

[Letter dated April 16, 1911 from Stena to Niels, continued from last set.]

Jens told me to tell you to hunt up our cousin in Denmark, his name or he is called Bröbusk Jens Nielson, he lives in Ålborg. Jim Fugal said he treated him just fine and so did his children, he has a large family. Jens said also for you to get the genealogy of our ancestors as much as possible. There is a man there that helps people to get their genealogy and perhaps cousin Jens Nielson can help you. You know he is the son of pa's brother Niels. Jim Fugal tried to find out where grandpa Fugal was born but it was not on the records in Salt Lake City. It may take you two or three days to find out or get the genealogy but we think it would be nice to get it.

Last Friday night our Sunday school class had a surprise on Ethel Hilton and I. They had it over to Lavina's, it was planned alright. Lavina phoned for Ethel to come down, she had something to show her and we would look over the mutual lesson. Ethel came down, the crowd was already there and she got surprised just fine. Then Lavina came over here and said that I was wanted at the telephone and I went over to get surprised too. We had a nice time, the children showed us a good time. The lunch consisted of sandwiches, cake, ice cream and candy. There were twenty nine without Jen's family so you see there was quite a crowd.

I do not think you will be able to get many more letters from us as it will not be long now until you have conference. Will close with love from us all. Your Loving sister Stena Clayton.

Mother sends her love and a two dollar bill, she knows her baby boy needs a few cents, as Mrs. Poulson said. Be good to yourself Niels.

Dear Uncle Nels –

I thot I would write you a few lines once more. I received your pretty postcard a long time ago and was glad to hear from you. I go to school and like it fine. Miss Newman is good to me. Write to me again some time From Ernest Clayton.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 17, 1911

Dear Bro. Neils:

If I don't write you now it will be too late as you will soon be on your home trip. I suppose you can count the days that you have left to stay. It will be nice to have you home again.

We have started to pay Louis Nelson [Nielson/Nielsen] \$10.50 a week, that is what counts and business is not any too flush at present. The fruit being froze means a few hundred dollars to us as we have a good deal of money coming to us through that source and it has put a damper on some prospective buggy sales. But I suppose it will all come out in the wash.

I think about the time you come home I will get spliced I tell you, I have a fine girl.

Andrew Sundberg put the floor joists on Sat. The brick work will be done next week. It will cost a few dollars to build a house but there is nothing like having a house. It is about the same size as F. Newman's only it has a cellar. It will be a hip roof with a window in front. It will have a dining room and kitchen, bedroom and parlor, and bathroom.

It seems so strange that I am going to jump off the earth so soon. It will seem more strange to you to come home and have a big daughter. I suppose it would not be much of a life if there were not some strange things happen.

I hope when you get home we will be able to make things count for more than I can now. All though ought not to complain as when we count our resources we are better off now than we were when you left. But it is outstanding accounts or in stock, we have the damnedest lot of junk around here you ever saw but it is all worth money.

We did not get a car of machinery this year, but we ordered a car of pipe the other day. We used a car last year but we got it in small lots. We are going to try to get the heating job on the schoolhouse they are going to build this summer.

I hope you are enjoying yourself the last part of your stay and that you will see something new or worth looking at on your home trip. From your Bro. C. A. Fugal.

Provo City, Utah, April 25, 1911

My Darling Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I now take time to write to you once more. It has been over a week since I wrote last but I have been quite busy.

I came over here a week ago last Sat. and since then Annie has been sick and then Esther and Ike came over and stayed a few days and I just neglected writing before. I hope you are well and enjoying your work. I guess you will be released by the time this letter reaches you. We are all quite well here now but Melba has quite a bad cold. She coughed quite a bit last night but I think she will soon be alright. The folks over here just about eat her up. They think she is so sweet. She is a regular little chatterbox, always talking. When I was over to your mother's and they would ask her where her papa was she would point to that picture of you on the family group and say "there he is." [I remember Melba Jo telling us that when Melba finally met her father in person, she said, "Papa's got legs," because the pictures she was shown were not of him standing.]

It has been quite cold here for awhile but it is warmer again now. Louisa started to school Monday. Annie's new house is just about completed and I guess she will move in this week. Aunt Esther's son John is going on a mission to the Netherlands on the 10th of May.

John and Carrie drove up here to see us last Sunday but they only stayed a few minutes. I got a letter from Stena. They are all quite well. Esther and Ike are gong to move to

Pleasant Grove right away. They haven't been doing so very well last winter. Ike hasn't had much work and it was about all they could do to get something to eat. I think it is too bad. I feel sorry for Esther but that doesn't help them any.

I got another letter from you the other day and you said not to write any more letters to Sweden after the 29th so I won't write any more. I will write one to Liverpool and then I guess that will be all. It doesn't seem possible that you will be home so soon. You must keep on writing to me and let me know when you will be in Salt Lake City. I don't think Esther and Ike will be there but I will go anyhow if I have the price.

I guess we will go down to see Carrie today. Excuse this horrible writing, the pen isn't any good and I haven't got another. It is time for the postman so I will say goodbye. I will be so glad when you come home dearest. Melba sends a big kiss to papa. Write often to your loving wife Viola.

Provo City, Utah, May 3rd, 1911 [Arr. Liverpool May 11, forwarded, arr. Gefle May 23]

My Darling Husband:

Once more I take pleasure in writing a few lines to you to tell you that we are well and looking forward with much pleasure to the time when we will see and be with you again. I don't think it will be long after you received this letter until you are home. Somehow I can't realize that you will be home so soon, it doesn't seem possible. Just a little over a month now and Oh how I do wish it was just a week. I do hope and pray that you may have a pleasant journey home and arrive home in safety. I do wish you wasn't so far away and then it wouldn't take so long for you to come home.

My cousin John Banks is going on a mission to the Netherlands on the 10th of this month. They are having his farewell party tonight. Esther and Annie have gone but I stayed home with the kids and they are to bed and asleep so you see I am making good use of the time. I was down and stayed with Carrie a couple of days last week. She is feeling pretty good. You know they are expecting an addition to their family any time now but you must not tell anyone that I told you. [Last child on the family group sheet is the baby that died October 30, 1909.]

I got a letter from Stena today. They are all quite well. You said you would like to rent part of Newman's house but it is too late now as Claude is living in part and John is married and living in the other part or at least that is what I heard. Annie is living in her new house now and it is so nice. She has a parlor, dining room, bedroom and kitchen, and a bathroom all fixed up and a pantry and closet. It is fixed up just fine and we are as comfortable as can be. Ike is moving their furniture down to P.G. and Esther is staying here till he gets things straightened up a little.

I guess I won't be in Salt Lake to meet you as I haven't any friends or relatives there that I could stay with so I won't go to Salt Lake and you can keep on sending my letters to Pleasant Grove.

I don't know of anything else so will close. You must write often and come as soon as

possible to your loving wife and baby.

Pl. Grove, May 5/11 [Sent to Liverpool, forwarded, arr. Gefle May 23.]

Dear Bro. Niels:

I just came in and Stena is knobering off some lines to you so I thot it would be a fine idea for me to scratch a line or two, and there is another incentive for me to stay in de hus: "Mons" is cooking a toer. I wanted to write you a letter before you went to Denmark but it seemed like I could not get at it. I hardly know if I could give you any special advice. I believe you could get more information from our cousin. When you get there I hope you can say you were treated fine and that you got some clue toward getting information as to our pedigree. If you can do more toward getting genealogy while you are in England do so, but it is not likely you can. I hope you have become acquainted with some fellow or society who make it a business to gather up records as we can only go back to grandfather. Jim said he called at the historian's office and could not find where grandfather Fugl was born.

Well Niels I suppose you are having a good time now. If your health is good I believe you are. And it takes health to have a good time. I hardly think any advice from me now would do you any good as I will likely be behind time to say anything about London and the brethren there will give you advice. I hope you should see the Kensington museum. Madam Tussaud's museum, Westminster Abbey, and other noted places. Four or five days will not be too much if you have time. You know more of history than I do so you will fare all right but then I thot it well to mention these. The same when you get to America, see what you can but be careful where you go and if there are a number of you so much the better in one way. In another two are better because then there are not so many minds to consult as to where to go. I said be careful but "see," "look," "behold" at any rate while you may. This you can do if you are not tied up with immigrants and if you are you will have to do the best you can. If say two of you get after the Transportation co. in N.Y. you may get 3 or 4 stopover's but feel your way and don't ask favors for the whole bunch or they will turn you down. You have seen Niagara so if you land at N.Y. pass this place even if you may stop. Stop at Chicago or St. Louis. If you should stop at St. Louis visit The Banner Buggy Co. We have bought 2 cars of buggies of them and it would be nice for you to know something about their manufacture. This company makes over 60,000 jobs per yr. Moon Bros. Buggies are also made there and we had shipped in our car this year 9 jobs. At Chicago and Kansas City are the stockyards, you should take time enough to see the whole operation tho it takes a day longer. Then you could go out from Kansas City to Independence and there you may see a number you know. If you can make arrangement for stopovers and are short of funds, write us as soon as you find out and we can send you some at Kansas or some other place or perhaps you could make a loan of Wm. Seerett or some other friend until you can notify us. Anything in reason, see while you may.

Now I am in hopes you will soon be with us, we have plenty for you to do if your wife will let you work with us which I believe would be a good thing for awhile at least. In unity there is strength and I see no good reason why she should object and perhaps will not but I would hate to see you go to the land of Abraham. Well little brother take care of

yourself and write to us often, every day won't hurt when you get to N.Y. if nothing more a card. Be så Hälset paa det venligsta ifran J. P. Fugal and all.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 5th, 1911

My Dear Brother –

It is with great pleasure that I again endeavor to write you a few lines. As you stated in your last letter for us to write you a letter between the first and tenth of May, I thought I would write today as it is the 5th just between the 1st and 10th of May. When I think this is the last letter that I will write to you while you are on your mission it doesn't seem real but I can assure you that we are all glad that the time is drawing near that you will be home. It is certainly a long time that you have been away but we feel like you have done a good work and perhaps saved many souls. And you can continue to do good work when you come home as there is always work to do in every ward and community.

I was intending to write you one more letter while you were in Gefle, but I put it off too long, so I was afraid you would not get it. Sometimes things are so that you cannot write just when you would like to. The boys are very busy, the masons are working on Chris' house this week, half of the brickwork is done now. It makes some extra work when they are building. Tommy Jens and John West are tending the masons. Ren Benson is working at the brick yard, and Ed Turner for the city (helping with the cement walks), he has not much strength. John Christensen has been working for Jens the last week, he has been tearing down the south wall of Jens' house and been doing other jobs in between times. Jens has not started to dig his cellar yet but expects to get at it right away. Mart and Owen work at their brickyard, Mart is getting broke in to work now.

Mrs. Benson is sick again, she has inflammatory rheumatism in her right knee so she has to stay right in bed. It makes it hard on anyone to be sick so much. Mrs. Joseph E. Thorne died Thursday morning, she got a paralytic stroke a few days ago and was in a very bad condition. Her funeral is going to be tomorrow. Rose Harvey is also very sick, she has a cancer and is not expected to live. The doctors have given her up. There are not so many people that are very sick at present, but it seems that there are always a few.

Viola and Melba are in Provo. I understand that Annie has moved in her new home. They say it is real nice. Melba is so cute, she is quite a chatterbox, she says some of the cutest things.

I had the pleasure of again hearing Mart preach last Sunday, as there was quarterly conference at Lehi. The three wards met together and Mart and Jimy Thorne (Slow) did the preaching, it was alright too. There is going to be Sunday school conference in Lehi next Sunday. There is nothing like having things on the move you know.

Oh yes! the children has a little donkey that they ride, they have had it a week, it is a ornery looking animal but the little boys think it is OK, it walks so slow and steady.

Mother is busy reading, she has read so many books this winter and spring. She does not feel very well, her back bothers her again lately. She is a little better than she was two

weeks ago. I am so glad that she can read so well as the time passes by quite rapidly for her. I hope she will soon feel better so she can get out and visit with the neighbors like she used to.

Lavina and Jens attended an Opera at American Fork last night, it was a Springville troupe, there were forty five in it. They enjoyed it very much, were glad they went. Berthena and George are in Riverton visiting with Mrs. Henderson. They intend to go back to the reservation this month. Their nearest neighbor is three miles away. I think it would be somewhat lonesome to live out there.

School has closed except the 8th grade and the high school, they will continue for some time yet. The cement walks are laid as far as the schoolhouse, they are not on both sides of all the streets that they are going to pave as yet, but are still working on them.

Mother is cooking coffee, don't you wish you were here so you could have some too? Be good to yourself, see all that you possibly can while you have the chance and write soon to your Loving Sister Stena. The folks send their love to you.

Sundsvall, May 9, 1911 [Letter arrived in Pleasant Grove on May 22.]

My Dear Wife;

I suppose you are all in anxiety to receive this letter that you may learn the results of conference, i.e., concerning me. Probably you have read the letter which I wrote to Jens, but for fear you haven't it would perhaps be proper for me to explain matters to you. I will first say, dear wife, you are quite a prophetess insomuch that what you wrote me last fall has partly been fulfilled. Do you remember that you wrote that you were afraid the winter would never pass and if it ever did, then all you would be expecting was a letter stating that I was not released and that I was going to remain until fall? Well dearest, I don't think I will have to stay until fall, but I am obliged to stay until July for the simple reason that the Pres. of the European Mission cannot possibly get a place on the boats before then. That seems very strange but it is a fact nevertheless. I will be permitted to go with the first company of elders and saints that leave Liverpool so I will have to feel satisfied and I also hope you will take the shock as mildly as possible although it is not very pleasant. I don't like it a bit and I know you don't but I suppose we will have to make ourselves like it and feel glad that there is a possibility of us seeing each other some time this summer. No I am not released but that doesn't make any difference for I will be released about a month before leaving Liverpool, giving me plenty of time to go where I please before I go to England.

I wasn't even given a partner, so that will make me more homesick than ever, but I suppose I will get along alright anyway, at least I will try. I thought sure that Bro. Nilson would be sent back to Gefle, but he was sent to a place called Östersund instead. It is at this place that Elder Benson has been nearly all winter. Benson was sent to Malmö, a city in southern Sweden. Three elders will remain at Sundsvall, two will be sent to Östersund, two to Luleå, one to Härnösand and one to Gefle. You can tell by that that I am not the only one who is appointed to work alone, which is of course a consolation. One or two new elders, or elders from some other part of Sweden, will be sent to Gefle

before I leave.

Our conference was quite pleasant, although the first two meetings were not very well attended. It was nice to once more visit this place and meet the elders of the Sundsvall Conference and I presume this is the last time that I will ever be here at least while I am on this mission.

Tomorrow I am going to Härnösand with the Elder Larson who is appointed to labor there alone. We will hold one or two meetings and then I will return to Sundsvall and then go to Lörstrand where I will try to hold an open air meeting on Sunday, and then either Monday or Tuesday return to Gefle. Elder Benson left here this morning for Gefle where he will stay until after Sunday so he can help the local brethren hold a meeting while I am away. He will no doubt leave for Malmö Monday or Tuesday.

Well I don't know as I have any more news to tell you and besides what I have already told you probably is not so very interesting to you, but I must state facts as they are even if they are not so pleasant. I know my dear, little, noble wife is getting used to shocks and will not become discouraged but press on in preparing for the best and being willing to take what God sends.

It is now growing late, some of the elders have retired and some are off to a friend's home, but will probably soon return. I think I better go to bed now and dream about the future prospects of a release. Now dear wife I hope you understand the situation and will not lay any blame upon anyone for I don't think anyone but the steamboat company is to blame. They probably are trying to hold us back somewhat because they make more money on other passengers.

Well dear wife I will kindly bid you good night. Sleep good and take good care of Melba. I suppose I need not tell you to do that, but I tell you anyway. Please extend my best wishes to the folks. I am as ever your loving husband Niels.

Please write me here in Sweden until I tell you to stop. I have told you to stop once but please start again. I will get the letter you have sent to Liverpool.

Gefle, May 18, 1911

My Darling Wife;

Without a doubt you are always glad to hear from your husband so I will again endeavor to write you a few lines although I have one special news to tell you other than what I wrote to Stena yesterday, and I suppose you have read her letter.

As usual I am enjoying good health, with the exception of a bad cold I have contracted, but that will soon leave me and then I will feel like myself again. I was so hoarse while at conference that it was difficult for me to speak, but I soon got better so while I was holding meetings at Härnösand and Lörstrand my nice melodious voice was almost normal.

I wish you were with me dear wife, for I am alone now and it seems quite lonesome although I am so busy that the time goes very fast. It would certainly be nice if I had my wife and little daughter with me now, but I suppose there is no use of discussing impossibilities for it only makes bad matters worse. The main thing is to feel consoled with the thought that the time is not far distant that the world will not be between us but that we will again be living together and enjoying the long looked for comforts of matrimonial experiences.

I can imagine how my dear little wife felt and the expression that came upon her face when she read my previous letter, and I wish you to understand me dear, when I say I sympathize with you. I know you had fond hopes of your husband soon coming home, and the joy that it would bring to you is difficult to measure. I know that you have patiently and bravely been waiting for the time to come that we could sit down together at the same table enjoying the sweet influence of our darling Melba who would amuse us with her cleverness as we would proudly notice her. I know this, and much more, but here is a question: need these pleasant thoughts be entirely banished from our minds? No not necessarily, for at present we have sufficient to insure us that those pleasant moments will soon be at hand, and when they do come we will probably feel just as happy and more so, than if I had come home sooner.

Now dearest I hope you understand me right. I want you to know that I am very anxious to come home to you, but as conditions are I feel satisfied and contented and pray the Lord to bless us with health and strength and protect us from all harm and danger, that whenever He sees fit we may be permitted to meet again in mortality. I feel that it is the will of the Lord that I stay here longer, and I want to acknowledge His hand in all things and I know dear wife that your honest confessions are in harmony with mine.

I can't help but compare my lot with that of Elder Davidson's who will probably come and stay with me the remainder of his mission and then go home when I go. He has been here one year only and is so weak that he cannot stay here longer, and in opposition to his desires will go home before he has filled an ordinary mission. When I consider his case I think I have much to be thankful for and ought to show my appreciation by righteous acts. May God help me to do so is my prayer.

Now dear wife, I don't know why I am writing like this to you unless it is because as I mentioned in the beginning, that I could imagine your feelings when you received my previous letter. I don't know how you feel, but I plead with you dear wife to believe me when I say that I have endless confidence in you and that I know you have just as great an interest in God's great work as I have, and that you are willing to admit that God inspires His servants when they are in harmony with Him. Time rolls swiftly and we will soon see each other if it be the will of the Lord.

I received your letter of April 25. In it you wrote that it would be the last excepting the one you send to Liverpool. I hope you have changed your mind now and will favor me with a letter once a week until I tell you to stop. I should not have told you to stop writing for now I will have to wait so long before I hear from you.

I wrote a letter to Jens and in it asked for another \$40. I made a mistake in figuring on

how much I would need, so if they haven't sent it to me yet, please tell them that I think \$25 will be sufficient. I counted one month too many and it takes about \$20 per month. If they wish me to have the agent hunt up our genealogy then they may send \$35. If they have already sent \$40 it won't hurt anything because I can bring back what I don't need.

God bless you all. I am yours forever, Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 29, 1911

My Dear Husband:

It is with great pleasure that I now take this opportunity of writing to you once more. I think it was Friday when I got your letter stating that you hadn't rec'd your release. You can imagine how I felt. I don't think I ever before was so disappointed. I had been thinking you were on your way home and that it would only be two or three weeks until I would see you again. I am afraid Nels that I felt quite rebellious for awhile, against you, the President and the whole Church. But I think I have conquered that feeling now and I can say with all my heart "God's will be done."

I came over to Pleasant Grove this morning or rather this afternoon. The folks are all so disappointed because you wasn't released and Chris and Jens are talking of writing to the President asking him to release you. Jens talked to Pres. Chipman, Bishop Swenson and Bishop Walker, and they all seemed to think it wasn't right to keep you so long and Bishop Walker wrote a letter to the President and gave it to Jens to send and I think he intends to send it tomorrow. But since I have been thinking it over tonight I feel like it isn't right to ask to have you released as it may be for some wise purpose that you were retained. And I believe that if we have faith and trust in God it will all come out right in the end. I know how you must have felt when you didn't receive your release and then being sent back to Gefle alone didn't make it any more pleasant. But I guess we will have to get used to disappointments as life is full of them at its best.

And now dear Nels there is another thing I want to talk to you about. You seem to be worrying altogether too much about the work you are not doing and which you think you should be doing. Please don't worry about that anymore for we know the work will get done somehow and there will be plenty for you to do when you do come, and I am sure you worked enough while you were home to pay for all your mission is costing you. So cheer up dearest and try to think that it is alright for you know there are lots of worse things that could have happened.

You must write and let me know when you think you will be released and then as soon as you are released you must write and tell me.

Little Melba gets sweeter every day. A few days ago she came up to me and said, "Mama I want to go on a mission and see Papa." She's a regular little chatterbox. Just think Nels in two weeks she will be two years old and has never seen her Papa. The folks were all involved when I started to write to you and as it is now five minutes to twelve I will bring my letter to a close by wishing you a Goodnight and Pleasant Dreams. As ever your

loving Wife, Viola Fugal.

Gefle, May 29, 1911

My Dear Darling Wife;

The letter you sent to Liverpool was forwarded to Sweden and received by me OK. Many thanks for same. In reading your letter I note you are very anxious for the time to come that you may see and be with me again but I also note that it hardly seemed real to you that I was coming home so soon. You must have been somewhat inspired don't you think so dearest? I suppose you will not believe that I am coming home now until you see me, and when you see me you will probably have to look twice to convince yourself that it is him. Well dearest, in about one week more I expect to receive an answer from you and then I will learn how the news affected you, but I suppose you are getting so used to disappointments now that you are not easily affected.

The present finds me quite well, and in a happy condition, hope you can say the same. Yesterday was Sunday, we held Bible Class, Sunday S. and Public meeting as usual and felt that our efforts were crowned with success. A good spirit prevailed and I found it a real joy to preach in the afternoon meeting.

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