

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.

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 –

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