

[Letter from Viola to Niels, March 21, 1911, continued from last set.]

By the way Lawrence said to tell you hello, he said he wanted to write to you but was so busy he couldn't get at it.

We are going to mutual tonight. We leave Melba home with Grandma and she is good as can be. I took her to Sunday School last Sunday and she was a little nuisance. She would sing at the wrong time and talk out loud when she should have been quiet. She made quite a bit of noise but that would not have been so bad if she hadn't insisted on playing with the ink bottles in the desks. I was almost give out when I got home and I decided then and there that it isn't wise to take the little girlie to Sunday School as she is too much like her father. I don't mean that she isn't alright but she has too much ambition. You know that is one of your failings.

Well dearest in two more months I will be looking for you to come home. Yes Annie got your letters and said they were just fine. Poor girl, she is having lots of trouble in her life. I do hope she gets well so she won't have to be operated on. She is having her a house built in Provo and expects it to be finished in a short time. She sent Elias down to Aunt Esther's when Louisa took sick so they don't think he will take the Scarlet fever. I haven't heard how they are for a few days. You know she can't write on account of being quarantined but she has the Independent phone in the house so I am going down town today and phone to her.

We are having beautiful weather now and I can hardly stay in the house. I went up to see Perlinda, you know she lives up in John Newman's house. Her baby is quite sweet but of course I don't think she is as cute as Melba. It will be a year old on the first of April and they have already sent for another. I didn't see Allie, he was out to his father's. I heard the other day that Allie and his brothers had bought their father's place and if that is so Perlinda is apt to move out there this summer and then maybe we could get those two rooms where they are living. Don't you think that would be nice? Or don't you think you would like to live there? Maybe you think I don't need to worry so much about where we are going to live but you know I can't help it.

I enjoyed your last letter so much dearest. I don't want you to get homesick but I do like to hear that you are anxious to get back to us. You must sure let me know when you will be in Salt Lake and I will try to be there. Esther's address is 2420 South 9th East. You take the Ashton Avenue car on Main 2nd South and get off at Simpson Avenue and then go straight the same way the car is going and it's the third house. I will let you know if they move before you come. But if you can let me know what train you will be on I could meet you at the Depot. Yours forever, Viola.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Mar. 21st, 1911

Dear Brother –

It is with pleasure that I answer your kind and welcome letter that I received a few days ago. We were very glad to hear from you as we are always. Glad you are well and enjoying your mission. In my last letter I told you that mother was in Provo visiting with

Carrie. She stayed ten days and enjoyed her visit very much. She is feeling quite well now. She is cutting carpet rags today. Viola and Melba are here now, they arrived about a week ago. Both are feeling fine. Melba has grown so much since I saw her last. She can talk now too. She is sitting on the floor singing like a lark. Viola is writing to you at one side of the table and I am at the other.

Spring has come now, the ground is dry and it is nice and warm. Lew has planted wheat in Aunt Margaret's lot and also in the field, today he is in the field harrowing the ground and preparing it to sow the oats. The boys intend to plant about six acres in beets. Chris is busy in the shop and Jens is very busy too, they are extending the waterworks to L. Jacobson and Peter Jenson so he has had to look after that.

Chris is going to build him a house on the corner, he is going to start with it soon. Ren Benson is cleaning out the cellar so the foundation can be put in. The Poulson boys are going to put up the walls. I do not know who are going to do the carpenter work. [This house still stands, next to the blacksmith shop, corner of 700 N. and 400 E.]

The sidewalks in P.G. are going to be paved from the depot up to the schoolhouse, won't that be nice? Nearly all the nice shade trees are being dug out, in order to make cement walks. John Holdaway has his house torn down and they are going to put up a modern home. In my letter I told you that we were going to Hy Hieselt's in the canyon. We went and had a fine time, we stayed all night so we could see to come home through the canyon. Chris has sent a check for your life insurance policy, he sent it on time so it will be alright.

Jim Fugal was here the other day and he said he did not know much about our relatives in Denmark. He said he had seen one girl cousin and one boy cousin, the boy's name and address is Jens Nielson, Brød Kusle, Ålborg, Den. He is Father's brother's son. He is married and has a nice family. Jim said that he did not have a home of his own and he might have moved by now. But I think perhaps you can trace him up. The girl cousin is not married, in fact there are two girls. Jim does not know their addresses. If you can find the boy no doubt he will know where his sisters are. I suppose Jens will write you in the near future and tell you about Father's home.

John Christensen has three more rows of trees over north to prune and then the pruning will be done. Ernest is at school. We are all well and trust you are the same. Mrs. Oscarson told me to ask you if you would please bring a Swedish hymnbook home for her and she would pay you for it. You will find a draft for \$50.00 in this letter, we hope you have not been out of money long. Will close with love from us all. Your Sis. Stena.

Dear Niels – Mother encloses a \$5 dollar bill in this letter for you, to get you an egg for Easter. She says no doubt you will need some U.S. money to come home on.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Mar. 28, 1911

Dear Husband:

It has been just a week since I wrote to you last but I haven't heard from you since I

wrote.

Esther and Ike came down Saturday and Sunday, I went with them over to Provo. We saw Annie and all the folks and had a nice time. Annie is still quarantined in so we just talked to her over the fence. She will be out the last of this week. Louisa is well now. Annie's house will be finished in ten days. Esther and Ike are thinking of moving to P.G. in about a month so I guess they won't be living in Salt Lake when you come so you must let me know if you would like to have me come to meet you anyhow. I guess Esther and Ike will go back to Salt Lake today.

Yesterday your mother, Stena, Melba and I went out to Mrs. Gustaveson's, we were going out Sat. but it was too cold. She had got your letter and card and was so pleased. She said that card was worth more to her than ten dollars. We read the letter you wrote to her, she thought it was alright but of course you know I wasn't quite so pleased over it as she was but I guess that is natural. She seems to think Melba is about alright.

Mrs. Han White is dead. She had cancer and suffered something awful before she died so I guess it is a blessing she died. Her funeral is today at eleven o'clock. I guess Stena and I will go and Grandma is going to tend Melba. It is time to get ready now so I will have to cut my letter short. Melba sends a big kiss to papa. Goodbye, write often, as ever, Viola.

Stena says to tell you hello, she will write in a few days. V.F.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 5th 1911

Dear Brother –

It is with great pleasure that I endeavor to answer your welcome letters. I received your second letter last night so I thought it about time that I was writing to you. We were very glad to hear from you and to note that you were well and enjoying your labors as usual. When Viola wrote her last letter I told her to tell you that I would write you in a couple of days but now a week has passed since then.

Mother, Viola and I went out to Mrs. Gustaveson's on the 27th of March, her birthday was on the 25th but it was too stormy for mother to go. She seemed to be feeling pretty well and was looking for us. She had rec'd your letter and card and was very glad to get them. She said she would not take ten dollars for them.

Last Sunday Viola, Melba, Ernest and I went to Provo to spend the day with John and Carrie. We had quite a nice time.

Chris has started to build his house now. Niels and Jim Poulson are going to build it, the foundation is in now. I think they finished it today. Ed Turner [son-in-law of Little Andrew (Shaky) Nielsen] and Ren Benson attend the masons. The masons are going to put the foundation in for John Holdaway's house before they do any more to Chris' house. Jens has not commenced yet to do anything to his house.

The carload of buggies is in, the boys have sold three, it does not seem to be a very rushing business just now, but it is to be hoped that they will be able to sell them OK. They have sold quite a number of plows and harrows. Lew is still working here, the grain is sowed and Lew is preparing the beet ground now. The trees are pruned and sprayed, but the raspberries are not trimmed as yet, but Owen Christiansen was working at them yesterday.

Since I last wrote you Mrs. Annie White has passed away. She was ill a long time and suffered very much before she died. All of her boys are living in town, they have each a house on the White lot. She divided her property between the children and Han so he would not squander it all.

Mother is busy making rug rags, she has been employed for quite a while now with them. I was talking to Uncle Isaac the other day, he said that cousin or relative he wrote you about would not move away from that place that they were living at, they may have died. He said they were not very good at corresponding so they may be still living and slow to write. I think like you do though, if they live very far out of your way I would not bother to hunt them up.

We went to mutual last night, it was the last meeting this season for the young men. We had quite a good programme. Mart gave us a talk about Easter in the Catholic Church in Stockholm. He described the ceremonies the priest goes through and also the people, it was quite interesting. We will be quite lonesome now that the young men have stopped.

I cannot think of any news to write this time. We will send you five dollars in greenbacks in this letter and send you more later. I suppose you would just as soon have it sent that way as in a bank draft.

Ernest still goes to school, it will soon stop, just four more weeks. Will close with Love from us all, Your Loving Sister, Stena.

Mart said that he did not have to show his passport when he landed but that it would be alright for you to have it handy. He said to have your minister's certificate handy as you will have to show that in Chicago. Mart said to helsen you that he is feeling fine and wears his yellow jumper. In the last part of this letter I stated that we would send you five dollars. We will send you a draft of \$25.00 instead. We thot that it would be conference before we could hear from you after receiving this letter. Amen.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., April 5, 1911

My Dear Husband:

It is with great pleasure I now take time to write a few lines to you although I haven't heard from you since I wrote last. Stena is going to write today so I thot I would put a few lines in with her letter but I don't want to write so often that you will get tired of reading my scribbling. Stena rec'd a letter from you yesterday and I enjoyed reading it very much.

Last night I went to mutual, it was the last meeting for the Young Men and they had a program which was as follows:

1st, Male Quartet by Mart Christiansen, Lawrence Monson, Mr. Miner and Horace Monson.

2nd, Reading from the Era by Sant Weeks.

3rd, Speech by Mart Chirstiansen.

4th, Song Swen Nielson.

5th, Reading by Mr. Miner from the Era.

Everything went off fine and we had a very enjoyable time. Mart, in his speech told us about his visit to a Catholic Church on Easter Sunday which was very interesting.

Sunday Stena, Ernest, Melba and I went to Provo to visit Carrie. We had a nice time and enjoyed the visit very much. John took me up to see Annie before I left. She was feeling pretty good and Louisa is well again but they were still quarantined. She said the Doctor was coming to take the flag down the next day. She is having her a house built in Provo and she expects it to be finished by next Saturday. She says to tell you that she couldn't answer your letter on account of being quarantined but would be able to write before very much longer.

We have been having beautiful weather here for awhile but today it looks like it was going to storm.

I am very glad to hear that you are well and enjoying your work. I suppose that the time seems short that you have left to remain in Sweden but I hope you will feel like coming home when you are released. Mart seems to feel bad to think he couldn't stay there longer.

Lavina was telling me the other day that Joe Larson spoke to Jens about renting his house. I understood her to say that he asked Jens to write and ask you if you wanted to rent it for \$3 per month and during the watering season you could have it for watering the lot and the place across the street. That is what I understood the way Lavina told me but I suppose Jens has written and told you all about it. You know it's that place down by the north field where Rasmussen used to live.

I believe I told you when I wrote before that Esther and Ike had been down. They went back a week ago today and I haven't heard from them since.

Well Nels your mother has got a carpet for us in the loom now and I go out and weave on it once in awhile. After we get it done she is going to make one for Chris.

Melba is well and is getting to be quite a talker. She says she's papa's little lady. I will be glad when I can get in a house by ourselves and then maybe I can manage her better for I am afraid she is getting spoiled.

I received quite a nice letter from Valeria the other day. You know Joe has been teaching in Idaho all winter and now he has a school for the summer also. He got \$75 a month last

winter and is getting sixty this summer so you see he is doing pretty good.

I don't know of any more news so will close for this time, with best regards to Elder Nilson and also yourself. Your loving Wife. Viola.

[In the box is a receipt, date-stamped Apr. 5 – 1911 by the Bank of Pleasant Grove, from Mrs. Niels Fugal “in favor of” Niels Fugal (his account?) for 93 Kro. (kronor) “drawn on Gefleborg Enskelda Bk, Gefle, Sweden” amounting to the sum of \$25.00. No mention of it in either of their letters.]

Gefle, April 5, 1911 [First letter sent directly since Viola came back to Pleasant Grove.]

My Dear Wife;

It is Wednesday morning. I have been out of bed long enough to have a shave and drink a cup of warm water, so now while my companion is still thinking about getting up I will commence this letter to you. It isn't a pleasant morning, for it is snowing and blowing, causing the cold air to find its way thro the cracks of the windows. It has been stormy since Sunday evening, but I suppose we can afford to have a little stormy weather now for we certainly have had a nice mild winter in this part of Sweden. For the last two weeks previous to this storm, the ground has been bare and it looked like we would soon have spring.

I received the letter which you wrote the Monday after you arrived in P.G., and am pleased to learn that all is well with you and baby and that you think it nice to get back to P.G. I had been wondering where my darling wife was, for you had written that you expected to soon leave Abraham, and as it was three weeks between your last letters you can imagine how many thoughts could pass thro my mind in that time, but now your little man is not at all worried and he thanks you ever so much for your kind letter.

I will believe it was nice for you to visit Esther and Ike at S.L.C. although you made no remarks about it in your letter. Probably you will go to Conference this spring and spend another week with them, or how?

I am really sorry that Annie is sick and I do hope that she will recover without being compelled to pass through the unpleasant experience of an operation. You no doubt are with her now unless she has improved, so I wish you to extend my best wishes to her and tell her that I hope and pray that her case isn't so severe. I asked you some time ago to find out if she received my letter, but I have as yet received no reply from you.

How are Esther and Ike making it in this day and age of the world? Do they remember that such a person as Niels Fugal ever existed, or haven't they time to even let their minds think of such unimportant matters? I hope all is well with them and that they will always find sunshine on the cloudy days of life.

Well dearest, I suppose your father and Aunt Hanner were quite sorry to see you and Melba leave them, now that you had been there so long, and that your father and Melba were such good friends, but it seems as though there are many unpleasant experiences

that must happen once in awhile, so we can learn to appreciate the sweet. I suppose Melba will not be without lovers in P.G. either. I'll bet mother nearly eats her up, and that she receives loving caresses from all. I received a letter from Mart the other day, and he wrote that I certainly had a nice little daughter, he would assure me that. He wrote the same as you, that it did not take long for them to get acquainted with each other. He said he did not want to tell me too much about it, for fear that I would get homesick.

Well dearest, it is certainly nice to receive such nice reports and it would not be telling the truth if I should say that I wasn't very anxious to get home to my dear prizes. I am sure that I have much to rejoice over, and I can truthfully say that my soul is full of hope. You wrote that it would only be about three more months until I come home, but now I can write that it will just be about two more months till that joyous time. You better not write any letters to me and address them to Gefle later than April 29, for I expect to leave Gefle about May 15th. You understand it takes about 14 or 15 days for a letter to reach me. But I would like very well to have a letter from you awaiting me at 295 Edge Lane, Liverpool, England. You may write that one any time between May 1st and May 10th. I will write to Pres. Clawson and ask him to hold me mail if any comes. What if I didn't get released now dearest? I would certainly be sorry that I told you to stop writing to me. But I am not doubting that you will soon receive your brown skinned husband, Niels.

Provo, Utah, April 15th 1911

Dear Bro:

I received your letter of March 14th for my birthday, thank you very much for same, I was very glad to hear from you and that you are feeling well. It had been a long time since I heard from you so it seemed good to hear once more. I am 32 years young instead of 31 as you thot. There was no one here on my birthday but the next day being Sunday Stena, Viola, Ernest and Melba came. We had a very nice time. It seemed so good to have them come. Melba is certainly a sweet kid, she toddles around and talks so cute. I tell you she is smart. I asked Viola if it seemed like you had been gone as long as you have, she says yes, much longer.

Well Dear Niels it won't be so very much longer now before you will be home, and how nice that will be. Mother was down last month and spent 10 days with us, I enjoyed her visit so much. We had coffee every afternoon and of course I had to keep plenty on hand for her to do, to keep her from getting homesick.

You ask if we will be in our new home by the time you get home. I think maybe we will, Sundberg has commenced working on it again so he might get it ready someday, anyway we have to move June 1st whether the house is finished or not because we have sold this place and the people that bought it are going to move in June 1st. So you see that means that we go on the farm to stay. We paid \$1280.00 for this place, since then we have had the city water put in and had a nice little barn built. We sold it for \$1400.00 so you see that is just what it cost us. We can't take care of two homes and we thot it would be better to sell it than to rent it out as anyone nearly always has trouble to collect rent.

[The "Bench" in those days was not what we think of these days, and the address of this

new house which still stands is 426 W. 400 S., Orem. Boyd Fugal remembers visiting, listening to their player piano, and that John was most generous, giving the nieces and nephews a whole dollar for their birthdays. He said John told them he would reward them if they found a weed to pull on his place but he was such a meticulous gardener, they never could find one.]

John is still hard at pruning, ever since he got thro pruning ma's and Jens's orchards he has been pruning for Berry on the Bench and I guess he will be busy at that another week, so you see he has pruning to do even if he doesn't own any trees. We have had some very fine weather with some cool nights in between so the trees are not in bloom yet. So it looks as tho there will be a good crop of fruit this year, unless we get late frosts. It is quite cloudy and looks as if we are going to have a general rain.

We are all well as this letter leaves us and I hope it will find you enjoying the same blessing and enjoying your mission, which I know you are. I have no more to tell you so will close trusting all is well with you and wishing you success in all your undertakings, I am as ever Your Loving Sis. Carrie. John and the children sends their love.

Enclosed postcard: Dear Uncle, I received your pretty postcard and was glad to hear from you. We are all well and hope you the same. I am still going to school, I like it fine. My teacher said I was the best one in my class. I think I will get promoted. I have been to the picture show today and it was a very nice show. I saw Melba last Sunday, she is very sweet. I wish you would soon come home. I like Provo just fine and I don't like to leave. Mamma is busy sewing me a new dress, it will soon be Easter and I wish you was home so you could come and visit us. I have no more to tell you so will close with love and best wishes, from your loving Erma. [Almost ten years old.]

Gefle, April 13, 1911

My Dear Darling Wife;

The letter you sent with Stena's came to hand about a week ago, and yesterday I received another one from you. I like the spirit of them, both for it seems as though you are feeling alright and enjoying yourself OK where you are at present. You probably are with Annie at present. I was pleased to learn that Louisa is well again and I hope Annie's sickness will leave her without her going under an operation. So perhaps Esther and Ike will move from S.L.C. before I get home?

Well dearest it would be nice to have you meet me in S.L.C. anyway if you feel like you can and if it will be convenient for you to do so. I don't know whether you have any relatives or friends you could stay with, but if you have I think it would be very nice for you to meet me at S.L.C. You understand it will be impossible for me to inform you of which train or even which day I will come on, till I arrive at Chicago, and then if I should write to you at P.G. it would hardly give you time to come to S.L.C. before I arrive there. I will write to you as soon as I land in America and tell you as near as possible which day I will arrive and that will give you time to go to S.L.C. and stay with friends until I come. Now dearest if you have no place to stay other than at a hotel, please leave all information at Mrs. Lavin's. Her address is Foulson Ave. 17. Then if you don't find out what train I

will come on so you will be unable to meet me at the depot, I will go to Lavin's as soon as I arrive, to learn where I may find my darling wife. When you write me to Liverpool I wish you to state whether or not you will be at S.L.C. and if you know at what place you will stay, please send me the address so I can gain information there instead of going to Lavin's and so I could send you a card before I arrive. If you tell me you will be at S.L.,C. and that you don't know which place you will stay, then I will address your mail to Foulson Ave. 17 so you may call for it there. I don't know yet whether I will come into S.L.C. from the north or from the south; so you see it is necessary that I know whether or not you are awaiting me at S.L.C. for the simple reason that if I came on the Denver & Rio Grande I would get off at Provo or American Fork if I knew you were not at S.L.C., but you know I would have to go to S.L.C. to report within a few days so I think it would be very nice for you to meet me there no matter which route I come on. You will remember that I left on the D&RG so very likely I will come back on the other route. Now dearest I hope I have made things clear to you and that you will follow my instructions so there will be no mistake. Remember you are at liberty to give me any address you choose, I have given you Mrs. Lavin's address because I know of no other that would be better.

Well dear wife, our great anticipation will soon be realized and oh how happy we will be. The much talked of meeting will soon take place and then everything will seem like a pleasant dream. The thirty-two months of absence will be well paid for by the happiness and joy that we will experience. Oh dearest I am so glad that I have you and little Melba to come home to and oh how nice it will be to see my dear mother and all the folks. I feel like the Lord has been very good to me and has made everything convenient for me while I have been away and I hope you can say the same. You may have hid many of your trials and sad experiences from your husband but I hope you are able to recognize the hand of the Lord in all things.

Elder Davidson who is laboring in this conference is quite sick and chances are he will have to go home. I think it so sad because he hasn't been here a year yet and I know he would like to complete his mission before going home. When I think of how little sickness I have had and how many advantages I have been blessed with I certainly can't help but feel grateful and give God all honor and glory. Will now bring my letter to a close with love and best wishes to you all. I am yours forever, Niels Fugal.

P.S. I received a letter from Aunt Hanner yesterday. She said it was quite lonesome now since you and Melba left. Yes dearest, I think it would be nice to rent those two rooms in John Newman's house. I know of no other place that would be more convenient for me.

Pleasant Grove,Utah, April 16th 1911

Dear Brother,

It is with pleasure that I write you a few lines again. I have not heard from you since I wrote last but I had received two letters from you before I wrote my last letter. So we are even again. It is Easter Sunday today as you will notice by the date of this letter. The three wards joined together and held Sunday School in the tabernacle, it was pretty good. It seemed nice for a change to meet together. Now we are weaned from meeting together

so it seems alright to meet by ourselves.

Last night Viola and Melba went to Provo, they went on the 5:38 train. The baby is so sweet, she talks quite a bit, she points up to the picture of the family group and points to the little boy on it and says papa. [See Grant Fugal CD for this photo.] Annie was quite anxious to have Viola come and visit her, she has not visited with her since she moved to Provo. She says she will come back again before long.

Since I wrote you last we have had a very heavy frost. The fruit trees were looking fine but it froze hard for three successive nights so the people say that all of the fruit is killed. The ice was a half inch thick. We have not given up all hopes yet. We hope there will be an apple or plum for you anyway when you come home. The orchard is pruned and looks fine, and about every vacant place has an old buggy or some junk on it. The boys are busy with business, the buggy shed is still full of buggies. The sheep are sheered, there is quite a big herd of them. There are five.

Mart is breaking his colt this week, he had it hitched up to his buggy today. He goes to Sunday school and meeting every Sunday. Today we had home missionaries, Bro. Samuel Smith and Aydelotte. They spoke well, gave us some good advice. Tomorrow night there is going to be a Stake MIA dance in the Apollo. I do not know whether we will go or not. Sometimes it is hard for the boys to get off.

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