

Pleasant Grove, Oct. 10, 1909

My Dear Nels.

I guess you have been looking for this letter for quite awhile. We have been so busy since we moved that I haven't had time to write before. I am living with Annie in the old Armitstead place and Pa has gone down to Abraham. We have been busy sewing ever since we moved down here and we have five dresses in the house now to make. I have shortened the Baby and she is so cute, I would give anything if you could see her. She wears little blue stockings and white shoes. I am going up to your mother's today.

I saw your picture where you six fellows were taken together and wouldn't mind having one if you have one to spare. Lavina got hers two weeks ago today and I have been waiting and watching for one ever since but all in vain. You can imagine how I feel about it if you think how you would feel if I should send my picture to someone over there and not send you one. You told me you had it taken and so I was looking for one before Lavina got hers and then after she showed me hers I thot sure I would get one in the next letter but I have got two letters since but no picture [p. 141].

The last letter I got was the one you wrote on the boat when you was going to conference. I am so glad that you are sent to such a good place and hope that you will like it and will soon have lots of friends. I am writing with the Baby on my lap and she is crying and kicking so you will have to excuse this writing. I read in Lavina's letter that you had the small pox. I hope that you are alright now and don't get sick any more. Stena and Jens and Lavina went to Salt Lake to conference.

Well dearest it will soon be a year since you left home and I hope that the next year won't be as long as the last one has been. We are thinking some of going down to Pa's for Xmas. I guess Esther and Ike will go too. I guess you have heard that Vern Thorne is dead. I went to meeting last Sunday but I didn't go today.

Oh Nels I would give anything if you could see the baby, she is so little and cute. She laughs out loud and tries to talk. She weighed 16 pounds when she was 3-1/2 months old, she is nearly 4 now but I haven't weighed her lately. I am glad you liked the picture. I like yours too and would like to have one if it isn't too much bother.

I can't think of any more to say. Write soon to your loving Viola and Melba.
xxxxxxxxxx000

Gefle, Oct. 13th 1909

My Dear Viola;

Another of your welcome letters came to hand yesterday so I will now take the time and pleasure to write you a few lines. I am glad to learn that you are going to stay in P.G. for I believe you will like to better there than in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. So your father has bought a 40 acre farm? That's quite a bit for him to tend to but I hope he makes a success of it. [Leroy is 57 at this point in time.] I don't know whether I would like to

buy land down there or not. I would first have to see the place and no doubt my little wife and I will take a trip down there some time when I come back home. Of course I like P.G. OK but if I find a place I like better I think I could leave P.G. The future will have to decide that matter.

So you have moved down on main street where the fancy people live? That's quite a long distance from my folks but I suppose you can visit them occasionally anyway. Does Annie have much sewing now? I hope she will do well in the business. It was very kind of your father to give you the sewing machine and rocker. That will add to our furniture list, alright. It is OK that you also took the table for we would have to get one anyway and I suppose I will be able to earn some money to pay for it when I get home again.

That was quite a present Lavina gave Melba. I suppose five one dollar bills would almost cover her would they not? Nothing like having some good relations when a man is on a mission. I am quite surprised to learn that Lavina has an organ. I hope she will be able to play me a few selections on it when I get home. I wish you had one too so you could pass some of your lonesome hours in practicing some nice pieces to play for me when we meet again.

Well dearest it seems quite tough to be away from you so long but then when we compare our condition with that of poor Stella Thorne's we have a cause to rejoice for I don't think we are separated for such a long while as they are. It is certainly sad that death should come in and separate such a newly married couple, but the ways of the Lord are not our ways therefore we often wonder why such events should take place. I hope that awful disease will not go any farther. You say you have quite a bad cold. I hope you are well now and also little Melba. You must take good care of yourself dearest so you won't get sick for it seems like it doesn't take much to cause people to get under the weather.

Well dearest everything is going pretty good here and I like the place OK but I certainly have to study to be prepared at our MIA meetings, our bible class and S. School on Sundays and worst of all be prepared to preach every Sunday. It is quite a task but I suppose it will be the making of me. While I was in Luleå I wasn't crowded like I am here but I feel that a place like this will be good for me. Bro. Beckstrom has roped me in as Pres. of the MIA so he means for me to do something. We have well attended meetings and I hope we can interest the people even if we are weak. I was tracting yesterday for the first time in Gefle and met with some pretty good success and some opposition. I came in contact with a very devilish man who had no more reasoning power than an old mad bull. He could talk English and it wasn't long till we were engaged in a very unpleasant conversation. He said all manner of bad things about me and my religion which made me feel like fighting but I controlled my temper and tried to show him that he didn't know what he was talking about. That was quite a discouraging introduction but I am going out again today and see what luck I have. I met some nice people yesterday who seemed to be interested in what I had to tell them and one of them wanted to read the Book of Mormon so I let her take it. It is certainly quite an experience to go out tracting for we meet so many different dispositioned people. Some are nice but some seem to have the devil in them.

Well dearest I will now draw to a close hoping that this letter finds you well and feeling

well in your new home. Give Annie and the children my best regards and accept a goodly portion yourself. Bro. Becktrom wishes to be remembered to you, he says he was well acquainted with you mother and also knows your father. May heaven's richest blessings be yours is the prayer of your husband Nels. Write soon. xxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Oct. 14th 1909

Dear Brother –

I have been thinking of writing to you for the last week but have not got at it yet, it seems like the longer anyone puts off writing the harder it is to write. We received your welcome letter of Sept. 19th the other day and we were certainly glad to hear from you, and to note that you had received your check OK.

Mrs. Lim was over here yesterday and we told her you had received her letter and dollar OK and that you would write her in the near future. We were also glad to note that you spent your birthday so well. [September 14th.] I was afraid maybe you would spend it all alone in Bachelors Hall and have to cook your own dinner. I suppose it seemed nice to have the privilege to wire that man's house, that is a job you don't have every day.

Viola was up a little while Sunday and she said that they had changed you to another branch. That is certainly a blessing and we do hope you will have a good companion also. It as a good thing that you visited the Lindgren family when you did or you would not have had the chance to visit them again. We do hope that you will labor in a good branch this time and hope also that there will be some saints. I suppose though that you were commencing to feel at home in Luleå. A change is as good as a rest, isn't it? I will bet that the last six months have been long ones to you. When you would go out tracting or off any place you would be alone when you got back and no one to sympathize with you. Still you have not been alone for the Lord takes care of his servants when they try to do right.

Since I wrote you last Old Lady Warburton has passed away. She was eighty years old. And old Han White has had a runaway. He has his leg broken and bruised up pretty bad. But not so bad but what he can recover alright. And Mrs. Alldredge has had another stroke, she is in Salt Lake with her daughter Mat. The doctors say she cannot recover this time. She is unable to talk or swallow. Clarence Hilton had his ankle broken about a month ago, he is getting around now, he is able to go out doors, he walks on crutches but will soon be OK.

The MIA meetings have commenced now for the winter. We had our first meeting together last Tuesday night. We the 3rd ward meet in the School house and the 1st and 2nd wards hold forth in the meetinghouse. There was a large turn out in our ward for a starter. The D. H. Robison room was almost full. If we have as good meetings the rest of the season as that one was it will be alright.

Ben Walker the postman and family live in our ward, they live in part of Gunnar Rassmuson's house. Robert Walker and May Richards are married and live in part of Maggie Sorenson's house, and Mr. McMullon one of the high school teachers lives in

Jimmie Thorne's house. Jimmie D. and his wife lives in an addition built on back of the post office. They belong to our ward even if they do live down town. So you see we will have some talent if not much. We are as many in numbers as the 2nd ward. It isn't the easiest thing there is to be divided up into little wards, but I guess it will be OK twenty years from now.

The threshing in P.G. is all done and the 3rd crop is on the wagon now. I suppose they will leave it there and feed from the wagon. The weather this week is nice. Rulan has started to dig potatoes but has not got many dug yet, the crop is not as good as it should be. They got an extra watering of about four days once last summer when they had been watered plenty. The boys did not know that they had water on them so no one is to blame if the potatoes got drowned. Rulan says he has been digging the poorest rows, they make four bushels to the row. Hence the large crop! It may be that the crop will be better than we think.

The boys have sold a wagon today to Ed Wadley. It is for a sheep wagon, they are working now to fix a new cover on the old top. His wagon was so dilapidated that the sheep herders refused to take it to camp again, so he had to get a new one. The buggy business is not very rushing at present.

Just think kid, Lavina, Jens and I went to Salt Lake to conference this fall. There was certainly a large crowd there and the sermons were just fine. We went in Sun. and came back late Tuesday night. The main theme was to teach the children how to work and not let them grow up in idleness. Idleness causes wickedness. We went to the State fair also, there were many grand things to see. I did not expect to see so much fruit but there was any amount of it. There was a good crop of fruit in Bountiful and a fair one at Provo Bench on most places. We have not suffered any here either only we have not been very flush with peaches and we have had enough to eat of the other fruits if we have not had any to sell.

Since I last wrote you Alva Chipman has gone on a mission to the Northern States. His wife has gone to Logan to live with her folks until he comes back. They have a nice baby boy about ten months or so. Lee Harper has come home from his mission, he came just the other day. I have not seen him yet. Lucene is still clerking in the store, she is going to clerk until New Years. H. M. Nielson is going on a mission to Scandinavia next month, he leaves on the 12th Nov. I do not know of any more that are going at present. I heard Bishop Walker say that they was going to try to send two missionaries a year from this ward. So it would keep four in the field all the time. Well dear brother I have just finished washing the dinner dishes and mother and I thought we would take a drive out and see Mrs. Gustaveson and I want to post this letter on the way. Mrs. Gussie does not come to see us now, she never comes to town, she is afraid to drive her horse, he has not been used for a year or more. We are going to see your little daughter and wife while we are out. She is cuter than ever now that she is shortened, she looks like a doll. Hope you are feeling fine and dandy. Write soon to your Sister Stena.

Mother sends her love and the money to you.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Oct. 16, 1909

My Dear Husband:

It will be just one week tomorrow since I wrote to you last but I don't think I will have time to write tomorrow so I will write tonight. We just got home from your mother's, we went up there and had supper and tomorrow Stena and your mother are coming down here to see me on my birthday. A year ago I was feeling quite lonesome, it was just the day after you left Salt Lake. It has been a long old year and I do hope the next one won't seem so long. Has it been very long for you?

It seems to me like I have lived a lifetime that year. I am lonesome tonight. We went up past the old place and it gave me the blues. It is lonesome without Pa. I don't see how I can ever get along without him. I got a letter from him the other day and he asks me to tell him how you get along.

I am so glad that you were sent to such a good place and have a companion at last. I was reading Stena's letter tonight she just got and you told her your companion was from Lake Shore. If he has lived there very long he will no doubt be acquainted with Aunt Esther Banks, she lived there for years before they moved to Idaho. She was living there when Esther and I lived with her after our mother died.

Stena got the picture of you six elders. I suppose everybody in Pleasant Grove saw that picture before I did and I don't feel very good about it either. I have quit looking for one now but I think it was too bad you couldn't send me one. You can imagine how I feel to have nearly everyone I meet telling me that they saw your picture and how good it was and then I have to tell them that I haven't seen it yet. It has been three weeks since Lavina got hers. Stena just got hers and I don't care much now whether I have one or not.

Lee Harper is home and Luzine is still in the store. He came on the midnight train and she went to the store the next morning and hasn't missed a day. I should have thought she would have stayed out the first day anyhow, shouldn't you? Allen's wife has got another baby, it was born on the 10th. It is a girl so they have got four girls now and only one boy.

Melba is just growing fine, she is getting so big and fat and she gets cuter every day. I do wish you could see her. Sometimes I think it is too bad that you will never get to see her while she is so little and cute and when I get her fixed up with her little white dress, blue stockings and white sandals I feel like I would give anything if you could see her. And then when she smiles she is so sweet anyone could almost eat her up. Isn't it too bad you can't see her Nels?

Well Nels I went with your mother and Stena out to see the Old Lady last Thursday. She had never seen the baby before and she thought she was alright. I don't think it would have hurt her to have come and seen the baby before being as she pretends to think so much of you but maybe it is alright. Since we moved your mother has been down to see us three or four times and so has Stena but any of the others haven't been down yet.

Mrs. Banks asked me to come over to Spanish with Annie for Thanksgiving but I don't

know whether I will or not. Esther and Ike may come down here for then. I am helping Annie sew again and we have got so much to do we don't know which way to turn.

Well Nels I suppose it is after eleven o'clock so I had better quit and go to bed, if I have time tomorrow I will write some more on the back of this but if I don't I will send it just as it is. Goodnight Dear Nels and write soon to your loving Wife and Baby, Viola and Melba. xxxxxxxxxxxx

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Oct. 20th 1909

Dear Brother –

We received your very welcome letter a couple of days ago and was very pleased to hear from you.

We were all tickled to note that you were assigned to a good field of labor and that you have a good companion. It is a good thing that you have a companion that is old because you have been alone in the far north so long that you need somebody to hold you down, now that you are in such a large city. Nothing like having lots to do, that is when things will be lively and where you will get the actual experience.

Well brother, I have run out of writing material and my pen is like the prongs of a fork so I will have to write with lead pencil this time too. I am going down town this afternoon and I want to take this letter with me.

Last Sunday was your wife's birthday. Mother, Ernest and I went down to see her, we had a very nice time. I wish you could have been there too. Of course Viola doesn't, Eh? We told her she would have one more birthday before you came home. The baby is sweeter than ever. She is growing very fast.

Last Sunday Lee Harper spoke in meeting, he is looking fine, he says he feels fine. It was quite hard for him to express himself in the English language, the way he wanted to. Thearl Aydelotte is doing fine. Lee saw him while he was on the Islands. Mrs. Alldredge is dead, she was buried yesterday. Clara is looking very badly, I don't suppose that she will live much longer if you can tell by looks.

The boys have got their potatoes down the field dug, they got about fifty bushel of saleable potatoes and quite a number of little ones. The potatoes on Jens' place are not dug yet. The boys finished threshing beans today and run them through the ____ mill, they have 700 lbs. Isn't that fine? Just a little patch too. It is a good thing that something turned out nice.

Rulan and a number of boys are digging beets, the weather is fine and if they stay at it they can be through in another week. They say the beets are good. We have a nice crop of honey this year, the bees have certainly done well. We have more honey this year than we have ever had, I think.

We were out to see Mrs. Gustaveson last week, she is feeling pretty good but she is not so

strong as she used to be. She said to helsen you so good. She still takes an interest in her Niels. Your pictures are just fine, it is very natural of every one of you. By the way your picture doesn't look like you have suffered any for food. It is a good way to see you look so.

Perlinda and Ally live in her mother's front room, they moved to themselves Monday. Ally is working at the sugar factory.

Chris is busy talking to Orlander Herron out in the shop. I can hear his gentle voice very distinctly. Mother is reading, she has just come in from putting a piece of carpet in the loom for me to weave. Ernest is out playing, he goes to school until noon and then puts in the rest of the day playing and he loses no time I can tell. "Don't you think I knew why I have experimented."

Well brother I wrote you a long letter last time and I am just scribbling this one so I don't know whether you can make her out or not. You must take good care of yourself Niels as Ernest says, and write soon to your Sister Stena.

Mother sends her love and Chris will write next time. Mother says for you to get you some nice warm shoes now that winter will soon be here. She wants you to take good care of your corns.

Pleasant Grove, Oct., 29, 1909

My Dear Husband.

It has been nearly two weeks since I wrote to you last and so I guess you are ready for another. I am quite busy now helping Annie sew so I have neglected to write as often as I should. I would have written last Sunday but it was Stena's birthday and so I had to go up there. I got a letter from you last Tuesday and I will soon be looking for another. I got the pretty birthday card in the last one and thank you very much for it.

It has been a year now since you left and it has been a long old year to me. I do hope that the next year won't seem so long. Don't you dear?

I guess you have heard that Aunt Jane Alldredge is dead. [Relative of Aunt Lettie; her mother was an Alldredge.] She went to Salt Lake and had another stroke while she was there. They brought her home after she died and buried her here.

We have so much to do now that we don't have time to go any place.

Oh Nels I do wish you could see little Melba, she is so sweet and is getting cuter every day. You said that you guessed five dollar bills would cover her up. You must think she is little, that wouldn't cover her bottom. She is 26 in. tall and the last time I weighed her which was nearly two months ago she weighed sixteen pounds. I suppose she will weigh eighteen now. Her foot is 4 in. long and her leg just above the knee is 10 in. around, so you see she isn't so small. She is just as fat as she can be and as good as she can be. She isn't a bit cross and sits in the chair all day while I sew. She laughs out loud and tries to

talk and Oh I would give anything if you could see her.

I wonder where we will live when you come home Nels. I do wish I knew. I wish we could go to ourselves as soon as you come for I am anxious to start to keeping house. Tell me what you think we will do. I would like to talk to you a little while. I hear that they are expecting Lawrence Monson home this fall. I hope they don't keep you there any longer than two years. Don't you dearest? I started this letter last night but was too sleepy to finish it. It has been raining and snowing all day today, this is the first snow we have had this year.

Bishop Olpin was here today and invited me to a surprise party on Lee Harper tomorrow night but I don't think I will go. They invite all the missionaries wives. That is two parties I have been invited to since I moved into the First ward. Bro. Olpin asked me how you was.

You asked me to send you a copy of your Patriarchal Blessing. I haven't got it but will get it the next time I go up to your place and then copy it and send it to you.

Well Nels I went and registered the other day so I guess I will vote this year. It doesn't seem possible that I am twenty one but I guess I am. I wouldn't have thought of voting if Chris hadn't lectured me about it the last time I was up. Well Nels I wish you was here to wire this house for us. It is so dark in here that we are going to have the lights put in.

Well dearest I will close for this time because I want to run up and post this letter before dark. Melba is making so much noise I don't know what I am writing. She isn't crying but just talking, you know. Goodnight dear, write often to your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxx from Melba.

Provo Bench, Nov. 4, 1909

My Dear Brother,

It is such a long time since I wrote to you and still longer since I had a letter from you, that I feel like it is high time I was writing some more. If everyone was so slow at writing as I am you would not know much about home affairs, tho I guess you know this without me telling you.

The last time I wrote to you we were at Vernal. I don't know if you got that letter or not. We got home Sept. 15, at night, and found all of Hurler's folk here. The house was so littered up that it didn't seem much like home. Erma says "Momma, this don't seem a bit like home." They have a grown daughter and son, they're to school at Provo now, then they have three babies, their ages are 3, 2 and 10 months respectively so you see the woman has her hands full. We lived all together for three weeks then we divided rooms, they have the north part of the house and we have the south part, so it is much better for both of us now they can keep house the way they please and so can we.

In my last letter I think I told you that he had paid us two thousand dollars and he owed us \$2,250.00 more on first payment, he kept on telling us he would sure have it next week,

till we began to wonder if he would ever get it, but he sold part of his place now so he paid us the balance of first payment last week. John went all over the Bench trying to get a place for rent, but there isn't one to be got so he went to Provo to see if he could rent one there but the people down there won't rent for more than a month at a time, so John was afraid to rent any of them for fear we would have to move in the middle of the winter, so take on safe side he bought a small place down there. It has a 3 rod front and 12 rod back with a neat little brick house on. There is two rooms 14x12 feet, a nice little pantry and a clothes closet with a wardrobe built in it, has a front porch, out back of the house is a summer kitchen, cool shed and back house, it also has a good picket fence around it, there is plenty of room out back for John to build a barn for hay and horses. He paid twelve hundred eighty dollars for it. The people all tell him he got a snap. It is in third ward, 1-1/2 blocks from public school house, not far from the Academy and near the meetinghouse.

We were going to move right away but I took sick last Thurs. a week ago today [October 28], so we can't move for some time yet. A baby boy came to our house but sorry to say it just lived 30 hours, it was a nice looking baby, perfect in every way but it jut weighed 2-1/2 lbs. so you can see it didn't have much chance to live, we had it blessed and named John.

Stena is staying with me so you know I have good care. Ernest is home with ma going to school. Stena got a letter form you the other day, I am so pleased to hear that you are moved to a good place and that you have a good companion, you certainly deserve it, you have had more patience than any one else would have had. I hope you may always be blessed in a good place from now on, that you may keep well and enjoy your labors. I suppose the next time I write you we will be living in Provo. The children are well and going to school, John is delivering hay today, he has sold all we raised this year.

We have sold Bert our brown horse, the pigs and chickens to Hurlers. Our cow bloated and died a couple of weeks ago but John has bought another one. We have also sold our piano as it as so big to move around and besides we didn't have room for it so I guess I won't play one of those nice tunes you imagined you could hear when you get home.

Well dear Bro I have no more to tell you this time so will close. Trusting all is well with you, and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I remain your Loving Sister Carrie. Write soon.

Provo Bench, Nov. 4th 1909

Dear Brother –

It is some time since I wrote you so I thought I had better scratch off a line and send with Carrie's letter. I have been out here to Carrie's for over a week so I do not know many news that have happened at home.

Carrie has told you about her troubles. We were quite surprised to have anything like that happen, she is getting along a swell as she can, today is the seventh day. I went over home a couple of hours last Tuesday to vote, you know it was election day. They just had

two tickets, a citizen ticket and a republican ticket. The citizen was for prohibition and the other was not. A. E. Cooper is mayor. Westphal was snowed under and P.G. goes dry. Isn't that alright? I think prohibition is a fine thing if it is carried out right. Westphal was drunk the night of the election. Wouldn't he be a grand father of the city?

I feel a little lonesome out here on account of Ernest being in P.G., but I couldn't have him out here because he would miss school and he seems to be quite interested. Mother is taking care of him. I know that is hard on her but she said she could manage alright for a week or two. [Hannah is 61 at this point in time.]

I happened to see Viola and baby when I was over Tuesday, both were well. Baby grows so fast and is so sweet and you know how sweet your wife is.

I received your letter Tuesday and Ernest's card and thank you very much. I cannot write much this time but will write again as soon as I can. I do not know whether I will write before I go home or not but will try to. Erval is sitting here making a bow and arrow and Erma is cleaning the supper dishes and John is upstairs with Carrie. Lavina phoned out tonight and said the folks were well. Be good to yourself and write soon to your Sis. Stena. I think I will be back home when you receive this.