

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Feb. 24, 1909

My Dear Nels.

It was a week yesterday since I wrote to you last and so I take great pleasure in writing again now. I got your letter yesterday and Pa got the one you wrote to him the same day.

Saturday was Esther's birthday and we all went up there for dinner. Next Friday night there is going to be a Scandinavian dance. Don't you wish you could go? Yesterday it was as warm as could be, almost like spring and it looks like it was going to be a nice day today. Esther and Ike were down yesterday. They are talking of buying that place across from Joe Shoells. I believe it belongs to Westie Jacobs' mother. They want \$700 for it but there isn't any house. I wish we had a place. I wonder where we will live when you come back. I would just as leave live down in the north field if we had a house, wouldn't you dear?

I guess you have heard that Mrs. Richens, Emma Larsen's mother, and August Warnick's wife are dead. I don't know of any more news now. When I was up to your place last Ren Benson and Louis were sacking up potatoes and taking them down to Roylance. I believe they are going to get 42¢ a bu. Ike hurt his leg the other day and he could hardly walk for a day or two. He is better now but he still limps. Have you written to Aunt Lettie yet? I haven't seen her for quite awhile.

How long do you think they will keep you up there in that place, Nels? How long is it before conference? I suppose they have conference at Sundsvall, don't they? Are these kids you are teaching English learning very fast? I guess you will be glad when summer comes, then it won't be so cold.

When I was up to your place Ernest was crying with the toothache. Stena took him down to the dentist and is going to have some of them filled. Oh yes Nels have you heard that Carrie has got a new piano? I haven't seen it but they say it is a fine one. I haven't seen John and Carrie since new year's day when I was out there. I will be so glad when summer comes. I have had enough winter. Well dearest I guess I will close for this time. I am going to sew a little today. Take good care of yourself and don't forget Yours forever, Viola.

Svartösten, Luleå, 2-26-1909

My Dear Darling Viola –

I received your dear loving letter last night and now will answer it with pleasure. How nice it is to have a dear loving wife to care for me such as you do! Oh! dear, I would like to be with you now and talk to you for I know you love me so much and would enjoy nothing better than to have your dearest friend on this earth to be with you. You don't know how glad I am that I made you my dear wife before leaving home, for it seems so nice to receive letters from a wife, it fills my soul with hope and courage and causes me to go ahead and perform my duties with a renewed energy. No matter if I do receive rough treatment, and have to contend with people who are not afraid to insult me and

throw slurs at me, I have an aim in view, and that is to do good to my fellowmen in trying to show them the fine plan of salvation and then after an honorable release return home to my friends and darling wife. It seems an awful long time to wait and we don't know what we will have to pass through before our meeting again, but if God will bless us with health, which he will do if we only do his will and keep his commandments, we may pass that time very rapidly by performing our duties and at the same time gain happiness by making others happy. How happy I am that I have been born in Zion, where I have received our dear gospel and been brought up under such laws, that train a person to qualify himself for the hereafter, and I am willing in any weak way to spend two of my best years in trying to show the people, who are in darkness, the guiding star which is Mormonism, the star which will lead us into eternal happiness, if we will work in conformity with its glorious principles.

Since I left home I have commenced to realize, that straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leads into heaven and few there be that find it, for as I get out among the people I find a great many who don't believe in religion nor God, and those who pretend to be religious are far from it. They are not religious when they will turn a brother away from their door just because he has a different understanding of the gospel. There is certainly a great deal of work for missionaries but the people are so slow to receive the truth, if a socialist or a freethinker comes to town to preach the people will turn out in scores to hear them. There are many people who try to make themselves believe there is no God but they are afraid there is and they like to have their faith in no God strengthened by listening to infidel preachers.

Well dear I must not trouble you too much about the affairs of the world for I suppose you have enough troubles of your own. I am glad to note that you attend mutual and occasionally get out to meetings and entertainments for it will do you much good, and please don't stay in more than is necessary for you know the time is soon coming that you won't be able to attend the various meetings. I am pleased to note that you do some reading if it is only stories, for that will exercise your mental qualities somewhat and will help to form good results. Yes dearest I also wish I could be with you in about four months so I could wait on my darling when she will need the care of a dutiful husband, but we knew this was going to happen before I left you and now we must make the best of it. Please do not worry about it but keep up courage and I have faith that all will be well and it won't be long until I will be a happy husband and father. I will be nice for you to have a child to take your care and attention, it will make the time pass more rapidly for you, won't it dearest?

I am glad that you took that twenty I gave you for I know you will need it in the near future. Please write to me often about your circumstances and I will try to arrange for your welfare. I have two good brothers who I can depend upon so please tell me how you are fixed with means. If I remain in good health I think that a way will open up in which I can soon pay for my mission and you and I will get along OK when I get back home.

Well I must say that we have just as nice weather here as ever and I am feeling fine and enjoying myself as well as can be expected considering my ignorance. I am learning a little every day but I can see that I will have to study hard to make a success. Now my dear loving wife I will close with love and best wishes hoping you will continue to have

precious thoughts about your darling and that you won't forget to assist me with your faith and prayers for I am in great need of them. Give all the folks my very best regards. Your Loving Husband Nels. xxxoox Alma sends best regards.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 2, 1909

My dear darling husband:

I jut now got back from the post office and thot I would write to my dear husband. It was just a week since I got a letter so I got Annie to take a walk with me to the office and sure enough there was a letter for me from you and I feel well paid for my walk. It's just a lovely night too, warm and not very dark so you see I enjoyed it. It is now about half past eight. Did you get a letter from Annie quite a while ago? She wrote to you just a little while after Xmas. Esther and Ike wrote to you too some time ago. Did you get that? I am helping Annie sew this week. We are making two suits and when we get them done I will get about \$3.10, that isn't very much but every little bit helps you know. I helped her make a waist last week and got 60¢ so you see I am making money fast. She hasn't had much sewing to do but she wants me to help her and so of course I will as long as I am able to sew for I need the money. I get half of what we make but of course I do half the work and so that is all right. There was a Mrs. Johnson from Lindon came to get a dress made and she asked Annie if Niels Fugal's wife sewed, she said she heard that I was a good sewer.

Esther has been down all afternoon. Ike hauled a ton of coal for Annie and one for us and took one home for them. I haven't got all my sewing done yet and I guess I will have to get at it as soon as I am thru helping Annie and then we have to clean house you know, ours and Annie's before anything happens. I don't think I will go out any more now for quite awhile. Jennie Rasmussen lives in one room of Celia Christiansen's house. Chris has been going with Emma Bush, I don't know whether he still takes her or not. Esther and Ike don't go out much. Esther doesn't go any more than I do. Aunt Lettie has moved back to that place where they lived when they first came over here. Have you written to her yet?

We have had just lovely weather here for about a week, almost like summer. A week ago Sat. was Esther's birthday and we all went up there for dinner. Today was Mrs. Lim's birthday and she wanted me to come up to her place but I was so busy sewing I didn't go and I didn't care about going anyhow because I guess there was quite a few people there. Well dearest I guess I will quit for tonight but will write some more in the morning before I send it so good night dear Nels.

It is now Tuesday morning and is just beautiful outside. The sun is shining and the ground has been dry for about a week. It makes me feel like I would like to stay outdoors all day. If you was here I would be out doors with you all the time. I wish I could be over there and keep house for you. Elias sleeps with me now and he says he will come and work for us when you came back. Every time he loses anything he says it has gone over where Uncle Nels is. Be sure and tell me in your next if you ever got that letter that Annie wrote to you. I wrote the same day and told you that she was writing and you have never mentioned it so I didn't know whether you got either of the letters or not.

Aunt Hanner is going to the Post Office and I want her to take this letter. It is time I was at work so I guess I will close for this time. Give my regards to Elder Monson and be sure and write to me often. Take care of yourself and don't get sick. It's just about a year ago now when you were so sick before. I am glad you are learning to cook. When you come home I will have to let you keep in practice so you won't forget how, won't I dear? Well goodbye, write often and think of me sometimes.

Yours with love forever, Viola

Pleasant Grove, Ut., March 3rd, 1909

Dear Brother –

Your letter of Feb. 3 was received with much pleasure. We were all very glad to hear from you and to note that you were well. We are all well at present. We went to the Tom Larson dance last Friday night, there was a very large crowd there. It was fun to watch the men trying to knock the cat out of the barrel. They had a plank 16 feet long and 2x6 and stood it end ways on the floor, the men had to walk the length of the plank and then hit the barrel while standing on the plank. The barrel was fixed with braces so it took many hits before it broke. Jesse Oler knocked the cat out of the barrel and received it for the prize. It was a stuffed clothed cat. We had a good time but we were just about done up, and hardly over it yet.

The missionary committee got up a party for Theral Aydelotte Sun. night in the meetinghouse. It is against the law of the church to have dances to raise money for missionaries. There was a good attendance and a good programme. Hazel Smith sang, Lula Myers sang, a male quartet by Kinke, Alston, Dr. Jones and Joe Halliday, it was fine. Clarinet duette by Claud Hays and Niels Poulson, a clarinet and cornet duette by Claude Hays and Mastal Lund, a violin solo by Niels Poulson, recitation by Miss Holiday and Clara Williamson, speeches by James Walker, Will Hays, Aydelotte that's going on a mission, and Senator Briderhoof who was on a mission in the southern states the same time Wm. Hays was.

He told about his missionary experiences, he is a good speaker and running over with fun. He told us that he and his partner were in a place that they were in danger of being mobbed, they got word that they should leave that place, they lost no time in leaving and when they got to the next town they had to leave there too. He said they traveled for five days and nights with little rest and scarcely anything to eat. He said they were all in, and felt like they could not walk another step, and they soon saw a light, and went to it, some very poor people lived there, but made them welcome and gave them a bed. He said his companion slept as soon as he struck the pillow, he stayed in bed about three minutes, he could not sleep for bugs, he jumped out of bed and went out in the woods about five rods from the house, he prayed all night and never slept a wink. He said he prayed the awfulest prayer and he is ashamed of it to this day. He said he talked to the Lord like he would talk to a man. He said you know Lord how I have walked and had nothing to eat and then to lead me to such an awful bed "I'll be damned if I will sleep in." He had left a good home and had suffered so much. The Lord answered his prayer, for from that day

on, he had plenty to eat and a good place to sleep and was blest. It was a very interesting programme. They passed the hat and took in over \$38.00. Theral is going to the Society Islands where Lee Harper is. They had a party to Aydelottes last night for him. Jens, Lavina, myself, Chris, Emma Bush, the bishop, Ed Olpins, Westphals, Miley Smiths, Charles Harpers, Joe Halliday and wife, Dr. Grua and wife, and a hundred others were there. We had a good time. He left for his mission this morning.

Monday was Mrs. Lim's birthday, we were all over there Monday night and had a very nice time. So you see we have been doing considerable gadding lately. The boys are very busy. Jens is going to do some more wiring, he can not stay right with it so it takes longer to do it, and he has a job to put an iron fence around the meetinghouse yard. [There are a number of old photos so remember next time you see one, that the fence was done by Jens. After the town was split into three wards, it was called the tabernacle; located on Center Street and presently 300 East.] Chris is busy in the shop and chewing the rag with customers. There is machinery all over the place. He sold a buggy the other day and a harrow today. The weather has been lovely here for a week and Lew has been working in the field yesterday and today, he is sowing wheat. I think they will soon have their wheat planted. John and Carrie have a piano and Carrie is taking music lessons so do not be surprised if she is a musician when you come back. I haven't seen it but I am quite anxious to go out and see it. Jens and Lavina were out there Sunday, it was Erval's birthday, he got a nice bicycle of John for a birthday present.

I am glad kid that you are learning to cook and that you are faring so well. I hope you are getting fat, it will do you good. I wouldn't mind having a cup of cocoa with you and a dish of rice. Frank Humphries [111 E. 100 N.] told me he had received a letter from you and he received one from Mart too, he was as proud and tickled as a kitten with two tails. Take good care of yourself, and I hope you are enjoying yourself very much and write soon to Your Loving Sister Stena. Helsen Alma. Mother sends her love to you.

Mar. 4th. I thought I had finished my letter last night but I forgot to tell you something else. Mrs. Poulson, Otto's mother was up here the other day and gave mother a dollar for you and said to give you her best regards also. So you see you are not forgotten. Do not be surprised if my letter that I wrote you yesterday is full of mistakes because Liverne Rassmuson's mother sat here talking as loud as she could all the while I was writing. Have you written to Sam Smith yet? I know he will be pleased to hear from you and also he expects a letter from you. Next Sunday will be stake S.S. conference here. I think it will be fine. They have quite a long programme arranged.

Lettie Houston has moved up in the Carlson house by Will Ellis and Mercurs have moved in Rosa and Hilmer's house as they are peddling tinware in Salt Lake City. Hans Rassmuson lives up in his own home now. If I don't stop now you will think I am trying to make you believe that P.G. is more than active. You asked me some time ago to send my picture to you. I have tried to get a envelope or photo holder for sometime and if I cannot get one next time I go downtown I will send it in anything I can find so do not think I have forgotten about it. Do you speak Swedish yet? I suppose you are quite a Swede by now.

From your Long winded Sis. S. Ernest says "Be good to yourself Niels."

Svartösten, March 9, 1909

My Dear Loving Wife –

Your most welcome letter came to hand last night. It is nearly two weeks since I got the last one so I was very glad to hear from you again. It is over a week since I wrote you so you will no doubt be very anxious to hear from your dearest. I was going to write you Saturday but we received company who stayed until Sunday morning. It was Bro. Lindgren from Töre where we were Xmas. I can't settle down and write a letter on Sunday for that is the day I have to preach and the thoughts of that causes one to be unable to write letters. Sunday night we were invited off to our neighbor friends and last night we had English class, so I hope you will excuse me for not writing sooner.

It is now Tuesday morning and today we are going to Karlsvik to visit a saint and some friends. Perhaps we won't be back until tomorrow night. The last week has been quite cold and it has been snowing and blowing nearly every day. Today is quite nice, only it is foggy.

The time is passing quite rapidly but I don't want you to think that it is passing any too fast to suit me, for you know that I am anxious to get back to my darling wife. It is true what I said in Jens' letter, that the time was passing so rapidly that I couldn't hardly keep up with it and accomplish as much as I have a desire to but at the same time I don't expect my release to come before I am willing and glad to go home. I am glad to note that the time can't pass any too fast to suit you and that you will be glad to have your husband back.

I am very pleased to note that Jens and Lavina took you to the theatre, "The Holy City," it no doubt was a grand play. So Chris is still rushing Emma Bush? I am glad to hear it and hope he stays with her for she is a very nice girl.

Now concerning the bathhouse. If I said in that letter which I wrote to you about the bathhouse, that the women were giving me a bath and that I thought it was alright and that I would have to get used to it, I am more than willing to cancel that statement for I don't approve of the system of women washing men and I am glad to note that you can't quite agree with me if I do think it is OK. The women are there ready to wait on the bathers if the bathers desire their help. It is true that nearly all the men do have the women scrub their backs and then give them a shower of cold water and then wipe them dry, but don't think that is compulsory to have the women wait on us. There is an electric bell in every bathroom and no women will appear after we have started to bath unless we ring this bell. No I don't think it necessary to have them wait on me and please don't think they do it.

Yes dearest I heard of the S.S. Republic sinking, you know we get the Deseret News here so I read the account a few days before you sent it to me. Thanks just the same for sending it for I was glad to note that you were interested in it inasmuch as you saw your husband's name among the many others who had crossed the ocean on her. I sent you a

letter with the photo of the ship when we were at Queenstown, Ireland. You never wrote me as to whether you received it but I suppose you did. If you didn't let me know and I will send you another for I have a couple more.

Allie got tired of school in a hurry did he not? The way he spoke to Stena during Xmas one would almost think he was going to continue school and become the main professor of the school. Do you suppose he and Perlinda will ever get married? It looks doubtful to me.

Well my dearest I hope you are well and feeling encouraged and will content yourself as much as possible. I am still feeling fine even if we are meeting with some opposition in our great work. We have had to discontinue Sunday School on account of the school teacher forbidding pupils to attend. On Sunday they have even had guards stationed out in different streets to see if any children come to our school. The teachers have no right to interfere with religious liberty, but other people are against us also, so I don't know whether or not we will be able to start S. School again. We have some friends but many opposers so our name is known for good and evil as is written in the scriptures of God's chosen people. Now my dear I will stop writing and prepare to go to Karlsvik. May God ever bestow his richest blessings upon my darling wife is my desire and humble prayer. Write soon to your Loving Husband Nels. Accept thee xxxxxxx.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 9, 1909

My dear darling husband:

Your welcome letter was rec'd last night and it was just exactly a week since I got your last letter. The time seems so long, it seemed like it was lots longer than a week since I had heard from you. I was very glad to hear that you are well and that you like it up there. Last Friday I went out to Carrie's with Stena and had a nice time but I don't think I will go out again for sometime. They had just got a letter from you. They have got a beautiful piano and Erval has got a new bicycle. It snowed a little last night but is melting quite fast this morning. Saturday night Esther and Ike came down and we sat up and read a story. Esther and I took turns reading out loud and then we made some molasses candy and just had a good time. I wish you had been here. It as so late when we got our story read that Esther and Ike stayed all night and didn't go home till Sunday night. I was helping Annie sew last week. I have made \$9.00 sewing since you left but of course I haven't been sewing all the time. Just before Holidays and then not any more till last week. I guess I won't to be able to do any more now, I get so tired when I sew very long. I used to could sew all day without getting very tired but it's different now. I have got some sewing for myself that I have got to get done right away and then I have got to clean house.

Oh Nels I do wish you could be here. I don't like to be left alone so long. I think two years is too long to keep anyone away from home but I guess there's no help for it now and nothing to do but wait patiently till you are released. I do wish I had some place to live. It will so long before we will have a house. When you come home we won't have anything and I guess we will be in debt besides and then will have to rent for I don't know how long. Then if there isn't any houses to rent when you come back I don't know

what we'll do unless we live in a tent for I won't live with anybody if we have to live outdoors. I am getting enough of that now and by the time two years have gone I will want to start for myself. So the very day you get home we'll move to ourselves. What do you think of that? I guess you will want to live up home for a while but you can't for you belong to me now and not to them and I am going to have you all by myself. So when you think of coming home after this don't think you are coming home to live with your folks for I won't let you live there at all. Tell me if you want to do what I want you to when you write.

I don't know of any news so I guess I will close for this time. Aunt Hanner is going to the Post Office now and I want her to take this letter so goodbye dearest. Write often and don't forget that your wife gets so lonesome sometimes she don't know what do and would give anything if you were only here. Write as often as possible. Goodbye darling. Yours forever, Viola. Have you written to Aunt Lettie yet? xxxxxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 10, 1909

Dear Brother –

Received your welcome letter of Feb. 19th yesterday and was more than pleased to hear from you and very glad to hear that you are well. We are all well and dandy, mother is better than she was. She is busy now tearing carpet rags. I tell you, she is making the rags fly and then she reads in between. I'll bet she has read as much this winter as anybody.

Ed Wadley was here just now and paid a bill, he said to tell you that he had not forgotten you if you are a long way off, he was glad to hear that you were getting along so well. I was out to mutual last night and Lavina had the lesson, it was about Emerson's essays, she did just fine. There is a large crowd that go to mutual this winter and it hasn't diminished any yet. Our class seems to be quite interested, I know I am. Last Sunday there was Sunday School conference here. There was a very nice programme prepared and they put in MacGee Bullock as 2nd assistant superintendent, they have been without any since you left until now. Mack has not been to Sunday School much lately but I think he will be alright. The Sunday School is very large this winter, there is an average attendance of 350 or more.

Next Friday night the P.G. ward is going to have a surprise on Bishop Swenson [7 S. 200 E.] and his wife, it is going to be in the meetinghouse. They are going to have a programme and picnic and serve lemonade and oranges. I am on that committee and so are Jens and Lavina. Wonderful, isn't it? They are going to give the Bishop a present, some token of esteem. I will let you know how good a success it will be next time I write.

At last I have been able to get a photo holder and will send your picture with this letter. No doubt you think I am slow sending it. The weather is very fine now, it is quite dry so the farmers are very busy. People are sowing their crops. You can bet that the harrowing mill is busy these days. Every Tom, Dick and Harry comes here to clean their grain. Wheat is \$1.20 per bushel here and hay is very high, \$13.00 per ton, and oats are \$1.75

per hundred lbs. So you see farm products are not so slow in price.

Chris has been busy this week putting iron railings around the windows of the meetinghouse basement, he is not quite through yet. They are going to put a fence around the meetinghouse lot, they haven't started it yet. It takes a long time to do nothing sometimes. Jens is so busy he don't know what to do first, and Chris can hardly leave the place a minute but what somebody comes and wants him. I suppose the rush will be over in about six months from now or else it will start then. It is nice to be busy, nice to have something to do.

Well kid there is going to be a wedding tonight, George Lim and his American Fork girl have gone to Provo to get married today. Isn't it wonderful?

Chris told me to ask you about Karen Jenson's (Trot) account. He would like you to write and let him know as nearly as you can how the account between you and her stood. He cannot find anything about it. She has bought lots of small potatoes and wheat since you left but he has an account of that.

Say kid, I wish you could fly home long enough to rake the lawn, haven't raked the leaves off yet. I suppose you are as busy raking the leaves of the Bible so I won't bother you with the other kind. It is getting close to noon so I will have to close and fry some fish for dinner. Be good to yourself Niels, and write soon to your loving Sis. Stena.

Mother sends her love and thanks you for the card you sent her.

R.F.D. #1, Box 146, Provo, Utah, March 15th, 1909

My Dear Brother:

At last I take pleasure in writing to you. I have been thinking I would write to you for along time, but I have kept putting it off so long that I feel ashamed. I received your nice letter and card of Feb. 12, and was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you were well, and that you feel satisfied by being sent to the north. I see by your letter that they are very much in need of elders. When they learn to know you, and the principles of our beautiful Gospel, they will think better of you. Dear Bro, I wish you success in this matter, that you may learn the language well, that you may be able to defend Mormonism, so you can tell those priests a thing or two. It is five months today since you left home. In one way it has passed quickly, I hope time passes as quickly for you. By the time you get this letter you will have been gone one fourth of your time.

Last week Viola and Stena were out and spent the afternoon with us. We had a real pleasant time together. We have got us a piano and I am taking music lessons, don't you think we are getting sporty. When you get home I will play a piece for you. John is still pruning, he is pruning the trees quite heavy this year. We have got our peas and potatoes planted, so I guess we will have new potatoes and peas by ma's birthday.

The weather is just fine now. I wish it was as fine where you are. Willard Bishop left here for his mission field about two weeks after you left. He went to Texas. Last week

his folks got a letter from him saying that him and his companion had been driven out of that conference. They walked for forty miles in one day with guns pointed at their back all day. It was a blessing that the mob didn't injure them anymore than giving them a fright and their feet were blistered. I hope the day will come when these wicked people will repent and feel sorry for what they have done.

I understand there are lots of forests where you are. You must be careful and not venture out in them on stormy days because one can so easily get lost. I am afraid you haven't thot of this so I want to remind you.

Well I didn't get your letter off today. I was writing when Mrs. Lattie came to spend the afternoon with me. Latties are newcomers from Kansas. They came last fall. Since they came she has become a member of our church. He isn't converted yet. This note leaves us all well. John has gone to Elders meeting. Erma has gone to bed and Erval is drinking milk. He is a regular calf for milk, I guess that's what makes him grow so fast [11 years old]. He is five feet tall, John measured him the other day. We were over home last Sunday. We found all the folks well. Stena had been sick Saturday so she looked quite peaked. I have no more to tell you this time so will close hoping all is well with you and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I am as ever your Sister Carrie.

Write soon. Give your companion my best regards. John says to tell you he wishes he was with you so he could be your cook. Excuse writing with pencil. I have broken my pen.