

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

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 Wanna! 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

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 Svartöstaden, 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