

Provo, Dec. 8, 1910

Dear Bro.

It is a long time since I wrote to you and also a long time since we heard from you, I hope you are well and enjoying yourself, we are all well except John hasn't been feeling well for the last two months but we hope he will soon be well again. We are going to live here in Provo all winter, our house isn't built yet, that Sundberg [Andrew F., a local builder] is slow as Christmas, it lacks a lot in being done yet. By the time he gets the carpenter work done it will be too cold to get it painted so I suppose we won't get into it till next summer. John has gone out on the bench today to see how they are doing.

We haven't had any snow yet but it is cloudy and looks as tho we were going to have some snow. I hope we have snow for Xmas, for it won't seem like Xmas without snow. I guess there is much snow where you are by now, I suppose it will be somewhere near Xmas by the time you get this note and that you will be busy preparing a Xmas sermon. We spent Thanksgiving day at Midway, all of John's folks were there except Jens and his family. We had a nice time together.

Well dear Niels I guess you can see by my writing that I am in a hurry. I want this to go off today. I haven't been over to ma's for two weeks, she wasn't very well then, she has got the backache quite bad. I have no news to tell you so will close wishing you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, and I hope the people there will be good to you. Take good care of yourself, write and let us know how you spent Xmas. From your Loving Sis. Carrie. John says to helsen you so good and sends you 5 dollars.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 12, 1910

Dear Nels:

It is with great pleasure that I now take time to write to you again. It is just about a week since I got your last letter so I am looking for another most any time.

We are having fine weather here for this time of the year. We haven't had any snow to amount to anything yet. It rained last night but has been quite pleasant today. We had the thrashers last week and had 91 bu. of lucerne seed. After they pay the expenses they will have about \$202 a piece. They have to pay the thresher \$5 an hour and it took them ten hours to thresh it.

I think we will have quite a nice time here on Xmas. They are going to have a tree over in the school house Xmas eve and Santa Claus will come and give all the kids over 2 years old a present. Then they will have a program. They are going to have a theater during holidays. Allen and Halley are both in it. We are expecting Annie and Esther down for Xmas. I guess they will come a week from next Friday night. I got a letter from Stena the other day. She said Albert Olsen is home and spoke in Conjoint meeting. She thinks he is a pretty good speaker.

I believe I told you in my last letter that Uncle Gene is dead. He died in Salt Lake City of

pneumonia. Pa went up to the funeral. I don't know of anything else that would be of interest to you and it is getting late so I will close by wishing you and Elder Nilson a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am as Ever Viola Fugal, Abraham, Utah. Melba sends a kiss to papa.

Provo, Dec. 14, 1910

Dear Bro. Niels:

Again I take pleasure in writing a line or two to you. You will no doubt be surprised to get a note from me so soon, but the other day when I sent your five dollars I made a mistake. John told me to send you ten, I misunderstood him, he said he wanted to send you ten for Xmas. I thot he said five, so that is how I come to write again so soon. It's not so very soon I guess but it is for me.

John is feeling some better, the rest of us are well. It rained some the other day but we haven't had any snow yet. Last night it froze harder than it has before this winter. Erval and Erma are very interested in their school this year, they are both doing fine.

Well Dear Bro. I haven't any more to tell you this time so will close. Trusting all is well with you and wishing you success in all your undertakings and hoping to hear from you soon, I remain as ever, Your Loving Sis. Carrie.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> 19109

My Dear Brother,

It is with pleasure I scratch off a few lines to you and no doubt you think it is time to hear from us again. We have not received a letter from you since I wrote last but we realize you are busy and especially now that Xmas is so near.

We are all the same as usual, mother is better than when I wrote last, she has felt stronger and can walk better since last Sunday. She feels like she will soon be entirely well. And we certainly hope she will. Chris is busy setting up a surrey today, he thinks that Ted Harris will buy it, he was here last night and looked at it. Jens is still busy with his plumbing. Alvin Carlson has been helping him for a few days and is with him today too. Lew is still working here, all the plowing is done and the manure hauled, they have not sowed any grain this fall as they say the land is not ready for it. Lew has been cleaning up the barnyard for the last couple of days and pilling up boards and traps that will accumulate around a place like this. It does make it look lots better. The dry cattle are down the hay field and the colts are in the north field. We have not had any snow yet, it has rained some but it makes it so the animals can feed out for sometime yet. The boys have bought Lew's cow so we will have plenty of milk for this winter. Lew felt like he could not afford to buy feed for the cow, that is the reason he sold her.

We have new neighbors in the Alldredge place, Niels Monson (Olaf's [and Mons'] brother) and family. [Olaf and Mons at once time lived in the corner houses east (100 N. and Center) of Central School.] If he is left entirely alone we will get along just fine.

Albert Olsen has returned from his mission, he looks fine and feels fine, he spoke in conjoint meeting and does fine. You know he was so bashful before he left home. He said he thought he would have to stay until spring but he got his release all of a sudden and he lost no time in coming home. He asked me how you were getting along and how Viola was too.

The MIA of the three wards had a dance in the Orpheus and a basketball game between the high school girls and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls, the game was 11 to 4 in favor of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. It was quite amusing to watch them, they did their best to win. Ettie Westphal was the one to throw the ball in the basket. We have had pretty good attendance at our mutuals, the girls and boys do very well being as they have their school work also.

[The Orpheus was the gymnasium part built in 1909 of the high school (later built in 1921), 155 E. 200 S.]

I understand that Mart is coming home in February. So you and he will not have the pleasure of coming home together, but I guess that will have to be alright anyway. Ally is still out to the sheep herd. The Scandinavians are going to give a dance in the Orpheus on the 21<sup>st</sup> inst. I expect they will have a good time as everyone likes to go to those dances.

Chris is still love sick, you know. I wrote you that he had been to Benjamin to spend Thanksgiving and his girl came to P.G. for the MIA dance and went back home Monday morning. Chris seems to think she is alright. We will get him to put off the wedding until you come home so you can attend. I think he will do that too, so you and he can draw cuts to see which will rent Aunt Margaret's house, eh? Chris gets lots of teasing and he stands it like a buck; you know, he is used to it.

You must take good care of your little stomach now as it is Xmas in Gefle and everybody will want you to eat and eat, so it was in olden times. Have you written to Mrs. Gustaveson, you know she sent \$5.00 to us for you for Xmas. We did not send it to you as we had just sent you a draft. Be sure to let us know in plenty of time when you need money and we will send you some. We do not want you to lack for anything.

I am a little late in writing you this letter but I expect you will receive it a few days after Xmas. We all wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Be good to yourself and write soon to your Loving Sister Stena.

P.S. F. S. Humphries [111 E. 100 N.] is a happy grandpa now Lydia has a son. [F.S. is credited with organizing the first S.S. in the LDS church, was the cemetery sexton for 20 years, and ran a floral business in P.G. for several years.] Ted Harris bought the buggy alright, he came for it a little while ago. S.C.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> 1910

Dear Brother:

Yes, truly, "Procrastination is the thief of time." "Don't you think I knew for I have

experimented?" To be frank with you Niels, your letters are such thoroughly good ones and so full of intelligent that that I feel weak in even trying to answer them, in consequence of which, I feel the need of a little time when, to a certain degree, I can feel free from the worry of the children and other affairs and also when my mind is capable of putting my thots together in some coherent form. However. If I continue to wait for such a time, I fear several more months will elapse ere I find it, so here I am amid the prattle of the children, etc., in a brave effort to scribble off some of my thots and I must confess that I take much pleasure in the effort. When one neglects doing a thing like we have neglected writing, it becomes a source of worry or conscience hurting. Nearly every day in this long long time I have thot, Well, tonight I can get at writing and then when night comes we procrastinate again for some reason or other.

By the time you receive this letter you will no doubt have spent another Xmas in picturesque old Sweden and one I hope of pleasure and gratification for you and that the new year will open up bright bringing you joy and satisfaction in the great work you are so ably helping to roll on, and in all your undertakings. It is a source of much pleasure to us all to know of the progress you are making and we feel that the good you are instrumental in accomplishing cannot be counted in dollars and cents. May our Father in Heaven continue to bless your efforts and bless you with health and strength to continue your labors until the close of your mission at which time you can rest assured there will be an expectant bunch of Fugalites and friends awaiting your home coming.

It is now two years and two months since you left P.G and must say that things have moved on quite nicely during that time although there have been no perceptible changes in the little town itself. We feel that neither we nor our little town will be much changed but you, who will have had some over two and a half years of training in the great School of the Masters. Which School I fancy is the grandest Institution of learning ever instituted. I do not mean to say that with the mission ends the training but that the time spent in the mission field is a great preparatory step for the years of usefulness to follow.

Must tell you how we are getting along in Mutual. We feel that we are doing quite nicely and no excuse to do otherwise as our lessons cannot fail to interest even the laziest mind while those who study them earnestly cannot fail to receive a testimony of the truthfulness of this Latter Day Work. Our subject for the winter is The Restoration, which was preceded last year by the Apostasy and the year before by Paul's Missionary Journeys. So you see we have made a systematic study of the gospel as taught in the days of the Savior and traced it thru its decline and finally to complete extinction from the face of the whole earth, which fact both church and secular history alike bear record. And this year we take the restoration of this glorious gospel given in the Dispensation of the fullness of Times when all the keys, ordinances and blessings of the gospel from the days of Adam down to the present day, are again restored to earth. Oh how beautiful, how grand! If only we could appreciate it to its fullest extent. Such studies, especially under the inspiration of faith and prayer cannot fail to be far reaching in their results. And we trust Heaven will bless our humble efforts this winter, that at the close of the year our girls may be able to bear an intelligent testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel. We feel that we have some good conscientious workers in our association as also have the other wards. Perhaps Stena has told you who they are but I will tell you again who our officers are, Hazel Newman, Stena C. as councilors, Vivia Finalyson (a district school

teacher) and Hedve Johnson class leaders. Stella Sundberg Thorne and Etta Westphal organists, Mabel Monson Sec., Anna Rasmusen Treas., Pearl Radmall Librarian, and everyone of them can be depended upon to contribute their best toward the association. Oh yes, Ethel Patton is our chorister. Some of the parents have attended our meetings and they all express themselves as very much interested in the lessons. Bishop Walker's wife told me last night that after Xmas she means to attend and would have done so all along if she had not been in such poor health so long. Also Maggie Holdaway, she too has been ill and could not come before. Niels, we are not boasting of our work but we just feel well and encouraged over the work which seems to interest the girls and parents alike.

Would tell you some of the local news were it not that the Citizen can do that so much better than I. Suppose you get the Citizen alright. Mr. Lovelass, the editor, promised me he would send it to you, together with the back numbers you had failed to receive in the summer. There is one news item I believe that failed to appear in our paper and perhaps you have heard it thru other sources, however will bear repeating.

Of course you remember John and Maggie Christensen who purchased the little Andrews home. They have a boy between the age of twelve and thirteen who has suffered some three or four months from tuberculosis of the spine. One or more joints of his spine were in a state of decomposition and in all these many weeks he has suffered untold agonies. The doctors despaired of his life and seemed unable to help him and at last his condition was such that he could neither eat nor sleep except when administered to. Then he would cease his moanings and slumber peacefully. The only way he could be moved was to be lifted on sheets and he could not undergo the ordeal of having fresh clothing put upon him although they cut his clothing when endeavor to change him. About three weeks ago Dr. Grua and John C. came to the shop and had Jens cut some pipe for stretchers for the boy so he could be more easily moved and with less pain. And further more he could neither move hands nor feet but only move the fingers on his left hand slightly. All thru his suffering the little fellow's nature reviled against the doctors help and told his parents that the Lord could and would make him well so the day when they brot the stretchers for him he declared he never would be put upon them and he told the doctor to leave him. Finally he became so worked up that they did tell Grua to leave. Then they sent to Springville for Elder Hall, one whom they heard had great power in administering to the sick and when he came Elder Hall asked the boy to shake hands but he could not move his arm. Then the Elder asked if he had faith that he could be healed to which the boy answered yes, and after being anointed with oil and administered to the boy was asked to extend his arm which he did readily. Then he was asked to move his leg but could not. Again he was anointed with oil and again administered to after which he was commanded to get up and walk, which he did! Oh how blessed to live in a day when such gifts are among men. The next Sunday the boy went to meeting and walked to and from the buggy. Altho he is still weak he can walk and chore around the house. He has long had an idea that some day he should be called to go upon a mission and it is a cherished wish of his. I could not help telling you this as I think it will cause you to rejoice.

I fear my letter is too long but in conclusion will say, May Peace and the blessings of Heaven attend you in rich abundance. By the way, Mrs. Rasmus Lund handed father a dollar and a post card for you about ten days ago and am now enclosing it with my letter.

Father too encloses a dollar with his best wishes for your success and welfare. Jens has a letter ready to follow this in a day or two. Write Again to Your Sister Lavina. Will just state that Jens' letter will contain some paper for you. Am telling you so you can be on the look out.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 15, 1910

My Darling Nels:

I rec'd another of your letters today and was very glad to hear from you again. We are both well and I hope that you are and will have good health all the time. You said in your letter that it had been over two weeks since you heard from me and that you were quite anxious but that you didn't supposed I had forgotten you if I don't write very often. No Dearest I haven't forgotten you yet but sometimes I think it doesn't make much difference to you whether I write at all or not. I can't complain about you not writing often enough for I think I have rec'd a letter from you nearly every week but sometimes your letters are so —, Oh I can't explain it Nels but its just like you were writing to a stranger instead of to your wife. I don't want you to think that I don't appreciate your letters for I do and every one of them is welcome as can be and I just couldn't live if I didn't hear from you. But you know when I get a letter like that so distant it just makes me feel like you don't care whether you ever hear from me or not. You tell me not to forget to pour out my love to you but Oh Nels how can I when you never do to me. I guess you will think I am foolish for writing this way but I hope you won't be offended.

[Must be referring to missing letter(s) as the last one I have to her from Niels was November 21.]

I went to town today to see Santa Claus. I got Melba a doll and Halley got her a little chair. Pa gave me a dollar for a Xmas present. We nearly froze going to town today.

Pa's lucerne seed didn't turn out as well as he expected but it was pretty good. I think it was the chicken pox that Melba had but she is alright now. They left two or three scars on her face but I think they will go away in time.

And now in regards to what you said Perlinda told Mart. I was both surprised and hurt to think that you should believe such a story for far from saying such a thing no such a thot ever entered my head. I hope that you didn't mean to insult me when you said that, as you couldn't come home with Mart you didn't think he would get them unless he earned them in some other way. You seem to forget that I am your wife.

May the Lord Bless and Help you to do what's right is the prayer of your loving wife,  
Viola Fugal.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1910

Dear Son

I received your ever welcome letter some time ago and as Viola is here with me so that I

get to hear from you quite often I have simply neglected to write you before. The only excuse I have is that I am a rather poor letter writer. I was pleased with the general tone of your letter and rejoice that you are in a position render assistance to some honest souls in that far off country in their search for truth and righteousness for if you are in any way the means of any embracing the Gospel of Christ your time will have been profitably spent. We have been fairly prosperous in this locality and the Lord is causing a more contented spirit to prevail among the people here. We are having our first snowstorm for the season in this locality. I don't expect very heavy fall as there is never much here. Annie and Esther are expected down for the Holidays. With the Compliments of the Season I am very Sincerely Your Friend and Well Wishes, Leroy Young.

Abraham, Utah, Dec. 27, 1910

Dear Nels: I have been looking for a letter from you for about a week but it hasn't come yet so I decided I wouldn't wait any longer but write anyhow. Annie and Esther came down to spend Xmas with us. We all had Xmas dinner up to Allen's. Santa Claus brought Melba a doll, a little red chair, some mittens and a stocking cap. She was so tickled over her doll. She can say dolly as good as anyone. Annie and Esther just about eat her up. Stena sent me a dollar for a Xmas present and Ernest sent Melba a handkerchief. Joe sent me three dollars for a Xmas present. We are all having a nice time. We went to a theater last night. Allen and Halley were both in it. I wish you could be here too but I guess you will have just as good a time there as you would have here. They had a dance after the theater and we just had a fine time. I hope you are well and enjoying yourself. We are as ever, Viola and Melba.

Abraham, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> 1910

Dear Brother Niels:

It has been a long time since I heard from you but I believe that you wrote last. We are all well and hope you are enjoying good health. Melba is getting cuter every day, she is a regular little chatter box. My children both go to school now and are growing fast and doing nicely in school. Well Niels, I haven't any news but as Viola was writing I thought I would write a few lines. When do you expect to be home. My address is 385 South 3<sup>d</sup> East, Provo [this house still stands]. From your sister, Annie.

Provo, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 1911

Dear Bro. –

I received your very welcome letter a couple of days ago and was glad to hear from you. I have been thinking of writing to you every day for a week but have not gotten at it. Ernest and I are visiting with John and Carrie for a few days. We came to Provo yesterday and today is New Years day. We were all to Provo Xmas day for dinner except mother and she felt like it was too cold to go out. She has not been anywhere for some weeks, but she is feeling better now. She insisted that Ernest and I went off a few days.

Last Wednesday we had all the folks to our house and Mr. Hone's family and Chris' girl

Miss Richardson and her mother. We had quite a nice time. Miss Richardson is going back to Benjamin tomorrow and then I guess Chris will be lonesome. She came to P.G. for the Scandinavian dance on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 1910. We all had a good time. The crowd was not as large as it could be but they cleared \$11.00 with refreshments and all. The committee served coffee and buns and doughnuts. They are going to have another dance on Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>. Last Monday the P.G. Sunday schools had a dance for the children. The children enjoyed themselves very much I can tell you. I was there too. When the dance was out the children received a sack of peanuts. At night there was a theatre in the opera and a dance in the Orpheus.

Bro Oscarson has returned home from his mission. Last Friday night the Scandinavians committee gave a social in the basement of the meetinghouse in honor of Lawrence Monson, Albert Olsen and Bro. Oscarson. A large crowd was present and we had an enjoyable time. There has been quite a bit going on during the Holidays. Wish you could have been here. But no doubt you are having a nice time where you are. Annie Banks and Esther have gone to Abraham to spend the Holidays with Viola. Uncle Isaac said he received both of your letters and that he would write you in the near future, and send you a couple of addresses of mother's cousins. Mrs. Lim received the letter you mentioned and her Xmas card the other day. Mary Christiansen received your Xmas card too. Mrs. Lim appreciated your card so much, I am glad you sent it to her. She received a card from Mart too. It will be alright to send her one for Valentine's because she just more than dotes on anything like that. Joe Halliday told me to ask you if you ever received his letter, he has only written one to you. Everything is about the same as usual only it is very cold and the ground is covered with snow. It will be good sleighing by tomorrow. We wish you much Happiness this New Year. Your Sis. Stena C. John and Carrie sends helens.

Gefle, Jan. 3, 1911

My Dear Loving Wife;

Your letter of Dec. 12 and Dec. 15 came to hand OK. I was very glad to learn that you were well and expecting to have a good time during Xmas. Hope your desires will be granted you and that in the near future I will receive letters from you stating what a nice time you have had. It no doubt is somewhat quiet in that part of the world, but if Esther and Annie come to Abraham as you stated then there is no doubt but what you have had a Merry Xmas and a happy new year. How nice it would be if I could be with you and join in the lively times which Xmas generally affords! While such would be the pleasure and wishes of your loving husband, there is no doubt but what there is a anxious soul and heart (i.e. my darling wife) who would feel extra happy if so was the case, thus making it a double or mutual joy and happiness.

Three years have elapsed since we danced the old year out and the new year in, and in that time the greatest part of which we have been separated by a nation and waters, a great deal, both pleasant and unpleasant, has happened leaving us wiser and perhaps happier each time. If I had been permitted by inspiration or human telepathy, to know the feelings and experiences which my darling wife has been destined to undergo during the absence of her husband, no doubt my mind and body would not have been so contented

and restful as it really has; perhaps her pains and trials would have caused me to discard the coolness and selfishness to a greater extent, which I am in possession of or rather which is in possession of me, and caused me to sorrow when she sorrows and rejoice when she rejoices.

When we went through the House of the Lord making great covenants with our Creator and while performing one of the most glorious and sacred ordinances of our life, with our bodies bent over the altar, and sealing the ordinance with a kiss, we made a vow that we two would be one flesh. This does not mean that our nerves and blood vessels would be connected in such a way that we could and would feel the effects of our bodily injuries, but I believe it means that our sympathies and spiritual qualities should become united that we should be as one socially and religiously, so the sweet influence of the Holy Spirit would not be without effect in our company and we thereby be led to do that which will cause us to become stronger and wiser in every respect, thus elevating us, and developing us through every day of this mortal career, bringing us nearer the goal which is perfection. I repeat, if I had been permitted to know the circumstances of my dear wife, and had more thoroughly kept in mind the covenant I have made with her, then undoubtedly I would not have been so cool, selfish and distant when writing to her. But I am only a mortal being and have my faults and weaknesses as well as everyone else, and while endeavoring to pour out my love and thoughts to my darling wife, intermingled with the events which naturally confront missionary life, I find that words are such cold things unable to express the feelings of my heart. And being as I am not gifted in keeping a steady nerve and steady head I may write my phrases in such a way that by the time they have reached their destination, they have lost their temper, and at the first blow of the hammer, so to speak, their edges turn and become dull, thus making a poor impression, yea, worse than if I had not tried, through many hours of study to write such phrases which were intended for the best and always written with a feeling of love and great respect for the darling who is my wife.

Oh dear wife! does it really seem like my letters are intended for a stranger instead of to the one whom I have chosen as my companion through all eternity? How can that be possible? I have no secrets which I am trying to hide from you, but it is a fact that there is much that happens which I do not mention because I think indicating our sorrows to each other does not always help matters much. In writing to you I try to select that which to my opinion will be of most interest to you, and in doing so, I must admit that it probably is quite dry, and undecorated with sweet artistic phrases of music and love for I always was quite blunt in those respects, as in a great many others.

I am thankful you appreciate my letters as you say you do and I hope that you will always believe that beneath the bosom of the person who is now writing, lies a heart which at every pulsation has a feeling of love and respect for you, thus causing happiness to be distributed through every vein, and causing one to be grateful that Providence has presented me with such a noble helpmate.

In your letter you stated that you hoped I would not be offended. Not in the least dear wife. I am more than glad to receive corrections and instructions at any time and will try to improve, but I hope you can forgive me for my faults and if I write anything which you can't agree with that you will feel that I have written it with the best of feelings and not in

the way of criticism. Please believe me dear wife for I mean it.

Now in regard to what Perlinda wrote to Mart. It is hardly worth mentioning but being as it hurt your feelings, it is no more than proper that I bring it to mind again. Remember that the noble qualities of the soul flourish best in the warm soil of reason, and in the sunlight of kindness. So let us use reason and kindness. Your words – “I was both surprised and hurt to think that you should believe such a story for far from saying such a thing no such a thot ever entered my mind.” Now supposing such a thot had entered your mind, or that you had even uttered it would that have been anything so awful? Isn't it possible that you could have said it and still be just as pure and innocent as before? Don't we often make expression that we don't mean, but just say thotlessly? Certainly I thot you had said it, but it did not hurt my feelings in the least, nor did I mean to insult you when I said, “that as I couldn't come home with Mart, I didn't think that he would get the kisses unless he earned them in some other way.” The subject then at hand was my homecoming and I mentioned what Mart wrote me, as a joke more than anything else. It was thotless and foolish for me to do so of course but I was innocent and held you as the same. Now don't let this trouble you in the least, but try to forget all that is unpleasant or that has troubled you and believe me when I say I respect you more than ever because you have expressed your honest feelings. Don't try to hide anything but just tell me what you think and there is no doubt but what we can settle this little affair without any difficulty.

God bless you dear wife and dear Melba. Will close with best wishes and limitless love.  
Your loving husband Niels.