

## LETTERS TRANSLATED BY ANNA (Gustafsson) Riby

### Highly beloved brother

Saturday, December 15, 2018

**Cologne, Minn. Dec 9, 1913**

Beloved Brother with Family

Please, and good luck for a Merry Christmas, I wish you well.

After that Mr. Bore yesterday came and stopped for both plowing and ditch-digging and everything else rooting in the earth, and drove both me and the prisoner indoors, it has become like a little vacancy, and before that I take this opportunity to speak to this paper a few words. In the near future we will make use of the wireless telegraph and then I will call you more often, you should hear. -

The funniest and best news I have to tell you is that we all have a good health all summer long. Mother has been hurting one leg for some time, and I am somewhat coughed by coughing, so I must fit in too cold. But you get praise for getting used to everything, as well as evil and good. Yes, as I said, November is May. The weather has been like spring weather in April, so we have got to grips with every single job just until December 6th. October feel. was somehow cooler than nov. and then we had both snow and frost, which spoiled my cow bites [probably cow beet, some kind of fodder beet] so that they started to rot in the basement. But we have 25 betting machines, which with good taste paint a few Buchels for each day. -

This year we have received a plentiful and prosperous crop. Hay we have harvested twice. The last slatter was as good as the first, but we did not manage to beat all the meadows. But we picked up about 30 good lass. We first picked up 90 loads, so we have feed for twice as many cattle. We had corn on 28 acres and then we harvested about 1,200 Buchel. The price of maize is now 50 to 60 cents buchel but long ago it is always more expensive, but we do not intend to sell any, as far as our small landers can live and have good food, etc. The swine colony rages among the inhabitants not so far from here, so that the farmers around here begin to, as well as save the pig's life, so that they sell off as soon as they get some market ready. About a month ago, we sold 4 sucks that weighed 1,180 pounds for \$ 7.30 a. a hundred pounds and today we have sold 2 sucks that weighed 700 pounds for \$ 7.15 per hundred and next week we intend to sell 5 galls which is about 275 pounds knitted and then we have 6 sucks and one dangerous ?? qvar and 41 small born at the end of July and Aug. months.

Horses and cows are at the highest price since we came here. In Oct. feel. we sold 3 cows, the oldest we had, two healthy [in their] and a new calf for \$ 190. That was the highest price we got for any cow. Butter and eggs are and expensive, 33 c. For butter and 32 c. For twelve eggs. Wheat is, in a way, lowest in price, 78 to 80 cents B. \_ and since the Lans are then in such high and rising prices so many farmers tuck them have no raw tea to live on such expensive land, the outlets sell here and flutter to other trackers that are cheaper land.

*Surely this is the continuation of the letter:*

2) Only in this congregation have now in a short time sold 4 farms from \$ 115 to \$ 125 dollars per acre, and two of our farm dwellers hold their land for salute. One has 120 acres and is requesting \$ 115, the other has 60 acres and is requesting \$ 125 dollars each. Ours may William have offered \$ 100 per acre for it lying side by side on his land. -- However, this feverish fever has not hit us yet, because we look like we can just as easily live on an expensive and fine property, as another. - Now I can say goodbye to Gustaf, a short time ago we had a few lines from him, where he says he has nothing to write about, more than he has health and works every day. He says and he has had no letter from home for a long time. We hope to talk to the boys for Christmas. We should write to them that they will greet us again. On July 5 and 6, they were 3 Bragnumma ?? boy here a staircase, and they were some survivorssalmon . Haglund had so muck about his trip and mucket other interesting to tell, but yes what I chuckled to notice, the love of old Bragnum was good enough with them.

I have nothing interesting to write about this time. Therefore, I may quit now, and wish you may be gifted with good health and prosperity, and have a good Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wait and wait a long time to get a letter from you, brother. I sent you one last letter shortly after Midsummer.

Please sign with your brother August with family. ----

*Written on the edge of the last page:* All relatives live here as usual.

*And on the very last page:* Health relatives and acquaintances so well away from us, no one mentioned and no one forgotten.

### *Translation*

Beloved Brother with Family

Have a good time and have a good Christmas, I wish you.

If Mr. Bore ["King Winter"] came yesterday and put an end to plowing and digging and everything else about poking about in the ground, driving both me and the cattle inside, it's just like little leave, and so I take the opportunity to talk some words on this paper to you. In the near future, we will be able to use the wireless telegraph and then I'll call you more often, you'll hear. -

The funniest and best news I have to tell is that we all have good health, now just like in the summer. Mother has had a pain in one leg for some time, and I'm a bit coughed, so I have to be careful of the cold. But one has got used to everything, bad as well as good. Yes, as mentioned, it is the month of November. The weather has been like spring weather in April, so we have been toiling with all kinds of work until December 6th. October mo. was in fact colder than November, and then we had both snow and frost, which destroyed my "cow-betts" [probably cow beet, some sort of fodder beets] so that they started rotting in the basement. But we have 25 beet machines, which with good taste grind a few bushels each day. -

This year we have had a rich and prosperous crop. Hay we have mowed twice. The last

mowing was as good as the first, but we do not have time to mow all the meadows. But we picked up about 30 good loads. The first mowing we picked up 90 loads, so we can feed twice as many critters. We had corn on 28 eater and then we harvested about 1,200 Buchel. The price of maize is now 50 to 60 cents per bag, but later on it is always more expensive, but we do not intend to sell anyone, as far as our "Smålands" [the pigs?] Are allowed to live and have a good appetite. Swine colera rages in the inlands, not far from here, so the farmers around here start to fear for their swines, so that they sell off as soon as they get some ready for the market. About a month ago we sold 4 shows that weighed 1,180 pounds for \$ 7.30 per. hundred pounds and today we have sold 2 shows weighing 700 pounds for \$ 7.15 per hundred and next week we intend to sell 5 boars which is around 275 # the piece and then we have 6 shows and one ?? and 41 little ones born in late July and August. months.

Horses and cows are in the highest price since we came here. In Oct. mo. We sold 3 cows, the oldest we had, two [gone dry] and a new calf for \$ 190. That was the highest price we received for any cow. Butter and eggs are also expensive, 33 c for butter and 32 c for twelve eggs. The wheat is, in some ways, the lowest in price, 78 to 80 cents. B. And then the lands go for such high and rising prices so many farmers think they cannot afford to live on such expensive land, so they are selling here and moving to other parts that has cheaper land.

2) Only in this parish have 4 farms been sold from \$ 115 to \$ 125 per acre, and two of our farmers have their land out for sale. One has 120 acres and requests \$ 115, the other has 60 acres and requests \$ 125 dollars the acre. Our son-in-law William has offered \$ 100 per acre because it is located side by side to his land. -- However, this migratory fever has not hit us yet, because we think so that we can also live on an expensive and fine property, just like someone else. "Now I can send you greetings from Gustaf, recently we had some lines written from him, where he says he has nothing to write, more than he has good health and works every day. He says that he too has not had Any letters from home for a long time. We hope to talk to the boys for Christmas. We will make sure they visit us again. The 5th and 6th of July were the 3 Bragnumma [from Bragnum] boys here for a trip [trip], and they were some "lively salmon" [happy and animated]. Haglund had so much to say about his journey and perhaps other interesting things, but oh, how delighted I was to notice that the love of old Bragnum was quite strong with them.

I have nothing of interest to write about this time. Therefore, I have to stop now and wish you to be blessed with good health and happiness, and good luck for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I wait and have waited a long time to get a letter from you, brother. I sent my last letter shortly after Midsummer.

Kindly signed by your brother August with family. ----

*Written on the edge of the last page:* All relatives live here as usual [in good health etc].

*And on the last page:* Greet relatives and acquaintances as well from us, no one mentioned and no one forgotten.

Posted by Anna Riby at 14:43 No comments:  
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Labels: 1913 , autumn , pigs and cows / cows and pigs , harvest

Monday, February 19, 2016

## North St. Paul Minn. January 29 1914 from Gustaf

North St. Paul Minn. January 29, 1914

Wal Dear Sister.

Thank you for the letter I received a couple of weeks ago. Funny to hear that you have had a good time over Christmas. I worked all day except half Christmas Eve and Christmas day when we were in Minneapolis. The others had five days off over Christmas, but me and two more, we had some model furniture that we would have finished before the New Year. They were going to an exhibition in Cigago efer the New Year. Adolph and I were invited to go and visit Brahee, but it must be for the Summer.

Two weeks ago I had a letter from Anna Brahee. They had a great time over Christmas. Adolph he is working at the Pinnafäckteriet now, he must have gotten out of his girl now. He bought a nice bracelet that he would send her but when he had received the last letter from her he said that it is better that he give it to a negro girl because then I can get thanks for it at least.

Here was the summer in the summer until a week before Christmas when it became a little just winter. Today it snows a little. At the same time with this letter I send SEK 200; that you can put into Vara or if someone wants to borrow them you can withdraw 300 to.

Now I have no more writing for this time.

Helsa Wilhelm so good from me but Hilda - I'm waiting for letters from her now.

Write soon.

Yours faithfully.

Gustaf

Adolph is waiting for a letter from Albin.

Has William received any papers?

Continuing today's news: This afternoon H. o S. Solmberg has been and has been greeting us and Nils from Källö.

Written upside down on top of last page 4:

Yesterday at half past five my closest Workmate got sick quickly so they had to drive him home. Two hours later he was dead, a sixty year old Småland man. Today, we have workers clutching flowers for him. **Translation:** North St. Paul Minn. January 29, 1914 Wal Dear Sister. [written in English] Thank you for the letter I received a couple of weeks ago. Happy to hear that you had a nice time over Christmas.

I've been working every day visiting half of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day when we went to Minneapolis. The others had five days free over Christmas, but me and two others, we had some model furniture that we had to finish before the New Year. They were going to an exhibition in Cigago after the New Year. Me and Adolph were invited to go to Brahees, but I

suppose it has to be left until Summer. Two weeks ago, I had a letter from Anna Brahee. They had a very nice Christmas. Adolph, he works at "Pinnafäckteriet" now, he must have ended with his girl now.

He bought a nice bracelet that he would send her but when he had received the last letter from her, he said it would be better for him to give it to a negro girl for then I at least get a thank you for it. Here it was like real summer until a week before Christmas, when it turned just enough into winter. Today it's snowing a little. Simultaneously with this letter I send 200 kr; that you can deposit, or if someone wants to borrow them, you can take 300 more. Now I have nothing more to write for this time. Warm greetings to Wilhelm from me but Hilda - I'm waiting for a letter from her now. Write soon. Yours faithfully, Gustaf Adolph is waiting for a letter from Albin.

Has William received some newspapers? continuation; Today's News: In the afternoon, H. o S. Solmberg came and visited us and Nils from Källö. [Written upside down, on top of last page 4]: Yesterday at half past five, my closest colleague suddenly became sick so they had to give him a ride home. Two hours later he was dead, a sixty-year-old Småland man. Today, we, the workers have pooled [money] for flowers for him.

Posted by Anna Riby at 04:02 No comments:  
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**Saturday, January 6, 2018**

## **My Cologne. Dec 20, 1916**

My cologne. Dec 20, 1916

God's grace and peace be with and above us all. Regarding our brother's apostasy, I want to write a few lines to you. Our brother Swante Berlin, however, on December 3, 1916, at the age of 66 years 9 months. and 15 days old, leaving behind as the next mourning two sons and one daughter, as well as a Brother here in Wäst Union, Mr. Brahee [ie August, who writes the letter] and a Brother in Sweden [ie brother Johan, the recipient of the letter]. ~ So was the thanksgiving. On Tuesday, the 5th, burial took place in East Union Church. I, Walter, Frida and Anna were at the church and the pastor made a beautiful loft above him.

The corpses are always carried into the churches here, and the burial is performed inside when it is cold, and to the coffin everyone goes ahead and casts one last look at the fallen asleep. And then the coffin is carried to the grave. The last three verses of Psalm 483 and the last three of Psalm 488 were sung and the choir sang two songs. And under that coffin was celebrated in the grave, a song was sung.

Our brother started to get sick this summer, so he visited Docktor in Minneapolis, and stayed there for 3 weeks and got better, but didn't stay there anymore for the home-son Gustaf thought it cost for muck. Not long after his return he felt just as bad again. And so he stayed in bed. The Dock Tower who visited him said it was cancerous in his stomach. In the end, he could not eat any more, but he almost starved to death, and he was so depleted that his body was almost unrecognizable. However, about his earthly "house" he had ordered while he was in health or shortly after his wife's death last winter, he sold at loosely and firmly to the youngest son Gustaf, for \$ 7,000 and divided it into 3 parts.

But nobody really knows how they did to the beloved son August, because he has not been home for several years. When his Mother died, he returned home for her funeral, but was not called home until after her death.

Now he was called home when his father was ill and was home for about a month, and he told people that he would stay until his father died, but about two weeks before, he disappeared and was not home at the funeral. And Gustaf said he searched, after August in Minneapolis with both letter and phone, but nothing hit him. But the Sunday after August was at church I heard. ~ What is being said, the brothers do not get along well. August has been muck around the world, and is a nice civilized person, and Gustaf is a homemade "ideat" and can't be in law with neither youth nor the elderly. A dumb-headed peacock who chucks something to be anyway. =

Now I would like to mention that our state of health is Gudi lof for all of us good, except that I am, now like other winters, almost closed in when it is cold, because I get so hard cough, so I have to beware of colds, otherwise I am healthy and strong, though I am not able to go out and do the least of the breath is taken away from me. But when it is hot like this summer, I felt good, and managed to work as well. Mother, however, is extraordinarily quick, and well, like a 25 year old girl. When she chuckles that she does not have enough to do at home, she goes away and comes home with a big knot full of sandy mittens, and stockings, to be repaired and stopped and sometimes she comes home with some or some sandy shoes and then I get work home to me..

As far as the crop is concerned, we got good out of all kinds, except the wheat, it was barely half a harvest, and so bad by the way, but the price is double the high, so the farmers make just as much money. All farm products are expensive. - and everything you need to buy is expensive. 2) Yes now for a wedding !! You will soon have to do several weddings because you did such a seven-song grand is called this past summer. The old good Swedish wedding custom is alive again. It's nice to hear. I wonder, and want to ask! if you honored may Albin Svanson has been here in the country sometime, many years ago a Svenna son was in the oysters [?] and greeted us a Christmas. - and our boy they still laugh today, thinking about the story he told, how it came to be when Swante **clawed**

exploded on gravel, os.w.

In short, I would like to mention that it is not so long ago that there was a double wedding here with us. On Sunday, November 26th. Then we and Williams were pleasantly surprised by kinsmen and friends, both close and distant, even our brother-in-law, Alvin Stomberg, August

Anderson, Winthrop with wife and son and daughter and Williams sister and brother-in-law with son and daughter from Winthrop . About 90 people with small and large, so that all rooms were full data. It was our 40th and Williams and Frida's 20th anniversary, and in memory of today's celebration, a few pieces of ground glass were left to us. And Williams got a sum of money. ~ And August from Winthrop he gave two interesting speeches, about "past and present", which were read with both laughter and clapping., and congratulations that 10 years later they will come again and celebrate our golden wedding. - and I welcomed them again. - yes, we have in fact the mucket to thank both God and people for !! For such a long and happy, in both Med and Opportunity loving marriage.

Yesterday we had a letter and a package of Christmas presents from "our" niece. Paulson. They live on their farm and have a good time, and 5 children. She mentioned that her aunt, who had been her foster mother, killed his 9-year-old weakness, 83 years 1 day old. Her uncle is still alive. ~ From the sister-son, Oskar Wig, we have everything most often, they have 2 children. He is a cashier at a Bank in Wisconsin. ~ Williams has married her elder daughter Mabel this summer to a farm boy Herrey Mellborg [Harry Mellberg]. They have rented [arranged] a farm in the East Union.

Yes, now that is a horrible stass, you must believe all the master with the purchase and sending of Christmas presents. Today we have shipped a box to Paulson's. Clothing hut [clothes hooks] for the children and an apron for her. - Tomorrow, a package leaves for Ada, and her little Char-Lotta. Williams and their gulls come to us on Christmas Eve. We always celebrate Christmas Eve together, one year at a different place, and then we have the Christmas tree. And so Santa Klas comes in the evening, with all opportunities for both older and younger [younger], and then the joy is high on the ceiling. ~

Yes, I have in many times with many times thought to Christmas with you at some time. But now, more and more, both faith and hope, are disappearing as the days pass. And I am getting closer and faster to the goal that we all realize. And God help us in His grace, that we all celebrate the feast, with the Child who is born to us and the Lamb who is killed for our sake. Lord help us all to that, is my sincerest Christmas wish, to you and good continuation of the present year. And now I quit for this time, and hope you live in health, joy and contentment. Brotherly signs August with family. *Added along the edge on pages 6 and 7:* I asked Tåa-Gustaf to greet you. I sent him a letter last November. Greet friends and acquaintances from us.

Added on a small torn piece of paper: I have heard nothing from Herman, and I do not understand why he does not understand himself, but what I could understand from him, he intended to pay for his travel and inconvenience. And maybe the Hospital in St. Paul took and paid then there can be nothing further. But he could still give you enough. As you can see from my letter, I can't make any fun trips to Minneapolis this winter, and nothing yet for Herman said that Gustaf said I didn't need to find out about his money or his affairs. And that's why I know nothing. Write to Herman himself and you will probably find out, I think.

*Translation :*

my cologne. Dec 20, 1916 God's mercy and peace be with and above all of us. Regarding our brother's departure, I will write a few lines to you. Our brother Swante Berlin died on December 3, 1916, at the age of 66 years 9 months. and 15 days old, leaving as the closest mourning two sons and a daughter, as well as a brother here in West Union, Mr. Brahee [ie August, who writes the letter] and a brother in Sweden [ie Brother Johan, the recipient of the letter]. ~ So read the thanksgiving. On Tuesday, 5, the funeral took place in East Union Church. I, Walter, Frida and Anna joined the church and the priest made a beautiful eulogy about him.

The bodies are always carried into the churches here, and the burial takes place inside when it is cold, and to the coffin everyone walks and throws a last glance in the deceased. And then the coffin is carried out to the grave. The last 3 verses of Hymn 483 and the last 3 of the hymn 488 were sung and the singing choir sung two songs. And when the coffin was lowered down into the tomb, a song was sung. Our brother started getting sick this summer so he visited Docktor in Minneapolis and stayed there for 3 weeks and got better but didn't stay longer for the "home son" Gustaf thought it cost too much. Not long after his return, he felt bad again. And then he became bedridden.

The Docktor who visited him at home said it was cancer [in old Swedish cancer = crab] in the stomach. In the end he couldn't eat anything much, so he was almost starved to death, and he loosed so much weight that his corpse was almost unrecognizable. However, about his earthly "house" he had arranged while still having the health or just after his wife's death last winter, when he sold both loose and immovable property to the youngest son Gustaf for \$ 7,000 and divided it into 3 parts. But nobody really knows how they did with the eldest son August, because he hasn't been home for several years. When his mother died, he came home for her funeral, but was not called home until after her death.

Now he was called home when his father was ill and was home for about a month, and he told people he would stay until his father died, but about two weeks before, he disappeared and was not at home for the funeral. And Gustaf said he looked for August in Minneapolis with both letters and phone, but did not reach him. But I heard that the Sunday after August visited the church. ~ What is alleged, the brothers do not agree well. August has been around a lot of out in the world, and is a nice civilized person, and Gustaf is a homemade "idiat" and can't get along with neither youth nor elder. A stupid-haughty peacock who still thinks something of himself. =

Now I want to mention that our state of health is, God's praise, for all of us good, except I am, now like other winters, as good as shut up inside when it's cold, because I get such a hard cough, so I have to be careful not to get cold, apart from being healthy and strong, though I'm not good at going out and doing even the least [little effort] before the breath is taken away from me. But when it's hot like last summer, I felt good and was able to work too. Mom, however, is extra quick and fit, and like a 25-year-old girl.

When she thinks she doesn't have enough to do at home she goes away and comes home with a big bundle full of torn mittens or socks to be patched and mended and sometimes she comes home with a pair or more broken shoes and then I get to work home to me .. As for the crop, we got a lot of all kinds except wheat, it was barely half harvest, and bad [quality], but the price is twice as high, so the farmers make the same amount of money. All farm products are



expensive. - and all the things you need to buy are expensive. 2) Yes, now for weddings !! I think you'll soon be making several weddings because you made such a "seven-singing" [splendid] magnificent celebration the other summer.

The old good Swedish wedding tradition lives again. It's nice to hear. I wonder and want to ask! If your honored son-in-law, Albin Svenson, has been here in the country at some point in time, many years ago, a Svenna son was in East [Union?] and visited us at Christmas. - and our boys, they are still laughing today when they think of the story he mentioned, how it happened when Swante "claw" exploded on gruel, etc. I would like to briefly mention that it is not so long that there was a double wedding here with us. On Sunday pm, the 26th of November.

Then we and the Williamses were pleasantly surprised by family and friends, both near and far, even our son-in-law, Alvin Stomberg, August Anderson, Winthrop with his wife and a son and daughter and Williams' sister, brother-in-law law with a son and a daughter from Winthrop. About 90 people counted the small and grown-ups, so all the rooms were full. It was our 40th and Williams' and Frida's 20th wedding anniversary, and in memory of the importance of the day, some pieces [objects] of cut glass were handed over to us. And the Williamses got a sum of money. ~ And August from Winthrop, he held two interesting speeches, about "the past and the present," which were read to both laughter and hand claps., And congratulations that in 10 years, they will come back and celebrate our gold wedding. - and I wished them all welcome back. - Yes, we really have a lot to thank both God and men for !! For such a long and happy, both in good and hard times, marriage full of love. Yesterday we had letters and a package of Christmas presents from "our" niece Mrs. Paulson. They live on their farm and are well, and have 5 children. She mentioned that her aunt, who was her foster mother, died on the 9th of this [month] of old-age weakness, 83 years 1 day old. Here uncle still lives. ~ From the sister's nephew, Oskar Wig, we have letters most often, they have 2 children. He is a cashier of a Bank in Wisconsin.

~ Williams has married off his oldest daughter Mabel this summer with a neighbor's son Herrey Mellborg [Harry Mellberg]. They are renting a farm in East Union. Yes, now we have terribly much to organize, you can understand, with all the purchasing and mailing of Christmas presents. Today we sent a box to the Paulsons. Cloth for the kids and an apron for her. - Tomorrow, a package will be sent to Ada, and her little Char-Lotta. The Williamses and their son-in-law will come to us on Christmas Eve. We always celebrate Christmas Eve together, one year in each place, and then we have a Christmas tree. And then Santa Klaus comes at night, with all conceivable gifts for both elderly and young, and then the joy is great [high].

~ Yes, in past times I have often thought of having Christmas [with Christmas as a verb] with you. But now more and more both faith and hope disappear as the days flee. And faster and faster I get close to the goal [end] that is in store for all of us. And God help us in his mercy, that we may all celebrate the holiday, with the child born to us, and the Lamb who was killed for our sake. Lord, help us all to this - this is my most sincere Christmas wish for you and a good continuation in the new year. And now I end for this time, and hope you live in health, joy and contentment. Notes Brother August with family. *Added along the edges of pages 6 and 7:*

I asked Tåa-Gustaf to give my greetings to you. I sent him a letter last November. Greet all friends and acquaintances from us. *Added to a torn piece of paper:* I also haven't heard

anything from Herman, and I don't understand why he doesn't do everything right [when it comes to costs / money?] But what I could understand from him was he thought to be paid for his travels and inconveniences. And maybe the hospital in St. Paul charged, then there is probably not much left. But he could still give you an account. As you can see from my letter, I can't make any leisure trips to Minneapolis this winter, and in addition Herman said that Gustaf said I didn't need to know his money or his businesses.

And so I know nothing. Write to Herman yourself and you'll probably find it out, I suppose.

Posted by Anna Riby at 11:06 No comments:

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Labels: 1916 , Christmas , December , funeral , wedding

Friday, January 6, 2017

Monday, December 26, 2016

## Cologne, Minn. Jan.13 - 1929

### *Christmas Letter - A Christmas letter home to Västergötland*

Cologne, Minn. Jan. 13 - 1929

Married Faster and Cousins with family members. May well be my wish. And Good Luck for a Happy New Year. Have all well until writing time, have had a little cough, but when you do not have to lie then there is not much to talk about. Mom is very cozy and lives at home in her house. We have had such beautiful weather all winter until after New Year when we got snow and cold. Have not had much snow but have had a couple of drizzly days anyway. Today is the coldest day. We had 26 below 0 in the morning. Don't know how it goes if mom can be herself if the cold comes out to be. But as long as it's been good weather, she doesn't want to be with anyone else either. One of my girls has gone to her today to see how she is doing.

She would have done her Christmas party on Sunday the 13th day but then this was a funeral instead and then in the afternoon it turned out to be so cold and such stormy weather has been very cold all week and so she may well do it later. Yes today is the 20th day knot, so you usually say you dance Christmas out. Yes you may happen to do it in the old country yet but here it is rare. Here we have a lot of church visits over Christmas so you hardly have time for Christmas parties. In between on New Year's Eve then the youth in the congregation has a large program in the church. Then all the young and old gather in the Hall (a large building a little away from the church where we have kitchens at one end that we cook when we have something).

In the New Year, we had lutfish dinner at 11 o'clock at night with stuffed potatoes lingonmos rice-grilled meatballs and homemade hives and coffee bread butter. Then we stop until 12 o'clock when they call out the Old and the New Year. So they usually sing a song and the Priest asks a prayer and then we all go home when we clean up the kitchen. This year we did

not come home until after. one quarter after one at night.

Thanksgiving Day we always have great dinner there at church and audition (auction) after dinner for the mission. Thanksgiving Day is the last Thursday in November <every year>. You can happen to have no one at home in Sweden. The people of America celebrate it in remembrance of the first <white> memory shoes that found America. They made a feast and thanked God for what they had found. It is a proclamation issued each year by our President that we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Everyone has the chicken meat for that dinner and lingonberry should always be.

On Sunday in between Christmas and New Year we were all with sister Anna and her family on Christmas Eve. That's the only thing we've been to yet. We haven't done anything yet either. On the Thursday between Christmas and New Year, me and the two youngest boys in Hopkins, a city 10 miles from Minneapolis (were you half-day and). There lives Mabel and Hildur, 2 of our girls. Viola and Lorina took us in a car. They went home the same day again but we stayed on the sand. Then Mabel's took us home on their car. It was as beautiful weather that week as one day in April. It's almost 30 miles to drive. Lorina is our driver. She turns 17 on January 26 She drives the cream to the dairy and to the city and the church.

William has never run a bar. Here, the fruntimer runs as much as the guys and we never hear that any fruntimer runs on anyone as much as the guys do. Or how are things in the old country? Here they are busy, one running on the other and running straight on people. Only in Minneapolis have they killed people dead years. So it is not strange to see such things in the newspapers every day sometimes.

Yes you talked about Radeio. Yes, they have in almost every home around here and, but we have none. But we have a phonographer who plays them instead.

Mom she says that when you talk about something that happened you mention them by name because she remembers being the only one who was small at that time and all the older ones. And we had a letter from Anna Greta and Vig before Christmas. If they live for the summer, they will cuddle and feed on mother.

Yes I do not have time to write before Christmas, thought better then I have something to talk about. We have Christmas morning here as in the old country. They dress the church with 2 large Christmas trees in the church they have electric lights in, so is not dangerous for the fire.

Anna's Day Christmas has the kids their program so they get nuts and celebrity in a bag and 2 apples 1 orange. In their bag they get small books and a Christmas card. It is the children's feast, and the youth of New Year.

Mom asks me to say goodbye to all the old acquaintances you know. She also asks you to greet Tåa-Gustaf that she is alive and well. She wants him to write to her and talk about how they are doing. It's the same address as before.

Here's a Mrs. Klever, she always asks when she sees us she asks if Tåa Gusta is alive or how he feels if we hear from him. Kleven's that's where he stayed when he was in America. Greet Gustaf with this and are you please?

Yes now I have written so much that you are tired of reading my letter. One of Mari Moster's daughters daughter is buried today in Murdock from Mary's home. They lived in Dakota, a

town called Souix Falls. She had been married for a year now at some point. They took her home for (because) Mary's daughter with family had always lived 3 miles from her aunt's home, but had moved there after her aunt was dead.

Yes I am held that this letter may meet you by greeting both Faster and cousins. Does Faster stay at Wilhelm's house or is she with one of his daughters? You may happen to feel like a mother at home is best.

A warm greeting to all of you including the new cousin's wife.

Please, Frida

Skrif soon, mom is always waiting for news from Sweden, and you know she is getting old now. Then she waits so much more.

Yes we think we will go after her one day and take her home. It's too much to leave her alone in winter time.

Mrs. William Anderson

Cologne, RI Box 74

Cologne, Minn. January 13th - 1929

Dear Aunt and Cousins with families. Feeling good (being well) is my wish. And good luck to a Good New Year. [We] all have health up writing this, [I] have had little cough, but when one doesn't need to lay down, it's not much to talk about. Mom is very healthy and living at home in her house. We've had such beautiful weather throughout the winter until after New Year's when we got snow and cold. [We] don't have a lot of snow but even so had a few blizzard days. Today is the coldest day. We had 26 below 0 in the morning. Do not know what happens if mom can be by herself if the cold will remain. But so far it's been good weather, she doesn't want to [stay] with anyone else either. One of my girls has gone to her today to see how she is feeling.

She would have done her Christmas party last Sunday 13, but then there was a funeral instead and then in the afternoon it became so cold and such a whirlwind, so has been much cold all week and so she'll have to do it later. Yes, today is the day 20th day after Christmas [twentieth day Knut] when the saying is that you dance Christmas out. Yes maybe you do it in the old country still but here it is not common. Here we have a lot of church visits during Christmas so you hardly have time to do Christmas parties. In between [Christmas and] New Year's eve, the youth of the parish has a great program in the church. They all gather both young and old in the Hall (a large building a little away from the church where we have a kitchen at one end, in which we cook when we have something [some function / gathering]).

On the New Year, we had lutefisk [dried cod soaked in lye] dinner at 11 o'clock at night with

mashed potatoes, lingonberry jam, white rice porridge, meat balls and homemade sausage and coffee bread butter. Then we stay until 12 o'clock when they ring out the Old and the New Year. So they sing a song and the Priest prays a prayer, then we all go home when we've washed the dishes up the kitchen. This year we didn't come home until a quarter before after one at night.

Thanksgiving day we always have big dinner there at the church and audition [auction] on the after dinner for the mission. Thanksgiving day is the last Thursday in November <each year>. You may not have any such day at home there in Sweden. The people of America [n] celebrate it in memory of the first <white> poeple that found America. They made a celebration and thanked God for what they had found. It is a proclamation issued each year by our President that we should celebrate Thanksgiving. Everyone has chicken meat for dinner and there should always be lingonberries.

On the Sunday in between Christmas and New Year, we all went to sister Anna and her family for a Christmas party. It's the only one we've been to yet. We haven't done one ourselves either. On Thorsday inbetween Christmas and New Year then I and the two smallest boys were in Hopkins, a town 10 miles from Minneapolis (where do you enter half day icg?). There live Mabel and Hildur, two of our girls. Viola and Lorina took us by the automobile. They went home the same day again but we stayed until Sun. Then Mabel's took us home in their automobile. It was so beautiful weather that week, as a day in the month of April. It's almost 30 miles to drive. Lorina is our driver. She will turn 17 years on 26th January. She drives the cream to the dairy and to the city and the church.

William has never driven any cars. Here the women folk drive as much as the men and we never hear that a woman hits someone as often as the men do. Or how is it in the old country? Here they are even obsessed, one hits the other and drives straight into people. Only in Minneapolis, they have killed people in the past year. So it's not strange to see such things in the newspapers every day sometimes. Yes you talked about Radeio [radio]. Yes they have one in almost every home around here, but we have none. But we have a phonograph that they play instead.

Mother she says that when you talk about some things that happened that you should mention them by name because she reminds every one who was a child at that time and all the elderly. And we had letters from Anna Greta and Vig before Christmas. If they live until summer, they will come and visit mother.

Yes I didn't have time to write before Christmas, thought better afterwards, then I have something to talk about. We have Julotta [Christmas Day Service] here as in the old country. They clothe the church with two big Christmas trees up front in the church, they have electric light in, so it is no danger of fire.

[On] Second Day Christmas, the kids have their program so they get nuts and candy in a bag and 2 apples 1 orange. In their bag they get the small books and Christmas cards. It's Children's party / celebration, and the youth's in on New Year's.

Mom begs me to send greetings to all old acquaintances that you know know her. She also prays that you will greet ToaGustaf that she is alive and has health. She wants him to write to her and talk about how they are. It is the same address as before.

Here there is a Mrs. Klever, she always asks when she sees us, if TåaGustaf lives or how he is

and if we hear from him. Kleven's where he stayed when he was in America. Tell Gustaf with this, please?

Well now I have written so much so you get tired of reading me later. One of Mari Aunites daughter's daughter was buried today in Murdock from Mari's home. They lived in Dakota, a city called Souix Falls. She the girl had been married a year now sometime. They took her home for Mari's daughter and family had always lived 3 miles away from the aunt's home, but had moved away after Aunt died.

Yes, I hope this letter will meet you in good health, both aunt and cousins. Does Aunt stay at home with Wilhelm or is she with any of her daughters? You may think just as a mom that home is the best [place].

A dear greeting to you all, even the new cousin's wife.  
Sincerely, Frida

Write soon, Mom is always waiting for news from Sweden, and you know she's starting to get old now. And she waits even more.

Yes, we intend to go after her one day and take her home. It's too much to let her be alone in winter time.

Mrs. William Anderson  
Cologne, RI Box 74

Posted by Anna Riby at 14:04 No comments:  
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Labels: 1929

Wednesday, August 26, 2015

## Cologne, Minn. June 17, 1941

Honored Brother Nors. Jansson

It was quite a surprise for us to hear that you are in this country, and that you have already been here a long time. And you already have work and well paid. Around this, nub-ready builders have \$ 1.50 per day and the food. If you want to find such a job, you should go to Minneapolis, your uncle Herman Person might be able to help you there. We have 8 miles to our nearest town, Carver, which is 25 miles from Minneapolis. I have no railway map so I can't tell you how far it is to Ada.

You will come here and greet us before you go back to Sweden again, which is why all the boys are set up when they come to America. Wi has all health except grandfather is sick and has been lying for 4 days.

Ada traveled to Aberdeen S. Dakota a week ago. I haven't had a letter from your father since

January. Now he must have been so urgent that he could not write.

I have nothing further to write for this time. Don't forget to write to us sometimes, so we will know where you are and how you are doing.

Please sign Aug. Brahe

Health Your Comrade Olauson



English translation:

Dear Nephew Gust. Jansson It was quite a surprise for us to hear that you are in this country and that you have already been here a long time. And you already have work work and is well paid. Around here beginning builders have \$ 1.50 per day and the food.

If you want to see such work, you should go to Minneapolis, your uncle Herman Person might help you there. We have 8 miles to our nearest town, Carver, which is 25 miles from Minneapolis. I have no railway map so I can't tell you how far it is to Ada.

[ We hope that] You're coming here to visit us before traveling back to Sweden again, which is usually what all the boys have set themselves to do when they come to America. We all have health except grandfather is ill and has been for 4 days. Ada traveled to Aberdeen, S. Dakota a week ago. I haven't had a letter from your father since January now. Now he is probably in such a hurry that he will not have time to write. I have nothing further to write this time.

Don't forget to write to us at times, so we will get to know where you are and how you like it.

kindly signed Aug. Brahe

Greet your friend Olauson

Posted by Anna Riby at 13:37 No comments:

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Labels: 1911

## Western Union, Carver Co. Minn. July 2. 1911

Loved Brother with Family !!

Now I send you the message that we are fatherless . You have been in it for over 29 years, but now I am and it is.

In that our old Dad, after only 12 days of sickness, still and utter a few more difficult plagues and in faith and trust in his Lord and Savior, survived on Midsummer's Day at. 4 pm and on

Tuesday, June 27, he was buried in the Wäst Union cemetery, 86 years 11 months old. He rests in peace until the resurrection morning .

---

Up to the funeral were a lot of people. 28 carriages drove from here and many of us met the church, so that the church was almost full of people. And the priest made a pretty beautiful sermon, led by Ebreer's letter 4, chapter 9, 10 and 11th verses. And the coffin stood at the altar, and after the end of the sermon, the lid of the coffin was opened and all the people went in parade and cast one last glance at the corpse. Then the coffin was carried out, and the burial took place in the grave.

The bearers were his sisters sons Anders Petter and Svante Skatt, Petter and Alfred Lund, Wicktor and Johan Hullt.

---

Dad's illness started with constipation in both ways [in both ways, thus], which soon enough was helped by Docktorn, but then it went on unknowingly when he was in bed, so that Mum had enough to take in. He didn't have any severe torment without low and showered and almost slept at home. So that both he and we did not think it was to death, but then he became wiser and wiser and could not eat. On the 6th day he gave up the hope of life, and we called the Priest here, and he made a good confession. - So that we do not need to grieve like those who have no hope. - Then he started to speak badly, his tongue swollen. The last two days he was aimless but sans had until a few hours before he died. See?? the day, however, he is never so long as not to have his evening, then our work is left, then our song is silenced, we must seriously consider it. \_\_\_\_\_

On Thursday, the Dock Tower was here for the third and final time, and then he said there is nothing to do, he can die anytime he does, and he does not live for more than 72 hours, and just on the 24 hour after he died.

I want to mention something about the funeral expenses - because it was too hot, the body must be balmed the same evening. Cost \$ 15, wrapping \$ 5, coffin with bax \$ 65, carriage \$ 7, flowers and wreaths \$ 4, black cloth to dress the grave with 35c. \$ 1 for church dressers, \$ 4 for the engraving. Dock Tower and Medeciner \$ 6 ~~~

I intend to ask Brother Svante if he would like to help me with these expansions. But he might answer as he did when I was with him on Sunday morning and mentioned that Dad was dead, and asked him to go to town tomorrow and buy coffin etc. if. ---- We sent him a message when Dad was ill, and he came on Sunday evening, and sat with Dad for almost half an hour. Then we sent him a message that Dad was worse but he didn't come.

2)

We currently have all health, but Mom is pretty tired even after all that week and the board before and after the funeral. And so here is so terribly hot in the days and nights, so you can hardly sleep more than half the night. The whole of June may have been unusually warm, so that the crop is driven to maturity prematurely. We have had many good rain showers so the crop has looked promising so far, but now it is being hunted.



We are busy with the hay we have taken in 27 las and that is about half. The hay is also 2 weeks early and the hay is thin, all the clovers died away in winter.

A couple of weeks ago we were surprised that a letter from your son Gustaf said that he has been here in the country since April and we had never heard of that. I answered him shortly after his letter, but since then we have not heard from him. --- Now I'll send him a few lines and mention that Grandpa is dead.

I should mention that some 2 weeks before Dad, Sev was buried ?? Erika Anna Stina, or Mrs. Johannes Danielson, about 60 years.

I now want to end this sad letter, and enclose both us and you in the omnipotence of the Almighty, and that this death might bring us all to the reminder of our own imminent passing away, that when death calls us, we may be as happy and hopeful as a father in faith. for the remission of our sins for Jesus. "For death I do not bear the fear when I am united with God". How the heart shall speak, beloved Brother

Please sign your Brother August with Family

*Written on the edge:*

I have been waiting for a long time from you. Write soon, so we will hear how you feel.

At the funeral were Svante and his son Gustaf.

Beloved Brother with Family !! I am now sending you the message that we are orphans.

You have been in a sense that for over 29 years, but I too have recently become that. In this, our old father, after only 12 days of illness, quietly and without difficult pains and with faith and trust in his Lord and Savior, passed away on Midsummer Day at. 4 pm and on Tuesday pm June 27, he was buried in Wäst Union's cemetery, 86 years 11 mo's old. May he rest in peace until the morning of the resurrection. \_\_\_\_\_ For the funeral a lot of people came here. 28 wagons left from here, and many of us met at the church so that the church was almost full of people. And the Priest held a very beautiful sermon, with the guidance of the Hebrew letters 4 chapters 9, 10 and 11th verses.

And the coffin stood at the altar, and after the sermon ended, so the member of the coffin was opened and all the people paraded past and cast a last glance at the corpse. Then the coffin was carried out, and the burial took place by the tomb.

Bearers were his nephews Anders Petter and Svante Skatt, Petter and Alfred Lund, Wicktor and Johan Hullt.

---

Dad's illness started with constipation in both ways, which soon enough became remedied by the

Docktor, but then he went to bed, unaware, so that Mom had enough to do. He had no pains, but lay and dozed and slept almost all the time. So that both he and we thought it was not towards death, but then he became weaker and weaker and could not eat. On the 6th day he gave up hope of life, and we called the pastor here, and he gave a good confession. - So that we do not need to mourn like those who do not have any hope. - Then he began to speak with

difficulty, the tongue swelled up. The last two days he was without speech but conscious until a few hours before he died. See ?? the day (he) is never so long that his evening will not come, when we leave our work, our songs are silenced. May we seriously ponder this. \_\_\_\_\_

On Thursday, the Docktor was here for the 3rd and last time, and then he said that there is nothing to do, he can die at any time, and he will not live more than 72 hours, and precisely on the 24 hours after he died.

I want to mention something about funeral costs - because it was too hot so the corpse must be embalmed the same evening. It cost \$ 15, the burial shroud was \$ 5, the coffin with box \$ 65, \$ 7 hearse, flowers and wreaths \$ 4, black cloth to clothe the grave with 35c. \$ 1 for those who dressed the church, \$ 4 for digging. The Docktor and medicines \$ 6 ~~~

I intend to ask Brother Svante if he wants to help me some with these expenses. But he might respond as he did when I was with him on Sunday morning and told him that Daddy was dead, and asked him to go to the city tomorrow and buy the coffin, etc. - You may arrange that the way you want, I don't do anything about it.---- We sent him a message when Dad was sick, and he came on Sunday evening, and sat by father barely half an hour. Then we sent word to him that dad was worse but he didn't come.

2) We currently all have health, but Mom is pretty tired still after all the week and the chores before and after the funeral. And so it is so terribly hot on the days and nights too, so one can hardly sleep more than half the night. Throughout June it has been unusually warm, so the crop is driven to maturity ahead of schedule. We have had many good rains so the crops have looked so promising, but now it is getting chased away. We're doing the hay harvest, we've taken 27 loads and that's about half of it. The hay harvest too is 2 weeks premature and the hay is thin, all clover died away in winter. A couple of weeks ago we were surprised by a letter from your son Gustaf who said he had been in this country since April and that we had never heard of [before]. I answered him immediately, but since we haven't heard from him. -- - Now I will send him a few lines and tell him that grandfather is dead. I should mention that exactly 2 weeks before my father was buried Sev ?? Erika Anna Stina, or Mrs. John Danielson, about 60 years old. I now want to stop this sad letter, and enclose both us and you in the Allmighty's protection and that this death may bring us all to the reminder of our own imminent death, that when death calls us, we may be like daddy: happy and hopeful in the faith for forgiveness for our sins for Jesus' sake. "For death I bear no fear when I am united with God." So should the heart speak, beloved Brother

Kindly signed your Brother August with family

Written on the Edge: I've waited long for a letter from you. Write soon , so that we'll hear how you're doing.

Attending the funeral was Svante and his son Gustaf.

Posted by Anna Riby at 13:17 No comments:

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