

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Feb. 19, 1911

Dear Brother Niels

Nearly two months has passed since I attempted to write you at which time I wrote the enclosed of Nov. 27. I am sending you this because it was my thots then and perhaps it contains a little that may be news to you. I just now read what it says over and will perhaps build a little on what it contains.

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[Nov. 27 1910]

Dear Brother:

Just a word or two to let you know that we are still about, or perhaps I better say that I am about as you have a number of letters from Lavina since I wrote. Of course you know how things are and still I know you like to hear often from home and learn of conditions. I am still covered up in work and can use you to good advantage but from all appearances you will get home about the same time of the year that I did, and from the tone of your letters you seem to enjoy the work and are not averse to staying until May or when they again have conference. I am glad to know that you enjoy your labors and there is no question but what we are proud of you and in as much as you enjoy staying over winter you shall have your wishes as far as we are concerned here at home. We all know there is plenty to do at home and perhaps always will be, still things are tightening up and there are many men looking for work. It just happens that in our line there is plenty of work and still I believe there will be a slump so we must make hay while the sun shines. At present we have been extra busy because the electric power has been extended in Lindon and I have had some of the work of wiring. I already had enough to keep me busy. I have wired for Horace Calmer, Eva Walker, John Wright, Geo. Richards, Bert Copley and am now doing Geo. Tomlinson's. I had to let J. Y. Walker's and Chas. Johnson (Plasterers) go, Anderson from Am. Fork and Lester West has done eight places.

The farm work is going on nicely. The manure is all out, we covered nearly 5 acres. Three more days will finish the plowing and we are in hopes of getting this done now although the weather is somewhat wintryfied. Last night it froze the hardest this fall but tonight it is mild and cloudy as it has been for nearly two weeks. About 12 ton of beets per acre is all we got this year but there are not many that beat us this year as the beets did not do very well. C. O. Larson didn't any more than pay expenses, R. Weeks was about the same as ours, Sandy Bullock had 38 tons on 5 acres, another party oh yes it was Fred Richan had 7 tons on 1-3/4 acre. John Newman's was about 25% poorer than usual and so de goes.

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Our fall work was done up in good shape so we haven't had Lew working only a week or so during about 6 weeks. He has cut trees into wood for F. W. Newman and is now working for Wm. Hone. He expects to come back again and we want him as soon as we

can hire him which I think will be soon. There has not been any work to speak of during the winter but most likely things will liven up with spring. J. Holdaway is going to build this spring and more than likely there will be a new schoolhouse built commencing soon if the election for bonding the district to be held next Sat. be favorable. This however means more tax but we will have to stand it. I am not without work and never will I don't think, although there isn't much in it. I think a half a loaf is better than none at all but I am sorry to know a great many who have not yet learned this lesson and for them good tight times may prove a blessing.

Lavina is to meeting to hear the home missionaries. Geo. Culimore and Gillman the supt. of Lindon S. S. they were with us in S.S. this morning.

No doubt the time is getting short for you as you seem to enjoy your labor very much, still I am glad to think you are coming home some time (you say soon) as we need you if we can have you. From an expression in one of your letters, you would enjoy plumbing again as well as other work we are called on to perform.

It will go much better with another head to take care of the amount of work and business we have and when we have not enough work we will make some. Looking back the time has gone fast, looking ahead it seems quite awhile until you are coming home. By way of suggestion I would say to come home not later than May as it is pretty hot in June. At least this is the way I found it.

I can't see how this letter will be interesting as it is scattered from H. to breakfast but then it is from big (used to be) brother and home. It is no use to make any excuses but feel guilty for not writing oftener as I should do, true you hear from us but the more the better I know.

With this paper daubed with ink I send fondest hopes for your welfare and promise to write before 1912 and challenge you to talk to me on this very spot before Christmas.
Your loving brother J. P. Fugal.

Gefle, Feb. 20, 1911

Dear Loving Wife;

Again I will endeavor to write you a few lines in answer to your kind and welcome letter of Jan. 31. Your letter has been perused with great pleasure and in reading it I can't help but note your kind expressions. I can also read considerable between the lines, for as you wrote that letter, while little Melba was asleep in bed, Aunt Hanner sitting knitting a stocking, and no artificial noises to disturb you but the restless wind with his fascinating whistle laughing at you as it darted around the corners of the house, I can imagine your thoughts and feelings, and know that you had a great longing in your heart for the time to come when you can spend the evenings talking with your husband. Oh dearest! I am so glad that your feelings and longings are in harmony with mine for that denotes a pure love existing between us and that we may look forward with an assurance of a future happiness.

You make mention of me feeling sorry when I must leave Sweden and that probably after I have been home a while I would like to return to Sweden. Well dearest it is a fact that it will seem quite strange to bid farewell to the good saints in this arch city for perhaps I will never meet them again in this life, but when I leave them I suppose they will soon forget me, and my thoughts and attention will also be drawn away from them to a great extent and placed on my loved ones whom I will mingle with at home. I hope I will be able to reflect back upon my missionary experiences with great pleasure, but I hardly think I will have a desire to leave my dear little wife and child. No dearest I have learned to love you more than ever now and I also think that I can more fully appreciate your love for me. This love and feeling I have for you is no mere fancy that will vanish by degrees like the seeming greatness of a city diminishes after having lived in it for some time, but it is a love that will increase by every form of duty, just as the river increases while wending its way through the mountain gorges, ever becoming stronger and more determined as it accepts its many tributaries that fall into its channel. Dearest, I hope that our pleasures, sorrows, duties and trials will increase our joy and love just as the mountain streams increase the river, and that that excellent attribute (love) which God has given to His offspring will inspire us to fight bravely through the battles of life, ever keeping in mind the purpose of our existence, that when we pass thro the chasm of death and arrive at the edges of eternity we may be permitted to unitedly continue our efforts, which will be factors in attaining perfection.

Now dear Viola I will leave perfection to one side for the present and come a little nearer to the present conditions. Today is Monday. I am in company with Elder Nilson who is also writing a letter. The weather is pleasant but still it causes us to place the table near the stove. These board houses are not as warm as they might be. This forenoon one of our saints came to visit us. Her name is Maria Holmgren and she is one that I baptized last summer. She is about fifty years old, a very nice lady. This is the first time she has come to see us excepting when she comes to meeting. She came to see our photos and of course I showed her all I had. When she saw your photo she said that I had a good wife because she could tell by the photo that you are nice and kind. Of course I did not contradict her Viola, but instead swallowed the kind information just like it might have been a spoonful of ice cream. She thinks Melba is OK too and that she looks like her mother; so of course I don't get any credit for her good looks. Let that be as it may, I know this – that no matter who her mother is, she is still her father's little Melba.

Yesterday we had a splendid meeting. I took up all the time in meeting robbing my partner the privilege of speaking. I spoke seventy minutes explaining the "Mormon doctrine on Deity," explaining the personality of God and the future possibilities of man. After services they all thanked me and said they were sorry when I stopped speaking. This of course makes me feel good. Will now close hoping you are happy and contented and that you will always bear in mind that your husband loves you and little Melba. Your loving Nels!

Abraham, Utah, Feb. 23, 1911 [forwarded from Gefle to Lörstrand]

My Darling Husband:

It has been two weeks since I wrote to you but I was waiting for a letter from you and it

just came. I had been looking for it every day for a week. I was pleased to hear that your companion is well again.

Allen's children are all sick with the measles and Melba has been exposed but I don't hardly think she will take them as it has been two weeks since she was exposed and she is well now.

I was intending to go up north but when I found she had been exposed to measles of course I couldn't go. If she is well in another week I will get ready and go, but if she takes the measles I will have to stay here another month anyhow. I gave Aunt Hanner your letter. I went in to Hinckley to a theater a week ago. We had a long cold ride but the play was well worth it. It was "Corianton," you know, it's taken from the Book of Mormon. Well dearest I haven't time to write any more now so goodbye. Write often to your loving Viola.

Gefle, March 9, 1911 [Forwarded from Abraham by Leroy Young 3/25/11, no note.]

My Dear Wife;

I haven't received a letter from you since I wrote you last, but at any rate I take pleasure in again writing you a few lines. I hope I receive a letter from you today for if I don't it is liable to be another week before I hear from you as Elder Nilson and I are going to leave Gefle tomorrow and go to Lörstrand, the place where I have been so many times. It is nearly two months since I was there last and as I have received a letter stating that the saints and friends are anxious to see us again soon, we have decided to pay them a visit now. We hope to be fortunate enough to hold several meetings while there and I think the saints will do all in their power to get us some place to preach. I haven't been there yet without holding one or more meetings so I presume all will go well this time also.

On our way back to Gefle we intend to also go to Söderhamn where we also have some saints. One of the sisters living there is going to try to rent a hall for us to hold meeting in, and I hope she succeeds, for I suppose that will be the last time that I will visit to Söderhamn, and I would of course enjoy preaching a little to the people there. It is here that Elder John Benson and I held a big open air meeting last summer.

Well dearest, now you have an outline of my work for the next week so you may know something about what your dear husband is doing. We will be away from Gefle one Sunday and perhaps one Thursday so the local brethren here will take charge of the meetings while we are absent.

It will be nice to take the trip for I suppose it will be the only one I take before conference, and after conference the trip I take will undoubtedly be an extended one, which will bring me over several others, finally placing me in dear old Utah, where I may joyfully mingle with my loved ones.

Conference will be held May 6th and 7th 1911. I have learned that some elders and saints are going to leave Stockholm for Utah on or about the 21st May so I suppose Elder Fugal will be in that company. That won't give me much time to visit relatives in southern

Sweden and Denmark, but as yet I have not learned for sure, where my relatives are located. I have written to one address that I received from Isaac Carlson but as yet have not received an answer, so probably the people have moved or perhaps dead. I intend to spend a day or two in Denmark and I also wish to visit London, so I won't have time to let the grass grow under my feet after conference. I expect the boat will leave Liverpool about the 25th day of May 1911, so judging from that I should be home the forepart or middle of June. Just think dearest in three more months that happy time will come. I suppose you wouldn't care if it was just three weeks, and neither would I, but I am glad it isn't more distant than it is, and I can't help but notice how fast the days seem to pass by me. It seems Sundays come very often. Just eight more Sundays and we will have conference.

I hope all is well with you and that conditions are so that everything seems to pass smoothly for you and dear Melba. You mentioned in your last letter that she was not well, but I hope the present finds her well and full of life. I feel that the Lord has been good to me while I have been away from home for I have been blessed with good health and I don't know of any serious troubles at home, that, for a great length of time, should cause me to worry. I think everything has gone as smoothly as we could expect and I feel grateful for it. There have been several elders here in Sweden during the time I have been here that have had to go home either on account of their own sickness or unfavorable conditions existing at home. Let us rejoice dear wife and give God the praise and glory.

I feel happy in my labors and enjoy getting out among the people to offer them the gospel's message. It is not always that we meet the best of people, but we feel glad every time we find someone that will converse with us. As I go from door to door with my tracts and books in a bag I never know what kind of a person I will meet next. I might say that before entering we know not whether we will encounter with a lamb or a lion. We are hated by many but respected by those who know us best.

God bless you dear wife and dear daughter and all. I remain forever your loving husband,
Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, March 10th 1911

Dear Brother Niels –

One day after another has passed since I received your very welcome letter and I have not got at answering it, and I feel ashamed to think I have neglected you so. I hope you will pardon me. I know you are anxious to hear how things are at home, as we are very glad to hear from you.

Chris has been busy lately putting machinery together, such as spring tooth harrows and plows. I believe it is six spring tooth harrows that the boys have sold this spring. The weather has been lovely now for some time. Yesterday it rained and is raining today too. The boys have not got their wheat sowed yet as the weather would not permit.

Last Sunday afternoon mother, Ernest and I took a drive out to see Mrs. Gustaveson. She said she received your letter and was pleased to hear from you. She was feeling pretty

well. She still has two milk cows, her horse and chickens. That is about all she can take care of too. She says she is looking forward to the time when you come home so she can have a good talk with you in Swedish. She has not been to see us since last summer. She does not seem to want to drive her horse, or get out while it is so cold.

Sunday night Howard Driggs was out to speak in conjoint meeting. The tabernacle was well filled and he spoke well. He is a very interesting speaker. Wednesday night Lavina had a few of her friends to supper and to spend the evening. Fred and Mrs. Newman, Mr. and Mrs. John Holdaway, Mr. Hilton and Ethel and John and our folks, we had a nice time. Last night the officers of the MIA of the 3rd ward and a few others had a surprise on Lavina. She was surprised proper and she did not have the least suspicion about anything like that. There were present about thirty five, we had a nice time.

Say Nels, if you could take a bird's eye view of the things around here you would see Lew cutting wood and John Christensen pruning trees, he has been pruning for three weeks or near that. Jens' orchard is pruned. He is pruning apple trees, plum trees, in fact all kinds. The trees that were blighted are pulled up. The orchard will be in a better condition now. It has not been pruned good since you went away. Talk about limbs, the place is just covered. Jens has a big pile of lime and sand by the south side of his house, he is contemplating fixing up his house this spring, he has a number door and window frames and a pile of shingles that he bought two years ago. I suppose he will sure get at it this spring, he is going to have it remodeled somewhat, another room added where the porch is and have it extended further south. It will no doubt be very convenient when finished, but it will also cost a nice little wad of money. It will be very nice for them to get their house fixed up the way they would like it.

In my last letter I told you that Chris had marriage on the brain and he has yet. He is thinking of building him a house too, over on the north corner. He says he can just as well pay interest on money as to pay rent. I do not know yet how he is going to build or when. Chris says he is going to Benjamin next Thursday as Delilah has a sister that is going to get married Wednesday and have a reception Thursday night. He seems to think Miss Richardson is alright. She came to P.G. to attend a dance on March 1st.

Mrs. Lim received your card on Valentine day and also the one for her birthday. I was talking to her this morning, she was very glad to think you remembered to write her as it is nice to do little things to make others happy.

You stated in one of your letters some time ago that you had written to Joe Halliday. I have not seen him since you wrote him. He does not clerk in Clark's store now. I do not know what he is doing. I am glad that you have heard from Uncle Isaac but we are disappointed in him for not reading your letter in meeting. I know it was interesting. The only thing I can account for it is "that he is too lazy to stand up and read it." They are not blessed with having interesting brethren to preach, that is a sure thing. You must not feel discouraged about that, just consider that it was your big uncle's lack in judgment.

We are very glad that you had the privilege of going on a mission. It is a blessing in more than one way. You needed rest from manual labor more than anything else and that is the only way you would have a chance to recruit up a bit. A person of your ambitious nature

would never give your body the necessary rest that it needs if you were home. We are glad that you are enjoying your mission and that you like Sweden as it gives one pleasure to live in a pleasant place. We want you to go to London, also to Germany, and the other places you would like to visit. You may never go to Sweden again, so see all that you can while you are so near those places. We will send you the money, let us know in good time when you need money. There is nothing like seeing as much of the world as you can.

Jim Fugal's wife is in P.G. yet. I talked to her some time ago and she said that I need not write to Jim about those addresses in Denmark as Jim was coming to P.G. soon. I told her to tell Jim to come up as soon as he came and she said that she would. [Jim, visiting from Idaho, is Louis' brother, sons of Christian and Margaret.]

I am sorry that your companion has been sick, glad he is well now. Mother is in Provo visiting with Carrie, while John is over here. She went Wednesday. I do not know how long she will stay. Carrie phoned over this morning and said they were all well. Mr. Peterson, Marry Ann's husband, died a few days ago, they took him to the infirmary about a month ago. It is a blessing for the poor man that he did not have to suffer any more. Vern Wilson was buried yesterday, he died in Mercur of Typhoid fever. He was nineteen years old.

We are invited to Lim's tonight, it is Mr. Lim's birthday, he is sixty seven years old. Tomorrow night we are invited to Hyrum Hieselt's in Provo Canyon, it is Mrs. H. birthday and a large crowd is invited to come up and stay until Sunday. If all is well Jens and Lavina and Chris and I are going if it does not storm too much.

I will bring my epistle to a close hoping to hear from you soon and that you are well and enjoying yourself. As ever Your Loving Sister, Stena Clayton.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 13, 1911

My Dear Husband:

I rec'd your very welcome letter a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you again. When I wrote to you last I was still in the land of Abraham and since then I have been to Salt Lake and stayed nearly a week and now I am back to P.G. I came here Saturday and they didn't know I was coming so when I got here there was no one home but Chris. Your mother was in Provo with Carrie, and Jens, Lavina and Stena had gone to a dance up in Provo canyon and they didn't get back till Sunday morning. Your mother is still in Provo and it does seem strange and lonely here without her. She doesn't know Melba is here or I guess she would be anxious to come and see her.

Well I have seen Mart, he came over yesterday afternoon and Melba had quite a good time playing with him. It didn't take her so very long to get acquainted with him. Well Nels I guess you have heard that Chris is going to get married, that Poulson is working on his house today. It is going to be out there where that hole was dug for Jens' house. So you see there's something doing down here.

It's a beautiful day today and I am going to go down town this afternoon. It seems quite nice to get back to P.G. I guess you had better address my letters here after this. Annie has the appendicitis and if she doesn't get better she will have to be operated on and if she does I will go and stay with her until she is well again but you can send my letters here anyhow.

It seemed good to see Mart back and I wish you were here too. I don't know of any more news now. I went to meeting last night. Ernest and I went and left Melba home with Stena. Louis Fugal was here yesterday. I hadn't seen him for sometime so that was quite nice too.

Well dearest it won't be quite three months until you are home again. That isn't so very long but oh the time does go so slow. I can't help wondering where we will live. I don't know of any houses that are for rent now but maybe there will be some before you get here. Well Nels I guess this will be all for this time. You must write often dear and come home as soon as possible to your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxxooooxxx

Abraham, March the 14th, 1911

[Forwarded 2/20 letter to Viola, Pleasant Grove, from Niels.]

My Dear Daughters Viola and Esther

I will just write a little as I haven't heard from you and I have another letter from Neils [yes, Neils] to forward to Viola. This leaves us all well down here, there is no other cases of measles in Abraham that I have heard of. We are having excellent weather just now. I am resowing lucerne seed in the Jenning field. Allen is harrowing it in. Allen let B. Y. Pratt have old bell on his house, he got \$175 for her. I am not right sure I got the address right [for Esther], 2420 South 9th East? Well kiss the kids for me. As ever, Leroy Young.

[Written on one of the pages of Niels' letter to Viola: We have been looking for a letter from you for an age. How is Melba and how is Annie and her children? L.Y.]

Gefle, March 20, 1911

My Dear Darling Wife;

I received your very short but welcome letter while we were visiting saints in Lörstrand. I had one of the saints here in Gefle forward our mail to us while we were away but your letter was all I received excepting a letter from Elder Hanson which came direct from Sundsvall.

I am very pleased to note that you are well and that you hardly think little Melba will have the measles. You write that you are anticipating going north in the near future providing Melba remains well, so I presume this letter will not find you at Abraham. No doubt the folks in P.G. will be very glad to see you and our Melba again. I hope you will be treated nice and that you will enjoy staying with my folks. I hardly thought you would leave your father and Aunt Hanner so soon, but it is alright anyway if so be your desire, for I suppose you can visit them again before so very long if you wish. I want you to be where you feel

like you can enjoy yourself the most, so you will not think the time is passing too slow for my home coming. Just think dearest, every day brings us nearer to that time when we will meet again. In less than three months I expect to be with you, and then, oh! how the joy will cause our hearts to swell, and we will surely think all is well.

Well probably a report of our trip last week will be of interest to you so I will endeavor to write you a little concerning it. We left Gefle March 10th arriving at Lörstrand the same evening, where we remained until March 15th. We were treated royally by the saints while here and some of our friends also received us kindly. We took part in their Sunday School and also held a saints meeting, but no public meetings were held this time. While we were on the train traveling toward Lörstrand the priest of that district was also on the same train and he learned by a passenger from Lörstrand that the Mormon preachers were on board the train, undoubtedly on their way to Lörstrand. The priest told this passenger from Lörstrand to do all in his power to prevent the Mormons from holding any meetings. Some of our friends got word of this some way or other and decided to try to secure a place for us in spite of what the priest had said, and even got a promise of a man that he would open his house for us. But the morning before the evening that we were to hold the meeting we received word that the man who had promised us the place was sick and could not let us use his rooms. I am inclined to believe that some of our enemies put a flea in his ear which caused him to draw in his horns. We have had some good lively times at Lörstrand so we can well afford to be unfortunate in holding meetings for once. I think the next time we go there we will be able to hold an open air meeting so we will not have to coax anybody to lend us rooms. I hardly think I will go there again until conference, when I expect to pay them a visit being as it is on the way to Sundsvall.

We left Lörstrand March 15 and went to Söderhamn where we remained two days visiting the eight saints who are in this city. Some of the saints live about six miles from Söderhamn so we had a nice journey through the forests on a little sleigh which we would push ourselves, by having one foot on the runner and the other to propel ourselves and the sleigh over the ground [see photo, page 21]. This is great sport going down hill but going uphill we were compelled to walk and push the sleigh. We returned to Söderhamn the same day so after traveling in this fashion for about 12 miles we were quite tired.

After being away from Gefle for a week it seemed nice to get back to our headquarters. The next day after our arrival in Gefle was Saturday and we were kept very busy making out weekly, monthly and quarterly reports which should be at Sundsvall no later than March 20, so they can be sent to S.L.C. in time for the general conference to be held there.

Yesterday at our Sunday meeting we had quite a number of visitors mostly new so it was a pleasure to explain to them some of the gospel principles.

Will now close with all kinds of love and best wishes to you all. I am yours forever a loving husband. Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 21, 1911

My Dear Husband:

It is with great pleasure I now take the opportunity to write you a few lines. It as just a week ago yesterday since I wrote to you and since then I have rec'd two of your nice letters. I am always much more pleased when you write often than when I have to wait over a week.

I asked you sometime ago where you thot I had better stay and I got the answer yesterday. I wouldn't have left Abraham so soon but I got a letter from Annie saying she had appendicitis and might have to be operated on anytime and asking me to come and take care of her children. That is why I got ready so quick and came up. I stayed in Salt Lake with Esther a week and then came down here and was intending to go over to Provo in a few days but Annie phoned over and said Louisa had the Scarlet fever so of course I couldn't go over. I will try and go to Salt lake to meet you if I have the price so you must be sure and let me know when you will be there.

Melba is well now. She took a tumble down the cellar steps this morning but was lucky enough not to get hurt. The Young Ladies have a meeting every Monday night to prepare the lesson for mutual. Stena, Lavina and I went last night. They had it up to Monsons. The subject was Salvation for the Dead. We studied the lesson and answered the questions and after we got thru Lily Monson played us some selections on the piano. We had quite a nice time and didn't get home till eleven o'clock.

[Letter from Viola to Niels, continued next set.]