

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 15, 1909  
[Forwarded to Sundsvall]

My Dear husband:

It is just six months today since you left Pleasant Grove so you have spent about one fourth of your time now. In three more six months we will be expecting you home. I got your picture and was very glad to see that you are looking so well. I think you look lots better than you did when you left. The picture is just fine and I am so glad you had it taken for it seems a little like seeing you. I do wish I could see you and talk to you for a little while now. I guess you are quite lonesome since Alma left but I hope they will soon give you another partner conference time. I don't think they ought to keep you up there alone so long.

It is a week yesterday since I got your letter but we haven't been to the post office since Tuesday so I guess there is one there now. I can't go to the office myself and so I have to depend on someone else to bring me letters and they won't go only when they feel like it but it won't be very much longer till I can go myself and then I won't have to depend on anyone else. I hope you will get this letter before conference. I can't get it posted till tomorrow but then it will have nearly three weeks to get there in.

I was up to your mother's yesterday and got the picture. Aunt Stena told me they had it and that's the first I knew about it. It is just like summer today, hot and sultry. Is there any snow on the ground there yet? Aunt Lettie never got that letter you wrote. We didn't go up to the canyon Easter, we had everything ready but it snowed Sat. night and was snowing Sunday morning and was too cold to go up there so Esther and Ike came down here and we ate our Easter dinner here.

I have written to Aunt Esther [her mother's sister, married to a Banks] and asked her to come over and stay with me after while but I don't know whether she will or not, she hasn't answered yet. If she comes I will have one of these doctors in town and if she doesn't I don't know what I will do. I can't have Mrs. Steel because I can't go and get her and she hasn't any way to come only on the train and there might not be one when I wanted her but maybe there will be some way when the time comes. You don't know how glad I'll be when it is all over with. I can't help but worry about it now. I hope Aunt Esther will come, she has had quite a bit of experience. I wrote to her Saturday.

How do you pass the time away now you are alone? I should think you would get tired of reading and studying all the time.

Esther was down yesterday and the day before. She was intending to come today but she hasn't come yet. The fruit trees are not in bloom yet and the frost has killed some of the apricots and early cherries but I guess there will be enough fruit anyhow. I don't know of any news so I guess this is all for this time. Write soon to your loving Wife xxxxxxoxxo  
Viola.

Svartösten, April 19 – 09

My Dear Viola –

It is now 10:30 p.m. but I must write you a few lines tonight for tomorrow morning at 6:10 I must be at the Luleå station which is about 1-1/2 miles from here, for I am going to Sundsvall as I stated in the previous letter. That means I will have to get up at 4:30 in the morning in order to get a little breakfast into my storehouse before leaving. After I get this letter written I won't have any too much time to sleep, so I hope you will pardon me if the letter isn't quite as long as usual. I have been to Karlsvik today and got my clothes so I am already for the journey which is 100 Swedish miles or about 650 English miles. I will have to change trains and perhaps have to lay over for some time tomorrow night, at a place named Ånge, but I don't suppose you can pronounce all Swedish words, for I know I can't. I have just come from visiting a family who are quite friendly to me. I only intended to go and bid them goodbye, but we became interested in a gospel conversation and I stayed three hours.

I received a welcome letter from you the same day as I sent you the last one and now tonight I was happily surprised to receive another from my dear wife, I thank you very much dearest and when I get home I will kiss you ten times for it, if you will let me. Will you please let me, dearest? I'll kiss you if you will. I also received a letter from Joe Halliday tonight which was welcomed for I wrote to him quite a while ago. He said P.G. is growing a little and perhaps I won't know it when I come home, but I will try not to get lost among its skyscrapers.

I am glad to note that you go out quite a bit dear for that will do you good. It no doubt was pleasant to be down the fields with Esther and Ike, and I hope you went up Provo canyon as you said you were thinking of doing. Yes my dearest it certainly would be nice if I were home so we could be together like Esther and Ike and it almost makes one shed tears when I think of the long time it will be before we have that pleasure, but we will have to put up with it and wait patiently for that time. Yes dearest it is hard to tell how long I will have to remain here before I am released, but I don't think it will be over two years for most are released at that time. I hope you don't mean what you say when you say that you wish I hadn't went on a mission for you know dearest it is a great privilege that we should feel proud of to work for our God by carrying that glad message which our glorious gospel contains. It seems quite hard to be separated from loved ones and home and be sent out in the cold world and be scorned by the people in general, but I believe if we don't receive a reward in this life for our good deeds that we will be amply paid for our works by a just Judge who rewards all for our actions whether they be good or bad. I know you feel the same as I and it is almost unnecessary for me to write this way, but I know you are anxious to meet your husband and be with him for you have chosen me for your companion from henceforth on, both in this world and the next and it is no more than right that you be entitled to live with one. It certainly will be a happy reunion and we will always stay happy, won't we my dear? We will make the happy reunion so warm that it can never get cold, but if anything it will grow warmer.

Now I pray the Lord to bless my beloved wife that she will bear her burden bravely and will always feel grateful that she was born under the new and everlasting covenant. I will write when I get settled in Sundsvall. It is now 11:30 so I bid you good night and pleasant dreams. I am your loving husband Niels. xxxooo

American Fork, Utah, Apr. 19<sup>th</sup> [Forwarded to Sundsvall] [Hannah's younger brother John Jacob ("Pa"?), 60 at this time, lived in A.F., but there may well have been other Carlson relatives there.]

Dear Cousin

We received your most loving and welcome letter the other day. We were glad to hear that you were well and enjoying your mission labors. We are all well out here. It certainly is a great surprise to hear some of the world great things which you related. When I got your letter I did not know who it was from but just the minute Pa saw it he said it was from Neils Fugal. Then he told me to read it aloud to the family which I did.

Well I guess you know by this time that you have another little cousin. And that Vida is dead. It has been raining all afternoon which is going to help the farmers good. Pa told me to answer your letter for him, his sight is too poor to write to you in the evening so you see that is the reason he does not answer your letter and too busy in the daytime.

We have been having fine weather for a few days. The crops are looking fine out here now. If you see Elder Alma Monson say hello for me and tell him to drop a few lines and let us know how he is and his mission labors. That is, if you see him. I hope that God will help you in your labor and that you may have good success in your time there. Ben and Annie sends their best regards to you. I wish that you could labor with someone so you would not feel so lonely.

Well I guess I will close for this time hoping to hear from you soon again. May God also be with you. From your cousin Liddie S. Carlson.

Best regards and blessing to you from Allen.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 22, 1909

My Dear Darling Husband:

I have got two letters since I wrote to you last, one Saturday and another yesterday, and I was very glad to get them both. I wish you wasn't so far away, and then we could get letters oftener. By the time you get this letter I hope you will have another companion and I hope you will like him as well as you did Elder Monson.

Yesterday was the Horse Show in Provo. Do you remember that other Horse Show that you went to see? You asked me when Perlinda and Allie were going to be married. I am sure I don't know but I don't think they ever will. Allie was trimming trees over to your place the other day when I went up and Perlinda was standing over by the fence talking to him. He said he was trying to make her go home so he could work but she wouldn't do it. I don't think he was trying very hard.

We had quite a rain storm here Monday afternoon. It just poured down for a little while. You said in your letter that you didn't think I could expect you to buy a lot of furniture and get a house the very first day you came home. I didn't ask you to buy a lot of

furniture when you come home. I don't want anything, only what we have to have to keep house until we can afford to get some more and I think you can get that the first day as easy as you can two or three weeks after. We will have just as much money, we will have to go into debt anyhow I suppose. You said you would have to get settled down first. You won't have anything to settle only yourself until you do get some furniture so you had just as well get it first as last. If we start to living up to your place you will get settled there and you won't want to leave. You know dearest, I am so tired of living in with other people that I don't want to a minute longer than we have to so please don't tell me that I will have to live in with your folks when you come for two or three weeks, will you dearest?

I told you in my last letter that I had written to Aunt Esther asking her to come over and stay while I am sick. I got a letter yesterday and she said she would come, to just let her know in plenty of time. I am so glad she is coming I won't worry so much about it now. I have been worrying about who I could send for Mrs. Steel but now I won't need to bother anybody. I can have one of the doctors here. I would lots sooner have Mrs. Steel and you bet if you were here to go for her she is the very one I would have but you know dearest, I can't very well get up and go for her myself and I haven't anyone to send. If it happens in the night Pa can't go because he can't see after dark and if in the daytime I guess he wouldn't go anyhow because he don't know where she lives and I could be dead and buried before he gets back. I was quite worried about it before I got Aunt Esther's letter but now I feel lots better. Annie had been talking to me about it and she made me feel like I don't know what every way. I'd mention about how I would get a doctor, she would mention a lot of objections and at last I told her if I couldn't get anyone else to go I guessed I have to go myself.

She is going to Spanish Fork Decoration Day the 30<sup>th</sup> of May and that is just when I will be expecting to be sick any day and you know how long she stays when she goes there so you see I can't depend on her for anything. I had the blues so bad the other day I was going to write and tell you lots of things but since I got Aunt Esther's letter I feel better. I guess Esther [sister] will be sick in September.

Well dearest I am going to help Annie sew some more now. I don't feel much like sewing but if I don't she will never get it done and I want to get the house cleaning done before very long and then you know I will get some more money too and that is what we all want. Yesterday I washed and after I got thru and went in and sewed till six o'clock and then I was so tired I couldn't hardly sleep.

Yes dear Nels your mother is very good to me, if I don't go up every week she says it seems so long since she saw me and I must come oftener. I was up Tuesday. I must close now, goodbye dearest, write often, Yours forever, Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1909

Dearest Brother –

Received your welcome letter two days ago and was very glad to hear from you April 26<sup>th</sup>. I just got started to write your letter the other day and got interrupted and had to quit

so I will endeavor to finish it today or know the reason why. I suppose you are very lonesome now since Alma has gone but you must keep up courage, it will only be three weeks until conference and not that so I suppose the time will pass somehow. When you go to conference I would make them give me a companion or I would refuse to go back until they did. Would you just as soon labor in the north as some other part of Sweden? I guess it will not be so cold during the summer months.

Last Thursday Martin Peterson had a little child 21 months old that fell in the ditch by Jeppa Nielson's and got drowned. The child had been in the ditch for half an hour or more before they found it. The child was washed down the stream as far as Steven Jenson's dam and lodged there. The mother is almost frenzied, she has two other children, one three years and the other four months, the poor thing certainly has her hands full. Last Friday morning Alfred Harvey Sr. died, he died suddenly, he had been ailing for some time but he was not bedfast. He got up about five o'clock and went outdoors, they thought he stayed out rather long and so they went out to see, he was in the closet dead. They just had his funeral yesterday after the afternoon meeting, there was a large turn out. The speakers were Ben Driggs, John Nelson, Orlander Herron, Bishop Thorne and Hans Jergenson. John Nelson stood up to the pulpit, looked at the floor, then strait ahead, then at the floor, then up at the ceiling. Then he swung his neck around like you know how I mean. Then he said his little say and finished up with advising the boys if they could not lead a better life than their father had, to lead one just as good. There is one thing about him, he always minded his own business and never grumbled and that is more than we can say about everybody.

A week ago Sunday night they had a missionary party for Roy West. He leaves the first part of May for his mission. I think he does pretty well to go and leave his wife and two children. It seems like everyone that goes and performs a mission are always blest. There is no one yet that a mission has made poor. Last week the bishop made public in meeting that John Albean and Frankie Banks were cut off from the church. It makes it so bad when men lead such lives that they are not worthy of being a member of the church. Mrs. Albean feels quite bad about the way John does. That is natural enough that a mother worries about her children's welfare. Emma Young Carter has a baby boy so you have a new cousin, don't you know. Jennie Rassmuson has a son too. She lives down to Celia Christiansens.

The boys are quite busy. Jens is having his old apple trees pulled up. About half of them are pulled up now. Lew was trimming the limbs off all day Saturday, today he has gone down to the hay field to take some of the stock down there. They will not have hay enough if they keep all the animals home. Hay is very high now, it is seventeen dollars per ton on the Bench. Isn't that a going some? Potatoes are 80 cents per bushel and wheat is way up. It will keep anyone with a large family a scratching to fill his kids with bread and spuds. But that is alright, if we only had a lot to sell.

Lizzie was up here last night. She said Louis was doing fine, he is president of the Iowa Conference so you see he has worked himself up. He is the boy that has got the stick-to-it-ness if anyone has and plenty of gall. He has been gone for two years and a half and does not know when he will be released. Gilbert Kundson is doing fine too, his sister Carrie and her husband were over to see us last week. He has been gone for two years, he

expects to get released soon. When Roy West goes there will be ten missionaries from this ward out in the field, that is pretty good to have that many out at once.

There was stake conference at Lehi Saturday and Sunday, they are talking of dividing the P.G. ward but I don't know yet whether they will or not. You stated in your letter that you had received my photo. I was glad to hear that. I believe that you have received all the letters I have written you since you came to Sweden. Hope you have received your letter with the check, it was sent on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April.

We are all feeling fine, mother is about the same as usual. Ernest's overalls does considerable flying, it makes no difference what time of the day it is, he is on the go. That's what makes him grow so fast. Lavina's children are all well. Delbert and Vida still go to school. [Somewhat younger photo of Delbert, Vida and Alda.] Well take good care of yourself Niels as Ernest says and write soon to your Loving Sister Stena.

Dear Child, if you were here you could sometimes hear the loom a going, you know some kind of music is necessary. Mother fixes the wash and I do the weaving. I am only going to make 100 yds. to keep me out of mischief. I did not think it was right to send this little space without a little writing on it because you have lots of time to read and you can stand to read a little trash. I bought me a suit this spring, a brown one, I paid \$17.50 for it so you see I am somewhat sporty. You have to be a little in the style or die. Hope you are enjoying yourself immensely. Amen.

Pl. Grove April 26/09 [Forwarded to Sundsvall, then to Östersund]

Dear Bro. Neils,

I am at last taking time to write you a word. I have been letting Stena do all the writing. I got your letter OK. I suppose before you get this letter you will have received the \$50 we sent you and you will have been to conference. I hope they find you a good partner when you go back again. Don't let them send you back alone. I hope you are getting along pretty fair. As yet we haven't sold so very many buggies. We have sold four. But we have some good prospects, expect to see all the buggies sold as we have not got lots of opposition. We think we will have them pretty well cleaned out by fall. I tell you we are busy now. Jens has a few plumbing jobs that are waiting for him and we have to build a fence around the meetinghouse. I guess we will get there in the sweet by and by. I expect I will have to go over to Isaac Sundbergs to get the wagon we sold him, he hasn't paid a cent since you left.

I have an idea that I will be canned down to Bushes, I am going to find out soon. If I get canned I believe I will go up to Tom Larsons or else out to Poleydors. I will let you know when I get married. I will have to write more some other time. Be good. From your Bro. C.A.F.

Sundsvall, April 26 – 09

My Dear Viola –

It is just one week today since I wrote to you and received your last letter. I arrived in Sundsvall OK last Wednesday and enjoyed my trip very well only it was quite lonesome because there were no one I knew on the train, so I did very little talking. I had to lay over in Ånge from 12:30 Wednesday morning until 8:20 Wednesday morning and arrived here at about 11 a.m. A person can't see very much that tickles the eye in traveling in northern Sweden, in the winter, for everything looks the same. It is only snow and scrubby forests; and the country is composed of rolling hills so it is impossible to see off very far. I would sooner travel in Utah, where a person while riding on the train can see a great deal of country in passing through the valleys and over the mountains.

When I arrived here of course I was welcomed by the elders, and they all said I was so fat that they hardly knew me. I believe they are stretching it a little for I don't feel so much different now than last Fall, although I am feeling fine. I have gained eighteen pounds so there is no doubt some difference in my looks. The night of the same day I arrived here we had choir practice and I want to tell you it seemed nice to me, for it was about six months since I heard the sweet voices of a choir. They have practice on Wednesday nights and then after meeting on Sundays. They have quite a few saints here and some investigators so it is more pleasant here than up in the distant Luleå, but I will have to make the best of it in Luleå until Fall conference.

We had a meeting yesterday and I thought sure President Schade would call on me to preach but as luck would have it he didn't, so I suppose I will have to prepare a sermon for next Sunday. I don't exactly dislike to talk but I feel my weakness and don't like to show my ignorance. I suppose a person will always feel that way so the main thing is to always do the best we can and be satisfied.

The names of the elders laboring are as follows – Elder Schade from Huntsville, Utah, Elder Woodard from Sevier Co. Utah, and Elder Liljenquist from Rexburg, Idaho. They are all better Swedes than myself, so I am what you might call the kid of the family, but perhaps I will grow and in a year or so be able to tell them something in the Swedish language.

Well dearest I have your last letter with me and I don't believe I answered all that was in it, in my last letter, so I will endeavor to do so now. Yes I remember Mr. Banks and I remember the day he was there as if it were but yesterday. That day you and Esther and I went down to Geneva and had sport skating. Do you remember that sweetheart? I can call to mind many pleasant times we have had in those gone by days of our courting and also since our marrying. Pleasant days have passed away but we must also think that there are others coming, though they seem quite distant.

So Bro. Ike has bought that piece of ground! That is nice. Perhaps he will have a house built on it when I get back, so I can visit him at their new home. So you wonder where we will live? So do I, but I suppose we will find a place that can either be rented or bought, so we will be as happy as any two birds in a cage with our beloved young one to amuse us.

I suppose you have that garden planted which you spoke of? I wish I could be with you and help you for it would be pleasant to do a little work now after resting all winter and

getting suh nice soft hands that haven't a blister. Do you remember when you and Esther were hoeing last spring and I came and helped you, but I was so weak that I couldn't hoe any better than you, for you remember it was just after my sickness? I hope your garden will be a success and you will enjoy eating the goodies taken from it.

You say it is about six months since I left you and it seems long enough to be a year. Well dearest it does seem a long time since I left you at S. L. Depot and I suppose it will be a long time before we meet at the P.G. depot, but let us keep up courage for every day brings us nearer to that time, and before we are aware we will be living together again. Yes and if Joe Clark don't hustle, you and I will dance the first waltz in it, I mean the hall. Well my dear wife I will now close my letter with the best of love and wishes. I hope you are still well and getting along fine and taking plenty of exercise in the nice spring air. I am as ever your loving husband and deary Nels. Goodbye honey, write often to your Lovey. xxxooooxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., April 29, 1909  
[Not forwarded.]

My Dearest Nels:

Once gain I take great pleasure in writing to my darling husband who is so far away. It is just a week since I wrote last. I haven't got a letter from you yet this week but we didn't go to the office yesterday and I am expecting one today. I have been helping Annie sew this week and when we finish what we have to do now I will have about \$4.40, isn't that pretty good dear? When we get thru sewing we are going to house clean. I believe I told you in my last letter that Aunt Esther is coming over and stay with me when I am sick. I will have her come a while before so she will be here at the time and I am anxious to get the house cleaning done.

Joe, my brother and his wife came Sunday night. They came up in a wagon and Joe went to Salt Lake Tuesday. Valeria is here yet. He is going to get work with his team and rent a house and then send for her and I guess they will live there this summer. Their baby is just a year old now and she expects another in August.

It has been quite stormy this week. It snowed a little last night but it doesn't show much now. It seems to me like we are having a late spring, there are just a few of the trees in bloom now. There is just one more week of school here. I haven't been up to your mother's for over a week but I have been too busy sewing and when we quit I am too tired to do anything.

Well dearest I hope you will have a companion when you get this letter. It is just a little over a week until Conference. Have you heard that Old Man Harvey is dead? A week ago today there was a baby nearly two years old drowned in that ditch that runs thru Jeppie Nielsons lot. They didn't find it for over a half hour after it had fallen in and then it was way up by John West's caught on something in the ditch. The child belonged to those Petersons that live in that brick house across the street west from Jeppie's. Well Nels I don't know of any more news and it is nearly time for me to get to work so I will close for this time. I would give anything if I could see you for a little while. It

seems to me like two years will never pass. Goodbye dearest darling, write soon to your loving wife Viola.

Sundsvall, May 3, 1909

Dear Darling Wife –

Just a few lines to let you know I am well and enjoying myself in Sundsvall. The weather is quite nice but there is still quite a lot of snow in places and there is still so much ice that the boats can't sail. The streets in the city are dry and I want to tell you that it seems nice to see the earth again and the green grass and plants which are commencing to sprout and show that spring is near at hand. When I left Luleå there wasn't any dry places there and I suppose there will be some snow when I get back. The spring is somewhat later this year than usual, but it looks as though we will have nice summer days before very long. So much for the weather.

I received your most welcome letter the day after I wrote the last one to you. I also received one from Stena containing \$50 and one from Lavina and Jens the same day and one from Carrie the following day. I had lots of nice news to read, but now I am ready to receive some more, and no doubt I will be made glad with another from my dear wife in just a day or two.

Your letter stated that you were busy making quilts and that you get tired so much easier than you used to. I certainly will be glad when I hear that you are well again and have passed through that ordeal and sickness which we are awaiting. I would like very much to be with my darling at that time, when she would need me the most, but of course I can't, so we will have to make the best of it, and hope that I will be with you the next time. Keep up courage sweetheart, and be determined and I think all will be well. Of course I haven't had any experience in what I am writing about but I have my ideas about it anyhow. From now on I will be very anxious to hear from you so I may know just how you are feeling.

Last Saturday was quite a lively day here in Sundsvall. The first of May is celebrated here about the same as labor day is in Utah. They had a large parade composed of all the different lodges and unions. There were a half dozen bands out so I heard some lively music for a change which seemed very nice and caused me to think about our wonderful band in P.G. Do you know how the band is making it now in Pleasant Grove?

I was in company with Elder Siljinqvist May 1<sup>st</sup> and we took in the sights of the city and then climbed (not clum) to the top of a large hill, which the people here think is a mountain, and there obtained a very good view of the city and the country in the neighborhood and also the water which leads out into the gulf of Bothnia. Whenever I am out taking in sights, I always think of you, and wish I had you with me, so you could also see, but it is impossible so we will have to put up with it and look forward to the time that we will be together and probably have a chance to have some pleasure trips.

I hope you went up Provo canyon on Easter and enjoyed the day by climbing the hills and cracking eggs and viewing the beautiful natural scenery which that canyon affords. I have

eaten four eggs since I came here to Sundsvall but they are all I have had since I left America. It seems nice to be here because I don't have to do any cooking. There is a sister who lives in one room of the house and she does all the work for her board, and then she does other work to earn money to buy clothes.

Well dearest in one week from today conference will be over and then I won't be long until I will be back to Luleå. I don't know whether I will get a partner or not to commence with but I suppose I will as soon as some new elders come. I have been alone for a month and I suppose I can stand it for one more if necessary. Elder Lavin from Gefle Branch arrived here this morning. He came so soon to practice the songs with us. He is a tenor singer. Wednesday the elders from Östersund will be here and by Friday or Saturday the others will be here. President Sundvall and Elder Krantz from Stockholm will be here for conference so there will be about twelve of us all told.

Well my darling now I will stop writing for this time and probably write again before leaving Sundsvall. I have had my photo taken since I came here so I will with the greatest of pleasure present one to you. I will send some to my folks also. I have two different sittings and I will send some of each to the folks and I want you to tell me which you like the best. Now dearest I will close hoping you are feeling well and encouraged. May God bless you. Your loving husband Niels. Write soon. xxxxxx00000