

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. xxxoo

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 "Steen"). 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

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 booby 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