

[Viola's last letter to Niels is dated October 29 and the next one in the shoebox from her is dated January 12<sup>th</sup>. The sequencing isn't very accurately marked, but the letters have been numbered and there appears to be about seven missing.]

Gefle, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1909

My Dear Wife –

Once more I take the time and pleasure to write you a few lines. Your welcome letter came to hand a few days ago and I was pleased to hear from you again, even if you did give me another send off because I had forgotten to send you a photo and Stena and Lavina had received each one. But I hope you have received one now and will forgive me for my mistake that I have made.

The last letter I received was the one you wrote on the night before your birthday, just one year since you last saw your husband. You say the year has seemed a lifetime to you. Well dear wife I'll bet it does seem a long while for you, for you have been tied up considerable and your pleasures have been limited. I realize it has been a harder row for you to hoe than it has for me, for while I have left my dear wife and friends and come into a new country still I have had much to draw my time and attention and time has passed quite smoothly although my thought often wanders back to home sweet home. I am glad mother and Stena spent your birthday with you and I wouldn't mind having the pleasure of doing so myself but we must live in hopes dear wife that many more of your birthdays won't pass before I am with you. I hardly think I will be with you next time but if all goes well I will be there at the next. I have no idea yet as to when I will get released but according to the way they are keeping the rest of them I don't know whether I will spend Xmas of 1910 with you or not. Of course there is no use worrying about that matter yet for only one year has passed since I landed in Sweden.

I believe you when you say it gives you the blues when you pass your old home and your father is not there. I wish he had worked another year before selling his place for it would have been more pleasant on your account, but I suppose he has done it for the best and time will tell the results. I hope you have a nice time on Thanksgiving day and if you have any turkey, eat a piece for me.

So that was the first time Mrs. Gustaveson saw the baby? Stena says she is afraid to drive her horse and don't come to town very often so I presume that is the reason she hasn't paid you a visit. So Lee Harper is back home from his three year's mission? It does seem a little strange that Luzine went to work the day after he came home. I think I would want to be with my wife all the time and not allow her to clerk for at least a few days. Say, dearest, I can just imagine how nice it will be when I come back to my loving wife and baby.

So Melba is getting cuter every day is she? I certainly would like to see her in her pretty costume which you described. You must be sure to have her photo taken again when she gets six months so I can see how cute she is. It is a shame that I can't see her while she is so young but she will also be cute when I come home. Don't you think so dearest?

Well dearest since I last wrote to you I have had the pleasure of performing a baptism, the first time in my life. The man I baptized was fifty one years old and a year ago he was an infidel so you can see what a change he has taken since the elders have worked with him. The Sacred Ordinance was performed in a river and the water was quite fresh so we got cooled off pretty well, but we are willing to baptize in the middle of winter if anyone applies for baptism.

Well dearest I just came home from tracting so I will finish this letter and send it off tonight. Tracting is certainly quite an experience for we receive nearly all manner of questions. It seems like nearly everyone I visited today had something to say about polygamy so my head is stirred up somewhat and it seems as though I can almost see those awfully cruel Mormons back in Utah mistreating their poor, pitiful, overworked wives and oh! what a terrible sight it is. The people here are so completely filled with this about slavery in Utah, that it is almost impossible to get them to listen to some truth. O course some will talk to us but the majority are not looking for anything in the shape of religion. I often wonder what is going to become of such people, but I suppose there is a just God who will reward each one for their words and deeds. My desire is to continue to seek learning by study and to encourage others to do the same for it is impossible for a person to be saved in ignorance as the glory of God is intelligence. There is work enough to do for myself and kindred too. Now dear wife I will draw to a close with my very best love hoping you are well and enjoying yourself as much as can be expected. Give my regards to Annie and the children and write soon to your loving Nels.

P.S. Bro. Beckstrom says he is acquainted with your Aunt Esther, you mother and all her brothers and sisters, and your mother's father and mother, and the Banks family. He sends best regards.

Provo Bench, Nov. 12, 1909

Dear Brother:

I received your welcome letter yesterday and was very glad to hear from you and to note that you are well, O that you are in a good place. I am glad that you are kept so busy, for it will do you good. The more you do in that line the more you will be able to do. I know that you are doing alright. I felt so sorry for you all the while that you were in the north, and I was so angry at your president for leaving you alone so long, if I had know his address I would have given him a good talking to, so maybe it was good I didn't know it. It would have made him think your sister was a fright. If you are in such a good place now you certainly deserve being there, you ought to have the very best place in Sweden to make up for what you didn't have the past year, but as you say I suppose you gained much experience you could not have got other ways. After the time has past and you look back, I guess you don't mind it, but I'll be you wonder how you stood it.

We have had some stormy weather of late, but yesterday and today is just beautiful. John took a load of kindling wood to Provo today. That is the first load. We are going to move soon as I am well enough. Stena has been home for two days to wash and iron, she came back last night, she is going to stay with me another week, if all is well at home.

John says if he knew what kind of a house to build he would be digging a cellar now, soon as the weather will permit next spring we are going to commence building. I will be glad when we get built once more, you know that is where John's work will be. I think it is much nicer to live on the farm than in town. When our house and barn gets built John is going to set out a small orchard, he says about three acres. We are not going to have a large orchard anymore, it is too much work, you know.

Well dear brother, I haven't any more to tell you this time so will close, trusting all is well with you, and hope that you may keep well and enjoy your labors while you are away and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I remain your Loving Sister Carrie. Write soon. I thank you very much for the picture you sent me, I think it is very nice. You look so fine.

Provo Bench, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 1909

Dear Brother,

I have about five minutes to scratch off a line to send with Carrie's letter and I thought it a shame to have it go off without a line from me too.

I was over home Wednesday and Thursday and came back on the bench Thurs. night. The folks were feeling pretty well, mother has a cold, but was feeling better than she had. Ernest was feeling fine, he says he has to take care of grandma while I am to Aunt Carrie's. He likes school just fine. Chris was busy looking over book accounts and working in the shop, and Jens is fussy with business too. Delbert has had the chicken pox but was about well when I was home. The rest of the kids was fine. The most exciting thing over there then was the reports of the election (I mean city election). The boys were ready to crow. Ed Warburton and his brother killed a couple of bears up Grove Creek canyon. Wasn't that nice! Out here to Carrie's there is something a doing, Carrie is downstairs now and it makes us all toe the mark. She isn't able to go out doors yet, today she is doing fancy work. I think they will move to Provo next week, and I am going home to stay in a few days. It is quite cloudy today, she looks like she is going to snow.

I don't know any news so will close till next time. Hope you are enjoying good health and your labors. Take good care of yourself, Niels, and write soon to Your Sister Stena.

Pl. Grove, Nov. 26/09

Dear Bro:

I take pleasure in writing you a few lines. I am feeling pretty well and am getting on pretty fair. And hope you are the same. I received your welcome letter the other day and note you are getting in to the harvest a little more. I think that is all right because that will give you practice. If you haven't a whole lot to say pound the pulpit till the stuffing comes out and holler just as loud as possible. Then they will think you are from Utah and that you are a fine preacher.

Well Neils we are getting along all right with our fall work. We have the manure out

except what is over to Jens's. We have 6 or 7 acres plowed. It is good plowing. John Christiansen is helping us a few days. We had a fine thanksgiving. All we wanted to eat. Viola and the kid was up here. I hope you had a mess of [looks like maybe a Swedish dish, "Sel\_\_fler"]. We have done all right in business except collections are slow. I counted up \$1400 on the ledger all good but slow. We have over \$3000 in notes, they are most all coming in. Jens has a quite bit out for plumbing. We have a chance to buy Beers store [NW of Center on 100 N.] for \$2000 and we still have a chance to get part of Williamsons shop ground. But we are undecided what to do. There is always expense to move. Business would be better I think down in town. But I suppose we can think about it anyway.

[Hans and Chris Williamson in partnership with Ole Christiansen owned a blacksmith shop at the head of Main.]

We are sending you a draft for \$50.00 which I suppose you will need by the time it reaches you. I will close by wishing God's speed. Your Bro. C.A. Fugal

Dear Niels. The folks sends their love. Carrie said to helsen you. Her address now is: Mrs. John E. Christensen, 366 West 4<sup>th</sup> North, Provo, Utah. [Stena] [This home is no more; torn down for apartments.]

Gefle, Nov. 26, 1909

Dear Wife Viola:

Your short but sweet letter came to hand a few days since and now I will endeavor to write you a few lines in return. I am glad to learn that you are busy but I hope you won't get too industrious and overdo yourself. It is gratifying to know that Annie has lots of sewing for I suppose that is what she depends on to support her now, and it is also nice to know that you can help her and probably receive a little compensation in so doing, for you are almost the same as a widow with a child until I return home. I often wonder how you are making it financially and I would be glad if you will tell me your condition in that line. You don't know how I would like to be with you so I could have a right good chat with you. It seems a long time since I spoke to you and it will yet be a long time before I have the pleasure of conversing with my own true love. I am not homesick but my thoughts are often there anyway and in my prayers you are always remembered. I hope my dear wife attends to her prayers regularly and there is no doubt in my mind but what you do. I fell well blessed in my labors and I believe that the many prayers that are offered to God in my behalf have a great deal to do with it.

We are interested in our labors here in Gefle and desirous to make good progress in converting souls to follow the plans of God which have been made for the salvation of people. Opposition stares us in the face but still we feel like pressing on and endeavor to work in harmony with the promptings of the Holy Ghost and through work, humility and faith attain some good results.

We have with us at present President Anthon Pehrson and Hyrum Hansen both from Sundsvall Branch. They arrived here yesterday morning and will remain until Monday,

when they will return to Sundsvall. It is Friday today. Elder Hansen came with to practice us up in singing and we certainly need it. They were with us at our mutual last night and we had a very nice program arranged and also gave our worthy president the pleasure of speaking to us. This evening we will have choir practice so I will see how good my lungs are and try to make the windows rattle with my tremendous bass voice.

I hear that the saints are going to prepare a little feast and lively time here tomorrow night in honor of our visitors so I surmise a good time is insured. Sunday we will hold as usual Bible Class, Sunday S. and Public meeting at 5 p.m. and than at 8 p.m. we will hold another public meeting in a large hall that we have hired for the purpose. We have placed an announcement in the paper stating that the "Mormons" will hold services in said hall so a crowd is expected, and a crowd is what we want if there is any show. We have tried to talk the Pres. into the notion of letting Elder Hansen stay with us a week longer to practice us up in singing, but our persuading seems to have no effect for he claims that Elder Hansen is needed just as much in Sundsvall. We appreciate the short visit, but would like it extended. We need a choir leader here for we have some pretty good material if we only had someone to place the material in harmony.

Nov. 27. Good morning, dear. I had to stop writing last night to prepare supper and after supper we had choir practice. It is now 7:30 a.m. and I have been up about one hour. The house is warm and the supper dishes are washed so now I will finish the letter so it will leave here at noon. Today I must go and notify a few families of friends, which I have met while tracting, to attend our meeting Sunday night. I must also prepare the Sunday school lesson and also try to store my head with something to say tomorrow, for fear I am called on to preach.

I am quite surprised to learn of the bad luck that sister Carrie had. It's too bad such a thing should happen but I am pleased to note that she is getting along nicely. I tell you I am glad our little Melba came to this world safe and sound and I hope she will continue to be well like you say she is at present. Say dearest, it will be nice to meet you and daughter in the sweet by and by and I am quite anxious for that time to come. So Chris brot your winter potatoes did he? Do you remember those pleasant times when I brot potatoes to you in S. L. City. Say dearest when I think of the pleasant times that have entered into the pages of history it almost makes one wish they would come again, but I suppose there are others just as pleasant that are awaiting us and the future is rich with great opportunities if we will endeavor to seek after them. Goodbye dearest loving wife. God bless you and baby is the prayer of your true and loving husband Nels. Write soon. Kiss Melba a few for papa and accept these xxxxxxxoo.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Novl. 26<sup>th</sup> 1909

Dear Brother –

Say Niels, I guess you think I have entirely deserted you as far as writing goes, but I have thot of you every day and thot I should write but still I have put it off. John Nelson has been up here for a couple of hours and Chris has been playing the phonograph to entertain us. John and Carrie and the kids came over to see us yesterday as it was Thanksgiving and they are going to visit until Sunday. It seems a treat, they haven't been over since

they moved to Provo. Carrie is feeling pretty good now. I came home last Saturday. Viola and baby were up to see us Thanksgiving too and were feeling fine. The baby is as cute as it can be, she is as fat as a butterball. I bet you wish you could see her.

I haven't been anywhere only to Sunday school and there was a nice entertainment Tuesday night. It was New Zealanders that took the parts. A highly educated New Zealander, his wife and a daughter, they were just fine. Then a man to run the magic lantern, they showed so many New Zealand scenes. I hadn't any idea that New Zealand was such a pretty place. The people have been civilized only sixty years and now they are doing fine. There will be three other entertainments, the school stands at the head and the four entertainments cost \$300.00. So it ought to be high class entertainments.

Say kid I did not get my letter finished last night and there is an agent here talking implements, he has been here nearly all day. These agents are enough to make anyone tired. Maybe it is a good thing to be in the business proper but I don't see it. It looks big to me.

Today it is as cold as blazes. When we go outside we are not slow in coming in again. Jens and John are in the field ploughing but I guess they can keep warm.

I don't know of any news, only Jens' children have the chicken pox. Delbert has had them and commenced school again. The children are doing fine considering. Oh yes! Delila Radmall and Lawrence Walker got married lat Wed. Dr. Jones and Caddie Stewart got married Thursday. Bro. Atwood got buried yesterday, he had another stroke. It seems too bad, he was not a very old man.

This is a very rambling letter, no doubt you think I have talked about everything and told you nothing. So I will close with sending you a little Xmas present. It will be almost Christmas by the time that you receive this letter. Hannah Vorhees is in the Holy Cross Hospital at Salt Lake, she was operated on by five doctors, it lasted for 8 hours 10 min. She had a tumor and other things were wrong. She is very low but is doing as well as can be expected. Her husband is with her. She said she had not been north of Sanpete. It is too bad that her first trip should be like this.

Write soon to your Sister Stena. Regards to your companion.

Gefle, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> 1909

My Dear Darling Wife;

My happiest moments are when my thoughts wander home to my dear wife. It seems quite nice to try to express my thoughts in a letter, but oh! how much nicer it would be to talk to you face to face. You often write you would give anything if I were home with you, and I want to tell you that my feelings are so that I can sanction your desires and wish that I were with you too. But time is rolling on quite smoothly and I am feeling fine both physically and spiritually and hope that the present finds you in the same condition. While I don't always enjoy the best kind of pleasure and treatment here in my field of labor, still, I feel that my darling wife has the harder row to hoe of the two. I realize that

you are pretty well tied up and are trying to earn something by the tiresome needlework, and that your pleasures are not many, but I hope my darling will not get despondent or discouraged but will fight her trials bravely and as much as possible look on the bright side of things. I hope you have a bright and pleasurable future before you and I want to tell you (my dear sweetheart) that if love and labor will cause you to become a happy wife, you certainly will become one, for my love for you is greater than I can find words to express and my intentions to work are good. They say "absence makes the heart grow fonder," but I believe my wife's presence would make my heart grow fondest, and by reading your letters I can tell that your soul is full of hope for a pleasant future.

Received your last letter a few days since and it was the one that contained the shape of Melba's hand. She is a little fatty alright, and I hope she will always be as healthy as you claim she is at present. You say that she sits in the chair all day and doesn't get tended at all, but I hardly think you could keep your hands off the dear little soul for a whole day at a time. There is no doubt in my mind but what little Melba receives first class treatment from her good mother.

Well dearest I am glad you are interested in our future welfare and that you have your mind upon the same to some extent. Your thoughts about buying Alldredge's place harmonize with mine and I think I shall write to Chris and tell him to keep his eyes open, and if he can buy it for a reasonable price to do so, for I don't know of a more suitable location for you and I to make our abode. We must have a place and we just as well go in debt first as last. If we never try anything we will never succeed. By the way your letter reads I may find you living in Provo when I return home. Well I suppose you are not so very particular where you live from now and till I come home, but I think it would be more pleasant for you to stay in P.G.

How is your father and Aunt Hanna making it way down south? You better send me their address so I can drop them a line. Give them my best regards when you write them, also the rest of the folks down there in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. If you can afford it I will be very pleased for you to have yours and the baby's photo taken before long and send one to me, for I am anxious to see how you both look together now.

Well dearest we are still pegging away the best we can and trying to convert sinners. Our Sunday School and meetings are pretty well attended and we feel quite encouraged in the work. Last night we had quite a number of visitors at our meeting and I held them down for fifty minutes trying to prove from the bible what is necessary for people to do to become members of the Kingdom of God. I tell you I am quite a Swedish orator, but I guess the benches became quite hard for the guests who are compelled to feast on fifty minutes worth of tastily decorated phrases as they were served by such a dignified preacher. I don't know whether I will amount to much or not but I am here trying and willing to let the consequence follow. I often wonder how the saints can stand to hear us every Sunday but it looks like some of them wouldn't miss a meeting for anything. I feel like, that anyone who can stand to hear us every Sunday can easily stand to hear Bro. Ben Peterson bear his testimony every Sunday. Oh! yes, I don't believe I have told you about our worthy President's and Elder Hansen's visit here at Gefle. While they were here we held an extra meeting in a large hall which we hired and we had quite a nice attendance and Pres. Pehrson fed them on gospel facts with such a flavor that I believe they could

digest them alright. The brethren left us a week ago today and if I remember right I think I wrote to you last the day after their arrival here so it is about ten days since I wrote you last but I hope you will excuse me for any procrastination and not think that my thoughts are from you even if the letters don't come so very often. I am always very anxious to hear from you and I know that you like to hear from me. Will close now, hoping to hear from you soon. Your loving husband. Niels Fugal xxxxxxxx

Provo, Utah, Dec. 6 1909

Dear Brother

It is with pleasure I write you a few lines, although I feel as tho I had nothing to write about.

As you have heard we are living in Provo. It is nearly three weeks since we came down, in that time we haven't had any of our neighbors call on us, and don't think they are very sociable. We went to meeting last Sunday – it was fast meeting. The people seemed quite interested, they bore some very good testimonies, they keep jumping up so fast one after the other that I was begining to think they weren't going to give the bishop a chance to dismiss, but they did. We spent Thanksgiving over to ma's, I don't know what we are going to do for Xmas. We have a nice coat of snow here, if it will just snow a little more we will have sleighing.

John has got material here to build a barn, he is waiting for Jens to come help him build it, but it looks as tho he will have to take it out in waiting, Jens has so many jobs on hand. Well Niels I was so glad that you are in a better place now, and that you are so busy. Where you have plenty to do, time goes so much better. I hope you may keep well, and that you will enjoy your labors. Take good care of yourself so you may keep well. I have no more to tell you this time so will close. Trusting all is well with you and wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, I remain as ever Your Loving Sister Carrie.

Enclosed you will find Ten Dollars, which John sends you for Xmas. Write soon.

Pl. Grove, Dec. 9/09

Dear Bro.

I take pleasure in writing you a few words. I am the Same Old Chicken yet. Everything is moving slowly. It is hard to get money from people who are owing us. We have about \$2000.00 in book account that is for plumbing as well as other accounts. But I think they pretty much all come up. It is winter now but we have plenty to do. Jens just started to plumb Nels Fenton at present.

I forget to tell you that we have the Estate under way for Probation. I am Administrator. I think the way it will be settled that mother gets a deed on the property, she is to have as long as she lives, then it will be mine and yours. I don't know yet what property she will get but I think the house and part of the 14 acres. Stena will get \$300.00, Carrie will withdraw her portion. It is in court now but it won't be settled until some time near as 6

month's notice has to be given to creditors. It is the same as we have talked about before. When we get far enough along papers will be sent to you for your signature. I thought the sooner the better to get that matter fixed up. We are thinking some about having a Scandinavian dance just before the holidays. I have thought some of going to Sanpete Christmas but I don't know yet. Prowsman, the man who lives in Alldredges house is waiting for me so I will cut loose here. I hope you are getting on in good shape. With best regards from your Bro. C. A. Fugal

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> 1909

Dear Brother –

We received your welcome letter of Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and was pleased to hear from you and especially to note that you are well. Mother just reminded me that it was almost two weeks since we sent our last letter so it is time I commenced this letter. We are all well at present except mother and she is able to be about. She is about the same as usual.

If you could peep in this minute you would see mother in the rocking chair, knitting to beat the band. She is finishing her fourth pair this last month. She wants to get them washed and colored before Christmas. Chris is sitting by the table scratching off a few lines to you, and Ernest is out making a snowman. We have a couple of inches of snow here but no sleighing. It is thawing now so I don't suppose we will have a sleigh ride for some time yet. You stated that the sleigh bells were ringing where you are. I rather like the snow when it isn't too cold, I like it so much better than mud. I am going to send Ernest down to the office with this letter, he likes to do that.

All the children are commencing to talk about Santa Claus. I think Santa will have to get busy if he brings all they want. Ernest wants a sleigh and drum and several other things that he can think of and some he can't. He likes school just fine.

Lavina's children have all had the chicken pox but are all well again. Delbert and Vida go to school again. Jens is busy plumbing, he is working now for Nels Fenton. I was telling Jens this morning that he was working for a man that does not have much patience (somewhat hotheaded you know).

We have not heard from John and Carrie since they went home, they do not have the telephone in their house and none of their neighbors have the Bell phone. I suppose they are OK or they would let us know.

Say kid, the missionary committee gave a dance in the new hall, a very large crowd attended, mostly married folks. There was a basketball just before the dance played by the married men of the 3<sup>rd</sup> against the married men of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> wards. It was men that had never played before and they had never had a practice so you can tell it was very amusing to watch, many came just to see the game. The men that played of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward were: Ed Warburton, Ole Christianson, Tom Richins, Jens Fugal and Mayor C. F. Westphal. Of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> wards were Ben Blake, Henry Jeppson, Santford Walker Sr., Chucky Adams and Albert Olpin. The game was 12 to 6 in favor of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward. Hurrah! The committee sold refreshments. I don't think they made much out of the

refreshments. They are going to send the missionaries a Xmas present. The money will be divided between them all. I have not yet learned how much the proceeds are.

Allie Radmall has gone to the sheep herd. He gets a different job every new moon. Rulan Lim has gone to the sheep herd for the winter. The boys do not have enough work to pay them to hire a man now. He could not do much more than chores and that would not pay.

Lew Nielson and Davy Adamson have had a flare up. Lew has moved to town again. I suppose he would be glad to come back and work for us by the way he acts. I don't think he done the right thing by the boys last summer after they had given him employment all winter to pick up and leave in the rush. I think they have promised Rulan a job in the spring.

I saw Viola and baby the other day, both were looking fine. The baby is sweeter than ever.

I don't know of any news so will close wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be good to yourself and don't forget to feed the stove so you can keep warm. Write soon to your Loving Sis. Stena.

Mother thanks you very much for her letter, she would be glad to answer it if she could only write, you know. Love from her and all.