

Svartösten, March 16, 1909

My Own True Love Viola –

There are no moments that give me as much joy as when I read your ever welcome letters. Another of them came the other day and it was read with great pleasure. I am glad to hear that spring seems to be opening up as you have had enough winter. I suppose the winter has been very disagreeable on account of so much mud. There has been snow on the ground here, ever since I came and I suppose it will remain until May. Talk about long winters, this is the place to find them, they last about eight months and sometimes longer. It has been an extraordinary mild winter this year so we have fared quite well. It will be nice when summer comes so we can see the green grass and flowers again. Time is rolling on and it won't be long until conference. It will be held at Sundsvall on the 8th and 9th of May. How nice it will be to meet our friends and co-laborers, and be strengthened by the testimonies of the elders. In your letter you asked, "how long they would keep me here in this place." At conference I suppose Elder Monson will be released from this branch but I think I will come back and remain until fall conference. I suppose I will have a new companion, but perhaps I won't have any at all for a while, but I hope I will or else I will get lonesome. Elder Monson and I get along fine and we can talk about home affairs and both be interested because we are from the same place.

We are still tracting Luleå and selling some books, but not many. The people as a rule are poor financially and most of them don't care much for religion books anyway. The world is seeking after the almighty dollar more than they are righteousness and the result is, they will pull through this world alright, but they will be in a very poor condition to start anew in the next. The other day while tracting I came in contact with a big-wig, he is foreman of the shipping co. in Luleå. He has been around the world three times and can talk four languages, viz – Swedish, English, German and Spanish. He is a man of a great deal of experience and claims he has investigated our religion somewhat. He talked English to me so we had very good gospel conversation which lasted over an hour. He bought a book of Mormon from me and invited me to come back, which I intend to do quite often if he will allow it. I hope I can get him on the right track so that he will learn what our glorious gospel has to offer him. It is very seldom we meet with friends such as he is. We generally meet people who would do everything in their power for our downfall. But we must go among the bad to find those who are seeking the truth and thus our path leads us over rough and stony places, but Christ said, "Blessed are they who suffer for my name's sake," so we must press on with an aim in view.

Yes my dearest darling it would be nice to be home and go to a dance, but I don't suppose you could go with me now so I wouldn't go anyway. Yes we are still teaching English, but we haven't the same pupils as we had at first. The school teachers forbid the children to come to our school so some of them stopped but some did not. We each have a class twice per week and we have about ten who are interested in it. We don't have S. School now because the teachers forbid the pupils to come but we will do the best we can without it. It seems as though the devil is ever on the lookout to prevent the advancement of righteousness, but the time isn't far distant when he will have no power.

Stena wrote that Uncle Jacob Carlson left a dollar there for me so please give him credit

for it on the contribution list [their mother's brother]. Do you remember when you rode out to his place to invite them to our wedding? I do and many other events I can call to mind which you and I have participated in while we were enjoying our courting days. Well dearest the time will soon come when you and I will live happily together again, so let us press on with courage even though at times we feel a little uneasy about the future. Always have the best of thoughts about your darling husband who is so far away. Goodbye for a short time. Your husband Nels. oxxxxoooox

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 17, 1909

My Darling Husband:

Your welcome letter was rec'd last night and so I will ans. it now but don't know when I will get it posted. If I could go down myself I would but I can't go till night for I haven't got any clothes that will go half way around me now. If it isn't raining tonight I may go down. It rained nearly all night last night. I am very glad that you are having such nice weather there and hope you won't have to stay up there where it is so cold another winter.

Pa sprayed his trees yesterday. It has been as warm as spring here for the last two or three weeks. I guess it won't be long now before the trees will be in bloom. The violets are in bloom now out on the lawn. Yesterday I was out trimming the rose bushes and succeeded in getting my hands all scratched up. Monday I washed and today I guess I will sew awhile and then maybe I will go up to your mother's. I was up there Saturday and Stena was sick. She had been in bed all day. Mrs. Chatterton and Mrs. Pete Carlson were there and Mrs. Chatterton and Jens had quite an argument about religion and especially polygamy. I stayed till nearly ten o'clock. Your mother had just got \$1.00 worth of 5¢ stamps and she gave me half. That will send ten letters to you. Stena always takes me part way home when I go up but she was sick so your mother walked out to the gate with me. She had put the stamps in an old purse so they wouldn't get warm she said, so when we got out to the gate she said she put a little money in the purse for me. I didn't want to take it but she wanted me to have it because I would need some things so when I got home and looked in the purse it was a \$5.00 gold piece. When I was out to Carrie's she gave me two little nightdresses that she had made and never used and then two yds. of flannel to make a little petticoat. Lavina gave me a sheet and a pair of pillow slips and I hardly ever go up to your mother's but what she gives me a bucket of milk or something to eat.

A week from tomorrow is Mrs. Gustaveson's birthday and your mother and Stena are going out. They want me to go with but I don't think I will. Last Friday night the people had a surprise on the bishop and his wife and gave him a nice rocking chair. They paid \$35 for it. I didn't go, I haven't been to anything for quite awhile and don't think I will go anymore. I am getting along alright now but oh I will be so glad when it is all over and I am well again.

Stena was here a little while Monday, she had been down town and was on her way home. She was better then but she didn't go any place Sunday. Esther and Ike were down a little while last night. Ike is working at the mill putting in a new floor. You can tell Elder Monson that I got his card and think it is very pretty. I am glad you are getting

along so well. I guess it will be hard for you to part when they go to separate you. Give him my best regards and tell him thanks for the card. Well dearest I guess I will close for this time. I told Aunt Lettie you was going to write to her but she says she hasn't got it yet. Goodbye dear Nels, write often and don't forget your loving Wife, Viola.

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Svartösten, Mar. 22 -09

My Dear Viola;

It is now 8 a.m. Monday morning and I will endeavor to write a few lines to you before breakfast. Your dear letter was received last Friday and if you knew what pleasant thoughts it caused me to have it might make you glad. It was only six days since I received the one before that and the way I praised you in my heart was not slow. I am very glad to hear that it is nice weather at home for I know that makes you feel better. It snows a little here every day and it is snowing at present. The weather is quite mild but I will be glad when all the snow melts and the grass and flowers will show. By the time you receive this letter I suppose the orchards there will be out in bloom and everything will be fresh and beautiful as it generally is in the Merry Spring Time. I have been in winter now for over four months and I suppose I will have to stand it for another two. I don't think it will be spring here until the middle of May.

A letter came the other day which did not meet with my approval but I have to accept it I suppose. It is from President Sundsvall and it calls Bro. Monson to leave this branch immediately and labor in Nyköping which is nearly in southern Sweden. The call came unexpected and we will be very busy the few days which he remains. He leaves here Thursday morning March 25 so that leaves me alone in the cold world for some time. I suppose I will get a new companion at conference time but I don't know it all depends if there will be any to spare. It seems pretty tough to be left alone but I have some friends so I will have to make the best of it. The time has went quite rapidly this winter but it may seem to move on slowly from now on but of course I hope not and I shall try to make it as cheerful as possible by getting out among the people.

We received this notice Saturday night and yesterday I went out and invited our friends to come to the last meeting that Bro. Monson would be here. We had a very good attendance, about thirty. Bro. Monson bids Svartösten and all his friends goodbye and I suppose he will never see them again, only me, and that won't be until we meet at home very likely. We have got along fine together and I hate to see him go but it is the call by those who are in authority so I suppose it is for the best. He has been here for ten months so he has spent his share of the time in Northern Sweden. How nice it would be now if I had you here to keep my company! Of course that is an impossibility so I must not allow myself to worry. I have some friends and I hope I may so live that I will have the protecting care of my Heavenly Father.

Yes dearest I have written to Aunt Lettie shortly after Xmas, hasn't she received it yet? Please tell me in your next whether she has or not. Yes I received Annie's letter and it seems as though I made mention of it to you, but perhaps I didn't. I shall send her a card in with your letter. Yes dear it will be all right for you to keep me in practice in cooking

when I get home just so I don't have to do it all the time. It will be nice for us to help each other and I am glad to note that you would be with me nearly all the time if I were home with you now. According to your letter you have quite a lot of sewing to do, it is nice to have plenty to do just so you don't work too hard or strain yourself in any way. You must be very careful dear.

Yes dear it is just a year since I was sick, but I am feeling fine this year and I don't think there is and danger of me getting sick. Bro. Monson and I have had our photos taken together and I shall send two of them home, one of them will be for you. The photo will show you how we look while out tracting. Well dearest I must now stop writing and get to work. After breakfast we will be very busy getting books and reports in order for now I will be the presiding elder of this branch. That will be easy being as I am the only elder, will it not dearest? Well my darling wife be good to yourself and don't worry about me for I will be OK as long as I am well. May God bless us with health and strength and wisdom is my prayer. Your husband Nels.

P.S. Write soon. Give all the folks my best wishes and accept best regards from Alma.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 22nd, 1909

Dear Brother –

Your letter of March 1st and 2nd was received yesterday and contents noted with much pleasure. We were getting very anxious to hear from you, if it runs over a week before we get a letter we start to worry and wonder why you do not write. But I must say you have been punctual so far and done alright.

Spring has opened up in grand shape now, the farmers are very busy. Lew is trimming raspberries today. He has most of them pruned now. He works here every day and has worked here all winter. Chris is busy with business, he is down town now after freight. They are doing quite a business, last Friday he sold two buggies and harnesses, a plow and spring tooth harrow. Do not get the idea that they sell that much every day because they don't. They would get too rich if that was the case. The way things are piled up here they need to sell lots every day. Well, of a course they is in the implement business. Of a course. Well of a course. That is alright of a course.

This month has been a month of birthdays. Mother told me to tell you the birthdays she has attended this month, 2 times to Lims, Joseph Magnus's Aunt Mary and Uncle Isaac's. She was down to Oscar Nielsons yesterday, he is twenty five years old. It is Mrs. Fred Youngs today and Britty's next Thursday, the milkman's Friday, so you see it will keep her on the trot to attend them all.

Mrs. Nielson, Carl's mother, gave mother a dollar for you and sends her best wishes, so you see you are not forgotten if you are a long way from home. Mrs. Gussy received your letter OK a long time ago and thanks you very much and sends so many helshener to you. She would have answered it herself.

Glad you are getting you new suit, you must have needed one before now. It is quite

different being dressed up all the time and just dressing up on Sundays. Your position calls you to be dressed well and neat. Do not wait until you are out of money before you send for more because it takes about seven weeks from the time you write until you receive an answer. Hope if they give you another partner they will give you a very good one. It would not be right for them to keep Alma way up north for two years nor to keep you there either. Mrs, Christiansen told me the other day that Mart was still in Stockholm and that they were going to give him a job in the headquarters. If they do he will have a snap and few expenses.

You asked me in your letter if Joe Clark's hall was done yet [35 S. Main]. The walls are up and the roof on but it isn't nearly completed yet. I believe he run out of money, it always takes more money to build any building than one thinks.

Last Thursday night the neighbors of Mr. Hilton had a surprise on him, it was his birthday Wednesday. We had a very good time. Everyone there were so lively and in for having a time. Last night the P.G. choir gave a concert in the meetinghouse. The house was well filled and the concert good. They passed the hat. I have not learned how much they received yet. I will tell you the programme as near as I can, it was very long. 1st prayer by Donald Noble. Duet by Caddie and Nellie Smith. Song by the choir. Quartet F. S. Humphries, C. Hilton, Ethel Hilton, Janie Lund. Solo Clarence Hilton. Duet Jane Lund and E. Hilton. Duet Dr. Jones and Joe Halliday. Quartet Joe H., Dr. Jones, Kinke and Alston, it was very good. Violin quartet Jim and Niels Poulson, Ed Smith and the new druggist accompanied by Effie Chipman on the organ. Cornet solo Louis Hebertson. Solo Joe Halliday, solo Dr. Jones, a quartet by Claude Hayes on the clarinet, two boys played cornets, and Chunky Adams' son played the trombone. He has regular cheek pouches when he plays, it is very amusing to watch him while he plays. Selection by the choir, a comic quartet about the members of the choir by D. Noble, Alston, Claude Hayes, and Kenke, it was splendid. A song by the choir concludes the concert, aren't you glad? I will close my newspaper locals for this time hoping this finds you feeling fine and dandy as it leave us and that you may be happy and enjoy your labors. I am as always
Your Sister and Chatterbox Stena.

The folks sends their love. Lew says to give you his best regards. Helsen Alma.
Enclosed find a dollar from your ma.

[A letter from Petrine Lund of Pleasant Grove, written March 26^h, in Danish.]

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Mar. 27, 1909

My Dear Nels:

It has been over a week since I wrote to you last but I have been looking for a letter from you every day this week and it hasn't come yet so I thot I would write anyhow and ans. your letter next time if it ever comes. It was a week last Tuesday since I heard from you and it is Saturday today so you see it will soon be two weeks.

We are having lovely weather here now, the grass is beginning to get green and it won't be long now before some of the fruit trees are in bloom. I do wish you were here. I guess

it is winter yet where you are. Thursday Esther and I went down to Sundberg's field with Ike and got some watercress. We stayed there all afternoon. Ike was plowing. His father told him he could have half of what he raised down there so I guess he will put it in potatoes.

On Easter the 11th of April, Esther, Ike, Annie and I and the two kids are going up Provo Canyon. We are going to take our dinner with us and stay all day. Don't you think that will be nice? I wish you could come and go with us but you can't so I guess we'll have to go again when you come home. Next Thursday is Carrie's birthday and your folks are all going out. They want me to go with them but I don't think that I shall. Annie was up there last night and she said that Jens is quite sick, he is in bed. Lavina and Stena went to Salt Lake last Saturday. There was cheap rates. They went on the noon train and came back on the late one. Sunday Dell Banks and his wife were over here, they stayed all night and went home Mon. on the six o'clock train.

The High School had a dance last night. They sent out invitations. I believe I have told you all the news now. Edith Jeppson has got a baby, you know she hasn't been married so very long. Her husband went to California so he wasn't here when the baby was born but he came back soon after.

I believe Chris takes Emma yet but I don't know for sure. I don't think they will ever get married, do you? Aunt Lettie was here the other day. She lives way up there where they lived when they first came over but is going to move as soon as she can find another place. Jack is home now and has been for quite awhile. I don't know of any more news so I guess I will close for this time. Take care of yourself so you won't get sick and write often to your loving Wife, Viola xxxxxxxoo

190 E, 200 S., Pleasant Grove, March 28, 1909

Friend Niels –

As I started to write I had to get your letter for the address, I see the date you wrote your letter was one month yesterday. Never mind Bro. if I haven't wrote before, I have thought a great deal about you. But I have been so busy for the last two or three weeks getting ready for the choir concert, it seemed I hardly had time for anything, of course you have some idea about what choir entertainments mean.

Well Niels, I often hear about that good time we had up to Fugals, everybody says it was a dandy good time which it was. I see by your letter you surely have the spirit of your mission, now is the time, I suppose you regret, neglecting opportunities which you, I and others just as well have had as not, nobody to blame but ourselves. It seems though that older experiences will not have any effect on us. It never has had on the young and I suppose it never will. It seems as though nature is such, that experiences must come from the individual, at least to a certain extent, one's experience will not teach another.

Well I am pleased to hear you are feeling so well, it must seem nice to get a companion from home, the time will soon be that you have been gone 1 year then the second year will pass quickly. Well Niels we have just filled the office that you held in the S. School.

We have chosen Brother Mac Bullock. I believe he is going to be alright. We had a very good success with our concert, we had an awful time getting it up, first one would get hot then the other would be late, it seemed that we would hardly be able to make it. Brother Smith said whether we got through it all right or not he would never undertake another one but he will forget about that in twelve months. Bro. Smith handed in his resignation about six weeks ago but they would not accept it. He handed it to the Bishopric. If he would have handed it into stake officers they would, don't you think?

Well Niels we are going to have a surprise on Frank Humphries Wednesday night. I wish you were going to be there. Don't you think you could be there? Ha! Ha! We'll give you a chance to talk. I suppose by the time you get back you will hardly know Pleasant Grove. The big dancing hall will be running and different improvements. The city is discussing about buying ground for a City Park, they have held one meeting now and turned it down, but they are trying to get up another one. The old town is about the same except for a few small changes. They are still calling a few Elders. Roy West and Frank Thorne and Lawrence Atwood are going May 1st, LaGrand White is going this fall. I am not much of a thinker while writing a letter. So will close. Give my regards to Alma. Would like to hear from you again. Goodbye Old Friend. From Joe Halliday Jr.

Svartösten, March 30, 1909

My Dear Wife –

It is now 10 o'clock Tuesday morning. I am going to write a few lines to my dearest and then go to Luleå to distribute tracts and try to sell books. I don't exactly enjoy tracting yet, but it is a duty to be done. When we are out tracting we don't know when we will run up against some old woman that hasn't forgot how to use her tongue, and enjoys using it with her best ability upon us. It isn't always women that are our enemies either, we often meet men that are so prejudiced that they would do most anything for our downfall. But that all belongs to missionary experience and we have to get used to it.

Well Bro. Monson left me last Thursday so I am alone now in the wintry north to face the music. It seems quite strange to be alone for that is something I have never experienced before, but I shall make the best of it. I received a letter from President Schade of the Sundsvall conference the other day giving me instructions and trying to console me in my lonely condition. He said, if it wasn't so near to conference he would send an elder from Sundsvall to help me, but it would be quite expensive for an elder to come up here and then go back again for conference. If I get a partner by conference I will be satisfied although that is over a month to wait. I have plenty to do to keep me busy just so I can keep interested, which I think I can. When a person is alone he is more apt to lose spirits and give way to despondency, but I shall try to prevent this by applying the best remedy, which is work. I need to study very hard in order to defend our gospel for I haven't made a very heavy study of it while home. I am learning the language quite fast but still I am lacking many words when I get into a gospel conversation.

I notice by your letter that you are very lonesome and very anxious for the time to come that I will again be with you. I also long for that time dearest, I dream of you nearly every night and then when I awake and find myself alone, over eight thousand miles from you,

it makes me feel quite blue, but let us press on dearest, and feel that, that happy time is coming, when you and I shall again live together.

Now dearest I hardly know how to answer your last letter. You seem to be worrying a great deal about where we are going to live when I come home. I don't know where we will live, but as long as God will bless us with health and strength, I can't see why you and I won't be able to get a home as well as anyone else. True enough we may be in debt when I come back, but I hope we will have something to show for that debt. Please don't think you are going to live outdoors or in a tent, you don't think I would drag you into such a place do you? Yes dearest we want to live alone by ourselves, but don't you think it will be impossible for me to buy a lot of furniture and secure a house the very first day I come home? I am sure my dearest wife don't think for a moment but what I want to live with her alone just as soon I get home and can get settled down. Dearest you have a husband who thinks the world of you and he will do all in his power to please you and make you happy. I am indeed glad to note that you think I am yours and yours only and that you want me all by yourself, for this shows your love, and shows that you want to be where you can act as a wife to your loving husband. Now my dearest let us live in hope and faith and not think for a moment but what our living together will be one of joy and happiness. Oh! dearest how I wish I had you here where I could talk to you. My letter cannot do justice to my thoughts. I never have anyone to talk English to now and I get quite lonesome, but I will have to get used to talking Swedish for that is what I am sent out to do.

You seem to have done pretty well with your sewing, for the little time you have sewed \$9.00 isn't so awful much but every little helps. Now dearest please inform me as to your financial condition, of course I am unable to give you money but I can make arrangements with my brothers if you are in need. Don't suffer for the sake of a few dollars. I suppose the time is drawing near to when you expect to be sick. I certainly wish I could be with you, but dearest keep up courage and I think all will go well. May God bless us with health and strength and wisdom is the prayer of your loving husband. Niels. xxxooxox Write soon. Yes I have written to Aunt Lettie, hasn't she received it?

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 2, 1909

My dear darling Husband:

I rec'd your welcome letter yesterday. I went out to Carrie's with your ma and Stena and we called at the post office on the way out. There was a letter from you for me and one for your mother too. That was a pretty card you sent me. You asked if I got that card with the ship on, yes I got it alright too. I guess I have got all you have sent.

It was nearly ten o'clock when we left Carrie's. Jens and Lavina were there, Mrs. and Mr. Clayton, Don Clayton and his wife and Cornelia. Carrie read the letter she got from you out to us all and they thot it was alright especially the part where you described Carrie at the piano. That's what tickled Jens.

Do you remember Mr. Banks, Annie's father-in-law? You saw him last spring when he was over. He died Wednesday night. Annie has been over there since Sunday. It's

awfully lonesome here since she left and I don't know when she will be back.

Ike has bought that lot across the street west from Joe Schoell's. He is going to give \$575.00 for it. He is putting it in strawberries. I wonder where we'll live. We'll have to rent a house as soon as you come won't we? Because you know we are not going to live with your folks any more. Just as soon as you get home you will have to hunt a place for us to live.

I do hope that they don't keep you any longer than two years but I'll bet it will be closer to three. I don't think they ought to keep you so long and I wish almost that you hadn't gone at all. That won't be very nice if you have to go back to that place alone after Elder Monson is released. Why don't you tell them you won't go back till they get you a partner?

Esther and Ike got that letter you wrote them. Did you ever get that letter that Annie wrote to you? I have asked you two or three times and you never answer. She wrote it about Xmas and you have never said a word about it yet.

I am going to plant a garden one of these days. It's so nice and sunny outdoors that I can hardly stay in the house. Esther goes out in the field with Ike and is out with him nearly all the time.

On Easter we are going up Provo Canyon. Yes I will eat a couple of eggs for you but I wish I could send them to you so you could eat them yourself.

It will be six months now since you left home but it seems to me like it has been long enough to be a year.

Joe Clark's hall has got the roof on and looks quite nice on the outside but isn't finished yet. Maybe you can dance at the first dance they have in it after all, they are so slow about it. I don't know of any more news so will close for this time. Write again soon to yours forever Viola. xxxxxoo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Apr. 4, 1909
[Envelope forwarded to Sundsvall]

Dear Brother

I just merely threw a chair under me and took hold of the pen handle and started to scribble. Yes, well it is quite a while since I wrote to you and no doubt you are wondering if I am going to live up to the statement I made when I said once a month is enough to write. I merely said so for fun but it seems as though I meant it. We like to hear from you often and no doubt you like to hear from us just as often. I have been crowded with work and at night I am so sleepy that I can't write. So much for an excuse.

Chris went to Salt Lake City yesterday and stayed in there for conference today. I was to Salt Lake City two weeks ago tomorrow and went to Ogden the Wed. following to buy some buggies and was laid up the balance of the week. The week just ended has kept me

on the jump and for that matter we are busy all the time. I just finished lighting Manila meetinghouse yesterday and Atwoods can be finished in an hour. I have two more hours to wire out there. Little Magnus and Julia Wadleys but there are only two lights to go in each so that is only a day's work. It has kept us busy about the shop as we have had good sale this spring for our line. We thought we were doing it when we ordered 8 spring tooth harrows in the car of goods we got but it wasn't half enough. Of course we get them from the house but it means more freight. We are also having a good run on plows. We got 23 in the car and they are about half gone. We got 4 binders which we expect to sell; a dozen mowers but this may be too many but the house will carry them over to next year. Have sold 3 wagons, 1 heavy delivery wagon, 4 buggies, 2 plows besides other goods all during the last 4 or 5 weeks. It was a month yesterday since we planted the wheat. It is up. We will sow the oats tomorrow, the beets in a few days. They planted Ceder P. Larsons and Thomases (not doubting Thomas) yesterday. It looks stormy and it is cold today so we will wait as it is better after a storm especially when it is early enough. Lucerne and all vegetation is coming right along. The apricots has bloomed out the last couple of days. I don't think the fruit is as far along as it has been the last two years at this season of the year. And we will have plenty of water this year as there are piles of snow in the mountains. Provo canyon has been a record breaker this year for snow and landslides. "Crimeny" [Alma Radmall] has contracted to prune the peach trees, but he is slow getting at it.

[Letter from Jens, continued, next set.]