

[Letter continued from Stena to Niels, May 23, 1910.]

The boys sold Old Bess the other day to Mr. Knight that lives on this side of American Fork. She will have a good home, but we will miss her, she was the one we drove the buggy. Mack is alright but he works nearly all the time. Kate is a nice animal but we dare not drive her, "she goes like a streak, don't you think I knew." Four horses was really more than they needed so we will be content to have a buggy ride once in awhile. They received \$90.00 for Bess.

Chris is busy working in the shop. The anvil is more than ringing right now. He is setting and fitting tires today. The boys have sold six of their old buggies that they took on the new ones. Armitage is up in the shade of the old apple trees painting old rigs. Your buggy, the surrey, that old wagon buggy and a couple more. The boys believe in being good to the help. Armitage will have a job the biggest part of the summer, he uses his spare time and he believes in short hours. Jens is busy with plumbing, Alvin Carlson still helps him. He has two jobs that he hasn't started yet.

Mother is knitting a pair of stockings for me for next winter so that will keep her employed for some time, they are about two and a half feet long. Mother has the rheumatism some yet, but she gets around pretty well.

Ernest bought a pair of rabbits today of Glen Jacobson, he is so tickled for them, he has fed them a half a dozen times already. Every few minutes he comes and asks me, "Don't you think I better feed my rabbits a little more clover?" He is lying on the floor asleep now dreaming of his rabbits. It is the first time he has slept in the daytime all spring. It is hot today, it is enough to make anyone sleepy.

Last night there was an eclipse of the moon. Did you see it? The moon went totally dark. Have you seen Haley's Comet? We can see it now every night, it looks just about the same as a star only a little larger and dimmer and a dim streak of light for the tail I suppose. Some say the comet has lost its tail. There isn't any of us that has lost any sleep or worried over it.

Well Nielcy, you will find a draft of fifty dollars in this letter. The boys have not been very swift in sending it, but hope you will have got along alright until you receive this. It is my fault as I have been so slow in writing. Be good to yourself. The folks sends their love. Your Sister Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., May 24, 1910

My Dear Husband

I have been trying to find time to write to you ever since I got the letter with your picture but today I just stopped working to write to you. I thank you very much for the picture, it is just as sweet as can be. I think it looks more like you did when you were here. Every time I look at it I feel like I would just like to get hold of you and hug you as hard as I can. You are lots thinner than you were so you must have been working too hard or worrying too much and you must not do either. You look so dignified though I can't

hardly believe it is the same Nels that left home about one year and a half ago.

In your last letter you said you was in Sundsvall but conference hadn't started. I hope you enjoyed the conference and was sent back to Gefle with Bro. Woodard being as you wanted to go so bad.

Yes I was in Salt Lake during conference but I only attended one meeting. You see Esther lives a long way from the Tabernacle and it is quite tiresome to carry a big baby around. The day we went I was just give out when we got home. Melba weighs 22 pounds and then when she has to see everything she is not so easy to carry. Then one day of conference it was snowing and I couldn't take the baby out. I went to meeting here last Sunday. It was Mothers and Daughters meeting and Dr. Kelley from Am. Fork spoke to us. He is a fine speaker and I enjoyed it very much but I didn't get to stay until it was out. Melba got so restless that I had to take her out so I went up to your mother's and spent the rest of the day.

We are quite busy sewing now. We are making a dress for Lavina now and she wants it for the fourth of June as she is going to MIA conference in Salt Lake. I started to write this letter yesterday but Stena came down and so I didn't finish it. Your mother sent five dollars down to me and Stena gave me a dollar because they said they want me to have a new dress. Stena, Lavina and Annie have one and so they think I ought to have one too. I wish they would quit giving me so much money, I hate to take it but I don't know what to do. Can you tell me dear?

You said in your last letter that you thought you would be home to take a May walk with me next year. Don't you think you will be home before that Nels? Just think another whole year. I know I can't live that much longer without you. I don't think it is right if they keep you that long Nels because we need you at home lots worse than you are needed over there. I do hope that you can come home for Xmas. Just think Nels it would just be seven months until I would see you again. If I once get you back I'll never let you leave me again. Would you like to stay till spring or would you sooner come home this fall. If they ask you please do tell them you want to come this fall.

Melba cried so I had to take her on my lap. She is sitting here so nice watching me write and I guess she is wondering what I am doing. She will soon be walking now, she goes all around by chairs and things but she can't stand alone yet. She has two teeth now. Just think Nels by the time you get this letter your little daughter will be one year old. Wouldn't you like to see her though. Just think how it would be if I had never seen her. Oh she is sweet, Nels, it would jut tickle you to death to see her dance. You can tell she is a Fugal alright, she likes to dance so well.

Annie is going to Spanish Fork Saturday for Decoration day and I guess I will go up to your mother's. I guess you are tired of reading this so will close. Write often and longer letters. Melba sends a kiss to papa. Goodbye for this time, your loving Viola.

Gefle, May 28th, 1910

My Dear Wife;

Once more I take time and pleasure in writing you a letter. I like to write to you about every week when I can, even if I don't receive one from you that often. I might state here that it is just four weeks ago yesterday since I received your last letter and I am commencing to wonder what is the matter. I received a letter from Stena a few days ago and she says you have come back from Salt Lake City. I hope you enjoyed yourself while there and that the present finds you in perfect health and happiness, enjoying the cool mountain breezes of Pleasant Grove.

In my letter to you I gave an account of our trip to conference and the rich time we enjoyed while we were at Lörstrand. I would like to write a little more about the same subject and that is concerning a visit to the leprosy hospital which Bro. Woodard and I had the pleasure of taking. There is only one leprosy hospital in Sweden and that one is in a town called Järfös about five miles from Lörstrand. Bro. Woodard and I filled our book sacks with tracts and small books and also one Book of Mormon and after arriving at the hospital and getting permission of the head nurse we entered the various rooms where the afflicted people were and talked to them and gave them freely of our literature. There are forty-two who have this awful disease and to see what affect the disease has upon the poor souls is certainly a sight that causes a healthy person to appreciate his good health. Many of them are blind caused by the disease decaying and eating up the eyes. We saw one lady that had been there for thirty years and her nose and ears were completely gone and her fingers and toes were nearly all gone. She could hear us talk and she would also talk to us but she could not see but a very little. There were many who were in about the same condition as she but they had not been afflicted so long a time. I spoke to a man who was blind and had an artificial leg, and when he told me that he had been there about one and a half years, I thought to myself that is just the same length of time that I have been from my home but thank the Lord it is a mission I am serving and not a confinement to a leprosy hospital. Some of the patients can go about and do a little work but they know they will die sooner or later and never get well from that awful disease. The disease is not contagious but it is caused by impure blood and people inherit the disease. We presented the head nurse a Book of Mormon and told her to let the people read it which she promised to do. We feel well paid for our trip there and hope that our literature will console those who read it that they may rest assured that the time will come when they will have bodies that are free from disease and they won't have to be penned up in a leprosy hospital.

May 30th 1910. Dear wife, I never finished my letter Saturday because before I finished it I went to the depot to meet Pres. Beckstrom and Elder Ernest Johnsson who has just come from Sundsvall. Elder Johnsson is released and is on his way home but will remain in Gefle until tomorrow when he takes the train to Stockholm. Pres. Beckstrom is here paying us a visit and he intends to remain here about ten days. Yesterday he and Elder Johnsson did the preaching so we Gefle elders had the pleasure of listening for once. While Pres. Beckstrom is with us we intend to go off to a town by name of Sandviken and there do some canvassing and try to hold meetings. While Beckstrom and I were partners we went to this same place and were treated kindly and invited back so we all four are going to try our luck for a few days. We leave here tomorrow.

If I don't receive a letter from you today I won't get any until I come back, making it five

weeks since I received your last, but I will rest contented and hope you are well and also dear little Melba. I hope the summer will seem to pass quickly for you so you won't think your husband is too slow in coming home. I suppose you have good warm days in Utah now and from now on it will be pleasant to sit in the shade. I hope you attend your meetings as much as possible, for I know if you will do so, you will acquire an interest in the same, and you will feel more contented, and learn to know the purpose of your existence, and the rules to follow to become perfect, that you may someday become as your Mother in heaven (i.e., your Heavenly Mother). Will now draw to a close with best love and kind wishes hoping to hear from you in the near future, I remain, Niels Fugal.
xxxxooxxx

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 2, 1910

My Darling Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I again take time to write to you. I have been looking for a letter from you for a week but it hasn't come yet and it is two weeks since I got your last. But then I guess I haven't any room to talk because I don't write to you as often as I should but you know you get so many letters it doesn't make so much difference to you whether you get my letters or not. Annie went to Spanish Fork for Decoration Day and I went up to your mother's. I had a very nice time up there and they just about eat Melba up she is so cute now. I wish you could see her. She walks all over by chairs and things but she can't go alone yet.

I went to meeting last Sunday. It was Primary conference and I enjoyed it very much. I saw Alma Christiansen Sunday and he got your address and said he was going to write to you. I saw Lawrence Monson but didn't speak to him. He wears his Prince Albert coat. Joe Walker has gone to Salt Lake to get married. It has been so hot here the last three or four days that we almost melt. Your mother gave me five dollars the other day. Annie is already to go to town now so will have to close, will write you a longer letter next time. Your loving wife. Annie says to tell you hello.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 12, 1910

Dear Bro,

Nearly a week has passed since we received your very welcome letter and contents were noted with pleasure. We are glad that you enjoyed conference and were sent to your old field of labor. No doubt the president thought that would be the best place for you. We were a little surprised that they did not release your companion, Bro. Woodard, being as he had been there so long. It is very nice for you to have a good companion and of course it is nice for him too if he feels like he can stay. He has had experience now so he can accomplish much good. We are glad to learn that the people are being converted to the truth of the gospel as it makes you feel like you are doing some good. A mission is a fine thing for the people and also for the missionary. You gain knowledge that you cannot gain elsewhere. I hope you will pardon me for writing with a lead pencil because I am in a mood to scribble and do not want to bother with ink.

Last Saturday June 4th Lavina and Ernest and I went to Salt Lake City to attend the MIA annual conference, the meetings were well attended and we enjoyed them very much. Lavina came home the same day but Ernest and I stayed until Monday night. Ernest had not seen his grandma Clayton since she moved to the city. The folks were all getting along nicely except Lillie, she is at the LDS Hospital, she underwent a very serious operation about two weeks ago, she is getting along as well as can be expected. Mrs. Clayton does not enjoy the best of health and worry makes her worse. Mr. Clayton works at a soda plant in the city and on his place between times.

Last Wednesday night my Sunday school class had a surprise on me at Lavina's. There were about twenty five. I was certainly surprised, I can tell you. We had a nice time. Wednesday morning Bro. Hilton fell twenty five feet from off a barn that his building for Bishop Walker. He was sitting on a board and reached up to nail another board when the one he was sitting on gave way and he fell over backwards, striking his back and shoulder on the hard ground. He was unconscious for nearly an hour. He is very bruised and sore but no bones are broken. I was up to see him last night. His neck pains him very badly, he thinks he will be able to get up in a week or so. I feel so sorry for Ethel too.

Today I have been to Sunday school and union meeting at American Fork. Our S.S. are doing fairly well for the short time it has been organized. Tuesday will be our mother's birthday and tomorrow I will have to get myself busy making cakes, pies and other goodies to prepare for the event.

Say kid, your baby is sweeter than ever. She can say "how do you do" and bow her head so nice as anybody. She can say "ta-ta" and "no-no" and "colla colla." I guess 'colla colla' stands for Colla Anderson, it is too cute for anything the way she says it. I thought a while ago she looked like you but she does not now as she is too handsome for that (Eh?). Annie and Viola were up this evening, they are feeling fine.

The Scandinavians are going to celebrate on the 24th of June. Perlinda has been practicing some little girls to wind the May pole. She is feeling fine. Ally has gone to the sheep herd and the little miss is fine too. Viola, mother and I went over to see Uncle Jacob Friday afternoon. Your cousins are getting so large you would hardly know them. Oh yes, you would, you could tell them among a thousand.

Rulan Lim is working here now and Lew also. They have their beets thinned now and it will soon be time to mow hay, they have cut a little already for the sake of feed. The boys are still selling implements and buggies once in a while but still have a lot on hand yet and I expect they will have always as they have bought ten buggies since they received that carload. Everything looks dandy, cherries are ripe, the roses are out in bloom, and the grass is green even if we haven't had a rain for two months. Be good to yourself Niels and write to your Sis Stena.

Mother sends her love. We received your photo OK, it is just fine, you look like a minister alright especially with your bible opened. Thank you very much for same. What have you done with your superfluous flesh? It is now Monday morning, mother is getting ready to go to the depot to meet Ellen from Sandy, she is coming to celebrate mother's birthday, and I want to send my epistle with her. Chris was going to write you this time

but he is so busy, the anvil is more than singing this morning. He said to tell you hello and that he would write you a line next time. Yours, Stena. Excuse scribbling.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 15, 1910

My Dear Nels:

I just rec'd your long looked for letter and was very glad to hear from you again. You said it had been four weeks since you had heard from me. I was quite busy for awhile there but I didn't think it was that long between my letters. I know I don't write as often as I should, but you get so many letters it don't make much difference whether you get one from me or not.

Well Nels I was up to your mother's yesterday, it was her birthday you know and I believe she was looking for a letter or something from you to show that you remembered her birthday. I hope that you have sent her a card or a birthday letter for I know she will be disappointed if you forget it because she said to me two or three days ago, "I wonder if Niels will remember my birthday," and I said yes, I don't think he will forget that.

You know today is little Melba's birthday. Mrs. Lim gave Melba 50¢ yesterday and your mother \$1.00 and Mrs. Ellen Gustafson from Sandy gave her 50¢ and Stena 25¢ and a bank. Esther sent some embroidery for to make her a new dress so you see she got quite a few presents on her first birthday. Did you remember the 15th that it was your daughter's first birthday. I had her picture taken the other day and just got the proofs so will send them to you. I hope they won't be faded so you can see how sweet she is. Let me know if they are. I think I will have No. B finished, which do you like best. [Proofs are enclosed but the ravages of time, heat and moisture have taken their toll; they are like a blank negative.]

Dear Nels, I wish you was home, it has been so long since you left. Well dear I guess I will close now, Melba wants me to take her. I got a letter from Pa and he said he got your picture and was much pleased with it. I got mine too and like it so much. I am glad you sent me both kinds for I can't decide which I like best. Thanks very much. Your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxx Pa sent me \$5 and wrote such a nice letter, he was quite pleased with the letter he got from you.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., June 16, 1910

My Dear Husband

It hasn't been a week since I wrote but I guess it will be all right with you if I write a few lines tonight and send with Stena's letter. I have been staying up here to your mother's for over a week. Annie went to Salt Lake with Esther and I guess she is there yet. I don't think I will live with Annie any more, we don't get along very well so I think I shall go down and live with Father until you come back and Oh Nels I do hope it won't be long for I know I will be so lonely away down there.

I was so pleased to hear that Mart had come to see you and I hope that you have a nice

time together. Did you show him your baby's picture? And what does he think of her? Oh Nels she gets sweeter every day, she runs all over now and just as soon as she sees the door is unhooked she makes a beeline for it. I had to tie her up to the table leg today.

Well Nels I went to Sunday School last Sunday. I think I will go again tomorrow. I got the cards alright and want to thank you for them. Wouldn't it be nice if I could have been standing by the side of you.

You seem to think that your friend Mart is about all right. I am glad to hear that he is doing so well but I think that you are doing just as well even if you don't think so. If we do the very best we can we can't do any more, can we dear? You seem to think it is such an honor to be choir leader but I can't see as it is. We can't all be choir leaders you know and I think it is just as well to be one of the singers. If Mart does lead the choir that's no sign he knows so very much about music. I hope you won't get discouraged Nels but keep on doing your best and be humble and prayerful and I know that you will be successful. I believe I am glad you went on a mission after all for I know it's doing you lots of good. You said in your last letter that you regret that your past life hasn't been better. I suppose the only thing to do after we repent of our sins is to ask God's forgiveness and then live pure and noble lives in the future. I believe that if I had my life to live over that I would be much better but I guess it isn't wise to boast for there are temptations all around us and we are so weak.

[I don't have this letter where it was reported that Mart was the choir director.]

Well dear Nels I hope and pray that you may have health and the spirit of the Lord to be with you so that you may do much good and reach the height of your ambitions and when you have finished your mission there you will return home to your loved ones and we two will take up the journey of life once more and live such lives that we need not be ashamed to face our redeemer.

Tuesday we are going to Provo to see Carrie. She was over here today.

I almost forgot to tell you that I went with the old ladies to Alpine Wednesday and had a very nice time. Everybody noticed Melba and made quite fuss over her. I saw your picture in the Deseret News and was quite proud of it. I sent you Melba's picture, hope you get it alright. Your loving wife.

Melba sends a kiss to Papa. She smacks now and when she wants to kiss me she reaches so cute and smacks.

Pleasant Grove, June 22, 1910

My Darling Husband

I rec'd another of your welcome letters last night and read it with much pleasure. You had just got my long looked for letter and I guess it wasn't hardly worth reading. I think you for your encouragement and advice and I'm sorry I wrote you such a horrid letter but if you will forgive me this time I won't write you any more like it. I also got Pres.

Beckstrom's letter and when you see him or write to him tell him I got it and appreciate it very much. How did he happen to write to me, I was quite surprised.

The Scandinavians are going to have a dance Friday night the 24th of June and I think I shall go. Mrs. Gastaveson was here today and had a cup of coffee with us. I was up to your mother's yesterday helping Stena pick raspberries and cherries, that is Thursday. I started this letter Wed. and it is Friday today and I am just finishing it.

I got a letter from Pa the other day and he said Aunt Hanna got a Swedish letter from you and she prized it very highly. Melba can nearly walk now, she can run all over when she holds to something. I do wish you could see and hear her say how-do-you-do. She puts her head back as far as she can and says "how" and then when she drops it in front she says "do." She says ta-ta and no-no and shakes her head and Oh she is as sweet I could almost eat her up. I don't know what I would do without her for I love her more everyday.

We are going to move to Provo before long. I don't know of anything else to write about, we are all quite well. Melba has a cold now but I think she will soon be alright. I am pleased to note that you are enjoying your labors and hope that you will be successful in doing much good. Well goodbye Nels, write soon, yours with Love, Viola.

Did you think of your little daughter on her first birthday?

Pleasant Grove, Utah, June 24th 1910

Dear Brother,

I have tried for a week to write to you but have not got at it as yet. Mother received your very welcome letter on her birthday, and also your photo, it is just fine. She appreciated your letter very much. Chris received his letter too, he is very busy this week. He has put up three binders this week and sold them. One to Wadleys, one to Atwoods and one to John Y. Walker. He has had Oscar Olson working for him last week and this week. Oscar has his pipe in his mouth nine hours out of ten and perhaps he sleeps with it too. Jens is busy planting, it takes lots of time for him to get ready and get off as he is detained somewhat most every day talking and telephoning and so forth.

[Also known as Coffee Oscar, cousin of brothers Shaky (Andrew Nielson) and Little Louis (Nelson). He was a skilled machinist and at some point in time he worked with Williamsons at their blacksmith shop, later building a room onto his house for a lathe. He collected guns which filled his walls. His only love interest was a distant cousin whose mother for this reason successfully objected to a marriage. He was born in 1878 so at this point in time was 32. In later years he drank, according to sometime historian Ruby Radmall Warnick, and the children stepped around him as he lay on the sidewalk between the Star Saloon and home. He died in 1941, at age 63. His headstone is carved "Coffee" Oscar Olson, "pioneer machinist."]

We had quite a nice time on mother's birthday, there was eighteen here. Ellen Gustafson from Sandy was here, she only stayed four days, her husband works at the smelter and she

has to take good care of him you know. The day after mother's birthday mother invited a number of old folks for dinner and to spend the afternoon. There were twenty two that came, there was something a doing I can tell you. Carrie stayed over and helped us. I will mention some that were here so you can tell it was old folks. Old lady Johnson, Clock Christon, Mrs. Williamson, Mrs. Hecker, Mrs. Rassmuson, S.H.'s mother, old lady Sorenson, Mrs. Stena Anderson, Mrs. Olsen, Aunt Margaret, Mrs. Hebertson, Andrew Thompson, P. C. Larson (Kjar), Mrs. Britty Gustaveson, Mrs. Alcel Peterson, Mrs. Halverson, and so forth. I played them a couple of times on the phonograph but you could hardly hear it for their laughter and talking. Some of them never gets out so it was quite a treat for them. Mother went after the feeble ones in the surrey. It was nice to see them together like that.

The first crop of hay is in the barn, the crop was pretty good. We have not had a rain yet, we thot perhaps we would when the hay was down but we did not. Today is the twenty fourth and there is going to be a big dance in the new hall. Some little girls are going to dance around the May pole. Vida is in it. The girls are smaller this year, that are going to take part, than they were last year. Perlinda has been training them for the last two weeks. She has had her hands full to train some of them but she has persevered and I suppose they will do alright. Your wife is going to the dance tonight. She like myself has not been to a dance for a long time. Say kid, yesterday we had our first picking of raspberries, we had three cases. Viola was up and helped us pick. We have a nice lot of pie cherries too, we sold six cases yesterday.

Last Sunday Lawrence Monson had the pleasure of preaching in meeting, he talked for fifteen minutes, he is not very long winded but he said what he had to say and then sat down. In that respect he is a little different from the other Monsons. In my last letter I told you about Bro. Hilton being hurt, he is up around now, but he is getting along slowly. He hasn't much strength and cannot get around and do anything. Antone Hecker runs a restaurant in the Baxter building and calls it the "Little Knutsford." They are going to celebrate the 4th of July but only in the afternoon so people that wants to go to American Fork to see the parade can do so. It is too much work to get up a parade every year.

[This restaurant, per Ruby Radmall Warnick, b. 1906 (and failed to date her articles), was at the head of Main on Center Street (the low building behind the buggy in the photo), two rooms, a kitchen in the back, larger room on the south with five small square tables set with white cloths, separated by a cloth curtain. Walt and Sena Baxter owned it [1911-1930], sold meat pies made fresh every day, huge chunks of beef ground, not ground beef, beef broth and brown gravy. It was called Walt's Place but Sena ruled the roost. Only child married/divorced/married, daughter 9 from first and 20 months from second, declined moving from parents' when second house built (side by side two blocks down). In-laws would not let him see his baby and were feuding over deed. Shot them, first murders committed in P.G. Ruby's article stands corrected after viewing newspapers on microfilm. Husband got 10 years (stopped following case after initial sentencing) in prison (aggravated; threatenings and gun-wavings on both sides).]

Uncle Magnus [Nelson, married Karna (dec. 1908), younger sister of Hannah] handed mother five dollars for you, he sends his very best wishes also, he said he would like to write to you but he is so busy he is peddling and goes twice a week so he has not much

time at present. We will not send it now but will keep it and send it to you when he sends you a larger check. I don't suppose you are out of money yet. Uncle Jacob told us to ask you if you had received the letter he wrote you, he said he had enclosed a dollar and wondered if you had ever got it. While I am on this subject mother sent you five dollars in green backs, shortly after New Years and we wondered if you ever received it as you have not mentioned that five. She will not send green backs any more as we can get bank drafts quite handy, and we are told it is not safe to send money. If you did not receive that money you can just mention in your letter next time, that you did or did not receive the special letter that I referred to. So mother will know.

Say Nels, your little Melba is so cute. She tries to walk now. I expect she will go like a streak by the time you get home. I suppose you are glad that you have your same companion. No doubt you enjoy each other's company. It is now time to get ready for the dance so will close hoping to hear from you soon and trusting you are well and enjoying your mission very much. The folks send their best wishes to you and companion. I am as always, Your Loving Sister Stena. P.S. Please excuse scribbling as I have been in a hurry. S. C.

Gefle, July 6th 1910

Dear Friend.

You will no doubt be surprised to get a little note from me the first since I left home. I would have written before but I have heard from Niels how you are and suppose you have heard from me sometimes through the same source.

[Letter from Mart Christiansen to Viola, continued next set.]