I thot it would be better not to go but I wanted to awfully bad. I know they will be disappointed because they didn't get to see the baby. She is just as sweet as sugar. I am sending you the picture of her and Verdell together, let me know as soon as you get it.

I stayed in S.L.C. for Conference but only went to one meeting. I didn't get to see Mrs. Lavin. I was going to call on her one day but couldn't find the place so I didn't bother any more. I am sorry I won't be in P.G. and see Bro. Beckstrom and Sister Johansson but maybe you and I can take a trip down to Lake Shore when you come home. You know my mother's bro. lives there.

Pa wants you to come down here and buy a farm but I don't know whether I would like to live down here or not. He said he thot you would do alright down here, you are such a good worker.

I had a nice time while I was in Salt Lake and it's quite a change to come down here. I guess you have been to conference now, hope you enjoyed it. Annie's children have the chicken pox. She is quite lonesome there in Provo and if you have time I am sure she would like to hear from you. Her address is 144 North 3rd East. [If the address is the same, this home still stands.] Pa was wondering why you didn't answer his letter and I told him you was so busy I guess you don't have much time to write.

I don't know of any news so will close for this time. Please address my letters here until I tell you different, and be sure and write lots of them so I won't get too lonesome down here. Melba sends kisses to Papa and also a few from your Loving Wife, Viola.

xxxxxxxxx Write soon.

[Abraham is eight miles northwest of Delta. The site was settled in 1890 and named for Abraham H. Cannon, a Mormon elder and settler in the area.]

Lörstrand, October 18, 1910 [Mailed to Pleasant Grove, forwarded to Salt Lake City.]

My Dear Wife;

Again I will endeavor to write you a few lines. It is just one week ago today since I left Gefle so of course I haven't as yet received a letter from you, but I suppose there is one in Gefle awaiting me.

Since I left Gefle I have had a very nice time intermingled with a few unpleasant experiences. Tuesday evening we arrived in Bollnäs where we remained overnight. Wednesday morning we started out on our journey northward, selling books and distributing tracts. We walked about 15 miles that day meeting with good success in selling books. I gave away 170 tracts and sold 35 books that day. We secured lodgings in a rooming house in a place called Arbrå. The next morning which was Thursday we continued in our journey facing a cold wind. It had rained and snowed during the night. We met with pretty good success this day also. I sold 31 books and gave away 161 tracts. During the day we had some good gospel conversations with a few interested parties. We even had the pleasure of meeting the priest and the pastor of that place. They would not enter into any discussion with us on any doctrine but just tried to scare us by saying we had no right to be in the country and that they forbid us to labor in their district. We showed our American pluck, and in a western style told them that we did not consider them authorized to tell us what to do and what not to do, but that we intended to continue with our labors in this district as well as others and that we were messengers of the only true gospel, always willing to instruct our fellow men concerning the true plan of salvation. When they found that we would not scare, they said they were busy at present and had no time to spare with us, so we bid them goodbye and continued on our journey rejoicing over the little experience we had with them.

The wind kept blowing all day but we kept warm by going from house to house to house. It was dark at 5 p.m. so we jumped the train at 5:36 at a place called Simeå and rode to Lörstrand where we were heartily welcomed by the good saints here. We spent Friday with the Strandh and the Wahlström family. Saturday we went to a place called Myra where we met with good success in canvassing. Sunday we held Sunday School with the saints and friends of this little town. In the evening we held a saints meeting where we partook of the sacrament and where we all bore our testimonies, feeling to rejoice for the pleasant opportunity. The saints are quite musically inclined so we have had some nice music and listened to the nice Swedish songs.

Monday we went to a place called Åsbo where we finished selling all the books we had with us. We left Gefle with each 100 books and now they are all gone so I think we have done fine considering the country we are in, for it is not very easy to sell books in this country.

We have seen many strange sights on this trip. The people are a very dirty set of beings in the country. They live in the same room as they have the cows and I want to tell you that it doesn't smell very good. They cook their meals right close to the cows and eat them in the same perfumed place. They also have their beds in the same room. In some of the places the floor was covered with straw so it would be pleasant to walk on I suppose. It is just in the summer that they live with the cows. In the winter they move into their large house which is next to the cow's house.

It is very pleasant to be in the country now when it is fine weather for everything looks nice. The rolling hills are covered with green and yellow and in the low places the farmers are busily engaged plowing the land which has been cleared for the crops. In some places they were thrashing with a small thrasher run by a gasoline engine. It is nice to visit these places for it causes us to appreciate the many blessings and good conditions which are so prevalent in Utah. I think prospects are much brighter in Utah than here and I am glad that it is probable that I will someday be settled down in a pleasant place in that chosen country.

Today is Tuesday. It is our last day in Lörstrand this time. We leave for Gefle tomorrow. We had figured on going to Söderhamn before going to Gefle, but I have now received word from a saint living there, that we cannot secure a hall to hold meetings this week, so we will postpone that engagement until some time in the near future. We will probably hold a meeting here this evening in Brother Wahlström's house. I like to hold meetings for it makes me feel good every time that I try to explain the principles of the gospel.

I hope you are well dear wife and enjoying yourself. I haven't had a letter from anyone in Utah for some time so I don't know where you are. I suppose little Melba is growing fast and is able to chase all over the floor now. Probably I can help you herd her next summer. Will now close with love and best wishes hoping to hear from you soon. Hope you had a nice time on your birthday which was yesterday. I remain as ever your loving Niels. xxxooxxooxx

Abraham, Utah, Oct. 20, 1910

My Dear Husband:

Your welcome letter was rec'd yesterday and read with pleasure altho I was a little disappointed you spoke of spending the winter in Sweden and I had been hoping that you would spend part of it at home. Of course I had no reason or right to expect you home so soon but I'm afraid I'm a little disappointed anyhow.

I am glad you are so well satisfied and hope that your anticipations will be realized. I am almost afraid you won't want to come home when you are released but then I guess I couldn't blame you much if you didn't.

This is quite a lonesome and deserted place and the wind has been blowing ever since I came. I didn't intend to stay any longer than till Xmas when I came down but from the looks of things now I will spend the rest of my days here. I suppose I ought to be contented no matter where I am but sometimes that's easier said than done. It wasn't so

bad when I thot you were coming home sometime but I have given up all hope now and when spring comes, if it ever does, all I will look for is another letter saying you are going to stay till fall. It wouldn't be so bad if it was summer but Oh the long dreary winter, I know it will never pass.

We went to Hinckley yesterday and I saw a few of my old friends. I am going in to meeting sometime and then I can see some more. I hope you will not think I am too awful mean for anything. I know you can't help it because you are not released and being as you have to stay I am glad you are so well satisfied and I hope they keep you there so long that you will be good and ready to come home when you are released.

I guess this will be all. I am as ever, Viola Fugal, Abraham, Utah.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Oct. 26, 1910

Dear Brother,

Received your very welcome letter of Oct. 3rd a few days ago and was very pleased to hear from you. I thought I would answer it right away but it is so easy to let one day pass after another without getting at writing.

I have written a letter today to your wife and sent Ernest to the post office with it, she is visiting with her father now at Abraham as you no doubt know before this. We received a letter for her from you today and I always scratch off a line to her when I send your letter. Your little girl gets cuter every day you can see that by her picture, this last one is sweeter than ever.

I had a few friends and relatives come to see me on my birthday. Mr. and Mrs. Clayton came down from the city last Saturday and went back this morning. They came to my birthday as also did Retta. Carrie came over too. Erval is well again, he started to school again this week, he has been out of school for four weeks. He has had quite a bad time but we're thankful he got alright without an operation. Their house is not completed yet. I think they will spend one more winter in Provo before it will be ready to move into.

We have just received some wedding invitations from Mayfield. Belvereen Voorhees, cousin Hannah's daughter, is gong to get married on the 2nd of November. She is quite young to get married, I do not think she is more than sixteen years old. I do not think any of us will go up to the wedding. Today Jane Lund and Herbert Armitstead will get married in the Salt Lake City Temple. Katie Frampton Crookston was buried last Monday. She died of the Typhoid fever, and leaves a baby nine months old. It seems too bad when young people like that have to die. But man does not govern these things, it is for a higher being to govern.

We read the piece you contributed to the Citizen with much pleasure, it was very interesting to all who read it. We did not mention it as we thought the paper was sent to you. Lavina called the Editor up tho other day and asked him about sending you the paper, he said he did not know why it was discontinued, but he will send it to you again and also some back numbers. We will not send you the Pleasant Grove paper, it is no

good at all, there has not been one item of P.G. news in it for nearly six months. We are not going to keep it any more. James D. Thorne offered to furnish locals for the paper if they would pay him the same as they did the other man, but they wanted the news furnished for nothing hence the way it ended.

Say kid, P.G. is progressing, there are four automobiles owned here. Mr. Alex Thornton has one, L.W. Lund, Dr. Grua, and C. F. Westphal owns the others. The streets are not paved yet though and the street cars are not running in P.G. They do run from Salt Lake City to as far as Sandy.

You stated in your letter that you had been to conference once more and that you were sent back to your old field of labor and that you have a very good companion, just the one you wanted. We are certainly very glad to hear it. Nothing pleases us more than to hear you are enjoying your labors and are contented with your branch wherein you are called to labor. Things are much more pleasant when you have a congenial partner also.

We were in hopes that you would be released by Xmas but it seems that that is not to be. We realize too that you can do much good by staying this winter as you know the language and no doubt you can pound the pulpit too. Would like very much to step in your meeting some Sunday eve and hear you preach. Mother and the boys says if you would like to stay until spring that it will be alright, they will try and furnish the means to keep you there.

Mother has been to Sandy for a week's visit with Ellen, she had a nice time and seemed to enjoy an outing. Mother is busy cutting carpet rags and coloring rags today, she is just more than busy. Uncle Isaac received your letter but you know he is slow to answer letters.

The potatoes are dug, there were not so many bushels as there should be but the crop was pretty fair. Lew is working with the beets, it will be sometime yet before they get them all done.

Everything is about the same as usual only it is close to election and people are busy at night going to rallies. Be good to yourself and write soon to Your Sister Stena. (Give your companion our best regards.)

Abraham, Utah, Oct. 27, 1910

My Dear Husband:

I just rec'd another letter from you but it was so short. You said you were in a hurry so I guess it will be alright this once but you must take time to write long letters and write often. I was glad to get your letter if it was short for it was better than none at all. I want to thank you for the pretty birthday card. I didn't hardly think you would remember my birthday.

You spoke of having a party in honor of your Name's Day and I can't think what that is unless it is the day you were named. Is that right? I was glad to hear you had such a good

time. [Don't have his letter, apparently.]

I went to Hinckley to meeting last Sunday and it did seem good to get back to my Old Home Town and see my old friends and playmates. It had been nearly four years since I was there last so you can imagine how nice it seemed. Everyone seemed glad to see me and that Melba was so sweet. I saw Alma Langston, he hasn't changed much only a little heavier. He said he was glad to see me and acted nice and sociable. His father and mother both insisted that I should come in and stay with them a week but of course I wouldn't do that. You remember of me talking about Laura Walker, she wants me to come and stay with her awhile and nearly everyone invited me to come and see them.

[Hinckley is near Delta, on the other side of the Sevier River.]

Last Wednesday I went to Hinckley again to a funeral. Bro. Wm. A. Reeve had something the matter with his leg and had to have it amputated, he lived about two weeks after the operation. He left a wife and twelve children, the oldest the age of me. The funeral was so sad, I did feel sorry for his poor wife.

I got a letter from Stena today and she said he was going to write to you right away so I guess she will tell you all the P.G. news. Little Melba hasn't been well for the last few days and now she is all broke out. I don't know whether it is small pox, chicken pox or what it is but hope she will soon get well. As ever, Viola Fugal.

Gefle, Nov. 2, 1910

My Dear Loving Wife,

Since I last wrote to you which was a week ago I have received another of your welcome missives and have perused it with great pleasure and interest.

The photo of our sweet darling daughter Melba and her cousin Verdell came to hand the same day, for which accept many thanks. I was never so surprised as when I saw what a great change Melba has taken. I would not have known her if it wasn't for the likeness of her mother's face which is so indelibly sealed upon the dear little soul. I used to think she resembled me somewhat, but now since her womanly features are commencing to develop she looks quite Youngishfied so I suppose I will have to give you all the honor for her beauty, and call her mamma's girl. She certainly is beautiful and I want to tell you that I feel proud of her. [Don't have this photo.]

I can never tire looking at her photo. She stand there with her dear mother's expression on her face, looking off into space, reading the wonderful things of the world, comparing them with the heavenly conditions of her pre-existence, and seems to be solving the question: "For what wise and glorious purpose hast thou placed me here on earth?" She is the picture of innocence, and I imagine that I can see lying concealed in that pure tabernacle those faculties of love, charity and chastity, which when developed through the experiences of this terrestrial world, will make her one of the noble daughters and mothers if Israel. God grant that so be, and that she may always pursue a course which will not only lead her to salvation and exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God, but will at the same time add joy and blessings to her parents. This is possible and I hope probable, but I realize that proper training is essential for high morals, therefore may that we, a united pair of God's children, live such a life that will have great influence upon those whom God may give us to teach.

Verdell must not be unnoticed. He too has made a great change since I received his first photo and time will tell what star he was born under. He has grown to a nice little boy and from all appearances he will follow the footsteps of his honorable father.

I have shown the photo to quite a number of saints here and of course they can't help but admire it and tell me I have something to be proud over. Well I suppose we better lay the photo to the side now for a moment and bring our minds on something else.

I notice that you have left the big city and in company with your father and your posterity gone down into the Land of Abraham. Hope that while there you will enjoy yourself. I suppose it seems quite a change to be there since being in Salt Lake City for a while, but having the privilege of returning to your childhood home, for a while at least, ought to be quite pleasant. Probably many found recollections will come to your mind and you will feel like you have been dreaming and just woke up finding yourself in the old homestead or nearby.

It was too bad that you couldn't pay my folks a visit before going south but probably it will not be so very long before you go to P.G. again so they will have a chance to see

little Melba. It is also too bad that you didn't see Mrs. Lavin while at S.L.C. but probably you will meet me at S.L.C., then we can both call on her if we wish to.

You say that your father would like me to buy a farm in that part of the country. Well that may be OK but I am afraid I won't be able to buy a setting hen when I get home. I should like very much to take a trip to that place at last, to see what kind of prospects are there. It would be nice to pay your father a visit and perhaps continue on to Mayfield to see the Sanpeters, but there is time to think of these things when I come home and then besides I just wrote that I would be unable to buy a setting hen. Building air castles is about as profitable as owning a half interest in a rainbow or as nourishing as a dinner of twelve courses, eaten in a dream, so probably I better not lay too many plans before I get there.

I am feeling well in my labors and realizing great blessings connected with missionary work. I feel like the time is far spent and there is little remaining even if I do stay here until spring. The chilly autumn is at hand and the signs look very much like winter will soon set in. We appreciate the fire already.

Elder Nilson likes this place first class. He too has been in Luleå so he appreciated the change. I think we will spend a pleasant winter together. Hope you may spend just as pleasant and in the spring be glad to meet your dear husband. Extend my best regards to your folks and accept the same from my partner, Elder Nilson. Niels Fugal.

Monroe, Utah, November 13, 1910 [Sent to Gefle, forward to Lörstrand.]

Dear Brethren Fugal and Nielson:

You may feel assured that your epistles were received and that I enjoyed reading them. It is pure joy for me to know that I have won your love and confidence. I hope it will be in my daily walk that I remember it and prove worthy of the same. If either of you can see wherein I tried to magnify my calling while there, give God the honor and glory and remember that it is my aim to please God.

It was sad for me to hear of Sister Hanna and I thank God that you are free from anything that would put a blotch on your character. I suppose you are thankful that you have been protected. Poor girl, notwithstanding, she has no love for me. I can assure you that I think of her as my own dear sister and would like to see her repent and live above it. I love those who by chance make a misstep in life and will do all they can to show fruits of repentance, and I hope I will always be ready to lend a helping hand to those who are down.

When I read that some of the Saints thought you guilty I felt that I would like to tell them a thing or two. I tell you my blood came to that pitch that I believe I could have made them understand what I meant. I am glad that conditions have been better in Gefle since Sister Johansson left. Well Brother Beckstrom may think she is OK but I hope he is wise or that woman will cause him some serious trouble. She tried her best to make it appear as if she was coming to America for my sake and told some things in a different meaning than she ought to, but I got wind of it and if anyone was ever treated cold she was one. I

never want to have anything to do with her again if I can help it.

I feel good every way. I am working hard every day on a farm for a man by the name of Magleby. I will no doubt go out on the "desert" with sheep this winter. I get Fifty Dollars a month and all expenses paid for. I hope to stay with it a couple of years and then I can look the world in the face in everything. Everyone is so good and kind to me. I feel that they all want to help me all they can.

I am sorry that you did not call on the good nurse at Sundsvall. You know I love her for her nobleness and purity. Be sure and call on her next spring, will you not?

Brother Nielson, I am glad that you called at the Standberg family. They are good people. I received a letter from them a short time ago, also the old folk's photo. They were always good and kind to me.

I sometimes knew you boys that I was a odd old stick and strict. I was perhaps, but I always had a good motive in view and no doubt you can recognize it now and know that I loved the missionaries and wanted to see them accomplish the most good and the best. I wish I could labor here in just the same way as we do in the mission field. We need missionaries here at home as much as any place. Good bless you both with such things as you need and that you may prove worth of them. Your Brother, David. W. Woodard.

Give my love to all – none mentioned – none forgotten.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Nov. 14th 1910
[Mailed Dec. 6, forwarded from Gefle to Lörstrand.]

Our Dear Friend, Neighbor and Brother:

Some time ago I wrote you a letter for mother but it seems that one thing and another have kept us from mailing it so I will attempt it again and make an endeavor to mail it. From your folks we hear that you are well and are certainly glad to know that in the noble work in which you are engaged in that the Lord is blessing you with good health and we do hope He will continue to pour down his blessings upon you and indeed all who are away from their houses in the same cause.

We are all enjoying good health but Rulon met with an awful accident over to the Lehi sugar factory this fall, little over a month ago, being scalded badly on different parts of his body, but is getting around again although not able to work yet.

I was very much impressed with the description that you wrote of that beautiful and far off country and of its lovely scenery. I would certainly love to see some of the beautiful scenery of the world besides Utah although I certainly love my birthplace and would not like to leave dear old Utah never to come back again.

Arthur is working to Lehi but his mail comes to Pleasant Grove and I know he would appreciate very much a letter from you. Jesse Oler is now on a mission in Colorado, has been gone a month. I had the privilege of hearing 3 recently returned missionaries

yesterday over to Lehi to Union meeting, one was Dr. Christensen of American Fork, and the other 2 were brothers from Alpine. I do enjoy listening to a missionary just fresh from his field of labor as they seem to speak of the work of the Lord as being that which is uppermost on their minds and would rather talk of that than anything they know of.

As you have been gone two years now I guess you are beginning to look forward to the time of meeting with those you left behind when you left to proclaim the ever lasting Gospel which has been bestowed upon the earth in our time of living which I think all of the Latter day Saints are very thankful for.

We are indeed having some beautiful fall weather having no storm at all as yet this fall. Hensen and Lerena are still living at Mammoth although times are not as flourishing there as they have been in the past. I believe all fall work is done here unless it is a few beets that are not up but most of them are up I think. Joe has gone out to the sheep for the winter, out in the Strawberry country. I do not know of any news to tell you in contact with the goings on which are about the same as when you were here. Some marriages and some deaths occasionally. Janie Lund and that Armitstead boy were married about two weeks ago. I suppose you knew that Katie Frampton Crookston was dead, she left a husband and baby besides her many relatives and friends to mourn her loss. She seemed to have the esteem of all who knew her as she had such a sweet disposition.

Thanksgiving day will soon be here again, a holiday which I presume you do not celebrate across the waters, and then Christmas, the holiday kept all over the civilized world.

Mother is about the same as she was when you left but some thinner and cannot stand quite as much work as she used to. Father is looking older too and sometimes I wonder at them getting old, forgetting that their children are getting along in years, and their children's children growing to man and womanhood. Glen being the oldest of all and as tall as his mother, but then maybe you think he doesn't need to be very tall to be that tall. Nevertheless he seems quite large to us for he has most of the responsibility of things done around our place as his Papa is away most of the time. He has just joined the school orchestra which Mr. Paxman the music teacher is organizing, and is taking lessons on a cornet. All of our children are going to school this year, Maude being the last to start and a beginner this year.

This is quite a rambling letter as I'm not used to writing to missionaries and do not know what to write that would interest them most but hope there will at least be a few things in it that will interest you.

There is quite a change in Plt. Grove since you left, that of the ward being divided in 3 as of course you are aware of long before this. It seems to of made many more active workers in different organizations, some of who never before did anything toward the upbuilding and improving of our Church in its different branches.

Dec. 5. Well Niels once more I will take my pen and endeavor to complete my letter and get it off. I do not know how it is that I cannot get this letter off, it certainly isn't because I do not write or send any mail for I write about 3 letters a week, sometimes more, so

guess I will hurry and write and send it down after school or you will not get it until you come home, will you.

Last night in MIA conjoint we had the privilege of hearing Bro. Olsen speak. He went on his mission the same time that you did but has arrived home some sooner. He certainly spoke nice.

Thanksgiving is past and turkey's all gone, but Christmas will soon be here but it doesn't seem that late in the season for the weather is certainly beautiful. I will close my letter now wishing the Blessings of the Lord to continue to be with you in that far off land as well on your return home. I am as ever your friend and neighbor, Liza Jacobson and Mrs. Lim. Write if you find time. All wish to be remembered. Goodbye.

Abraham, Utah, Nov. 16, 1910 [Letter forwarded to Lörstrand from Gefle.]

My Darling Husband:

I guess you think it is about time I was writing to you again. I haven't any excuse for not writing sooner so won't try to make one but you know it is so easy to put it off till tomorrow. I have received two letters from you since I wrote last and was very glad to get them both. I was glad to hear that you are enjoying your labors and having such a good time.

I am having a good time since I came down here. We went to Hinckley to a theater on the 3rd. It was a Home Dramatic Co. but it was just fine. I went to the dance on election night and had a good time. We are going to have the thresher next week and after we get thru with that I am going to Hinckley and stay for a few days.

I dreamed you were home last night and you and I were riding in an automobile. I guess it will be some time before that dream comes true. Don't you think so? What time in May do you think you will be released? And after you are released how long will it take you to come home? I wish you would tell me this the next time you write so I will know about when to look for you. I wish it was you that was coming home this winter instead of Mart. I know that you are having a good time and I guess I'm selfish when I wish that you were home but I just can't help it. It seems like you have been gone a hundred years now and from now till spring seems twice as long as all the rest of the time you have been gone. I have got so used to traveling around now that I won't be contented to stay any place. I'll just have to travel around the rest of my life.

I guess Melba has had the chicken pox but she is alright now. She is getting so big. It's too bad you didn't get to see her when she was so little and cute. She will be half grown before you see her but I don't suppose you care.

I washed yesterday and my wrist gave out so I can't write a bit decent today. I was helping Halley house clean last week. [Halley is Allen's wife; Allen is Viola's oldest sibling.] Pa and Allen have gone to the canyon for poles. They won't be back before Sat. or Sun. Aunt Hanner said to tell you she got your letter and will answer it soon. I guess this is all for this time, I am as ever, Viola Fugal.



Halley Young
(Allen's)

Gefle, Nov. 21, 1910

My Dear Wife;

I will now try to write you a few lines as it is over a week since I have wrote to you and I know that you think a week is plenty far between my letters. I know that I always appreciate one from you every week, but it isn't every week that I receive one. I intended to write you last Friday (today is Monday) but we were quite busy then preparing for a meeting that we held in the evening.

On Thursday I received a card from Elder G. W. Tendt, who is working at Stockholm, stating that he would pay us a visit Friday and remain with us until Saturday afternoon when he would continue on to Borlänge, a place where three elders are laboring. Of course we desired to have an extra meeting being as he was coming so we gave out notice to that effect at our Thursday evening meeting and on Friday chased about somewhat inviting saints and friends. We had a good attendance at the meeting and Elder Tendt gave a very interesting talk.

Elder Tendt came on a mission the same time as I did and he don't know when he is going home. He has his wife with him so he hasn't that great attraction to make him anxious to go home but still he claims that he would like to leave some time this winter. His wife does most of the writing in the Swedish Star so they cannot let her go very well until they get some one to take her place. This is Elder Tendt's second mission. The first time he was here he labored here at Gefle for a while. That was one reason why he desired to visit this place, for there is a family of saints here now who where here then. When he was on his first mission he had not been married long and his only child was born while he was here in Sweden. He said that he knows just how I feel for he has passed through the same experience. That was ten years ago and now he is only thirty-two years old. I wonder if you and I will go on a mission together in ten years from now? I think it would be nice if we could, but probably circumstances will not be so we can. If not we will have to take things as they come, always trying to bear in mind that we have a great mission to perform at home.

I read your last letter with interest only when you stated that Melba was not well, that she was all broke out. Hope she is well now and that she has only had a case of chicken pox. According to her photo she looks so fat and well that there isn't much danger of her getting sick. I am pleased to note that you seem to be enjoying yourself much better now and that your friends are so kind to you and are anxious to have you visit them. I hope you will soon feel to home and discard the thought that the winter will never pass. The winter won't be so very long after Xmas and Xmas will be here almost before we are aware of it.

I don't think you have had much winter yet in Utah. We have had a little here. They have been out with sleighs but at present the ground is bare and it has rained considerably during the last two weeks. It has been quite cold a few days and quite a layer of ice was formed on the river but at present the boats are going in full force. The days are shortening rapidly, it gets dark about 3:30 p.m. and isn't daylight until 8 a.m. But after

Xmas they will lengthen quite rapidly and about the time that perpetual daylight comes again I will be apt to move from this wonderful land of the north and journey to the place we all love so well.

At present I feel as well as ever in my labors. We do some tracting in the city now and are meeting some who will listen to us. Our Sunday meetings are pretty well attended so if we don't meet with some success it will be our own faults. We are trying to do our best, but we feel weak in presenting the gospel principles so they might be thoroughly understood. Elder Nilson is doing nicely; he can play a few chords upon the organ so it makes the songs sound much better. We are going to try to hold choir practice once a week now so we can improve on our singing, for I notice the singing has a great affect on those who attend the meetings.

Will now draw to a close. We are going to take a good long walk now into another town to deliver some Stars. Will close with best of love and regards to all, Your loving husband, Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Nov. 28th, 1910

Dear Brother,

Your most welcome letter of 9th inst. came to hand yesterday and it was read with pleasure. We are indeed pleased to hear from you as often as you can find time to write. We stand around, all attention, whenever one of your letters come to hand.

You stated in your letter that you did not have any news to write about and you were afraid your letters were not interesting. You must get that idea out of your head right now! We always remark about what good interesting letters you write every time we read them.

I know that I have not been as punctual in writing this fall as I should be and I do feel ashamed. It is so easy to put off writing one day after another and the only way to do is to just sit right down and write today before I forget. I know that you always like to hear from home and now that Viola does not live in P.G. you do not hear much about the P.G. news. I will try and write a little oftener in the future.

I stated in my last letter that mother had been to Mayfield and that she did not feel very well when she came home. She is not well yet but she feels a little better than she did. She is not in bed but she cannot get around very well. Her back and hip still bothers her. I think it is rheumatism. She thinks she will be alright in a few days, she says it has to take its time to get better.

How did you spend Thanksgiving? John and Carrie went to Midway to spend Thanksgiving, our brother Chris had an invitation from his old girl Miss Lila Richardson to come to Benjamin to spend Thanksgiving and he went to be sure. He came back Friday and said he had had a very nice time. I have been teasing him ever since he came home but he stands it like a brick. He says she is a nice girl and all her folks are nice too.

Mother, Ernest and I had our Thanksgiving to Lavina's, we had a very good dinner and a nice time too. The Sunday Schools of the three wards gave a dance in the afternoon for the children. Each ward received \$2.15 after expenses. The musicians played free, it was good of them to do it.

Jens is still busy with his plumbing and he is doing some electrical work also. Chris is busy in the shop, he has had lots of plows to fix, the farmers are busy doing their fall plowing. Chris is busy too collecting and so is Jens. But there is nothing quite so big a blessing as having something to do and health so they can perform their work. Chris does not enjoy very good health but is feeling pretty good at present, for him.

Lew is still working here, he will have the plowing done in three or four days if the weather keeps fine. We have certainly had lovely weather this fall, most of the necessary work will get done. Lew was under the weather today and did not work but he said he would work tomorrow.

It is now Monday evening. I did not get my letter finished this afternoon. Jens and Chris have gone to Priesthood meeting. Ernest has gone to bed and mother is here by the table reading, she has read two books since she came home from Mayfield. I do not know what she would do if she could not read. She has commenced to read another. You stated in your letter that you would send mother a book entitled "Added Upon." It is a very good book to read, Mrs. Lim has the book and she has loaned it to mother so you will not need to send yours. Thank you just the same. If you know of any other books that would be nice for her to read just write and let us know. It is mostly novels that she has read so far.

I received a letter from Viola last night, she said that they were all well and that Melba was growing very fast. She is such a sweet little thing. I know that Viola was disappointed to learn that you were not coming home for Christmas but I believe she is reconciled to have you stay until spring now. She had planned to have you home for this Christmas but another six months will pass in six months anyway and you can accomplish much good by staying this winter. You will be able to do more than you have before as you know the language and are able to preach too.

Bro. Oscarson is on his way home, he left Sweden on the 20th inst. His folks are in hard circumstances so it is right that he should come home. Lavina received a card from Janet Bullock, she seemed to be enjoying her mission just fine, she is laboring in Portland, Oregon. Jesse Oler is in Colorado, they did not send him so far from home. Cora Carlson (Charlie C's dater) was married last Wednesday to Erving Bullock, Wm. Bullock's son. I believe I wrote you that Janie Lund and Herbert Armitstead were married. Ora Galli Shelton is visiting with Lavina, she has a baby girl nearly seven months old, it is quite a cute baby. Berthina and children are visiting at Riverton at present, they are coming to Lavina's Wed. They are not going back to the reservation until spring. George is going to get a job at Park City.

Today our cow Rheumatics died, she was sick for two days, her calf was just two weeks old. We have not much milk at present so Chris sold the calf as luck would have it to Fred Smith for \$5.00, it was not much, but it was good to get that as we could not raise it.

You asked to send you a check in this letter but we sent you one in last letter. We thought you would need some dough. Mother says to get yourself some good clothes and warm shoes so you will not be cold. You must take good care of Nielse. Your clothes must be threadbare not to have had any new ones for two years. Oh yes, Nels! your second mother Britty sent us five dollars for your for Christmas. Isn't she good? We will not send you the money in this letter but you must write her a letter so she can get it for Christmas. She gets so pleased to receive a letter from you. We have not seen her for some time but Jens was out there about three weeks ago and borrowed her horse. You know, Mrs. Gustaveson never drives it and Jens needs a horse every day to fly with.

We have not seen Uncle Isaac and Uncle Jacob yet about our relatives. But will do so when mother feels like visiting. We have not forgotten about it. You must excuse this leaf of paper because my tablet is full this time so I will have to stop.

Hope you are enjoying your mission very much and may you always be blest with health and everything else that you need. Be good to yourself and write soon to your Long-winded and Loving Sis. Stena C. (The folks send their love.)

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 1, 1910

My Darling Husband:

It has been so long since I wrote to you last that I guess you will think that I have forgotten you. I believe I have rec'd two letters since I wrote last. I was glad you liked the picture of little Melba but surprised to hear that you think she has changed so. I can't see it but I guess it's because I am right with her all the time. I don't notice it so much. She is getting so big now she will be almost grown before you see her.

Pa got word yesterday that his brother Eugene was dead so he went up to Salt Lake last night. Uncle Gene was staying at a rooming house there when he took pneumonia and died. [Eugene was a twin, the youngest of Joseph C. Young and Elizabeth Pugh's 11 children; he never married that we know of and died at age 48.]

I just got a letter from Stena yesterday, she tells me that Mart's folks expect him home in February and that Oscarson is on his way home now. Bruce Harvey and brothers have bought Alldredge's place for \$1280.

We went to Hinckley yesterday to a funeral, it was Bro. T. B. Allred. It was quite cold going in but pleasant coming back.

Stena said that Chris had a special invitation from Miss Richardson to come down to Benjamin and eat Thanksgiving dinner. So of course he went.

We had quite a nice time here on Thanksgiving. There are only a few people out here so we ate our Thanksgiving dinner together over in the schoolhouse. After dinner we had a nice program and then at night we had a dance.

I hope you are well and enjoying your labors. Melba has a cold but otherwise we are all OK. Grandma sent Melba a dollar for a Xmas present. Annie and Esther are both thinking of coming down here for Xmas and if they do we will have a dandy time. I am quite sure Annie will come but don't know about Esther. We are going to get Allen a Xmas tree when he goes for wood and Halley and I are going to trim it up nice for the kids. I can hardly wait till Xmas comes. I hope you will have as good a time as I expect to.

Everybody that I talked to yesterday in town told me what a sweet baby I had. She always looks so pleasant that people can't help but notice her. Pa carries her around and is as proud of her as I am. On fellow that used to be my schoolteacher was talking to me and he asked me how many I had like her and I said just the one and he said she certainly was a fine baby.

She is cutting teeth again now. Two double teeth just came thru so she has ten now. Esther says Verdell has eleven. I don't know what Pa and Aunt Hanner will do when I take Melba away, they both just about eat her up.

We haven't had the threshing yet and I don't think we will have them for a week or ten days. I don't know of any more news so will say goodbye for this time. Write often to your loving Wife Viola. xxxxoo

Provo, Dec. 8, 1910

Dear Bro.

It is a long time since I wrote to you and also a long time since we heard from you, I hope you are well and enjoying yourself, we are all well except John hasn't been feeling well for the last two months but we hope he will soon be well again. We are going to live here in Provo all winter, our house isn't built yet, that Sundberg [Andrew F., a local builder] is slow as Christmas, it lacks a lot in being done yet. By the time he gets the carpenter work done it will be too cold to get it painted so I suppose we won't get into it till next summer. John has gone out on the bench today to see how they are doing.

We haven't had any snow yet but it is cloudy and looks as tho we were going to have some snow. I hope we have snow for Xmas, for it won't seem like Xmas without snow. I guess there is much snow where you are by now, I suppose it will be somewhere near Xmas by the time you get this note and that you will be busy preparing a Xmas sermon. We spent Thanksgiving day at Midway, all of John's folks were there except Jens and his family. We had a nice time together.

Well dear Niels I guess you can see by my writing that I am in a hurry. I want this to go off today. I haven't been over to ma's for two weeks, she wasn't very well then, she has got the backache quite bad. I have no news to tell you so will close wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, and I hope the people there will be good to you. Take good care of yourself, write and let us know how you spent Xmas. From your Loving Sis. Carrie. John says to helsen you so good and sends you 5 dollars.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 12, 1910

Dear Nels:

It is with great pleasure that I now take time to write to you again. It is just about a week since I got your last letter so I am looking for another most any time.

We are having fine weather here for this time of the year. We haven't had any snow to amount to anything yet. It rained last night but has been quite pleasant today. We had the thrashers last week and had 91 bu. of lucerne seed. After they pay the expenses they will have about \$202 a piece. They have to pay the thresher \$5 an hour and it took them ten hours to thresh it.

I think we will have quite a nice time here on Xmas. They are going to have a tree over in the school house Xmas eve and Santa Claus will come and give all the kids over 2 years old a present. Then they will have a program. They are going to have a theater during holidays. Allen and Halley are both in it. We are expecting Annie and Esther down for Xmas. I guess they will come a week from next Friday night. I got a letter from Stena the other day. She said Albert Olsen is home and spoke in Conjoint meeting. She thinks he is a pretty good speaker.

I believe I told you in my last letter that Uncle Gene is dead. He died in Salt Lake City of

pneumonia. Pa went up to the funeral. I don't know of anything else that would be of interest to you and it is getting late so I will close by wishing you and Elder Nilson a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am as Ever Viola Fugal, Abraham, Utah. Melba sends a kiss to papa.

Provo, Dec. 14, 1910

Dear Bro. Niels:

Again I take pleasure in writing a line or two to you. You will no doubt be surprised to get a note from me so soon, but the other day when I sent your five dollars I made a mistake. John told me to send you ten, I misunderstood him, he said he wanted to send you ten for Xmas. I thot he said five, so that is how I come to write again so soon. It's not so very soon I guess but it is for me.

John is feeling some better, the rest of us are well. It rained some the other day but we haven't had any snow yet. Last night it froze harder than it has before this winter. Erval and Erma are very interested in their school this year, they are both doing fine.

Well Dear Bro. I haven't any more to tell you this time so will close. Trusting all is well with you and wishing you success in all your undertakings and hoping to hear from you soon, I remain as ever, Your Loving Sis. Carrie.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 14th 19109

My Dear Brother,

It is with pleasure I scratch off a few lines to you and no doubt you think it is time to hear from us again. We have not received a letter from you since I wrote last but we realize you are busy and especially now that Xmas is so near.

We are all the same as usual, mother is better than when I wrote last, she has felt stronger and can walk better since last Sunday. She feels like she will soon be entirely well. And we certainly hope she will. Chris is busy setting up a surrey today, he thinks that Ted Harris will buy it, he was here last night and looked at it. Jens is still busy with his plumbing. Alvin Carlson has been helping him for a few days and is with him today too. Lew is still working here, all the plowing is done and the manure hauled, they have not sowed any grain this fall as they say the land is not ready for it. Lew has been cleaning up the barnyard for the last couple of days and pilling up boards and traps that will accumulate around a place like this. It does make it look lots better. The dry cattle are down the hay field and the colts are in the north field. We have not had any snow yet, it has rained some but it makes it so the animals can feed out for sometime yet. The boys have bought Lew's cow so we will have plenty of milk for this winter. Lew felt like he could not afford to buy feed for the cow, that is the reason he sold her.

We have new neighbors in the Alldredge place, Niels Monson (Olaf's [and Mons'] brother) and family. [Olaf and Mons at once time lived in the corner houses east (100 N. and Center) of Central School.] If he is left entirely alone we will get along just fine.

Albert Olsen has returned from his mission, he looks fine and feels fine, he spoke in conjoint meeting and does fine. You know he was so bashful before he left home. He said he thought he would have to stay until spring but he got his release all of a sudden and he lost no time in coming home. He asked me how you were getting along and how Viola was too.

The MIA of the three wards had a dance in the Orpheus and a basketball game between the high school girls and the 8th grade girls, the game was 11 to 4 in favor of 8th grade. It was quite amusing to watch them, they did their best to win. Ettie Westphal was the one to throw the ball in the basket. We have had pretty good attendance at our mutuals, the girls and boys do very well being as they have their school work also.

[The Orpheus was the gymnasium part built in 1909 of the high school (later built in 1921), 155 E. 200 S.]

I understand that Mart is coming home in February. So you and he will not have the pleasure of coming home together, but I guess that will have to be alright anyway. Ally is still out to the sheep herd. The Scandinavians are going to give a dance in the Orpheus on the 21st inst. I expect they will have a good time as everyone likes to go to those dances.

Chris is still love sick, you know. I wrote you that he had been to Benjamin to spend Thanksgiving and his girl came to P.G. for the MIA dance and went back home Monday morning. Chris seems to think she is alright. We will get him to put off the wedding until you come home so you can attend. I think he will do that too, so you and he can draw cuts to see which will rent Aunt Margaret's house, eh? Chris gets lots of teasing and he stands it like a buck; you know, he is used to it.

You must take good care of your little stomach now as it is Xmas in Gefle and everybody will want you to eat and eat, so it was in olden times. Have you written to Mrs. Gustaveson, you know she sent \$5.00 to us for you for Xmas. We did not send it to you as we had just sent you a draft. Be sure to let us know in plenty of time when you need money and we will send you some. We do not want you to lack for anything.

I am a little late in writing you this letter but I expect you will receive it a few days after Xmas. We all wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Be good to yourself and write soon to your Loving Sister Stena.

P.S. F. S. Humphries [111 E. 100 N.] is a happy grandpa now Lydia has a son. [F.S. is credited with organizing the first S.S. in the LDS church, was the cemetery sexton for 20 years, and ran a floral business in P.G. for several years.] Ted Harris bought the buggy alright, he came for it a little while ago. S.C.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 15th 1910

Dear Brother:

Yes, truly, "Procrastination is the thief of time." "Don't you think I knew for I have

experimented?" To be frank with you Niels, your letters are such thoroughly good ones and so full of intelligent thought that I feel weak in even trying to answer them, in consequence of which, I feel the need of a little time when, to a certain degree, I can feel free from the worry of the children and other affairs and also when my mind is capable of putting my thoughts together in some coherent form. However. If I continue to wait for such a time, I fear several more months will elapse ere I find it, so here I am amid the prattle of the children, etc., in a brave effort to scribble off some of my thoughts and I must confess that I take much pleasure in the effort. When one neglects doing a thing like we have neglected writing, it becomes a source of worry or conscience hurting. Nearly every day in this long long time I have thought, Well, tonight I can get at writing and then when night comes we procrastinate again for some reason or other.

By the time you receive this letter you will no doubt have spent another Xmas in picturesque old Sweden and one I hope of pleasure and gratification for you and that the new year will open up bright bringing you joy and satisfaction in the great work you are so ably helping to roll on, and in all your undertakings. It is a source of much pleasure to us all to know of the progress you are making and we feel that the good you are instrumental in accomplishing cannot be counted in dollars and cents. May our Father in Heaven continue to bless your efforts and bless you with health and strength to continue your labors until the close of your mission at which time you can rest assured there will be an expectant bunch of Fugalites and friends awaiting your home coming.

It is now two years and two months since you left P.G and must say that things have moved on quite nicely during that time although there have been no perceptible changes in the little town itself. We feel that neither we nor our little town will be much changed but you, who will have had some over two and a half years of training in the great School of the Masters. Which School I fancy is the grandest Institution of learning ever instituted. I do not mean to say that with the mission ends the training but that the time spent in the mission field is a great preparatory step for the years of usefulness to follow.

Must tell you how we are getting along in Mutual. We feel that we are doing quite nicely and no excuse to do otherwise as our lessons cannot fail to interest even the laziest mind while those who study them earnestly cannot fail to receive a testimony of the truthfulness of this Latter Day Work. Our subject for the winter is The Restoration, which was preceded last year by the Apostasy and the year before by Paul's Missionary Journeys. So you see we have made a systematic study of the gospel as taught in the days of the Savior and traced it thru its decline and finally to complete extinction from the face of the whole earth, which fact both church and secular history alike bear record. And this year we take the restoration of this glorious gospel given in the Dispensation of the fullness of Times when all the keys, ordinances and blessings of the gospel from the days of Adam down to the present day, are again restored to earth. Oh how beautiful, how grand! If only we could appreciate it to its fullest extent. Such studies, especially under the inspiration of faith and prayer cannot fail to be far reaching in their results. And we trust Heaven will bless our humble efforts this winter, that at the close of the year our girls may be able to bear an intelligent testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel. We feel that we have some good conscientious workers in our association as also have the other wards. Perhaps Stena has told you who they are but I will tell you again who our officers are, Hazel Newman, Stena C. as councilors, Vivia Finalyson (a district school

teacher) and Hedve Johnson class leaders. Stella Sundberg Thorne and Etta Westphal organists, Mabel Monson Sec., Anna Rasmusen Treas., Pearl Radmall Librarian, and everyone of them can be depended upon to contribute their best toward the association. Oh yes, Ethel Patton is our chorister. Some of the parents have attended our meetings and they all express themselves as very much interested in the lessons. Bishop Walker's wife told me last night that after Xmas she means to attend and would have done so all along if she had not been in such poor health so long. Also Maggie Holdaway, she too has been ill and could not come before. Niels, we are not boasting of our work but we just feel well and encouraged over the work which seems to interest the girls and parents alike.

Would tell you some of the local news were it not that the Citizen can do that so much better than I. Suppose you get the Citizen alright. Mr. Lovelass, the editor, promised me he would send it to you, together with the back numbers you had failed to receive in the summer. There is one news item I believe that failed to appear in our paper and perhaps you have heard it thru other sources, however will bear repeating.

Of course you remember John and Maggie Christensen who purchased the little Andrews home. They have a boy between the age of twelve and thirteen who has suffered some three or four months from tuberculosis of the spine. One or more joints of his spine were in a state of decomposition and in all these many weeks he has suffered untold agonies. The doctors despaired of his life and seemed unable to help him and at last his condition was such that he could neither eat nor sleep except when administered to. Then he would cease his moanings and slumber peacefully. The only way he could be moved was to be lifted on sheets and he could not undergo the ordeal of having fresh clothing put upon him although they cut his clothing when endeavor to change him. About three weeks ago Dr. Grua and John C. came to the shop and had Jens cut some pipe for stretchers for the boy so he could be more easily moved and with less pain. And further more he could neither move hands nor feet but only move the fingers on his left hand slightly. All thru his suffering the little fellow's nature reviled against the doctors help and told his parents that the Lord could and would make him well so the day when they brot the stretchers for him he declared he never would be put upon them and he told the doctor to leave him. Finally he became so worked up that they did tell Grua to leave. Then they sent to Springville for Elder Hall, one whom they heard had great power in administering to the sick and when he came Elder Hall asked the boy to shake hands but he could not move his arm. Then the Elder asked if he had faith that he could be healed to which the boy answered yes, and after being anointed with oil and administered to the boy was asked to extend his arm which he did readily. Then he was asked to move his leg but could not. Again he was anointed with oil and again administered to after which he was commanded to get up and walk, which he did! Oh how blessed to live in a day when such gifts are among men. The next Sunday the boy went to meeting and walked to and from the buggy. Altho he is still weak he can walk and chore around the house. He has long had an idea that some day he should be called to go upon a mission and it is a cherished wish of his. I could not help telling you this as I think it will cause you to rejoice.

I fear my letter is too long but in conclusion will say, May Peace and the blessings of Heaven attend you in rich abundance. By the way, Mrs. Rasmus Lund handed father a dollar and a post card for you about ten days ago and am now enclosing it with my letter.

Father too encloses a dollar with his best wishes for your success and welfare. Jens has a letter ready to follow this in a day or two. Write Again to Your Sister Lavina. Will just state that Jens' letter will contain some paper for you. Am telling you so you can be on the look out.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 15, 1910

My Darling Nels:

I rec'd another of your letters today and was very glad to hear from you again. We are both well and I hope that you are and will have good health all the time. You said in your letter that it had been over two weeks since you heard from me and that you were quite anxious but that you didn't supposed I had forgotten you if I don't write very often. No Dearest I haven't forgotten you yet but sometimes I think it doesn't make much difference to you whether I write at all or not. I can't complain about you not writing often enough for I think I have rec'd a letter from you nearly every week but sometimes your letters are so —, Oh I can't explain it Nels but its just like you were writing to a stranger instead of to your wife. I don't want you to think that I don't appreciate your letters for I do and every one of them is welcome as can be and I just couldn't live if I didn't hear from you. But you know when I get a letter like that so distant it just makes me feel like you don't care whether you ever hear from me or not. You tell me not to forget to pour out my love to you but Oh Nels how can I when you never do to me. I guess you will think I am foolish for writing this way but I hope you won't be offended.

[Must be referring to missing letter(s) as the last one I have to her from Niels was November 21.]

I went to town today to see Santa Claus. I got Melba a doll and Halley got her a little chair. Pa gave me a dollar for a Xmas present. We nearly froze going to town today.

Pa's lucerne seed didn't turn out as well as he expected but it was pretty good. I think it was the chicken pox that Melba had but she is alright now. They left two or three scars on her face but I think they will go away in time.

And now in regards to what you said Perlinda told Mart. I was both surprised and hurt to think that you should believe such a story for far from saying such a thing no such a thot ever entered my head. I hope that you didn't mean to insult me when you said that, as you couldn't come home with Mart you didn't think he would get them unless he earned them in some other way. You seem to forget that I am your wife.

May the Lord Bless and Help you to do what's right is the prayer of your loving wife,
Viola Fugal.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 20th, 1910

Dear Son

I received your ever welcome letter some time ago and as Viola is here with me so that I

get to hear from you quite often I have simply neglected to write you before. The only excuse I have is that I am a rather poor letter writer. I was pleased with the general tone of your letter and rejoice that you are in a position render assistance to some honest souls in that far off country in their search for truth and righteousness for if you are in any way the means of any embracing the Gospel of Christ your time will have been profitably spent. We have been fairly prosperous in this locality and the Lord is causing a more contented spirit to prevail among the people here. We are having our first snowstorm for the season in this locality. I don't expect very heavy fall as there is never much here. Annie and Esther are expected down for the Holidays. With the Compliments of the Season I am very Sincerely Your Friend and Well Wishes, Leroy Young.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 27, 1910

Dear Nels: I have been looking for a letter from you for about a week but it hasn't come yet so I decided I wouldn't wait any longer but write anyhow. Annie and Esther came down to spend Xmas with us. We all had Xmas dinner up to Allen's. Santa Claus brought Melba a doll, a little red chair, some mittens and a stocking cap. She was so tickled over her doll. She can say dolly as good as anyone. Annie and Esther just about eat her up. Stena sent me a dollar for a Xmas present and Ernest sent Melba a handkerchief. Joe sent me three dollars for a Xmas present. We are all having a nice time. We went to a theater last night. Allen and Halley were both in it. I wish you could be here too but I guess you will have just as good a time there as you would have here. They had a dance after the theater and we just had a fine time. I hope you are well and enjoying yourself. We are as ever, Viola and Melba.

Abraham, Dec. 27th 1910

Dear Brother Niels:

It has been a long time since I heard from you but I believe that you wrote last. We are all well and hope you are enjoying good health. Melba is getting cuter every day, she is a regular little chatter box. My children both go to school now and are growing fast and doing nicely in school. Well Niels, I haven't any news but as Viola was writing I thought I would write a few lines. When do you expect to be home. My address is 385 South 3rd East, Provo [this house still stands]. From your sister, Annie.

Provo, Jan. 1st 1911

Dear Bro. –

I received your very welcome letter a couple of days ago and was glad to hear from you. I have been thinking of writing to you every day for a week but have not gotten at it. Ernest and I are visiting with John and Carrie for a few days. We came to Provo yesterday and today is New Years day. We were all to Provo Xmas day for dinner except mother and she felt like it was too cold to go out. She has not been anywhere for some weeks, but she is feeling better now. She insisted that Ernest and I went off a few days.

Last Wednesday we had all the folks to our house and Mr. Hone's family and Chris' girl

Miss Richardson and her mother. We had quite a nice time. Miss Richardson is going back to Benjamin tomorrow and then I guess Chris will be lonesome. She came to P.G. for the Scandinavian dance on Dec. 21st 1910. We all had a good time. The crowd was not as large as it could be but they cleared \$11.00 with refreshments and all. The committee served coffee and buns and doughnuts. They are going to have another dance on Jan. 13th. Last Monday the P.G. Sunday schools had a dance for the children. The children enjoyed themselves very much I can tell you. I was there too. When the dance was out the children received a sack of peanuts. At night there was a theatre in the opera and a dance in the Orpheus.

Bro Oscarson has returned home from his mission. Last Friday night the Scandinavians committee gave a social in the basement of the meetinghouse in honor of Lawrence Monson, Albert Olsen and Bro. Oscarson. A large crowd was present and we had an enjoyable time. There has been quite a bit going on during the Holidays. Wish you could have been here. But no doubt you are having a nice time where you are. Annie Banks and Esther have gone to Abraham to spend the Holidays with Viola. Uncle Isaac said he received both of your letters and that he would write you in the near future, and send you a couple of addresses of mother's cousins. Mrs. Lim received the letter you mentioned and her Xmas card the other day. Mary Christiansen received your Xmas card too. Mrs. Lim appreciated your card so much, I am glad you sent it to her. She received a card from Mart too. It will be alright to send her one for Valentine's because she just more than dotes on anything like that. Joe Halliday told me to ask you if you ever received his letter, he has only written one to you. Everything is about the same as usual only it is very cold and the ground is covered with snow. It will be good sleighing by tomorrow. We wish you much Happiness this New Year. Your Sis. Stena C. John and Carrie sends helens.

Gefle, Jan. 3, 1911

My Dear Loving Wife;

Your letter of Dec. 12 and Dec. 15 came to hand OK. I was very glad to learn that you were well and expecting to have a good time during Xmas. Hope your desires will be granted you and that in the near future I will receive letters from you stating what a nice time you have had. It no doubt is somewhat quiet in that part of the world, but if Esther and Annie come to Abraham as you stated then there is no doubt but what you have had a Merry Xmas and a happy new year. How nice it would be if I could be with you and join in the lively times which Xmas generally affords! While such would be the pleasure and wishes of your loving husband, there is no doubt but what there is a anxious soul and heart (i.e. my darling wife) who would feel extra happy if so was the case, thus making it a double or mutual joy and happiness.

Three years have elapsed since we danced the old year out and the new year in, and in that time the greatest part of which we have been separated by a nation and waters, a great deal, both pleasant and unpleasant, has happened leaving us wiser and perhaps happier each time. If I had been permitted by inspiration or human telepathy, to know the feelings and experiences which my darling wife has been destined to undergo during the absence of her husband, no doubt my mind and body would not have been so contented

and restful as it really has; perhaps her pains and trials would have caused me to discard the coolness and selfishness to a greater extent, which I am in possession of or rather which is in possession of me, and caused me to sorrow when she sorrows and rejoice when she rejoices.

When we went through the House of the Lord making great covenants with our Creator and while performing one of the most glorious and sacred ordinances of our life, with our bodies bent over the alter, and sealing the ordinance with a kiss, we made a vow that we two would be one flesh. This does not mean that our nerves and blood vessels would be connected in such a way that we could and would feel the effects of our bodily injuries, but I believe it means that our sympathies and spiritual qualities should become united that we should be as one socially and religiously, so the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit would not be without effect in our company and we thereby be led to do that which will cause us to become stronger and wiser in every respect, thus elevating us, and developing us through every day of this mortal career, bringing us nearer the goal which is perfection. I repeat, if I had been permitted to know the circumstances of my dear wife, and had more thoroughly kept in mind the covenant I have made with her, then undoubtedly I would not have been so cool, selfish and distant when writing to her. But I am only a mortal being and have my faults and weaknesses as well as everyone else, and while endeavoring to pour out my love and thoughts to my darling wife, intermingled with the events which naturally confront missionary life, I find that words are such cold things unable to express the feelings of my heart. And being as I am not gifted in keeping a steady nerve and steady head I may write my phrases in such a way that by the time they have reached their destination, they have lost their temper, and at the first blow of the hammer, so to speak, their edges turn and become dull, thus making a poor impression, yea, worse than if I had not tried, through many hours of study to write such phrases which were intended for the best and always written with a feeling of love and great respect for the darling who is my wife.

Oh dear wife! does it really seem like my letters are intended for a stranger instead of to the one whom I have chosen as my companion through all eternity? How can that be possible? I have no secrets which I am trying to hide from you, but it is a fact that there is much that happens which I do not mention because I think indicating our sorrows to each other does not always help matters much. In writing to you I try to select that which to my opinion will be of most interest to you, and in doing so, I must admit that it probably is quite dry, and undecorated with sweet artistic phrases of music and love for I always was quite blunt in those respects, as in a great many others.

I am thankful you appreciate my letters as you say you do and I hope that you will always believe that beneath the bosom of the person who is now writing, lies a heart which at every pulsation has a feeling of love and respect for you, thus causing happiness to be distributed through every vein, and causing one to be grateful that Providence has presented me with such a noble helpmate.

In your letter you stated that you hoped I would not be offended. Not in the least dear wife. I am more than glad to receive corrections and instructions at any time and will try to improve, but I hope you can forgive me for my faults and if I write anything which you can't agree with that you will feel that I have written it with the best of feelings and not in

the way of criticism. Please believe me dear wife for I mean it.

Now in regard to what Perlinda wrote to Mart. It is hardly worth mentioning but being as it hurt your feelings, it is no more than proper that I bring it to mind again. Remember that the noble qualities of the soul flourish best in the warm soil of reason, and in the sunlight of kindness. So let us use reason and kindness. Your words – “I was both surprised and hurt to think that you should believe such a story for far from saying such a thing no such a thot ever entered my mind.” Now supposing such a thot had entered your mind, or that you had even uttered it would that have been anything so awful? Isn’t it possible that you could have said it and still be just as pure and innocent as before? Don’t we often make expression that we don’t mean, but just say thotlessly? Certainly I thot you had said it, but it did not hurt my feelings in the least, nor did I mean to insult you when I said, “that as I couldn’t come home with Mart, I didn’t think that he would get the kisses unless he earned them in some other way.” The subject then at hand was my homecoming and I mentioned what Mart wrote me, as a joke more than anything else. It was thotless and foolish for me to do so of course but I was innocent and held you as the same. Now don’t let this trouble you in the least, but try to forget all that is unpleasant or that has troubled you and believe me when I say I respect you more than ever because you have expressed your honest feelings. Don’t try to hide anything but just tell me what you think and there is no doubt but what we can settle this little affair without any difficulty.

God bless you dear wife and dear Melba. Will close with best wishes and limitless love.
Your loving husband Niels.

Pl. Grove, Jan. 14/11

Dear Brother.

I now take pleasure in writing you a few lines, it is so long since I wrote you I don't know when it was. You will pardon me for not doing more writing to you. I am feeling about the house as usual. I am taking treatment from Dr. Vance. I am a little better. I have to empty my stomach every morning and put a teaspoonful of soda in every qt. of water, and then I take some medicine after every meal and a pill every night to regulate the bowels. I will have to get well as I am seeing Miss Richardson once in awhile. I am going to Benjamin in the morning to see her. I tell you she is a fine girl. I gave her a nice watch for New Years. We are going to have a Scandinavian character ball here Wed. night. I guess she will come to that. She likes the old time dances. I took her last spring and we quit but I am not going to let go of her quite so easy this time. If I can help it.

I took mother over to Uncle Jake's today. She seemed to enjoy the trip. Uncle Jake is building Ben an addition on his house. Ma asked him to look up some of her relatives address in Sweden, he said he would and he said he is going to write to you. So you can look for a letter from him in the near future. Uncle Isaac said he was going to write you, perhaps he has already done so. I gave him your address the other day. I was pleased to note you have had a fine Xmas and that you got such a nice present. I hope you will have gained an experience on your trip that will be worth a great deal to you.

Everything is moving slow here now but in the spring I guess it will open up a little again. Of course we are never out of a job, we have the collecting for the water works to do and Jens has house plumbing to do all the time. We are thinking about ordering a 1/2 car of buggies and a 1/2 car of machinery. We are afraid to order too much as money seems to be tight all over.

While you are over there preach once for me. I can't think of any more to write now. So I will close with best wishes From your Brother C. A. Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Jan. 14th 1911

Dear Bro. –

Your most welcome letter of Dec. 28th came to hand yesterday and must say that we were very glad to hear from you. Glad you are well and that you spent such an enjoyable Christmas, it is certainly pleasing to hear such good reports.

The people that you are laboring among seem to think you are OK and how can they help but think that? It makes us all glad to know that you have friends and are treated well by them. We spent quite an enjoyable Christmas also.

Now the holidays are over and people are down to biz again. The boys have been busy collecting for the water rates, they no sooner get through than they have to commence again. Today mother and Chris went to American Fork to see Uncle Jacob. Mother has not been anywhere since she came home from Sanpete. She is feeling alright now. Uncle

Jacob said he would try and find some of the addresses of mother's relatives if he could. He said he did not think there were many relatives in Sweden as he believes most of them have immigrated to America.

We have had quite a mild winter excepting for a week or so. The snow is melting fast. I have had one sleigh ride and that was while I was in Provo. We rode out to John's new home on the Bench and back to Provo again. Sundberg has not been doing any work on John's house for a long time. It is a very nice home, it will be very convenient when finished.

Mother said that Uncle Jacob was helping Bennie put an addition to his house. He had two rooms and is building two more. It is a frame house situated about a block south of Uncle Jacob's. By the way they have a daughter too born sometime last summer. Henson and his wife are living in Bingham, Lando is home from Idaho on a visit. Lydia is working in Bingham and the other kids are home. Now I have given you the history of Uncle Jacob's family and I know you are glad to hear it.

It is now 10:40 p.m. I have been to Sunday school, teachers local board meeting tonight, but I thought that I would finish my letter before going to bed. The meeting was well attended, Sunday school goes pretty good now Lawrence Monson is the theological teacher. Melvin Nelson is married, he married a girl from American Fork. Jens was out to see Mrs. Gustaveson about a week ago, she is feeling about the same as usual.

You will find a draft for fifteen dollars enclosed in this letter, \$5.00 from Mrs. Gustaveson, \$5.00 from your mother and \$5.00 from me. Have you your new suit yet? Chris is taking that Benjamin girl quite steady, I expect they will step off the earth during the year 1911. She seems to be a nice girl. I think he will put the wedding off until you come home.

Mrs. Benson has been quite sick for three weeks but has commenced to improve a little now. Ben and his wife and Ren are taking care of her. There is not much going on now, the town is somewhat quiet, but I suppose that is the way it is all over. You asked in one of your letters some time ago "whom Joe Radmall married." He married Sam Radmall's wife's sister, the one that got divorced from old man Peck. She married Joe soon after getting her divorce from Peck. They got married the last of September. They are well matched.

Will close wishing you a happy and prosperous new year. Your Loving Sister Stena Clayton.

In reading over my letter I find it is somewhat chopped up but I guess you can make her out alright. Oh yes! your cousin Emma Young Carter has another baby. Mother sends her love to you.

Gefle, Jan. 16th 1911

My Dear Darling Wife;

Your letter of Dec. 27th containing one from Annie and one from your father, came to hand and was read with pleasure. Many thanks for same. Please extend my thanks to your father and when you write to Annie tell her that I am in receipt of her letter and thank her for same. I wrote Annie a letter about ten days before I received hers but I sent it to the address which you gave me some time ago, and now I notice she gave me a new address. Please write a note to Annie and tell her that I sent the letter to 144 N. 3rd East Provo. Hope she gets the letter.

Well dear wife, I notice by your letter that you seemed to enjoy yourself OK on Xmas and that Annie and Esther were with you to help share a good time. I'll bet Melba was tickled over the nice presents she received. I wish I had a photo of her sitting on her little red chair with her dollie on her lap, singing it to sleep. It would no doubt be a fair illustration of how my darling wife looked about twenty years ago. I suppose she thinks Santa Claus is Alright, doesn't she? Just think! next Xmas I can be Santa Claus. Won't that be nice Viola? Probably I will place something in your stocking if you will be good.

It is very kind of Joe to send you \$3 for a Xmas present. It shows that he wants to be good to the missionaries' wives. It certainly would have been nice to be with you at the Home Dramatic Theatre which you attended. I haven't been to a theatre since I was in P.G. so I am quite anxious to see a good one. Will probably take in a Swedish one before I leave here. A dance with my little wife would also be a great pleasure, but I suppose I have almost forgotten how to dance, so I will get you to give me a few lessons when I come home. We have had many good times at the dances and I hope we have some good times coming.

It is just twenty seven months today since I kissed you goodbye at the S.L.C. depot. Do you think you will ever forget that time. I know I won't, for it left an impression upon me that can never wear away. In one way it doesn't seem so very long since that time, but when I call to mind what has happened during the time of our separation, it certainly seems quite a long time. I don't blame you for saying it seems a hundred years, but I do hope the few months that I have left in the mission field will pass swiftly and pleasantly for you. Just think how much joy and happiness will penetrate our souls in a couple of months, when we will know that we will soon be permitted to see each other again and pour out our love to each other. They will be happy days and I hope they will never wither away, but that we may so live that our love and affection will increase, that our happiness may not relinquish. I have been absent from you a longer time than I was acquainted with you before our marriage but I can truthfully and happily say, that during my absence my love for you has increased and I have learned to appreciate what a noble little wife I have. You have so far, fought the fight bravely and have won the confidence of your husband.

Well the holidays are all over now here in Sweden and we elders have had a very nice time. The saints have been kind to us, by inviting us to help them eat their good Xmas meals. Since I last wrote to you I have been to Lörstrand where I met Pres. Fredrick Anderson and Elder Hyrum E. Hanson from the Sundsvall Branch. We held three public meetings and two private meetings. The meetings were well attended with people who seem to have a great interest in what we have to offer them. We have made many friends there in spite of all opposition and I am looking for a good harvest in the spring. One man

told me that he thought he would have to become a Mormon because he could understand that it was the truth which we have presented him. He invited us home to dinner and his big fat woman certainly gave us a good meal. The people in Lörstrand wish us to come back soon so I suppose I will go there again in about six weeks.

I am well and enjoying my labors and hope this letter will find you all in the same condition. Extend my best regards to all concerned and accept the same yourself. I am as ever your husband. Niels Fugal.

Abraham, Utah, Jan. 18, 1911

My Darling Husband:

Your letter of Jan. 4th came today and has been read with much pleasure. Yes we did have a nice time while the girls were here and I also wish that you could have been with us too. Oh Nels don't you think they might possibly release you before May? They don't always wait till conference to release them do they?

Dearest I'm sorry I wrote to you the way I did about your letters for they are all so good. I am ashamed to think I could find any fault with them. You must not let that trouble you and please try to forget about it. I don't know what gets the matter with me sometimes. I do so long for your love and I want you to love me too much I guess and then when I get a letter I imagine it is cool and distant and I wrote you a foolish letter. I hope you will have lots of patience with and try to forgive me. If I do say your letters are cold I can hardly wait till they come so you may know I appreciate them some if I do try to find fault sometimes.

In regards to that other matter let us forget all about it. I had almost forgotten about it when I got your letter. I did feel a little hurt when you told me about it but I don't think I would have written the way I did if I had waited a few days before I answered your letter.

Last night Bro. Wm. A. Morton from S.L.C. who is traveling around and holding meetings in the interest of Religion Classes held a meeting out here. Elder Alma Langston who is Stake Supt. of Religion classes was with him and we certainly had a fine meeting. I don't know when I enjoyed a meeting like I did that. I wish you could hear Bro. Morton talk. He certainly is a fine speaker.

We are having beautiful weather here now. It is just like spring. The ground is nearly dry. I hope that you are well and enjoying your labors. Melba hasn't been well but seems to be alright now. Well dear I am so sleepy I can hardly hold my eyes open so will say goodnight dearest and write often to your loving Wife and Baby.

I got a letter from Lavina the other day. She sent Melba a dollar. Your mother sent Melba a pair of stockings and a dollar for Xmas.

Abraham, Utah, Jan. 31, 1911

My Dearest Nels:

After waiting patiently for three or four days, I rec'd your letter and was very much pleased to hear from you again. I have read and re-read your letter and enjoyed it thoroughly. I was pleased to hear that you were treated so well during Christmas time and that you had lots of good things to eat. Won't you feel sorry when you have to leave Sweden. Maybe you will wish you were back there before you have been home very long. Don't you think so?

We have lovely weather here for the last two or three weeks, almost like spring, but now the wind is blowing awfully hard and it looks as tho we might have a storm before morning. Allen and Pa were thinking of going to the cedars this morning but it looked so stormy they backed out.

Little Melba is in bed asleep. Pa has gone to an irrigation meeting. Aunt Hanner is knitting and I am sitting by the table writing to my dear husband which is quite a pleasant occupation but it would be much pleasanter if you was near enough to talk to. The wind is blowing so hard that it rattles the doors and windows and makes me feel so lonely as it whistles around the corners of the house. Oh how nice it would be if you were only here and we two were sitting by the nice warm fire talking while the Baby sleeps. I'm sure I wouldn't care how hard the wind would blow then, it would seem nice to have it blow then.

Just think dear if you don't get home till the middle of June it will be four long months before I see you. I am thinking some of going back up north before very much longer but haven't decided just when I will go. The folks want me to stay here until you come home but I don't think I will do that. I just hate to travel around with a baby and will be so glad when you and I are 'settled down.' I hear that Chris is thinking seriously of getting married so you don't need to be surprised if you have a new sister when you come home. Stena told me in her last letter that Ivy Radmall and Claude Newman were to be married soon.

Next Saturday and Sunday will be Quarterly Conference of the Millard Stake in Hinckley. I would like very much to go if the weather permits and I have a way to go.

I do wish that you could see Melba now, she is getting to be quite a talker. I was trying to get her to say "Papa's on a mission," and she can say Papa as plain as anybody but she says "bishon" for mission. Sometimes she will say, "I love mama," she can say that quite plain and then she puts her little arms around my neck and kisses me. She's just as sweet as she can be.

Well dearest, I must bring my long letter to a close and I do hope that you will write to me just as often as possible. May God Bless and be with you at all times is the prayer of your loving Wife Viola. xxxxxxooooxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Jan. 31st, 1911

Dear Brother,

It is sometime now since I wrote to you and passed time to write again. In your last letter you stated that you had spent an enjoyable Christmas that the Saints had shown you a good time. We were certainly glad to hear that, and also that they had remembered you with a Christmas present. The present is one that will last a lifetime, one you can always remember your Swedish friends by. We are glad that you are enjoying your mission and that you are not homesick and that the time is passing by rapidly, that shows that you are not idle and that you have the right spirit.

The character ball that I wrote you about in my last letter was a grand success. There were quite a number of good characters represented. I will mention a few of them commencing with your big brother. Jens took the part of a typical farmer, had the goatee and all. Lavina and Mrs. Hone represented Norwegian girls, they looked fine. Chris and his girl, Miss Richardson, represented Benj. Franklin and wife, by the way Miss Richardson took the first prize, she looked just fine. I took the part of night [knight?]. Rose Hayes and Letty Houston were old fashioned girls. Annie Rassmuson was a Swede. Lennie Christianson was a cowgirl and two others represented the same. Hans Rassmuson was a White Wing street sweeper, he had a little cart and brush, he took his part well, he received the second prize \$1.50. His wife was the Danish flag. The Swedish and Norwegian flags were also repr. Hans and Ida Williamson were the village blacksmith and daughter. Sern and Phine Merck were pioneers, talk about rags! they had them. Pearl Ellis repr. popcorn and Burly West Pleasant Grove. Oh yes! Colla Anderson was Ole Olson and he acted like what shall I do with Colla. Pete Christianson and Annie Smith were Puritans, they looked fine too. Annie Oler, Olive Nelson, Stella Jenson and Melvin and his wife represented the Dam Family and somebody's little dog. Talk about ancients, they must of gotten their duds from Noah's ark. They acted their part well. I cannot mention all the characters so I might just as well stop. We all had a fine time. The hall was well filled.

Alma Christiansen is a papa now, it is a girl. Tilda and baby are doing fine.

Mart came home Sunday night, he was over to see us yesterday, we chatted about two hours. He looks well and says he feels well, he would have liked to have stayed longer so he could come home with you. He says he has enjoyed his mission very much. Owen is home and has been for a month so he could do the chores but of course Mart did not know that and he had to come when he was sent for. It was nice that he could stay twenty six months.

There isn't much doing right now. Lew is cutting down trees for Fred Newman. We just hire him a day now and then when we need him. The boys make pretty good chore boys. Jens does the milking, Chris is not converted to milking yet. I expect he will learn though. He and Miss Richardson are quite so-so, they correspond regularly. So there may be a wedding when you come home.

Claude Newman and Ivy Radmall are married, bishop Walker married them.

Last Sunday B. H. Roberts was here in the interest of the seventies, he spoke in the afternoon meeting to a crowded house. His talk was simply grand, I never had heard one better. He spoke on the life of the Savior and the prayer of consecration, i.e., the prayer

on the sacrament. He explained everything so thoroughly. The three wards met conjointly that day.

John Christensen has been over here pruning the trees for a few days. He is home now as Carrie does not feel very well, but we think she will soon be alright. She got a little sick yesterday. Joe and Annie Galli have been visiting at Jens' for a week. They are in Provo now at Carrie's.

Mother says when you come home to bring her a pair of silver earrings if you can get them. She had a pair when she left Sweden and would like another pair now.

The children are all to school, they seem to like it fine. There are a few cases of small pox in town but none are serious. I understand the school has been fumigated so they think there is no danger of getting it at school. The school board is talking of building more school rooms, they had a meeting yesterday to see whether or not the town should be bonded for \$35,000. I expect they will bond the city when the time comes.

On the other side of this paper you will notice a letter from you from my son. He wrote it last night and hopes it will get across the big ocean alright so you can get it. He was very pleased to write you a letter and hopes you will be able to read it. He goes to school in the forenoon only. He is doing quite well.

Hope you are well and enjoying yourself and your labors. Be good to yourself and let us know in good time when you need more dough. Your Loving Sister, Stena. The folks send their best wishes.

Dear Uncle Niels [cursive],

I thought you would like to hear a few words from me. I am well and go to school and like it fine. My teacher is good. This is the first letter I have ever written out. Rite to me some time. From Ernest Clayton.

Abraham, Utah, Feb. 9, 1911

[Enclosed, Valentine card engraved "To My Dearest Friend," from your loving Wife Viola. Also Valentine card from Aunt Hanna, tightly filled with Swedish words, engraved, "To My Valentine, This bow of Red Is Cupid's choice, I send it to you for better or worse; Oh will't be mine, My Valentine."]

My Dearest Husband

Your letter of Jan. 25 [don't have this letter] was rec'd and read with much pleasure. Pleased to note that you are well but sorry to hear that Bro. Nilson was sick and I hope that he has completely recovered long before this. You asked me if I was going to stay down here until you came home. No dearest I am thinking of going back up north before very much longer. Where would you rather have me stay Nels? Now please don't say wherever I would rather stay, but tell me if it didn't make any difference to me where you would rather have me stay.



(Stena's)

Dear Nels, I too am looking eagerly forward to the time when we will be together again. You say you don't want to make me think too much about it. I think about it every hour of the day and then dream about it at night so write just as much as you like about the time when you will be home and we will both be so happy. I like to have you write that way for then I know you think about us sometimes and long to be with me again.

You say you are liable to become quite stuck up over your wife and daughter. I am afraid my dear that you will find us very ordinary people and there will be nothing at all about is to be stuck up over. All I ask is my darling that while drawing your mind pictures of your wife and Baby, you do not draw us so near perfection for you know we are but human and full of faults and failings and whatever happens we don't want you to be disappointed in us when you come home.

You say it will be nice to partake of the meals your wife prepares. Maybe you will find out that I can't cook any better than you can. You know I don't profess to be a good cook but I guess that both together we will manage somehow and Oh Nels when we sit down to our first meal alone together then will I be perfectly happy. Just think dearest it will be four long months before we see each other again. Won't I be happy when I start to count the days instead of the months until you will be home. Shall I go to Salt Lake City to meet you, dearest? Or shall I just stay wherever I happen to be until you come. Sometimes it seems just like a dream that you and I were ever married or that I ever saw you. It has been so long I don't know whether I will know you or not. How I should like to have stepped in and watched you get your breakfast that morning. I am glad you're learning to cook dearest, you may have to put it into practice occasionally after you come home.

Well Nels Melba isn't at all well, she has been sick for a week and I don't know what's the matter with her. She isn't so very bad and plays around some days, she seems alright and then the next day she is worse.

I don't know of any news so will close for this time. Write often to yours forever Viola and Melba.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 14th 1911 [Niels and Viola's second child was born 2-14-13.]

[Another Valentine card enclosed, engraved "Forget Me Not," and on the address side: Best Valentine greetings to Niels from Ernest.]

Dear Bro. –

Your most welcome letter was received a few days ago and contents were read with pleasure. We are certainly glad to receive all your letters as they are all good and we can tell that you have the spirit of your mission. It is nice to make the best of the time.

Well Mart is home and we have all heard him preach. He does well and says he has enjoyed his mission very much. Last Sunday he spoke in Scandinavian meeting. Mother and Chris were there and heard him preach. Mother says he knows the Swedish language

perfectly and speaks well. The Scandinavians hold meeting two Sundays a month. They hold forth in the Josephite Church. As you know it is not used by the Josephites now.

[There are Catholic Josephites, but more likely these are from a 1866 splinter group of Mormons, led by one of the sons of Joseph Smith, who formed the Josephites, later known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There was an RLDS building west of the Old Second Ward, 100 N. and 100 E.]

We have received your books, they are all in good condition and the Articles of Faith will come in handy as will also the Eccl. History, as we are studying the Restoration in Mutual. It is nice to have some good works like those to refer to.

Last Saturday was the day the old folks were entertained, the weather was lovely, all the old folks had a fine time. After the program was finished the old folks went down to the picture show. The north room of Aydelotte's store is fixed up for a picture show. They run three nights every week. The old folks enjoyed the show for an hour and then went to their homes.

In my last letter I stated that Carrie was sick, she is feeling pretty good now, she is up around. I was down there two days last week. And I received a card the other day that she was feeling fine.

Jens said he would write you about the old homestead in Denmark, and give you all the pointers he could. Jim Fugal's wife is down to Thornes visiting at present and the first time I go down town I will get Jim's address and write him, he is out with the sheep. I have not seen Uncle Isaac for a couple of weeks but when I do see him I will stir him up if he has not written you. When I asked him for the addresses of our Swedish relatives he said, "Oh I'll write to Niels right away and send them."

The weather has been just lovely all month but last night it snowed about six inches so it looks like winter again. It is nice to have snow now while it's winter because if we do not we will have it when it is spring.

Lew has been working here off and on lately, he has been chopping wood and trimming the trees on the side walk. The locust trees south of Jens' look like skyscrapers. He has trimmed all the limbs off but a few near the top. Jens went to Salt Lake City yesterday and is coming home tonight.

Chris is still on the warpath of love, he corresponds regularly with Miss Richardson. I guess it will be a sure go this time, Chris seems to think she is OK and she is a nice girl as far as I know. You asked who Hones were. Mrs. Hone is a sister of Miss Richardson. They came from Benjamin about two years ago. They lived in the Alldredge place nearly a year, then they bought the Mumford place where Ned Kirk used to live south of George West's. Mr. Hone is in the bee business, he has helped Jens to extract our honey for the last two years. I understand that Chris is engaged and I hope he does not get disappointed.

In regards to your confidential letter I do not think you could bring anything that would be

nicer than razors for the men. I know that Chris' razor is almost worse than none at all. I believe Jens' is none too good either. I think that Viola will be very pleased with the spoons. As you have teaspoons given to you, some dessert spoons will be fine as you haven't any dessert spoons and they will last so long. And I think too that it would be nice to bring her a pair of black kid gloves. They say they are not so dear over there as they are here. Jens brought Lavina, Carrie and I a pair and they lasted fine. I believe that Viola will take size 6-1/8. Lavina has a good supply of silverware so I think a pair of gloves will be appreciated by her too, size about 7-1/4. I don't know about Carrie but I will find out next time I see her and let you know. As regards mother I wrote you about some earrings, and some teaspoons would be nice for her. Do not get them too expensive for mother, or she will think they are too good to use. And Stena will like any little thing that you bring her. If I find out that there is anything that anyone would like I will let you know next time.

Mart does not shine with Ethel Hilton since he came home. She is engaged to Everett West. Albert Olsen takes Miley Smith's daughter Genave. And Lawrence Monson does not take anyone as I know of. Isn't this interesting.

Be good to yourself and take good care of Niels. I am glad you have written to Mrs. Gustaveson as I know it pleases her very much to be remembered by you. Your Loving Sister Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 19, 1911

Dear Brother Niels

Nearly two months has passed since I attempted to write you at which time I wrote the enclosed of Nov. 27. I am sending you this because it was my thots then and perhaps it contains a little that may be news to you. I just now read what it says over and will perhaps build a little on what it contains.

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[Nov. 27 1910]

Dear Brother:

Just a word or two to let you know that we are still about, or perhaps I better say that I am about as you have a number of letters from Lavina since I wrote. Of course you know how things are and still I know you like to hear often from home and learn of conditions. I am still covered up in work and can use you to good advantage but from all appearances you will get home about the same time of the year that I did, and from the tone of your letters you seem to enjoy the work and are not averse to staying until May or when they again have conference. I am glad to know that you enjoy your labors and there is no question but what we are proud of you and in as much as you enjoy staying over winter you shall have your wishes as far as we are concerned here at home. We all know there is plenty to do at home and perhaps always will be, still things are tightening up and there are many men looking for work. It just happens that in our line there is plenty of work and still I believe there will be a slump so we must make hay while the sun shines. At present we have been extra busy because the electric power has been extended in Lindon and I have had some of the work of wiring. I already had enough to keep me busy. I have wired for Horace Calmer, Eva Walker, John Wright, Geo. Richards, Bert Copley and am now doing Geo. Tomlinson's. I had to let J. Y. Walker's and Chas. Johnson (Plasterers) go, Anderson from Am. Fork and Lester West has done eight places.

The farm work is going on nicely. The manure is all out, we covered nearly 5 acres. Three more days will finish the plowing and we are in hopes of getting this done now although the weather is somewhat wintryfied. Last night it froze the hardest this fall but tonight it is mild and cloudy as it has been for nearly two weeks. About 12 ton of beets per acre is all we got this year but there are not many that beat us this year as the beets did not do very well. C. O. Larson didn't any more than pay expenses, R. Weeks was about the same as ours, Sandy Bullock had 38 tons on 5 acres, another party oh yes it was Fred Richan had 7 tons on 1-3/4 acre. John Newman's was about 25% poorer than usual and so de goes.

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Our fall work was done up in good shape so we haven't had Lew working only a week or so during about 6 weeks. He has cut trees into wood for F. W. Newman and is now working for Wm. Hone. He expects to come back again and we want him as soon as we

can hire him which I think will be soon. There has not been any work to speak of during the winter but most likely things will liven up with spring. J. Holdaway is going to build this spring and more than likely there will be a new schoolhouse built commencing soon if the election for bonding the district to be held next Sat. be favorable. This however means more tax but we will have to stand it. I am not without work and never will I don't think, although there isn't much in it. I think a half a loaf is better than none at all but I am sorry to know a great many who have not yet learned this lesson and for them good tight times may prove a blessing.

Lavina is to meeting to hear the home missionaries. Geo. Culimore and Gillman the supt. of Lindon S. S. they were with us in S.S. this morning.

No doubt the time is getting short for you as you seem to enjoy your labor very much, still I am glad to think you are coming home some time (you say soon) as we need you if we can have you. From an expression in one of your letters, you would enjoy plumbing again as well as other work we are called on to perform.

It will go much better with another head to take care of the amount of work and business we have and when we have not enough work we will make some. Looking back the time has gone fast, looking ahead it seems quite awhile until you are coming home. By way of suggestion I would say to come home not later than May as it is pretty hot in June. At least this is the way I found it.

I can't see how this letter will be interesting as it is scattered from H. to breakfast but then it is from big (used to be) brother and home. It is no use to make any excuses but feel guilty for not writing oftener as I should do, true you hear from us but the more the better I know.

With this paper daubed with ink I send fondest hopes for your welfare and promise to write before 1912 and challenge you to talk to me on this very spot before Christmas. Your loving brother J. P. Fugal.

Gefle, Feb. 20, 1911

Dear Loving Wife;

Again I will endeavor to write you a few lines in answer to your kind and welcome letter of Jan. 31. Your letter has been perused with great pleasure and in reading it I can't help but note your kind expressions. I can also read considerable between the lines, for as you wrote that letter, while little Melba was asleep in bed, Aunt Hanner sitting knitting a stocking, and no artificial noises to disturb you but the restless wind with his fascinating whistle laughing at you as it darted around the corners of the house, I can imagine your thoughts and feelings, and know that you had a great longing in your heart for the time to come when you can spend the evenings talking with your husband. Oh dearest! I am so glad that your feelings and longings are in harmony with mine for that denotes a pure love existing between us and that we may look forward with an assurance of a future happiness.

You make mention of me feeling sorry when I must leave Sweden and that probably after I have been home a while I would like to return to Sweden. Well dearest it is a fact that it will seem quite strange to bid farewell to the good saints in this arch city for perhaps I will never meet them again in this life, but when I leave them I suppose they will soon forget me, and my thoughts and attention will also be drawn away from them to a great extent and placed on my loved ones whom I will mingle with at home. I hope I will be able to reflect back upon my missionary experiences with great pleasure, but I hardly think I will have a desire to leave my dear little wife and child. No dearest I have learned to love you more than ever now and I also think that I can more fully appreciate your love for me. This love and feeling I have for you is no mere fancy that will vanish by degrees like the seeming greatness of a city diminishes after having lived in it for some time, but it is a love that will increase by every form of duty, just as the river increases while wending its way through the mountain gorges, ever becoming stronger and more determined as it accepts its many tributaries that fall into its channel. Dearest, I hope that our pleasures, sorrows, duties and trials will increase our joy and love just as the mountain streams increase the river, and that that excellent attribute (love) which God has given to His offspring will inspire us to fight bravely through the battles of life, ever keeping in mind the purpose of our existence, that when we pass thro the chasm of death and arrive at the edges of eternity we may be permitted to unitedly continue our efforts, which will be factors in attaining perfection.

Now dear Viola I will leave perfection to one side for the present and come a little nearer to the present conditions. Today is Monday. I am in company with Elder Nilson who is also writing a letter. The weather is pleasant but still it causes us to place the table near the stove. These board houses are not as warm as they might be. This forenoon one of our saints came to visit us. Her name is Maria Holmgren and she is one that I baptized last summer. She is about fifty years old, a very nice lady. This is the first time she has come to see us excepting when she comes to meeting. She came to see our photos and of course I showed her all I had. When she saw your photo she said that I had a good wife because she could tell by the photo that you are nice and kind. Of course I did not contradict her Viola, but instead swallowed the kind information just like it might have been a spoonful of ice cream. She thinks Melba is OK too and that she looks like her mother; so of course I don't get any credit for her good looks. Let that be as it may, I know this – that no matter who her mother is, she is still her father's little Melba.

Yesterday we had a splendid meeting. I took up all the time in meeting robbing my partner the privilege of speaking. I spoke seventy minutes explaining the "Mormon doctrine on Deity," explaining the personality of God and the future possibilities of man. After services they all thanked me and said they were sorry when I stopped speaking. This of course makes me feel good. Will now close hoping you are happy and contented and that you will always bear in mind that your husband loves you and little Melba. Your loving Nels!

Abraham, Utah, Feb. 23, 1911 [forwarded from Gefle to Lörstrand]

My Darling Husband:

It has been two weeks since I wrote to you but I was waiting for a letter from you and it

just came. I had been looking for it every day for a week. I was pleased to hear that your companion is well again.

Allen's children are all sick with the measles and Melba has been exposed but I don't hardly think she will take them as it has been two weeks since she was exposed and she is well now.

I was intending to go up north but when I found she had been exposed to measles of course I couldn't go. If she is well in another week I will get ready and go, but if she takes the measles I will have to stay here another month anyhow. I gave Aunt Hanner your letter. I went in to Hinckley to a theater a week ago. We had a long cold ride but the play was well worth it. It was "Corianton," you know, it's taken from the Book of Mormon. Well dearest I haven't time to write any more now so goodbye. Write often to your loving Viola.

Gefle, March 9, 1911 [Forwarded from Abraham by Leroy Young 3/25/11, no note.]

My Dear Wife;

I haven't received a letter from you since I wrote you last, but at any rate I take pleasure in again writing you a few lines. I hope I receive a letter from you today for if I don't it is liable to be another week before I hear from you as Elder Nilson and I are going to leave Gefle tomorrow and go to Lörstrand, the place where I have been so many times. It is nearly two months since I was there last and as I have received a letter stating that the saints and friends are anxious to see us again soon, we have decided to pay them a visit now. We hope to be fortunate enough to hold several meetings while there and I think the saints will do all in their power to get us some place to preach. I haven't been there yet without holding one or more meetings so I presume all will go well this time also.

On our way back to Gefle we intend to also go to Söderhamn where we also have some saints. One of the sisters living there is going to try to rent a hall for us to hold meeting in, and I hope she succeeds, for I suppose that will be the last time that I will visit to Söderhamn, and I would of course enjoy preaching a little to the people there. It is here that Elder John Benson and I held a big open air meeting last summer.

Well dearest, now you have an outline of my work for the next week so you may know something about what your dear husband is doing. We will be away from Gefle one Sunday and perhaps one Thursday so the local brethren here will take charge of the meetings while we are absent.

It will be nice to take the trip for I suppose it will be the only one I take before conference, and after conference the trip I take will undoubtedly be an extended one, which will bring me over several others, finally placing me in dear old Utah, where I may joyfully mingle with my loved ones.

Conference will be held May 6th and 7th 1911. I have learned that some elders and saints are going to leave Stockholm for Utah on or about the 21st May so I suppose Elder Fugal will be in that company. That won't give me much time to visit relatives in southern

Sweden and Denmark, but as yet I have not learned for sure, where my relatives are located. I have written to one address that I received from Isaac Carlson but as yet have not received an answer, so probably the people have moved or perhaps dead. I intend to spend a day or two in Denmark and I also wish to visit London, so I won't have time to let the grass grow under my feet after conference. I expect the boat will leave Liverpool about the 25th day of May 1911, so judging from that I should be home the forepart or middle of June. Just think dearest in three more months that happy time will come. I suppose you wouldn't care if it was just three weeks, and neither would I, but I am glad it isn't more distant than it is, and I can't help but notice how fast the days seem to pass by me. It seems Sundays come very often. Just eight more Sundays and we will have conference.

I hope all is well with you and that conditions are so that everything seems to pass smoothly for you and dear Melba. You mentioned in your last letter that she was not well, but I hope the present finds her well and full of life. I feel that the Lord has been good to me while I have been away from home for I have been blessed with good health and I don't know of any serious troubles at home, that, for a great length of time, should cause me to worry. I think everything has gone as smoothly as we could expect and I feel grateful for it. There have been several elders here in Sweden during the time I have been here that have had to go home either on account of their own sickness or unfavorable conditions existing at home. Let us rejoice dear wife and give God the praise and glory.

I feel happy in my labors and enjoy getting out among the people to offer them the gospel's message. It is not always that we meet the best of people, but we feel glad every time we find someone that will converse with us. As I go from door to door with my tracts and books in a bag I never know what kind of a person I will meet next. I might say that before entering we know not whether we will encounter with a lamb or a lion. We are hated by many but respected by those who know us best.

God bless you dear wife and dear daughter and all. I remain forever your loving husband, Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 10th 1911

Dear Brother Niels –

One day after another has passed since I received your very welcome letter and I have not got at answering it, and I feel ashamed to think I have neglected you so. I hope you will pardon me. I know you are anxious to hear how things are at home, as we are very glad to hear from you.

Chris has been busy lately putting machinery together, such as spring tooth harrows and plows. I believe it is six spring tooth harrows that the boys have sold this spring. The weather has been lovely now for some time. Yesterday it rained and is raining today too. The boys have not got their wheat sowed yet as the weather would not permit.

Last Sunday afternoon mother, Ernest and I took a drive out to see Mrs. Gustaveson. She said she received your letter and was pleased to hear from you. She was feeling pretty

well. She still has two milk cows, her horse and chickens. That is about all she can take care of too. She says she is looking forward to the time when you come home so she can have a good talk with you in Swedish. She has not been to see us since last summer. She does not seem to want to drive her horse, or get out while it is so cold.

Sunday night Howard Driggs was out to speak in conjoint meeting. The tabernacle was well filled and he spoke well. He is a very interesting speaker. Wednesday night Lavina had a few of her friends to supper and to spend the evening. Fred and Mrs. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. John Holdaway, Mr. Hilton and Ethel and John and our folks, we had a nice time. Last night the officers of the MIA of the 3rd ward and a few others had a surprise on Lavina. She was surprised proper and she did not have the least suspicion about anything like that. There were present about thirty five, we had a nice time.

Say Nels, if you could take a bird's eye view of the things around here you would see Lew cutting wood and John Christensen pruning trees, he has been pruning for three weeks or near that. Jens' orchard is pruned. He is pruning apple trees, plum trees, in fact all kinds. The trees that were blighted are pulled up. The orchard will be in a better condition now. It has not been pruned good since you went away. Talk about limbs, the place is just covered. Jens has a big pile of lime and sand by the south side of his house, he is contemplating fixing up his house this spring, he has a number door and window frames and a pile of shingles that he bought two years ago. I suppose he will sure get at it this spring, he is going to have it remodeled somewhat, another room added where the porch is and have it extended further south. It will no doubt be very convenient when finished, but it will also cost a nice little wad of money. It will be very nice for them to get their house fixed up the way they would like it.

In my last letter I told you that Chris had marriage on the brain and he has yet. He is thinking of building him a house too, over on the north corner. He says he can just as well pay interest on money as to pay rent. I do not know yet how he is going to build or when. Chris says he is going to Benjamin next Thursday as Delilah has a sister that is going to get married Wednesday and have a reception Thursday night. He seems to think Miss Richardson is alright. She came to P.G. to attend a dance on March 1st.

Mrs. Lim received your card on Valentine day and also the one for her birthday. I was talking to her this morning, she was very glad to think you remembered to write her as it is nice to do little things to make others happy.

You stated in one of your letters some time ago that you had written to Joe Halliday. I have not seen him since you wrote him. He does not clerk in Clark's store now. I do not know what he is doing. I am glad that you have heard from Uncle Isaac but we are disappointed in him for not reading your letter in meeting. I know it was interesting. The only thing I can account for it is "that he is too lazy to stand up and read it." They are not blessed with having interesting brethren to preach, that is a sure thing. You must not feel discouraged about that, just consider that it was your big uncle's lack in judgment.

We are very glad that you had the privilege of going on a mission. It is a blessing in more than one way. You needed rest from manual labor more than anything else and that is the only way you would have a chance to recruit up a bit. A person of your ambitious nature

would never give your body the necessary rest that it needs if you were home. We are glad that you are enjoying your mission and that you like Sweden as it gives one pleasure to live in a pleasant place. We want you to go to London, also to Germany, and the other places you would like to visit. You may never go to Sweden again, so see all that you can while you are so near those places. We will send you the money, let us know in good time when you need money. There is nothing like seeing as much of the world as you can.

Jim Fugal's wife is in P.G. yet. I talked to her some time ago and she said that I need not write to Jim about those addresses in Denmark as Jim was coming to P.G. soon. I told her to tell Jim to come up as soon as he came and she said that she would. [Jim, visiting from Idaho, is Louis' brother, sons of Christian and Margaret.]

I am sorry that your companion has been sick, glad he is well now. Mother is in Provo visiting with Carrie, while John is over here. She went Wednesday. I do not know how long she will stay. Carrie phoned over this morning and said they were all well. Mr. Peterson, Marry Ann's husband, died a few days ago, they took him to the infirmary about a month ago. It is a blessing for the poor man that he did not have to suffer any more. Vern Wilson was buried yesterday, he died in Mercur of Typhoid fever. He was nineteen years old.

We are invited to Lim's tonight, it is Mr. Lim's birthday, he is sixty seven years old. Tomorrow night we are invited to Hyrum Hieselt's in Provo Canyon, it is Mrs. H. birthday and a large crowd is invited to come up and stay until Sunday. If all is well Jens and Lavina and Chris and I are going if it does not storm too much.

I will bring my epistle to a close hoping to hear from you soon and that you are well and enjoying yourself. As ever Your Loving Sister, Stena Clayton.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 13, 1911

My Dear Husband:

I rec'd your very welcome letter a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you again. When I wrote to you last I was still in the land of Abraham and since then I have been to Salt Lake and stayed nearly a week and now I am back to P.G. I came here Saturday and they didn't know I was coming so when I got here there was no one home but Chris. Your mother was in Provo with Carrie, and Jens, Lavina and Stena had gone to a dance up in Provo canyon and they didn't get back till Sunday morning. Your mother is still in Provo and it does seem strange and lonely here without her. She doesn't know Melba is here or I guess she would be anxious to come and see her.

Well I have seen Mart, he came over yesterday afternoon and Melba had quite a good time playing with him. It didn't take her so very long to get acquainted with him. Well Nels I guess you have heard that Chris is going to get married, that Poulson is working on his house today. It is going to be out there where that hole was dug for Jens' house. So you see there's something doing down here.

It's a beautiful day today and I am going to go down town this afternoon. It seems quite nice to get back to P.G. I guess you had better address my letters here after this. Annie has the appendicitis and if she doesn't get better she will have to be operated on and if she does I will go and stay with her until she is well again but you can send my letters here anyhow.

It seemed good to see Mart back and I wish you were here too. I don't know of any more news now. I went to meeting last night. Ernest and I went and left Melba home with Stena. Louis Fugal was here yesterday. I hadn't seen him for sometime so that was quite nice too.

Well dearest it won't be quite three months until you are home again. That isn't so very long but oh the time does go so slow. I can't help wondering where we will live. I don't know of any houses that are for rent now but maybe there will be some before you get here. Well Nels I guess this will be all for this time. You must write often dear and come home as soon as possible to your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxxxxxx

Abraham, March the 14th, 1911

[Forwarded 2/20 letter to Viola, Pleasant Grove, from Niels.]

My Dear Daughters Viola and Esther

I will just write a little as I haven't heard from you and I have another letter from Neils [yes, Neils] to forward to Viola. This leaves us all well down here, there is no other cases of measles in Abraham that I have heard of. We are having excellent weather just now. I am resowing lucerne seed in the Jennings field. Allen is harrowing it in. Allen let B. Y. Pratt have old bell on his house, he got \$175 for her. I am not right sure I got the address right [for Esther], 2420 South 9th East? Well kiss the kids for me. As ever, Leroy Young.

[Written on one of the pages of Niels' letter to Viola: We have been looking for a letter from you for an age. How is Melba and how is Annie and her children? L.Y.]

Gefle, March 20, 1911

My Dear Darling Wife;

I received your very short but welcome letter while we were visiting saints in Lörstrand. I had one of the saints here in Gefle forward our mail to us while we were away but your letter was all I received excepting a letter from Elder Hanson which came direct from Sundsvall.

I am very pleased to note that you are well and that you hardly think little Melba will have the measles. You write that you are anticipating going north in the near future providing Melba remains well, so I presume this letter will not find you at Abraham. No doubt the folks in P.G. will be very glad to see you and our Melba again. I hope you will be treated nice and that you will enjoy staying with my folks. I hardly thought you would leave your father and Aunt Hanner so soon, but it is alright anyway if so be your desire, for I suppose you can visit them again before so very long if you wish. I want you to be where you feel

like you can enjoy yourself the most, so you will not think the time is passing too slow for my home coming. Just think dearest, every day brings us nearer to that time when we will meet again. In less than three months I expect to be with you, and then, oh! how the joy will cause our hearts to swell, and we will surely think all is well.

Well probably a report of our trip last week will be of interest to you so I will endeavor to write you a little concerning it. We left Gefle March 10th arriving at Lörstrand the same evening, where we remained until March 15th. We were treated royally by the saints while here and some of our friends also received us kindly. We took part in their Sunday School and also held a saints meeting, but no public meetings were held this time. While we were on the train traveling toward Lörstrand the priest of that district was also on the same train and he learned by a passenger from Lörstrand that the Mormon preachers were on board the train, undoubtedly on their way to Lörstrand. The priest told this passenger from Lörstrand to do all in his power to prevent the Mormons from holding any meetings. Some of our friends got word of this some way or other and decided to try to secure a place for us in spite of what the priest had said, and even got a promise of a man that he would open his house for us. But the morning before the evening that we were to hold the meeting we received word that the man who had promised us the place was sick and could not let us use his rooms. I am inclined to believe that some of our enemies put a flea in his ear which caused him to draw in his horns. We have had some good lively times at Lörstrand so we can well afford to be unfortunate in holding meetings for once. I think the next time we go there we will be able to hold an open air meeting so we will not have to coax anybody to lend us rooms. I hardly think I will go there again until conference, when I expect to pay them a visit being as it is on the way to Sundsvall.

We left Lörstrand March 15 and went to Söderhamn where we remained two days visiting the eight saints who are in this city. Some of the saints live about six miles from Söderhamn so we had a nice journey through the forests on a little sleigh which we would push ourselves, by having one foot on the runner and the other to propel ourselves and the sleigh over the ground [see photo, page 21]. This is great sport going down hill but going uphill we were compelled to walk and push the sleigh. We returned to Söderhamn the same day so after traveling in this fashion for about 12 miles we were quite tired.

After being away from Gefle for a week it seemed nice to get back to our headquarters. The next day after our arrival in Gefle was Saturday and we were kept very busy making out weekly, monthly and quarterly reports which should be at Sundsvall no later than March 20, so they can be sent to S.L.C. in time for the general conference to be held there.

Yesterday at our Sunday meeting we had quite a number of visitors mostly new so it was a pleasure to explain to them some of the gospel principles.

Will now close with all kinds of love and best wishes to you all. I am yours forever a loving husband. Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 21, 1911

My Dear Husband:

It is with great pleasure I now take the opportunity to write you a few lines. It as just a week ago yesterday since I wrote to you and since then I have rec'd two of your nice letters. I am always much more pleased when you write often than when I have to wait over a week.

I asked you sometime ago where you thot I had better stay and I got the answer yesterday. I wouldn't have left Abraham so soon but I got a letter from Annie saying she had appendicitis and might have to be operated on anytime and asking me to come and take care of her children. That is why I got ready so quick and came up. I stayed in Salt Lake with Esther a week and then came down here and was intending to go over to Provo in a few days but Annie phoned over and said Louisa had the Scarlet fever so of course I couldn't go over. I will try and go to Salt lake to meet you if I have the price so you must be sure and let me know when you will be there.

Melba is well now. She took a tumble down the cellar steps this morning but was lucky enough not to get hurt. The Young Ladies have a meeting every Monday night to prepare the lesson for mutual. Stena, Lavina and I went last night. They had it up to Monsons. The subject was Salvation for the Dead. We studied the lesson and answered the questions and after we got thru Lily Monson played us some selections on the piano. We had quite a nice time and didn't get home till eleven o'clock.

[Letter from Viola to Niels, continued next set.]

[Letter from Viola to Niels, March 21, 1911, continued from last set.]

By the way Lawrence said to tell you hello, he said he wanted to write to you but was so busy he couldn't get at it.

We are going to mutual tonight. We leave Melba home with Grandma and she is good as can be. I took her to Sunday School last Sunday and she was a little nuisance. She would sing at the wrong time and talk out loud when she should have been quiet. She made quite a bit of noise but that would not have been so bad if she hadn't insisted on playing with the ink bottles in the desks. I was almost give out when I got home and I decided then and there that it isn't wise to take the little girlie to Sunday School as she is too much like her father. I don't mean that she isn't alright but she has too much ambition. You know that is one of your failings.

Well dearest in two more months I will be looking for you to come home. Yes Annie got your letters and said they were just fine. Poor girl, she is having lots of trouble in her life. I do hope she gets well so she won't have to be operated on. She is having her a house built in Provo and expects it to be finished in a short time. She sent Elias down to Aunt Esther's when Louisa took sick so they don't think he will take the Scarlet fever. I haven't heard how they are for a few days. You know she can't write on account of being quarantined but she has the Independent phone in the house so I am going down town today and phone to her.

We are having beautiful weather now and I can hardly stay in the house. I went up to see Perlinda, you know she lives up in John Newman's house. Her baby is quite sweet but of course I don't think she is as cute as Melba. It will be a year old on the first of April and they have already sent for another. I didn't see Allie, he was out to his father's. I heard the other day that Allie and his brothers had bought their father's place and if that is so Perlinda is apt to move out there this summer and then maybe we could get those two rooms where they are living. Don't you think that would be nice? Or don't you think you would like to live there? Maybe you think I don't need to worry so much about where we are going to live but you know I can't help it.

I enjoyed your last letter so much dearest. I don't want you to get homesick but I do like to hear that you are anxious to get back to us. You must sure let me know when you will be in Salt Lake and I will try to be there. Esther's address is 2420 South 9th East. You take the Ashton Avenue car on Main 2nd South and get off at Simpson Avenue and then go straight the same way the car is going and it's the third house. I will let you know if they move before you come. But if you can let me know what train you will be on I could meet you at the Depot. Yours forever, Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 21st, 1911

Dear Brother –

It is with pleasure that I answer your kind and welcome letter that I received a few days ago. We were very glad to hear from you as we are always. Glad you are well and enjoying your mission. In my last letter I told you that mother was in Provo visiting with

Carrie. She stayed ten days and enjoyed her visit very much. She is feeling quite well now. She is cutting carpet rags today. Viola and Melba are here now, they arrived about a week ago. Both are feeling fine. Melba has grown so much since I saw her last. She can talk now too. She is sitting on the floor singing like a lark. Viola is writing to you at one side of the table and I am at the other.

Spring has come now, the ground is dry and it is nice and warm. Lew has planted wheat in Aunt Margaret's lot and also in the field, today he is in the field harrowing the ground and preparing it to sow the oats. The boys intend to plant about six acres in beets. Chris is busy in the shop and Jens is very busy too, they are extending the waterworks to L. Jacobson and Peter Jenson so he has had to look after that.

Chris is going to build him a house on the corner, he is going to start with it soon. Ren Benson is cleaning out the cellar so the foundation can be put in. The Poulson boys are going to put up the walls. I do not know who are going to do the carpenter work. [This house still stands, next to the blacksmith shop, corner of 700 N. and 400 E.]

The sidewalks in P.G. are going to be paved from the depot up to the schoolhouse, won't that be nice? Nearly all the nice shade trees are being dug out, in order to make cement walks. John Holdaway has his house torn down and they are going to put up a modern home. In my letter I told you that we were going to Hy Hieselt's in the canyon. We went and had a fine time, we stayed all night so we could see to come home through the canyon. Chris has sent a check for your life insurance policy, he sent it on time so it will be alright.

Jim Fugal was here the other day and he said he did not know much about our relatives in Denmark. He said he had seen one girl cousin and one boy cousin, the boy's name and address is Jens Nielson, Brød Kusle, Ålborg, Den. He is Father's brother's son. He is married and has a nice family. Jim said that he did not have a home of his own and he might have moved by now. But I think perhaps you can trace him up. The girl cousin is not married, in fact there are two girls. Jim does not know their addresses. If you can find the boy no doubt he will know where his sisters are. I suppose Jens will write you in the near future and tell you about Father's home.

John Christensen has three more rows of trees over north to prune and then the pruning will be done. Ernest is at school. We are all well and trust you are the same. Mrs. Oscarson told me to ask you if you would please bring a Swedish hymnbook home for her and she would pay you for it. You will find a draft for \$50.00 in this letter, we hope you have not been out of money long. Will close with love from us all. Your Sis. Stena.

Dear Niels – Mother encloses a \$5 dollar bill in this letter for you, to get you an egg for Easter. She says no doubt you will need some U.S. money to come home on.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Mar. 28, 1911

Dear Husband:

It has been just a week since I wrote to you last but I haven't heard from you since I

wrote.

Esther and Ike came down Saturday and Sunday, I went with them over to Provo. We saw Annie and all the folks and had a nice time. Annie is still quarantined in so we just talked to her over the fence. She will be out the last of this week. Louisa is well now. Annie's house will be finished in ten days. Esther and Ike are thinking of moving to P.G. in about a month so I guess they won't be living in Salt Lake when you come so you must let me know if you would like to have me come to meet you anyhow. I guess Esther and Ike will go back to Salt Lake today.

Yesterday your mother, Stena, Melba and I went out to Mrs. Gustaveson's, we were going out Sat. but it was too cold. She had got your letter and card and was so pleased. She said that card was worth more to her than ten dollars. We read the letter you wrote to her, she thought it was alright but of course you know I wasn't quite so pleased over it as she was but I guess that is natural. She seems to think Melba is about alright.

Mrs. Han White is dead. She had cancer and suffered something awful before she died so I guess it is a blessing she died. Her funeral is today at eleven o'clock. I guess Stena and I will go and Grandma is going to tend Melba. It is time to get ready now so I will have to cut my letter short. Melba sends a big kiss to papa. Goodbye, write often, as ever, Viola.

Stena says to tell you hello, she will write in a few days. V.F.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 5th 1911

Dear Brother –

It is with great pleasure that I endeavor to answer your welcome letters. I received your second letter last night so I thought it about time that I was writing to you. We were very glad to hear from you and to note that you were well and enjoying your labors as usual. When Viola wrote her last letter I told her to tell you that I would write you in a couple of days but now a week has passed since then.

Mother, Viola and I went out to Mrs. Gustaveson's on the 27th of March, her birthday was on the 25th but it was too stormy for mother to go. She seemed to be feeling pretty well and was looking for us. She had rec'd your letter and card and was very glad to get them. She said she would not take ten dollars for them.

Last Sunday Viola, Melba, Ernest and I went to Provo to spend the day with John and Carrie. We had quite a nice time.

Chris has started to build his house now. Niels and Jim Poulson are going to build it, the foundation is in now. I think they finished it today. Ed Turner [son-in-law of Little Andrew (Shaky) Nielsen] and Ren Benson attend the masons. The masons are going to put the foundation in for John Holdaway's house before they do any more to Chris' house. Jens has not commenced yet to do anything to his house.

The carload of buggies is in, the boys have sold three, it does not seem to be a very rushing business just now, but it is to be hoped that they will be able to sell them OK. They have sold quite a number of plows and harrows. Lew is still working here, the grain is sowed and Lew is preparing the beet ground now. The trees are pruned and sprayed, but the raspberries are not trimmed as yet, but Owen Christiansen was working at them yesterday.

Since I last wrote you Mrs. Annie White has passed away. She was ill a long time and suffered very much before she died. All of her boys are living in town, they have each a house on the White lot. She divided her property between the children and Han so he would not squander it all.

Mother is busy making rug rags, she has been employed for quite a while now with them. I was talking to Uncle Isaac the other day, he said that cousin or relative he wrote you about would not move away from that place that they were living at, they may have died. He said they were not very good at corresponding so they may be still living and slow to write. I think like you do though, if they live very far out of your way I would not bother to hunt them up.

We went to mutual last night, it was the last meeting this season for the young men. We had quite a good programme. Mart gave us a talk about Easter in the Catholic Church in Stockholm. He described the ceremonies the priest goes through and also the people, it was quite interesting. We will be quite lonesome now that the young men have stopped.

I cannot think of any news to write this time. We will send you five dollars in greenbacks in this letter and send you more later. I suppose you would just as soon have it sent that way as in a bank draft.

Ernest still goes to school, it will soon stop, just four more weeks. Will close with Love from us all, Your Loving Sister, Stena.

Mart said that he did not have to show his passport when he landed but that it would be alright for you to have it handy. He said to have your minister's certificate handy as you will have to show that in Chicago. Mart said to helsen you that he is feeling fine and wears his yellow jumper. In the last part of this letter I stated that we would send you five dollars. We will send you a draft of \$25.00 instead. We thot that it would be conference before we could hear from you after receiving this letter. Amen.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., April 5, 1911

My Dear Husband:

It is with great pleasure I now take time to write a few lines to you although I haven't heard from you since I wrote last. Stena is going to write today so I thot I would put a few lines in with her letter but I don't want to write so often that you will get tired of reading my scribbling. Stena rec'd a letter from you yesterday and I enjoyed reading it very much.

Last night I went to mutual, it was the last meeting for the Young Men and they had a program which was as follows:

1st, Male Quartet by Mart Christiansen, Lawrence Monson, Mr. Miner and Horace Monson.

2nd, Reading from the Era by Sant Weeks.

3rd, Speech by Mart Chirstiansen.

4th, Song Swen Nielson.

5th, Reading by Mr. Miner from the Era.

Everything went off fine and we had a very enjoyable time. Mart, in his speech told us about his visit to a Catholic Church on Easter Sunday which was very interesting.

Sunday Stena, Ernest, Melba and I went to Provo to visit Carrie. We had a nice time and enjoyed the visit very much. John took me up to see Annie before I left. She was feeling pretty good and Louisa is well again but they were still quarantined. She said the Doctor was coming to take the flag down the next day. She is having her a house built in Provo and she expects it to be finished by next Saturday. She says to tell you that she couldn't answer your letter on account of being quarantined but would be able to write before very much longer.

We have been having beautiful weather here for awhile but today it looks like it was going to storm.

I am very glad to hear that you are well and enjoying your work. I suppose that the time seems short that you have left to remain in Sweden but I hope you will feel like coming home when you are released. Mart seems to feel bad to think he couldn't stay there longer.

Lavina was telling me the other day that Joe Larson spoke to Jens about renting his house. I understood her to say that he asked Jens to write and ask you if you wanted to rent it for \$3 per month and during the watering season you could have it for watering the lot and the place across the street. That is what I understood the way Lavina told me but I suppose Jens has written and told you all about it. You know it's that place down by the north field where Rasmussen used to live.

I believe I told you when I wrote before that Esther and Ike had been down. They went back a week ago today and I haven't heard from them since.

Well Nels your mother has got a carpet for us in the loom now and I go out and weave on it once in awhile. After we get it done she is going to make one for Chris.

Melba is well and is getting to be quite a talker. She says she's papa's little lady. I will be glad when I can get in a house by ourselves and then maybe I can manage her better for I am afraid she is getting spoiled.

I received quite a nice letter from Valeria the other day. You know Joe has been teaching in Idaho all winter and now he has a school for the summer also. He got \$75 a month last

winter and is getting sixty this summer so you see he is doing pretty good.

I don't know of any more news so will close for this time, with best regards to Elder Nilson and also yourself. Your loving Wife. Viola.

[In the box is a receipt, date-stamped Apr. 5 – 1911 by the Bank of Pleasant Grove, from Mrs. Niels Fugal “in favor of” Niels Fugal (his account?) for 93 Kro. (kronor) “drawn on Gefleborg Enskelda Bk, Gefle, Sweden” amounting to the sum of \$25.00. No mention of it in either of their letters.]

Gefle, April 5, 1911 [First letter sent directly since Viola came back to Pleasant Grove.]

My Dear Wife;

It is Wednesday morning. I have been out of bed long enough to have a shave and drink a cup of warm water, so now while my companion is still thinking about getting up I will commence this letter to you. It isn't a pleasant morning, for it is snowing and blowing, causing the cold air to find its way thro the cracks of the windows. It has been stormy since Sunday evening, but I suppose we can afford to have a little stormy weather now for we certainly have had a nice mild winter in this part of Sweden. For the last two weeks previous to this storm, the ground has been bare and it looked like we would soon have spring.

I received the letter which you wrote the Monday after you arrived in P.G., and am pleased to learn that all is well with you and baby and that you think it nice to get back to P.G. I had been wondering where my darling wife was, for you had written that you expected to soon leave Abraham, and as it was three weeks between your last letters you can imagine how many thoughts could pass thro my mind in that time, but now your little man is not at all worried and he thanks you ever so much for your kind letter.

I will believe it was nice for you to visit Esther and Ike at S.L.C. although you made no remarks about it in your letter. Probably you will go to Conference this spring and spend another week with them, or how?

I am really sorry that Annie is sick and I do hope that she will recover without being compelled to pass through the unpleasant experience of an operation. You no doubt are with her now unless she has improved, so I wish you to extend my best wishes to her and tell her that I hope and pray that her case isn't so severe. I asked you some time ago to find out if she received my letter, but I have as yet received no reply from you.

How are Esther and Ike making it in this day and age of the world? Do they remember that such a person as Niels Fugal ever existed, or haven't they time to even let their minds think of such unimportant matters? I hope all is well with them and that they will always find sunshine on the cloudy days of life.

Well dearest, I suppose your father and Aunt Hanner were quite sorry to see you and Melba leave them, now that you had been there so long, and that your father and Melba were such good friends, but it seems as though there are many unpleasant experiences

that must happen once in awhile, so we can learn to appreciate the sweet. I suppose Melba will not be without lovers in P.G. either. I'll bet mother nearly eats her up, and that she receives loving caresses from all. I received a letter from Mart the other day, and he wrote that I certainly had a nice little daughter, he would assure me that. He wrote the same as you, that it did not take long for them to get acquainted with each other. He said he did not want to tell me too much about it, for fear that I would get homesick.

Well dearest, it is certainly nice to receive such nice reports and it would not be telling the truth if I should say that I wasn't very anxious to get home to my dear prizes. I am sure that I have much to rejoice over, and I can truthfully say that my soul is full of hope. You wrote that it would only be about three more months until I come home, but now I can write that it will just be about two more months till that joyous time. You better not write any letters to me and address them to Gefle later than April 29, for I expect to leave Gefle about May 15th. You understand it takes about 14 or 15 days for a letter to reach me. But I would like very well to have a letter from you awaiting me at 295 Edge Lane, Liverpool, England. You may write that one any time between May 1st and May 10th. I will write to Pres. Clawson and ask him to hold me mail if any comes. What if I didn't get released now dearest? I would certainly be sorry that I told you to stop writing to me. But I am not doubting that you will soon receive your brown skinned husband, Niels.

Provo, Utah, April 15th 1911

Dear Bro:

I received your letter of March 14th for my birthday, thank you very much for same, I was very glad to hear from you and that you are feeling well. It had been a long time since I heard from you so it seemed good to hear once more. I am 32 years young instead of 31 as you thot. There was no one here on my birthday but the next day being Sunday Stena, Viola, Ernest and Melba came. We had a very nice time. It seemed so good to have them come. Melba is certainly a sweet kid, she toddles around and talks so cute. I tell you she is smart. I asked Viola if it seemed like you had been gone as long as you have, she says yes, much longer.

Well Dear Niels it won't be so very much longer now before you will be home, and how nice that will be. Mother was down last month and spent 10 days with us, I enjoyed her visit so much. We had coffee every afternoon and of course I had to keep plenty on hand for her to do, to keep her from getting homesick.

You ask if we will be in our new home by the time you get home. I think maybe we will, Sundberg has commenced working on it again so he might get it ready someday, anyway we have to move June 1st whether the house is finished or not because we have sold this place and the people that bought it are going to move in June 1st. So you see that means that we go on the farm to stay. We paid \$1280.00 for this place, since then we have had the city water put in and had a nice little barn built. We sold it for \$1400.00 so you see that is just what it cost us. We can't take care of two homes and we thot it would be better to sell it than to rent it out as anyone nearly always has trouble to collect rent.

[The "Bench" in those days was not what we think of these days, and the address of this

new house which still stands is 426 W. 400 S., Orem. Boyd Fugal remembers visiting, listening to their player piano, and that John was most generous, giving the nieces and nephews a whole dollar for their birthdays. He said John told them he would reward them if they found a weed to pull on his place but he was such a meticulous gardener, they never could find one.]

John is still hard at pruning, ever since he got thro pruning ma's and Jens's orchards he has been pruning for Berry on the Bench and I guess he will be busy at that another week, so you see he has pruning to do even if he doesn't own any trees. We have had some very fine weather with some cool nights in between so the trees are not in bloom yet. So it looks as tho there will be a good crop of fruit this year, unless we get late frosts. It is quite cloudy and looks as if we are going to have a general rain.

We are all well as this letter leaves us and I hope it will find you enjoying the same blessing and enjoying your mission, which I know you are. I have no more to tell you so will close trusting all is well with you and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I am as ever Your Loving Sis. Carrie. John and the children sends their love.

Enclosed postcard: Dear Uncle, I received your pretty postcard and was glad to hear from you. We are all well and hope you the same. I am still going to school, I like it fine. My teacher said I was the best one in my class. I think I will get promoted. I have been to the picture show today and it was a very nice show. I saw Melba last Sunday, she is very sweet. I wish you would soon come home. I like Provo just fine and I don't like to leave. Mamma is busy sewing me a new dress, it will soon be Easter and I wish you was home so you could come and visit us. I have no more to tell you so will close with love and best wishes, from your loving Erma. [Almost ten years old.]

Gefle, April 13, 1911

My Dear Darling Wife;

The letter you sent with Stena's came to hand about a week ago, and yesterday I received another one from you. I like the spirit of them, both for it seems as though you are feeling alright and enjoying yourself OK where you are at present. You probably are with Annie at present. I was pleased to learn that Louisa is well again and I hope Annie's sickness will leave her without her going under an operation. So perhaps Esther and Ike will move from S.L.C. before I get home?

Well dearest it would be nice to have you meet me in S.L.C. anyway if you feel like you can and if it will be convenient for you to do so. I don't know whether you have any relatives or friends you could stay with, but if you have I think it would be very nice for you to meet me at S.L.C. You understand it will be impossible for me to inform you of which train or even which day I will come on, till I arrive at Chicago, and then if I should write to you at P.G. it would hardly give you time to come to S.L.C. before I arrive there. I will write to you as soon as I land in America and tell you as near as possible which day I will arrive and that will give you time to go to S.L.C. and stay with friends until I come. Now dearest if you have no place to stay other than at a hotel, please leave all information at Mrs. Lavin's. Her address is Foulson Ave. 17. Then if you don't find out what train I



Erma and Erval
(Carrie's)

will come on so you will be unable to meet me at the depot, I will go to Lavin's as soon as I arrive, to learn where I may find my darling wife. When you write me to Liverpool I wish you to state whether or not you will be at S.L.C. and if you know at what place you will stay, please send me the address so I can gain information there instead of going to Lavin's and so I could send you a card before I arrive. If you tell me you will be at S.L.,C. and that you don't know which place you will stay, then I will address your mail to Foulson Ave. 17 so you may call for it there. I don't know yet whether I will come into S.L.C. from the north or from the south; so you see it is necessary that I know whether or not you are awaiting me at S.L.C. for the simple reason that if I came on the Denver & Rio Grande I would get off at Provo or American Fork if I knew you were not at S.L.C., but you know I would have to go to S.L.C. to report within a few days so I think it would be very nice for you to meet me there no matter which route I come on. You will remember that I left on the D&RG so very likely I will come back on the other route. Now dearest I hope I have made things clear to you and that you will follow my instructions so there will be no mistake. Remember you are at liberty to give me any address you choose, I have given you Mrs. Lavin's address because I know of no other that would be better.

Well dear wife, our great anticipation will soon be realized and oh how happy we will be. The much talked of meeting will soon take place and then everything will seem like a pleasant dream. The thirty-two months of absence will be well paid for by the happiness and joy that we will experience. Oh dearest I am so glad that I have you and little Melba to come home to and oh how nice it will be to see my dear mother and all the folks. I feel like the Lord has been very good to me and has made everything convenient for me while I have been away and I hope you can say the same. You may have hid many of your trials and sad experiences from your husband but I hope you are able to recognize the hand of the Lord in all things.

Elder Davidson who is laboring in this conference is quite sick and chances are he will have to go home. I think it so sad because he hasn't been here a year yet and I know he would like to complete his mission before going home. When I think of how little sickness I have had and how many advantages I have been blessed with I certainly can't help but feel grateful and give God all honor and glory. Will now bring my letter to a close with love and best wishes to you all. I am yours forever, Niels Fugal.

P.S. I received a letter from Aunt Hanner yesterday. She said it was quite lonesome now since you and Melba left. Yes dearest, I think it would be nice to rent those two rooms in John Newman's house. I know of no other place that would be more convenient for me.

Pleasant Grove,Utah, April 16th 1911

Dear Brother,

It is with pleasure that I write you a few lines again. I have not heard from you since I wrote last but I had received two letters from you before I wrote my last letter. So we are even again. It is Easter Sunday today as you will notice by the date of this letter. The three wards joined together and held Sunday School in the tabernacle, it was pretty good. It seemed nice for a change to meet together. Now we are weaned from meeting together

so it seems alright to meet by ourselves.

Last night Viola and Melba went to Provo, they went on the 5:38 train. The baby is so sweet, she talks quite a bit, she points up to the picture of the family group and points to the little boy on it and says papa. [See Grant Fugal CD for this photo.] Annie was quite anxious to have Viola come and visit her, she has not visited with her since she moved to Provo. She says she will come back again before long.

Since I wrote you last we have had a very heavy frost. The fruit trees were looking fine but it froze hard for three successive nights so the people say that all of the fruit is killed. The ice was a half inch thick. We have not given up all hopes yet. We hope there will be an apple or plum for you anyway when you come home. The orchard is pruned and looks fine, and about every vacant place has an old buggy or some junk on it. The boys are busy with business, the buggy shed is still full of buggies. The sheep are sheered, there is quite a big herd of them. There are five.

Mart is breaking his colt this week, he had it hitched up to his buggy today. He goes to Sunday school and meeting every Sunday. Today we had home missionaries, Bro. Samuel Smith and Aydelotte. They spoke well, gave us some good advice. Tomorrow night there is going to be a Stake MIA dance in the Apollo. I do not know whether we will go or not. Sometimes it is hard for the boys to get off.

[Letter from Stena to Niels, continued next set.]

[Letter dated April 16, 1911 from Stena to Niels, continued from last set.]

Jens told me to tell you to hunt up our cousin in Denmark, his name or he is called Bröbusk Jens Nielson, he lives in Ålborg. Jim Fugal said he treated him just fine and so did his children, he has a large family. Jens said also for you to get the genealogy of our ancestors as much as possible. There is a man there that helps people to get their genealogy and perhaps cousin Jens Nielson can help you. You know he is the son of pa's brother Niels. Jim Fugal tried to find out where grandpa Fugal was born but it was not on the records in Salt Lake City. It may take you two or three days to find out or get the genealogy but we think it would be nice to get it.

Last Friday night our Sunday school class had a surprise on Ethel Hilton and I. They had it over to Lavina's, it was planned alright. Lavina phoned for Ethel to come down, she had something to show her and we would look over the mutual lesson. Ethel came down, the crowd was already there and she got surprised just fine. Then Lavina came over here and said that I was wanted at the telephone and I went over to get surprised too. We had a nice time, the children showed us a good time. The lunch consisted of sandwiches, cake, ice cream and candy. There were twenty nine without Jen's family so you see there was quite a crowd.

I do not think you will be able to get many more letters from us as it will not be long now until you have conference. Will close with love from us all. Your Loving sister Stena Clayton.

Mother sends her love and a two dollar bill, she knows her baby boy needs a few cents, as Mrs. Poulson said. Be good to yourself Niels.

Dear Uncle Nels –

I thot I would write you a few lines once more. I received your pretty postcard a long time ago and was glad to hear from you. I go to school and like it fine. Miss Newman is good to me. Write to me again some time From Ernest Clayton.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 17, 1911

Dear Bro. Neils:

If I don't write you now it will be too late as you will soon be on your home trip. I suppose you can count the days that you have left to stay. It will be nice to have you home again.

We have started to pay Louis Nelson [Nielson/Nielsen] \$10.50 a week, that is what counts and business is not any too flush at present. The fruit being froze means a few hundred dollars to us as we have a good deal of money coming to us through that source and it has put a damper on some prospective buggy sales. But I suppose it will all come out in the wash.

I think about the time you come home I will get spliced I tell you, I have a fine girl.

Andrew Sundberg put the floor joists on Sat. The brick work will be done next week. It will cost a few dollars to build a house but there is nothing like having a house. It is about the same size as F. Newman's only it has a cellar. It will be a hip roof with a window in front. It will have a dining room and kitchen, bedroom and parlor, and bathroom.

It seems so strange that I am going to jump off the earth so soon. It will seem more strange to you to come home and have a big daughter. I suppose it would not be much of a life if there were not some strange things happen.

I hope when you get home we will be able to make things count for more than I can now. All though ought not to complain as when we count our resources we are better off now than we were when you left. But it is outstanding accounts or in stock, we have the damndest lot of junk around here you ever saw but it is all worth money.

We did not get a car of machinery this year, but we ordered a car of pipe the other day. We used a car last year but we got it in small lots. We are going to try to get the heating job on the schoolhouse they are going to build this summer.

I hope you are enjoying yourself the last part of your stay and that you will see something new or worth looking at on your home trip. From your Bro. C. A. Fugal.

Provo City, Utah, April 25, 1911

My Darling Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I now take time to write to you once more. It has been over a week since I wrote last but I have been quite busy.

I came over here a week ago last Sat. and since then Annie has been sick and then Esther and Ike came over and stayed a few days and I just neglected writing before. I hope you are well and enjoying your work. I guess you will be released by the time this letter reaches you. We are all quite well here now but Melba has quite a bad cold. She coughed quite a bit last night but I think she will soon be alright. The folks over here just about eat her up. They think she is so sweet. She is a regular little chatterbox, always talking. When I was over to your mother's and they would ask her where her papa was she would point to that picture of you on the family group and say "there he is." [I remember Melba Jo telling us that when Melba finally met her father in person, she said, "Papa's got legs," because the pictures she was shown were not of him standing.]

It has been quite cold here for awhile but it is warmer again now. Louisa started to school Monday. Annie's new house is just about completed and I guess she will move in this week. Aunt Esther's son John is going on a mission to the Netherlands on the 10th of May.

John and Carrie drove up here to see us last Sunday but they only stayed a few minutes. I got a letter from Stena. They are all quite well. Esther and Ike are going to move to

Pleasant Grove right away. They haven't been doing so very well last winter. Ike hasn't had much work and it was about all they could do to get something to eat. I think it is too bad. I feel sorry for Esther but that doesn't help them any.

I got another letter from you the other day and you said not to write any more letters to Sweden after the 29th so I won't write any more. I will write one to Liverpool and then I guess that will be all. It doesn't seem possible that you will be home so soon. You must keep on writing to me and let me know when you will be in Salt Lake City. I don't think Esther and Ike will be there but I will go anyhow if I have the price.

I guess we will go down to see Carrie today. Excuse this horrible writing, the pen isn't any good and I haven't got another. It is time for the postman so I will say goodbye. I will be so glad when you come home dearest. Melba sends a big kiss to papa. Write often to your loving wife Viola.

Provo City, Utah, May 3rd, 1911 [Arr. Liverpool May 11, forwarded, arr. Gefle May 23]

My Darling Husband:

Once more I take pleasure in writing a few lines to you to tell you that we are well and looking forward with much pleasure to the time when we will see and be with you again. I don't think it will be long after you received this letter until you are home. Somehow I can't realize that you will be home so soon, it doesn't seem possible. Just a little over a month now and Oh how I do wish it was just a week. I do hope and pray that you may have a pleasant journey home and arrive home in safety. I do wish you wasn't so far away and then it wouldn't take so long for you to come home.

My cousin John Banks is going on a mission to the Netherlands on the 10th of this month. They are having his farewell party tonight. Esther and Annie have gone but I stayed home with the kids and they are to bed and asleep so you see I am making good use of the time. I was down and stayed with Carrie a couple of days last week. She is feeling pretty good. You know they are expecting an addition to their family any time now but you must not tell anyone that I told you. [Last child on the family group sheet is the baby that died October 30, 1909.]

I got a letter from Stena today. They are all quite well. You said you would like to rent part of Newman's house but it is too late now as Claude is living in part and John is married and living in the other part or at least that is what I heard. Annie is living in her new house now and it is so nice. She has a parlor, dining room, bedroom and kitchen, and a bathroom all fixed up and a pantry and closet. It is fixed up just fine and we are as comfortable as can be. Ike is moving their furniture down to P.G. and Esther is staying here till he gets things straightened up a little.

I guess I won't be in Salt Lake to meet you as I haven't any friends or relatives there that I could stay with so I won't go to Salt Lake and you can keep on sending my letters to Pleasant Grove.

I don't know of anything else so will close. You must write often and come as soon as

possible to your loving wife and baby.

Pl. Grove, May 5/11 [Sent to Liverpool, forwarded, arr. Gefle May 23.]

Dear Bro. Niels:

I just came in and Stena is knobering off some lines to you so I thot it would be a fine idea for me to scratch a line or two, and there is another incentive for me to stay in de hus: "Mons" is cooking a toer. I wanted to write you a letter before you went to Denmark but it seemed like I could not get at it. I hardly know if I could give you any special advice. I believe you could get more information from our cousin. When you get there I hope you can say you were treated fine and that you got some clue toward getting information as to our pedigree. If you can do more toward getting genealogy while you are in England do so, but it is not likely you can. I hope you have become acquainted with some fellow or society who make it a business to gather up records as we can only go back to grandfather. Jim said he called at the historian's office and could not find where grandfather Fugl was born.

Well Niels I suppose you are having a good time now. If your health is good I believe you are. And it takes health to have a good time. I hardly think any advice from me now would do you any good as I will likely be behind time to say anything about London and the brethren there will give you advice. I hope you should see the Kensington museum. Madam Tussaud's museum, Westminster Abbey, and other noted places. Four or five days will not be too much if you have time. You know more of history than I do so you will fare all right but then I thot it well to mention these. The same when you get to America, see what you can but be careful where you go and if there are a number of you so much the better in one way. In another two are better because then there are not so many minds to consult as to where to go. I said be careful but "see," "look," "behold" at any rate while you may. This you can do if you are not tied up with immigrants and if you are you will have to do the best you can. If say two of you get after the Transportation co. in N.Y. you may get 3 or 4 stopover's but feel your way and don't ask favors for the whole bunch or they will turn you down. You have seen Niagara so if you land at N.Y. pass this place even if you may stop. Stop at Chicago or St. Louis. If you should stop at St. Louis visit The Banner Buggy Co. We have bought 2 cars of buggies of them and it would be nice for you to know something about their manufacture. This company makes over 60,000 jobs per yr. Moon Bros. Buggies are also made there and we had shipped in our car this year 9 jobs. At Chicago and Kansas City are the stockyards, you should take time enough to see the whole operation tho it takes a day longer. Then you could go out from Kansas City to Independence and there you may see a number you know. If you can make arrangement for stopovers and are short of funds, write us as soon as you find out and we can send you some at Kansas or some other place or perhaps you could make a loan of Wm. Seerett or some other friend until you can notify us. Anything in reason, see while you may.

Now I am in hopes you will soon be with us, we have plenty for you to do if your wife will let you work with us which I believe would be a good thing for awhile at least. In unity there is strength and I see no good reason why she should object and perhaps will not but I would hate to see you go to the land of Abraham. Well little brother take care of

yourself and write to us often, every day won't hurt when you get to N.Y. if nothing more a card. Be så Hälset paa det venligsta ifran J. P. Fugal and all.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 5th, 1911

My Dear Brother –

It is with great pleasure that I again endeavor to write you a few lines. As you stated in your last letter for us to write you a letter between the first and tenth of May, I thought I would write today as it is the 5th just between the 1st and 10th of May. When I think this is the last letter that I will write to you while you are on your mission it doesn't seem real but I can assure you that we are all glad that the time is drawing near that you will be home. It is certainly a long time that you have been away but we feel like you have done a good work and perhaps saved many souls. And you can continue to do good work when you come home as there is always work to do in every ward and community.

I was intending to write you one more letter while you were in Gefle, but I put it off too long, so I was afraid you would not get it. Sometimes things are so that you cannot write just when you would like to. The boys are very busy, the masons are working on Chris' house this week, half of the brickwork is done now. It makes some extra work when they are building. Tommy Jens and John West are tending the masons. Ren Benson is working at the brick yard, and Ed Turner for the city (helping with the cement walks), he has not much strength. John Christensen has been working for Jens the last week, he has been tearing down the south wall of Jens' house and been doing other jobs in between times. Jens has not started to dig his cellar yet but expects to get at it right away. Mart and Owen work at their brickyard, Mart is getting broke in to work now.

Mrs. Benson is sick again, she has inflammatory rheumatism in her right knee so she has to stay right in bed. It makes it hard on anyone to be sick so much. Mrs. Joseph E. Thorne died Thursday morning, she got a paralytic stroke a few days ago and was in a very bad condition. Her funeral is going to be tomorrow. Rose Harvey is also very sick, she has a cancer and is not expected to live. The doctors have given her up. There are not so many people that are very sick at present, but it seems that there are always a few.

Viola and Melba are in Provo. I understand that Annie has moved in her new home. They say it is real nice. Melba is so cute, she is quite a chatterbox, she says some of the cutest things.

I had the pleasure of again hearing Mart preach last Sunday, as there was quarterly conference at Lehi. The three wards met together and Mart and Jimmy Thorne (Slow) did the preaching, it was alright too. There is going to be Sunday school conference in Lehi next Sunday. There is nothing like having things on the move you know.

Oh yes! the children has a little donkey that they ride, they have had it a week, it is a ornery looking animal but the little boys think it is OK, it walks so slow and steady.

Mother is busy reading, she has read so many books this winter and spring. She does not feel very well, her back bothers her again lately. She is a little better than she was two

weeks ago. I am so glad that she can read so well as the time passes by quite rapidly for her. I hope she will soon feel better so she can get out and visit with the neighbors like she used to.

Lavina and Jens attended an Opera at American Fork last night, it was a Springville troupe, there were forty five in it. They enjoyed it very much, were glad they went. Berthena and George are in Riverton visiting with Mrs. Henderson. They intend to go back to the reservation this month. Their nearest neighbor is three miles away. I think it would be somewhat lonesome to live out there.

School has closed except the 8th grade and the high school, they will continue for some time yet. The cement walks are laid as far as the schoolhouse, they are not on both sides of all the streets that they are going to pave as yet, but are still working on them.

Mother is cooking coffee, don't you wish you were here so you could have some too? Be good to yourself, see all that you possibly can while you have the chance and write soon to your Loving Sister Stena. The folks send their love to you.

Sundsvall, May 9, 1911 [Letter arrived in Pleasant Grove on May 22.]

My Dear Wife;

I suppose you are all in anxiety to receive this letter that you may learn the results of conference, i.e., concerning me. Probably you have read the letter which I wrote to Jens, but for fear you haven't it would perhaps be proper for me to explain matters to you. I will first say, dear wife, you are quite a prophetess insomuch that what you wrote me last fall has partly been fulfilled. Do you remember that you wrote that you were afraid the winter would never pass and if it ever did, then all you would be expecting was a letter stating that I was not released and that I was going to remain until fall? Well dearest, I don't think I will have to stay until fall, but I am obliged to stay until July for the simple reason that the Pres. of the European Mission cannot possibly get a place on the boats before then. That seems very strange but it is a fact nevertheless. I will be permitted to go with the first company of elders and saints that leave Liverpool so I will have to feel satisfied and I also hope you will take the shock as mildly as possible although it is not very pleasant. I don't like it a bit and I know you don't but I suppose we will have to make ourselves like it and feel glad that there is a possibility of us seeing each other some time this summer. No I am not released but that doesn't make any difference for I will be released about a month before leaving Liverpool, giving me plenty of time to go where I please before I go to England.

I wasn't even given a partner, so that will make me more homesick than ever, but I suppose I will get along alright anyway, at least I will try. I thought sure that Bro. Nilson would be sent back to Gefle, but he was sent to a place called Östersund instead. It is at this place that Elder Benson has been nearly all winter. Benson was sent to Malmö, a city in southern Sweden. Three elders will remain at Sundsvall, two will be sent to Östersund, two to Luleå, one to Härnösand and one to Gefle. You can tell by that that I am not the only one who is appointed to work alone, which is of course a consolation. One or two new elders, or elders from some other part of Sweden, will be sent to Gefle

before I leave.

Our conference was quite pleasant, although the first two meetings were not very well attended. It was nice to once more visit this place and meet the elders of the Sundsvall Conference and I presume this is the last time that I will ever be here at least while I am on this mission.

Tomorrow I am going to Härnösand with the Elder Larson who is appointed to labor there alone. We will hold one or two meetings and then I will return to Sundsvall and then go to Lörstrand where I will try to hold an open air meeting on Sunday, and then either Monday or Tuesday return to Gefle. Elder Benson left here this morning for Gefle where he will stay until after Sunday so he can help the local brethren hold a meeting while I am away. He will no doubt leave for Malmö Monday or Tuesday.

Well I don't know as I have any more news to tell you and besides what I have already told you probably is not so very interesting to you, but I must state facts as they are even if they are not so pleasant. I know my dear, little, noble wife is getting used to shocks and will not become discouraged but press on in preparing for the best and being willing to take what God sends.

It is now growing late, some of the elders have retired and some are off to a friend's home, but will probably soon return. I think I better go to bed now and dream about the future prospects of a release. Now dear wife I hope you understand the situation and will not lay any blame upon anyone for I don't think anyone but the steamboat company is to blame. They probably are trying to hold us back somewhat because they make more money on other passengers.

Well dear wife I will kindly bid you good night. Sleep good and take good care of Melba. I suppose I need not tell you to do that, but I tell you anyway. Please extend my best wishes to the folks. I am as ever your loving husband Niels.

Please write me here in Sweden until I tell you to stop. I have told you to stop once but please start again. I will get the letter you have sent to Liverpool.

Gefle, May 18, 1911

My Darling Wife;

Without a doubt you are always glad to hear from your husband so I will again endeavor to write you a few lines although I have one special news to tell you other than what I wrote to Stena yesterday, and I suppose you have read her letter.

As usual I am enjoying good health, with the exception of a bad cold I have contracted, but that will soon leave me and then I will feel like myself again. I was so hoarse while at conference that it was difficult for me to speak, but I soon got better so while I was holding meetings at Härnösand and Lörstrand my nice melodious voice was almost normal.

I wish you were with me dear wife, for I am alone now and it seems quite lonesome although I am so busy that the time goes very fast. It would certainly be nice if I had my wife and little daughter with me now, but I suppose there is no use of discussing impossibilities for it only makes bad matters worse. The main thing is to feel consoled with the thought that the time is not far distant that the world will not be between us but that we will again be living together and enjoying the long looked for comforts of matrimonial experiences.

I can imagine how my dear little wife felt and the expression that came upon her face when she read my previous letter, and I wish you to understand me dear, when I say I sympathize with you. I know you had fond hopes of your husband soon coming home, and the joy that it would bring to you is difficult to measure. I know that you have patiently and bravely been waiting for the time to come that we could sit down together at the same table enjoying the sweet influence of our darling Melba who would amuse us with her cleverness as we would proudly notice her. I know this, and much more, but here is a question: need these pleasant thoughts be entirely banished from our minds? No not necessarily, for at present we have sufficient to insure us that those pleasant moments will soon be at hand, and when they do come we will probably feel just as happy and more so, than if I had come home sooner.

Now dearest I hope you understand me right. I want you to know that I am very anxious to come home to you, but as conditions are I feel satisfied and contented and pray the Lord to bless us with health and strength and protect us from all harm and danger, that whenever He sees fit we may be permitted to meet again in mortality. I feel that it is the will of the Lord that I stay here longer, and I want to acknowledge His hand in all things and I know dear wife that your honest confessions are in harmony with mine.

I can't help but compare my lot with that of Elder Davidson's who will probably come and stay with me the remainder of his mission and then go home when I go. He has been here one year only and is so weak that he cannot stay here longer, and in opposition to his desires will go home before he has filled an ordinary mission. When I consider his case I think I have much to be thankful for and ought to show my appreciation by righteous acts. May God help me to do so is my prayer.

Now dear wife, I don't know why I am writing like this to you unless it is because as I mentioned in the beginning, that I could imagine your feelings when you received my previous letter. I don't know how you feel, but I plead with you dear wife to believe me when I say that I have endless confidence in you and that I know you have just as great an interest in God's great work as I have, and that you are willing to admit that God inspires His servants when they are in harmony with Him. Time rolls swiftly and we will soon see each other if it be the will of the Lord.

I received your letter of April 25. In it you wrote that it would be the last excepting the one you send to Liverpool. I hope you have changed your mind now and will favor me with a letter once a week until I tell you to stop. I should not have told you to stop writing for now I will have to wait so long before I hear from you.

I wrote a letter to Jens and in it asked for another \$40. I made a mistake in figuring on

how much I would need, so if they haven't sent it to me yet, please tell them that I think \$25 will be sufficient. I counted one month too many and it takes about \$20 per month. If they wish me to have the agent hunt up our genealogy then they may send \$35. If they have already sent \$40 it won't hurt anything because I can bring back what I don't need.

God bless you all. I am yours forever, Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 29, 1911

My Dear Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I now take this opportunity of writing to you once more. I think it was Friday when I got your letter stating that you hadn't rec'd your release. You can imagine how I felt. I don't think I ever before was so disappointed. I had been thinking you were on your way home and that it would only be two or three weeks until I would see you again. I am afraid Nels that I felt quite rebellious for awhile, against you, the President and the whole Church. But I think I have conquered that feeling now and I can say with all my heart "God's will be done."

I came over to Pleasant Grove this morning or rather this afternoon. The folks are all so disappointed because you wasn't released and Chris and Jens are talking of writing to the President asking him to release you. Jens talked to Pres. Chipman, Bishop Swenson and Bishop Walker, and they all seemed to think it wasn't right to keep you so long and Bishop Walker wrote a letter to the President and gave it to Jens to send and I think he intends to send it tomorrow. But since I have been thinking it over tonight I feel like it isn't right to ask to have you released as it may be for some wise purpose that you were retained. And I believe that if we have faith and trust in God it will all come out right in the end. I know how you must have felt when you didn't receive your release and then being sent back to Gefle alone didn't make it any more pleasant. But I guess we will have to get used to disappointments as life is full of them at its best.

And now dear Nels there is another thing I want to talk to you about. You seem to be worrying altogether too much about the work you are not doing and which you think you should be doing. Please don't worry about that anymore for we know the work will get done somehow and there will be plenty for you to do when you do come, and I am sure you worked enough while you were home to pay for all your mission is costing you. So cheer up dearest and try to think that it is alright for you know there are lots of worse things that could have happened.

You must write and let me know when you think you will be released and then as soon as you are released you must write and tell me.

Little Melba gets sweeter every day. A few days ago she came up to me and said, "Mama I want to go on a mission and see Papa." She's a regular little chatterbox. Just think Nels in two weeks she will be two years old and has never seen her Papa. The folks were all involved when I started to write to you and as it is now five minutes to twelve I will bring my letter to a close by wishing you a Goodnight and Pleasant Dreams. As ever your

loving Wife, Viola Fugal.

Gefle, May 29, 1911

My Dear Darling Wife;

The letter you sent to Liverpool was forwarded to Sweden and received by me OK. Many thanks for same. In reading your letter I note you are very anxious for the time to come that you may see and be with me again but I also note that it hardly seemed real to you that I was coming home so soon. You must have been somewhat inspired don't you think so dearest? I suppose you will not believe that I am coming home now until you see me, and when you see me you will probably have to look twice to convince yourself that it is him. Well dearest, in about one week more I expect to receive an answer from you and then I will learn how the news affected you, but I suppose you are getting so used to disappointments now that you are not easily affected.

The present finds me quite well, and in a happy condition, hope you can say the same. Yesterday was Sunday, we held Bible Class, Sunday S. and Public meeting as usual and felt that our efforts were crowned with success. A good spirit prevailed and I found it a real joy to preach in the afternoon meeting.

[Letter to Viola from Niels, continued, next set.]

[Letter from Niels to Viola, May 29, 1911, continued from last set.]

Today I am preparing for a trip that I expect to take tomorrow. I will leave here at 11:30 a.m. on the boat which will carry me northward on the Gulf of Bothnia a distance of about 50 miles to a place called Söderhamn. You will probably remember that I have been at this place twice before. We have a few saints here, so I think with their help I will be able to secure a place to hold some open air meetings. I intend to remain here about two days and then follow the country road through towns and forests for another two days, distributing literature on the way and if possible hold some meetings, arriving at Lörstrand Saturday evening. Here I expect to meet Pres. Anderson and Elders Nilson and Hanson who like myself are invited to the great wedding that will take place there one week from today. We expect to hold some meetings while there and have a general good time participating in the pleasures of a Swedish wedding. Wish you could be with so the joy and pleasure might be in a fullness for me.

I hardly know how long I will remain there, but I intend to be back to Gefle no later than Thursday June the 8th. Elder Davidson will stay here in Gefle and take charge of the meetings while I am away. He is feeling pretty good now and I believe that he will recruit up to such a degree that he will enjoy his voyage homeward. I hardly think he will stay in Sweden any longer time than I will.

It is a very pleasant time of the year here now, the trees are becoming loaded with their dress of green and the grass and flowers are showing their glorious colors and filling the atmosphere with a most pleasing odor. The weather is so warm that it is more pleasant in the shade and the people spend their leisure hours in the beautiful park which is in this city. It is too nice to stay in the house therefore I have an idea that I will very much enjoy the work that I have outlined to you.

You wrote me that you didn't think you would meet me at Salt Lake City being as you had no friends or relatives to stay with. Well dear Viola, if you change your mind and want to meet me there you may do so and write me whether you will or not in the last letter I tell you to write me. I want you to do as you think best of course. I suppose it will be just as nice to meet you at P.G., but you know it would also be nice for us to meet at S.L.C. if it be convenient. I will sure call at Foulson Ave. 17 so if you should change your mind and wish to go to S.L.C. you can leave word there. If I let you know the day I will be in S.L.C. then you can go there and stay at some hotel without having relatives or friends. I don't want you to think that you must meet me there, I just mention this for fear you wish to meet me after all. I love you, my dear Viola and I am very anxious to come home to you, but will have to have patience. Goodbye dearest, may God bless and protect you is my desire and prayer. Kiss my daughter a dozen for me and in your imagination accept a few warm caresses from your loving husband Nels.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 6th, 1911

[Letter forw. from Gefle 6/25, arr. Göteborg 6/28, arr. Fredrickshavn 6/29 Denmark.]

My Dear Nels:

Your letter was rec'd a few days ago and read with much pleasure. I was very sorry to hear that you had had such a bad cold but glad that you were better and hope that you are entirely over it long before now. You must be careful and take good care of yourself so you won't get sick. We are all quite well at present.

About what time do you think you will get home now Nels? You must let me know as soon as you find out yourself. Melba is here asking me for a pencil, she says she wants to write a letter to papa too. [Scribbles enclosed.] Stena and I went to the dance Decoration night but there wasn't a very big crowd out and they were nearly all kids so we didn't have such a very good time. I wonder how much longer it will be before I will have the pleasure of dancing with you.

Esther and Ike are living in that little house east of Monsons where Mons' mother used to live. They are fixed quite comfortable. Yesterday Esther and I went to Provo and spent the day with Annie. We had quite a nice visit. We just called at Carrie's, she is feeling pretty good. I believe I told you before that she was expecting a baby but the Doctor tells her now that she isn't even that way. One Doctor said she had a tumor but the other one doesn't think so but she will have to undergo an operation, but it isn't anything serious. She came out to the buggy and talked to us quite awhile yesterday. Please don't mention anything about this to any of the folks in your letters because you know they all read your letters and Carrie and John might not be very pleased if they knew I had told you all about her. They were so disappointed. She had her baby clothes all made and was expecting to be sick in April. It was quite a joke on her in some ways but it's too bad and I feel sorry for both of them. It wouldn't be so bad if there was nothing else the matter with her but it was a great disappointment anyhow. They are both so anxious to have a baby and it seems too bad that they can't. Stena has written to you too so I guess she has told you all the news.

I went to Conjoint meeting Sunday night and took Melba with me. Everyone was talking to her and saying how sweet she was. She did look like a little doll, I do wish you could have seen her. She is writing a letter to you now. She talks lots about her papa. Yesterday she said, "Mama let's go on a mission." She says she wants to see nice Papa. Well goodbye dear, write often to Viola and Melba.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 6th, 1911

Dear Brother –

It is some time now since I commenced my letter to you and Lavina finished it, so I thot it time to write again, especially as I received your very welcome letter nearly a week ago. We were very glad to hear that you are well and are back to work. Being as you are not released the time would drag heavily on your hands if you were not working. And one does not like to feel like that.

Since I last wrote to you I have been visiting with Carrie. She has been sick but is feeling much better now. Her side has been bothering her for some time, but it is much better now.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton came down for decoration day, they spent the day with us and then went out to Don's. Viola and I went to the dance at night, there were not many out, only a few kids. We enjoyed it for a little while, you meet lots of people at dances that you do not meet at other places. Friday morning Lavina and I went to Salt Lake City to the M.I.A. conference. We came back at 10 o'clock the same day. The meetings were just fine. Viola and baby are with us now. Melba is so sweet, she gets sweeter all the time if that is possible. I wish you could see her.

Sunday night the M.I.A. of the three wards held their conjoint meeting. The programme was rendered well although there are not so many people that go as there could be. The first on the programme was an instrumental by Amy Cooper, a reading by Bessie Newman, talk on prohibition by W. L. Hays, a quartet by Lawrence and Horace Monson, Stella Thorne and Roena Adams, it was just fine, and a solo by Swen Nielson, he is certainly a good singer, it would do you good to hear him.

If you were here right now you could hear a different kind of music. The boys sold two calves this morning and the cows have been bellowing all day for the calves, they do not let up long enough to count ten. Mother is fixing warp in the loom today to make some rugs, so you can tell she is fussy with business.

Chris' house has the roof on now, it is almost ready to plaster. I suppose he will step off the earth about the last of the month. He did intend to put it off until you came home but I don't know whether he will or not. I think he has thought of getting married during the month of June. [Got married June 21 in the Salt Lake Temple.]

Olive Nelson and Oscar Oler, Jesse Oler's brother, are going to get married tomorrow in the Salt Lake Temple. Geneva West and Adolf Warnick got married last month. I understand that Sam Jorgenson and Mary Bullock are going to get married this month also.

The boys are busy, Jens has commenced to dig his cellar. They cannot stay at it all the time as there is farm work and other things to see to in between. L Sundberg and sons are doing the carpenter work on Chris' house. I do not know who will do the rest of it but I expect they will.

The merry go round has come to town. I think we will go down for a little while tonight, the children would like to see it and perhaps have a ride on the horses. They have been in town since Friday. Viola is writing to you now so if I have not told you all the news I suppose she will. Melba is walking around carrying two dolls and says she is going to see Uncle Chris. She talks so cute. I do not know of any news particularly so will close trusting that this finds you well and enjoying yourself and hoping it will not be so very long until we see you. We hope that you may enjoy yourself the remainder of the time that you have to stay. I am as ever Your Loving Sister, Stena.

Mother sends her love. Chris will not have time to write this time.

Gefle, June 10th 1911

My Dear Wife;

It is nearly two weeks since I wrote to you last so I know you will be anxiously waiting for this one, probably nearly as anxious as I am at present to receive one from you.

May 30th, I left Gefle and rode a boat to Söderhamn. I was welcomed and treated nicely by the saints in that place. May 31 I walked to a place called Lervik where three elderly saints live. One of them knew of me coming and therefore arranged for a meeting to be held there the same night and one at Söderhamn the following evening. But the paper with the announcement in it came out so late in the day that only three persons came to the meeting, so we held no services that night. I remained in Lervik overnight and then went to Söderhamn the next day. At 8 o'clock in the evening the people commenced to gather amongst the trees at the end of town where we were to hold the meeting. I had no help whatever so now was a good time to exercise my very best qualities which are none too good. I don't know how the singing sounded, but as the melodies echoed through the surrounding woods, I thought it sounded quite harmonious, i.e. there was only one singing so the voices of course harmonized. About seventy five persons were present and the biggest part of them were quite attentive, while a few showed their ignorance by trying to make a disturbance. My voice is quite strong and my expression quite stern so as a rule I demand respect, but occasionally there are people who give no heed to my sharpness. I spoke about an hour and when I got through I believe the people were glad, for the mosquitoes were quite fierce and perhaps my doctrines did not suit everyone.

June 2 and 3 I walked about 30 miles distributing tracts and selling books to the farmers along the way. I met with good success selling books and getting into gospel conversations so I felt happy and contented. While I have been away on this trip I have given away 450 tracts and sold 63 books. Nothing to boast over, but at the same time it is pretty good considering this country, for it is very difficult to sell books.

I arrived at Lörstrand Saturday evening June 3rd. Sunday we held Sunday School, but no meeting. Monday Pres. Anderson and Elder Hanson from Sundsvall, and Elder Nilson from Östersund arrived at Lörstrand and in the evening we had the privilege of seeing the young couple get married by the priest. We had a pretty good time at the wedding but it seemed to be a tame affair. Everything was so quiet and it seemed like the people were frightened of each other. Perhaps it was because we Mormons were present, I don't know but it seemed like it. All the life there was came from Elder Hanson playing his mandolin and we elders and the saints singing. Elder Nilson had such a sore throat that he went back to Östersund the next evening, so it was no pleasure to him.

Wednesday we went out tracting and invited the people to attend our meeting which we held in an old barn out in the woods. It was quite cold that evening but still there were 60 persons present to our humble services and a very good spirit prevailed in the meeting. The people were very attentive and after the meeting some of them purchased some books. We could have easily have got a crowd out the following evening but the weather was too cold and there was no one who was brave enough to offer us their house for they are afraid of losing their jobs if they accommodate the Mormons. So you can see how popular we are out in the world, dear wife. Like Christ, we are misunderstood and driven

from the synagogues, therefore we accept the open air and old barns.

Pres. Anderson and Elder Hanson left Lörstrand Thursday evening and I left Friday at 11:39 a.m. arriving here at Gefle in the afternoon at 3:16. I found Bro. Davidson feeling fine and very glad to see me. No sooner did I arrive home than we were asked to go to a sick lady to administer unto her. She said she had been waiting patiently for me to come back. She seemed to feel easier before we left.

Well dear wife I hope you will excuse me for procrastinating, but it seems as though I could not get to writing before. I hope I soon hear from you. I received a letter from Pres. Peterson but the date of our departure is not known as yet. Hope it is not far off. I remain your loving husband Niels. Best love and kind regards to all.

Ålborg, Denmark, July 1st, 1911

My Darling Wife;

I received your welcome letter of June 6th two days ago. I was then in Frekrickshavn, a small city in the northern part of Denmark. Pleased to note that you are feeling fine and seem to be in good spirits. That's what suits your husband, when he reads your letters.

When I wrote you last I was in Stockholm [don't have this letter], but now I am in another nation. I am well and am enjoying my travels immensely. The trip over the Göta Canal from Stockholm to Göteborg was a grand one. The scenery is beautiful and the locks which raise and lower the ships are certainly wonderful. I had never seen one before and now I had the privilege of seeing 75 of them. In going from Stockholm to Göteborg we of course go from sea to sea and in doing so we are raised to an elevation of about 300 feet above sea level and of course lowered again to sea level when we reach Göteborg. I arrived at Göteborg just as the elders' Sunday meeting was letting out, so I didn't have to preach that Sunday, but the following evening in M.I.A. meeting I was called on to talk. I remained at Göteborg until Tuesday night at 12 o'clock when I took a boat to Denmark.

I found the elders at Fredrickshavn about 6 o'clock in the morning. They were in bed and the door was locked, but I stuck my head through an open window and asked to be permitted to enter. I had not slept any during the night as I took a 3rd class passage, hence I now enjoyed two hours sleep before breakfast. I stayed here until the following morning at 9:20 when I rode the train to Hörby, the place where my father lived. Here I had a merry chase trying to find the place where father's house stood.

After inquiring for some time, through the help of the kind people in that town, I at last found a man who was acquainted with my Uncle Niels Fugl who died in Hörby 18 years ago. I was now at a school teacher's home and I was really surprised the way that he did everything in his power to help me. He drew a little map on a piece of paper and marked out the way that I should go to find a man by the name of Niels Rasmusson who lived close to father's old homestead and who would show me the place. He helped me secure a bicycle and then of course I should eat dinner with them before starting on my journey. It was about 4 miles from the station so that was just a nice ride for me.

Everything went OK, I found Niels Rasmusson and several other people who were acquainted with my father and grandfather. One man who is now 77 years old (just the same age of my father providing he had lived) was a playmate of my father's. His name is Christen Mortensen. His wife, who also knew my father, is living, and they were both very glad to see me. It seemed nice to stand on the spot where the old house had stood and see the ground where father had done so much work.

I also learned that I had another cousin living at the next station south so after riding the bicycle back to the school teacher's place I boarded the train and rode to Dybvad. With a little trouble I found my cousin Ane Kirstina Nielson (daughter of Niels Fugl). She is 57 years old and unmarried. She gave me some supper and gave me two kroner to go to the hotel and get a bed. I came back next morning and had breakfast with her and then at 10:13 left for Ålborg. I arrived at the elders' house just in time to eat dinner with them. In the afternoon one of the elders showed me about the town and in the evening I set out to find my cousin Jess Nielson. I received his address from cousin Ane so it was no trouble to find the place, but he was not home. His wife was at home however and I have an appointment to visit them this evening. So you see everything is going OK so far and I am enjoying myself first class. You may read this letter to my folks if you will, so they may learn how things are going. I will also write some to Stena and send with this letter.

The Mormon Church owns a very nice building here at Ålborg so the elders laboring here have a very nice place to live and everything is so convenient. There is a saint living in the same building who does the cooking for them and also keeps the house clean. The building is built in the shape of a church and it has several rooms. I will send you a view of the hall.

I will remain here on Sunday and then continue on south. Be good to yourself dear wife. Give Melba a dozen kisses for me because she sent papa a letter. Best regards and kind wishes to you all. Your loving husband Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., July 9th, 1911

My Darling Husband:

[Sent to Liverpool, arr., July 24; forw. to Pleasant Grove, arr. Aug 7.]

It's just a few days since I rec'd your letter stating that you had rec'd your release [don't have this letter], and Oh you can't imagine how glad I was to hear it. I feel better in every way than I have for some time. I have been feeling quite blue for awhile until I got your last letter but I guess you could tell that the way I have been writing lately. I am sorry I wrote such horrid letters but you know it is so easy to write just like one feels [don't have these letters either]. I hope you are well and are glad that you will soon be on your way home. I hope you have had a good time while visiting with your relatives.

A week ago Saturday Jens, his family, Stena and Ernest, Melba and I went up Provo Canyon a little the other side of Hieselt's and camped overnight and then the next day went up to Midway. Monday we went bathing in the hot pots and Oh we had such a good time. I do wish you could have been with us Nels. We stayed in Midway till about noon

Tuesday, 4th of July, then we went down the canyon and camped again in the same place we camped the first night, and came home Wednesday. It was such a beautiful night the last one we spent in the canyon. The high mountains all around us and the river just making music enough to lull us to sleep. I couldn't sleep at first tho for watching the stars and the moon. I was thinking of you too dear and wishing you were with us.

I have been to Sunday School today and this afternoon we went to Lehi to Union meeting. Lawrence and Horace Monson, Jen and Lavina, Dezzie Shoal, Viola West, Lily Monson and I went over in one outfit. I hope that you will be here to take me over next time. That will be about the 13th of August. On the 16th of Aug. the Sunday Schools are going to Saratoga for an outing. Won't it be nice dear, we can go to that together too.

I don't know where we will live now dear. Newman's house is rented and Alldredges is going to be right away. They have both been empty for a month or more. I don't know what we will do now but we have to live somewhere if it's only in a tent. [They rented two rooms in Maggie Sorenson's house (Glade Hilton's in later years), 355 N. 450 E. until the birth's of their next two children, and then lived on the same corner one block east in Ole Hanson's house (torn down). On New Year's Day, 1916, they moved into the home built just south of where Niels was born, and there the rest of their children were born.]

I will be so glad to see you Nels, don't stay in Salt Lake any longer than you have to. If you should happen to stop at Provo Annie's address is 216 East 400 South [this home still stands]. I hope and pray that you may have a safe and pleasant journey home and Oh I am so glad you're coming. I am counting the weeks now and will soon be counting the days. I guess this will be the last letter I will write so goodbye dear for a few days or till I see you be good to yourself and come as soon as possible to your loving Wife and Baby.

P.S. We have started to pick raspberries. Tomorrow will be our third picking. Stena and your mother says to tell you Hello.

On board S.S. "Celtic," July 29th 1911

[Can't read city postmark but apparently mailed from N.Y., arr. Pleasant Grove, Aug. 8, the day after he got home.]

My Dear Wife;

It is now 7 o'clock a.m. I will write you a few lines before eating breakfast which will be at 7:30. At present the boat is rocking a little more than usual, but it is not so very rough. We have certainly had a splendid voyage so far, the only trouble is that it has been too hot the last few days, but today it is blowing and the waves are rolling somewhat so it feels cooler.

Today at 2:30 it will be just a week since we went on board and left Liverpool, and it is reported that we will land tomorrow about noon. The time has passed quite rapidly to me for I have kept myself busy in either reading, writing or playing games.

Last night we saw a beautiful sunset. It certainly looked nice to see the sun's golden edge kiss the waters and then in the space of 3-1/4 minutes be swallowed as it were by the deep blue sea. The evening was a beautiful one. The sky was filled with millions of twinkling stars and the moon and dog star seemed to be smiling at each other as they would occasionally remove their veil of clouds.

Last night the people had a regular dance on deck, the orchestra was good and the people seemed to enjoy themselves, but of course I had to be satisfied by just being an onlooker, for it would hardly do for we missionaries to join in the dance. Many of the people on board know who we are and I have had the privilege of conversing with several upon the principles of the gospel.

Well dear Viola it actually looks like I will soon be home, but it seems like it has been very difficult for me to get away from Europe. I had to wait two months for a boat and then when I got to Liverpool it looked at though I would have to wait a while yet. But they finally secured a place on this ship for five of us, but not without extra pay from us so that leaves me quite sort of money but I suppose I will get to S.L.C. OK for I have borrowed \$10 of Elder Davidson. It would be nice if you can meet me in S.L.C. and if you do, please try to rustle me a few extra dollars and bring with you. If you can't come I will of course get home anyway, even if I have to walk. I don't exactly know as yet when I will be in S.L.C. and I cannot tell until I have a talk with the R.R. agent in New York. As I may never again have the privilege of visiting New York I will probably remain there one or two days and then I wish to stay in Chicago one day if my purse permits, but from there I will no doubt make a beeline for S.L.C. I will write again in time for you to make ready to meet me in S.L.C., if you so desire and can, so you better make quite frequent calls at the office until you learn the day of my arrival. [This is the last letter I have so I don't know if they met in S.L.C. but elsewhere it is recorded he came home August 7th, making his absence a total of 34 months.]

All the mail I received at Liverpool from Utah was a letter from you which had been there over a month. I suppose some of you have written to me but too late, but they said they would send my mail back if any came. When I get to S.L.C. I will call at Foulson Ave. 17 as I wrote you before, so you know what to do to find me, but I will try to inform you of the train I will arrive on so you can meet me at the station should you happen to be in the City. I am quite sure I will come on the Union Pacific R.R.

Well dearest, it seems nice to be nearing home, but I can hardly make myself believe it is true. After so many disappointments and such a long waiting it makes a person feel to rejoice that prospects of my homecoming are so favorable. I hope I will find you all in a healthful and happy condition that our reunion may be one of real joy. I will not write any more this morning but as all mail must be handed in before 8 o'clock this evening I may write a little this afternoon. So goodbye honey for the present, but wait a moment while I tell you that I wish you were here to walk the deck with me. When I see the boys and girls, men and women go arm in arm across the deck it creates a longing in me, but I am happy to think that we will soon be together again. So Long -- .

Well dearest it is now 2:30. I have had breakfast and dinner and am feeling fine. The ship is rocking a little but not enough to hurt. I have been reading somewhat today and

playing a game out on deck, that they call shuffle [board]. It is a good pastime, but I like reading better providing the ship doesn't rock too much.

Today we saw a large sail vessel in the distance. It is the first vessel I have seen since we left Ireland so it was a nice change. Well I don't know as I have anything else special to write about, but I will just say that I don't want you to think I will be disappointed if you don't meet me in S.L.C. I just mentioned it so you would know how to find me, in case you come.

Will close with love and very best wishes. Tell little Melba that her papa will soon come to see her and that he would like a kiss when he gets there. Best regards to you all, I am yours forever. Niels Fugal.

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For two years, then seven years after his return, Niels served as YMMIA counselor, then president. He was also asked to teach Sunday School upon his return, which continued for the rest of his life (Gospel Doctrine). He was a counselor to Bishop Martin S. Christiansen from 1922-1929, ward High Priests' group leader on three occasions, and counselor to Burton H. Adams in the Stake High Priests' Quorum.

Niels worked with Jens and Chris until about 1923 when they divided up their community property: Chris the blacksmith tools, Jens the plumbing equipment, and Niels the farm tools. Their farmland was divided in thirds, and Niels continued to work all of them on shares for 12 or 13 years, and also did some plumbing and began contracting for pipe laying jobs. He was a contractor for Mountain States Fuel Supply company for ten years. He donated the installation of the heating and plumbing and the use of his equipment for the major addition to and remodeling of the Old Third Ward, 193 N. 400 E., which was the schoolhouse spoken of in these letters.

He fathered three sons who all served as missionaries and bishops, two of whom served two missions, two as stake president, and two as stake patriarch; and five daughters, two who also served missions, and all with temple marriages; and all contributing countless missionaries from their posterities. In this his prediction bore fruit, that the best way to make converts was to rear them.

He was in many ward plays as a young man, and was known for his humorous readings especially those with a Scandinavian accent. He served as city councilman for 20 years between 1914 and 1949. He was superintendent of the Pleasant Grove Waterworks System in 1920, and an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Pleasant Grove Irrigation Company for 16 years (eight terms). He was an elected member of the Utah State Legislature in the House of Representative 1929-31 under Governor Dern. He was also a member of Alpine School District School Board, for four years, and President the last year before his death at age 73, December 12, 1958, exactly four months following he and Viola's 50th wedding anniversary. And even if ambition was one of his failings (I would love to know if she was serious or teasing), as she pointed out in one of her letters, Viola was always his quiet supporter.

Viola died at age 77, October 26, 1965. She was a soft-spoken woman, and her grandchildren loved her. She would give them a cookie when they came, a sugar cookie with a hole in the middle to put your finger through while you ate it. She always seemed happy and pleased to see you. She never got over worrying, but she was kind through and through, and had a sweet sense of humor that made you wonder if she realized she was funny, which made her humor all the more amusing.

Niels was on his way to give a reading at a wedding reception the night he died, hit by a truck. At the time we were so shocked as his sudden passing, but came to conclude that some slower kinds of death are worse. Joyce recalls several blocks of people lined up outside the mortuary, though winter, waiting to pay their respects. My sister Janeil was with her the night the couple whose reception he had missed, came to call, and in amazement quietly observed Grandma comforting them, with the calm assurance that she and Niels had a good long life together and she was his, through the eternities. She wasn't worried about if or when,

then. And Viola didn't end up wandering around homeless, after all, for she lived in Pleasant Grove for over fifty-four years straight, and in the same house, 590 N. 400 E., for almost fifty.

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