

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

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. xxxxxxx

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

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. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1909

Dear Brother:

We received your most welcome letter the same day that I sent you my last letter on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 Radmalls [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.

Svartösten, 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 5<sup>th</sup> instance. We just had a fine time, wish you could have been there. So you see, we have been having a good time.

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. 21<sup>st</sup> – 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.