

Svartöstaden, Feb. 6, 1909

My Dearest Darling Wife,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Feb. 7th 1909

Dearest Brother –

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pl. Grove, Feb. 8, 1909

Dear Brother:

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

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

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

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

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 9, 1909

My Dear Darling Husband:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 14, 1909

Dearest Bro. –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Feb. 14, 1909

My Dear Husband:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Svartösten, 2-20, 1909

My Dear Viola,

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

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

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

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

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

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 23rd, 1909

Dear Brother –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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