

The Story Of

MATHIAS JULIUS BENSON

and

MARGARET BELNAP BENSON

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23 Feb 1981

PEDIGREE CHART

16

DATE

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING CHART

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

NO. 1 ON THIS CHART IS
THE SAME PERSON AS NO. _____

ON CHART NO. _____

2. Leone BENSON
27 Mar 1914
3. Thelma BENSON
26 Oct 1918
4. Ruth BENSON
19 Sep 1922

1 Marvin Mathias BENSON

BORN 20 June 1909

WHERE Moreland, Bingham, Ida

WHEN MARRIED 7 Apr 1937

DIED

WHERE

Marie Gambling Grunder

NAME OF HUSBAND OR WIFE

Margaret BELNAP

BORN 26 Nov 1885

WHERE Hooper, Weber, Utah

DIED 8 Dec 1922

WHERE Boise, Ada, Idaho

2 Mathias Julius BENSON

BORN 12 Apr 1877

WHERE Nylarsker, Brnhlm, Den

WHEN MARRIED 12 Apr 1906

DIED 6 Aug 1948

WHERE Salt Lake City, S L, UT

5 Matilda Caroline AABERG

BORN 20 Sep 1844

WHERE Kalmar, Kalmar, Swed

DIED 19 Dec 1928

WHERE Moreland, Bingham, Ida

11 Brita Stina DANIELSSON

BORN 3 May 1812

WHERE Mortorp, Kalmar, Swed

DIED 6 Jun 1854

WHERE Ronne, Brnhlm, Den

24 Gilbert BELNAP

BORN 22 Dec 1821

WHERE Port Hope, New Cstl, Can

WHEN MARRIED 26 June 1852

DIED 26 Feb 1899

WHERE Hooper, Weber, Utah

(2) Henrietta MCBRIDE

BORN 1 Sep 1821

WHERE York, Lvnstn, New York

DIED 5 Sep 1899

WHERE Hooper, Weber, Utah

28 Henry William MANNING

BORN 28 Feb 1834

WHERE Bristol, Glcstr, Eng

WHEN MARRIED 14 Mar 1855

DIED 29 Apr 1916

WHERE Salt Lake City, S L, UT

Margaret GALBRAITH

BORN 10 Dec 1835

WHERE Glasgow, Lrnkr, Scotland

DIED 12 Jun 1909

WHERE Hooper, Weber, Utah

8 Hans BENTSEN KLOVE

BORN 18 Apr 1800

WHERE Nyker, Bornholm, Denm

WHEN MARRIED 1836

DIED 19 Sep 1877

WHERE Nylarsker, Brnhlm, Den

(2) Ane Marie ANDREASEN RIIS

BORN 13 Feb 1811

WHERE Bodilsker, Brnhlm, Den

DIED 26 Dec 1878

WHERE Nylarsker, Brnhlm, Den

10 Gustaf JONSSON AABERG

BORN 3 Jan 1807

WHERE Madesjo, Kalmar, Swed

WHEN MARRIED 18 Apr 1841

DIED 4 Mar 1860

WHERE Ronne, Brnhlm, Den

22 Brita Stina DANIELSSON

BORN 3 May 1812

WHERE Mortorp, Kalmar, Swed

DIED 6 Jun 1854

WHERE Ronne, Brnhlm, Den

24 Gilbert BELNAP

BORN 22 Dec 1821

WHERE Port Hope, New Cstl, Can

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WHERE Hooper, Weber, Utah

GIVE HERE NAME OF RECORD OR
BOOK WHERE THIS INFORMATION
WAS OBTAINED. REFER TO NAMES
BY NUMBER.



MATHIAS JULIUS BENSON AND MARGARET BELNAP

Sealed together for Time and Eternity

Salt Lake Temple - April 12, 1906

Wedding Picture - April 1906

In Remembrance of

MATHIAS JULIUS BENSON

and

MARGARET BELNAP BENSON

as

**compiled and written
by their children**

**Marvin Mathias Benson
Leone Benson Baldwin
Thelma Benson McQueen
Ruth Benson Smith**

1985

Acknowledgments

Our sister Leone passed away on August 2, 1985 before this document went to the printers. We thank her for her contributions to this story. We miss her.

We thank our mother's brothers and sisters for information, counsel and guidance in preparing mother's story.

To Aunt Annie, Uncle Fred and the Dalton family who helped Father rear Marvin, Leone and Thelma. When help was most needed they treated us like one of the family. We love and appreciate them for all their kindness.

To Laura and Christian John Christiansen of Moreland, Idaho who took baby Ruth into their arms and home and blessed her with their love. They taught her the gospel and how to be a fine young woman. A thousand thanks.

Finally we thank Terry A. Smith for his hours of work typing, editing and preparing this story for the printer. Becky, we do appreciate your help and cooperation. Terry could not have accomplished so much without your help.

Del Lou, Gaylene, Ruth, James W. and all others who worked to prepare this story - Thanks for your help with typing, editing and etc..

PREFACE

MATHIAS JULIUS BENSON
and
MARGARET BELNAP

HUSBAND and WIFE - Sealed together in the holy bonds of matrimony for time and all eternity in the House of the Lord at Salt Lake City, Utah on 12 April 1906.

In honor of these noble souls, we their children, have assembled the information that follows. They were honorable and worthy parents. They were loving and kind. We truly love and honor our father and mother.

This story is also prepared for the benefit of their posterity. We want their posterity to know as much as possible about these noble ancestors.

Most of the material in the narrative has been gathered from brothers, sisters and friends of Father and Mother. Father wrote part of his life story for which we are grateful. His writings are included in the story.

Father and Mother were faithful members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They loved the Lord and listened to the voice of the prophets.

While Father was serving a mission to Norway there was a constant flow of letters between him and Mother. These letters, through some miracle, were preserved and have been included in this document in their entirety. Other letters and materials have been included also.

Both are of the lineage of Ephraim. Both were promised in their Patriarchal Blessings all the blessings bestowed upon the sons and daughters of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The greatest of those blessings being a numerous posterity. We, their children, and you, their children's children are a part of those blessings.

*Marvin Mathias
Leone
Thelma
Ruth*

MARGARET and FAMILY



MARGARET



OLIVER BELNAP FAMILY
Standing: Margaret, Lester, Wilford
and Hazel.

Seated: Henry, Father Oliver, Mead



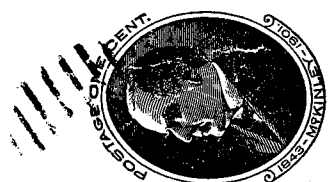
Father: Oliver Belnap
Mother: Margaret Ann Manning



Margaret



Margaret's stepmother and half sisters. Seated: Mother, Anna Barbara Leuenberger and Lillie Anna. Standing: Henrietta, Olive Marie, Alice Pearl and Flora. (Photo of stepmother Emily D. Shurtliff and daughter Isadora not available)



THE SPACE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK.

POSTAL CARD

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



*Margaret Levenson
Hooper, Idaho*

Blackfoot, ID. 4

Margaret,

Dear Daughter:

I am now sending
your genealogy hence
do so now.

Margaret Belnap born
at Hooper, Idaho, Nov. 26th
1885. Blessed Feb. 4th 1886,
by Gilbert Belnap.

Baptized at Fairview Ward
Ogden, Utah, Dec 13th 1893
by Elder Joseph T. Johnson,
confirmed by Elder Oliver
Belnap.

A card from which I
am suffering will delay
my going across desert for
a day or two. The rest are well.
Father

HISTORY OF MARGARET BELNAP BENSON

Granddaughter of Gilbert Belnap and Henrietta McBride

Daughter of Oliver Belnap and Margaret Ann Manning

A group of excited young women gathered around Margaret. All bubbling and full of questions. Margaret had been for another buggy ride with a very eligible bachelor named Mathias Julius Benson. To the question "What did you talk about?" Margaret replied "none of your business." So began a beautiful romance.

Margaret was the third of six children born to Oliver Belnap and Margaret Ann Manning. She was born 26 November, 1885 at Hooper, Weber County, Utah. She was blessed on 4 February, 1886 by her grandfather, Gilbert Belnap. When she was eight years old she was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints by Joseph T. Johnson and confirmed by her father, Oliver Belnap.

Margaret spent her early childhood in Hooper and later in Ogden, Utah. When the Salt Lake Temple was dedicated in 1893 she attended with her father and brothers Lester and Mead. In April 1894, when she was in her ninth year, her mother died after a lingering illness. Margaret was then sent to live with her Uncle Frank and Aunt Bine Belnap. She also spent some time with Aunt Mary Robinson (her mother's sister) and with Grandmother Manning. Her brothers and sisters (Mead, Henry, Lester, Wilford and Hazel) were also sent to various relatives. Her father married Emily D. Shurtliff and for a short time the family was together again. This was not a happy marriage and once again the children were scattered. During the summers of her eleventh and twelfth years her father took her and three brothers to Curlew Valley, Oneida County, Idaho. There they lived in rather destitute circumstances. In the the winter they returned to Hooper to school.

It was while they were in Curlew Valley that Margaret killed her first cottontail rabbit with a cap and ball pistol. She was an excellent horseback rider, riding bareback. This ability probably saved her life because at one time while she and her brother Lester were out riding, they were caught in a wash by a flash flood and were forced to ride at a run to escape.

Whether or not this incident happened at the same time we do not know; but at one time her father left them alone while he went to town for supplies; leaving them only a half a loaf of bread to eat. This was not a two or three hour jaunt into town - but a two or three day trip by horseback.

Margaret, her father and brothers moved to Moreland, Bingham County, Idaho in July of 1898. At Moreland her father "took Margaret at times to my cousin Mrs. Laura Christiansen where she could have the training of the gentle sex and which I afterwards found was a very wise thing to do."

Margaret was an immaculate housekeeper. She loved crochet and fine needle work and was an excellent cook. She had a rare sense of humor and was described as the life of the party. If anyone needed help, was sick or needed comforting, she was always on hand. She was active in church work, teaching in Sunday School, participating in MIA activities, and an ardent Primary worker. She often drove the horse and buggy ten miles in a day to care for her duties.

Hazel wrote the following about her sister, Margaret:

The short time I lived with them was the only time I really had an opportunity to know them. Because of our separation as a family when Mother died. I never got very well acquainted with my sisters and brothers until I went to live in Moreland. And of course Margaret was the one I knew best. When she passed away I felt like the bottom had slipped away from every thing as far as I was concerned. I relied on her so much for counsel and guidance.

It is true she was full of life and fun - but she was very refined and genteel. There was nothing coarse about her. She was one of those unsung persons who quietly went about doing good, caring for the sick, helping a neighbor or a little child - Everyone loved her. She never boasted of her accomplishments, no one ever knew much about her compassionate service -

She taught herself to be a good cook, housekeeper and seamstress. She never had the opportunity to attend much schooling. But I would say she was well educated because she applied what she knew.

I often think of your wonderful parents and wish I had done more for them. They took me in when I had no other place to go. They cared for me, and put up with me and helped in every way they could. I was young and foolish then, but they never were cross or angry with, or chastised me in anyway. How they did it, I don't know. Your father was an extremely patient man, and your mother - She had lived through the hard knocks of childhood and early womanhood and understood my situation perfectly. May the dear Lord bless their memory, and may each of you profit by their good deeds and works.

Priscilla Belnap (wife of Henry Belnap) wrote the following:

My association with your mother was very limited. Just nine short years. During this time we only lived in the same community a short time. I visited in her home and she in mine but nothing very spectacular happened.

I learned to love her and respect her for her high ideals, her love and devotion for her husband, family and friends. I suffered a great loss when she, so untimely left us. Her courage and ideals have given me strength and enriched my life a great deal.

At Moreland she completed the eighth grade in school. Her teacher in the eighth grade was Mathias Julius Benson. A few years later, when Margaret and Mathias started going together, Mathias was Stake Superintendent of the Sunday Schools in the Blackfoot Stake. He was a rather shy, serious young man. It is said that Margaret first went out with him on a dare. Mathias was born in a neighborhood called "Bleurme Lyng", Nylars Parish, Bornholm, Denmark, on 12 April, 1977. He came with his

parents to Plain City, Utah in 1886. In the spring of 1896, young Mathias moved with his father's family to Moreland, Idaho. Travel was by covered wagon.

Margaret and Mathias had decided to marry when Mathias received a call to go to Scandinavia on a mission. When he told Margaret of his call and asked her what she would like to do, she told him they would go ahead with their plans to marry and that she would take care of herself while he was away. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on 12 April 1906. Five days later he left Margaret at Hooper and left for his mission. Margaret worked as a domestic and in a canning factory while Mathias was gone. (For an insight into her life, read letters that she wrote while Mathias was on his mission.)

When Mathias returned from his mission in the summer of 1908 they moved into a three room "L" shaped log cabin, with a dirt roof, in Moreland, Idaho. There, in those humble walls, Margaret made a comfortable home. Mathias taught school and farmed. In that log cabin Margaret gave birth to her first two children. A boy, Marvin Mathias and a girl Leone.

They lived in the log cabin until the spring of 1918 when they sold out and moved to a 40 acre farm near Kimberly, Twin Falls County, Idaho. This farm which they had purchased, had a nice four room frame home with french windows in the living room. A very welcome change from the log cabin. That fall Margaret gave birth to another baby girl named Thelma. They made the move to Kimberly by railroad. Mathias traveled with their farm equipment, furniture, cows, horses and other livestock in a railroad box car. Margaret traveled on a passenger train with her two oldest children.

In 1919 they decided to move to Boise, Ada County, Idaho. They moved in the fall and purchased a five acre tract near Boise. Mathias purchased an interest in a fuel and transfer business. Here they lived in a nice four room house with screened porch in front and back and a cellar underneath. Also they had a most modern convenience, a telephone. In the summer of 1922 they had the house wired for electricity. Here Margaret busied herself with taking care of her children, keeping house, canning fruits and vegetables, working in the Boise Ward Primary and just being a good neighbor. It was here on 19 September that her fourth child was born. This baby was named Ruth.

Henrietta (a half-sister) tells of being home, with one her sisters, taking care of her Grandmother and the home while her parents (Oliver and Anna) were away. Grandma became ill so Margaret took Grandma into her own home and took care of her until Oliver and Anna returned.

Alice (another half-sister) loved to have Margaret comb her hair because she could do so without pulling the hair and causing pain.

On one occasion Margaret let Marvin go to the fair with some of Aunt Annie (Benson) Dalton's children. Each child had 25 cents to spend. Of

course each child spent their money very carefully. But Marvin found a \$5.00 bill just laying on the ground. Who did it belong too? The children decided there was no way to find the owner of the \$5.00. So they proceeded to spend it on rides and other gay carnival attractions. When the \$5.00 was gone they went home. Margaret suspected something and learned about the \$5.00. She hooked the horses to the buggy. She drove to the Fair Grounds and from some unknown source got a \$5.00 bill and left it at the Fair Ground Office. This was a lesson well taught.

Margaret had a reed organ in the living room. There were foot pedals to be pushed up and down to provide the air for the reeds. The organ had ornate decorations with a thousand nooks and corners to gather dust. Margaret would give Teressa Dalton (a niece) the privilege of dusting the organ. Teressa would gladly do that tedious job for Mother.

During the last few years of her life, Margaret was subject to severe headaches. On the night of 7 December, 1922 she had one of those headaches. About four a.m. the next day she passed away. At this point we turn to the words of Mathias as he wrote them to Margaret's sister Hazel:

Boise Idaho Dec 29 1922

Dear Sister and family,

First I want to thank you for your very kind and comforting letter, also for Christmas card and box which we all enjoyed very much. People have been so kind to us and given us so many things to make a cheerful Christmas for us that I almost feel ashamed of myself. The kiddies have enjoyed them little realizing how Dady's heart has ached while trying to do alone what Mamma & Dady used to do for them, still I am thankful that they have been so cheerful through it all as it makes it easier for me to bear. You ask to know the circumstances of Margaret's death.

On Thursday evening Dec 7th I did not get home from work til nearly eight o'clock in the evening and found Margaret suffering with a sick headache. However she ate a light supper and went to bed seemingly feeling a little better. As Leone and Thelma both had colds and were restless at night she had the baby and Thelma with her while I lay down with Leone in an adjoining room. About 2 oclock in the morning I got up and gave her a drink and she said her head was aching awful but as she always claimed that you could do nothing for it only let it work off I went and lay down again and went to sleep and the next thing I realize I heard her get up and come out to the stove and was vomiting. I immediately got up and my first thought was to make up a fire as the room was getting somewhat cold but she said "oh hold my head a minute its just splitting". I started to stroke her forehead but she said "oh press on my temples" which were the last words she spoke. I stepped back of the chair and placed my hands over hers which she was already pressing to her temples. I stood there just for a moment when without a warning or sign of any kind she slipped from my hands and fell face downward on the floor. Of course I picked her up as quick as I could and dashed part of a glass of water which was sitting on the table in her face thinking she had fainted but she just gasped a few times and it was all over. This was about 4 oclock in the morning.

The doctor is of the opinion that death was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain but whatever the cause she certainly was snatched from me without an opportunity of securing aid of any kind. Though I cannot understand why she should be called away when she was needed here so much, I am willing to leave that in the hands of the Lord and try to be submissive to his will and perhaps sometime I may know; and in the mean time strive with all the powers I possess to make myself worthy of her trusting the Lord for strength to accomplish this. For my one great consolation is that she is mine for all eternity if I can make myself worthy of her. And though her spirit had fled yet she certainly looked pure and sweet to me at least as she lay clothed in her Temple robes.

I decided to lay her away at the old home where Father is laid away and Mother will be and where I desire to be laid away when my time shall come. We held funeral services in Boise Saturday afternoon before departing with the remains Saturday evening. The speakers were Alfred Hogensen, Bishop of the Boise Ward; his first Counselor S. W. Worthington; Heber Q Hale President of the Boise Stake and his Second Coun. Clarence T. Ward. The singing was furnished by Bro. Clarence T. Ward, Bro. James Moncarr and Sister Bessie G. Hale. Bro. Ward sang that beautiful solo "Face to Face"; Bro Moncarr sang "Rock of Ages"; Bros. Ward and Moncarr sang O My Father and Bro. Ward and Sister Hale sang "Unanswered Yet". The opening prayer was by Henry G Labrum and the closing prayer by Geo. H. Fisher. I do not suppose you know any of these people but they are all people whom the Lord has blessed with special talent and who are using their gifts in his services and full of his spirit so the services were as consoling as could possibly be under the circumstances. The casket was literally covered with flowers.

Useless for me to tell you how keenly I feel her loss and how lonesome I feel. In fact had it not been for the children I had almost been tempted to pray the Lord to take me too. However I am thankful to him for the years we were permitted to spend together; for the children she bore me; and hope with his help to keep them together; keep up our home and continue as a family and am praying that he will spare my life that I may accomplish this at least til they become self supporting. I feel this would be Margarets wish if she could make it known.

Marvin and Leone are planing to write you so they will tell you all about Christmas.

Will be glad to hear from you any time so if you can possibly find the time don't forget us.

With love to all

Mathias.

MATHIAS and FAMILY



Seated: Hans Andrew, mother Mathilda Carolina and
father Andrew Peter Benson
Standing: Edward Daniel, Bertha Christine, Mathias
Julius and Annie Dorothy



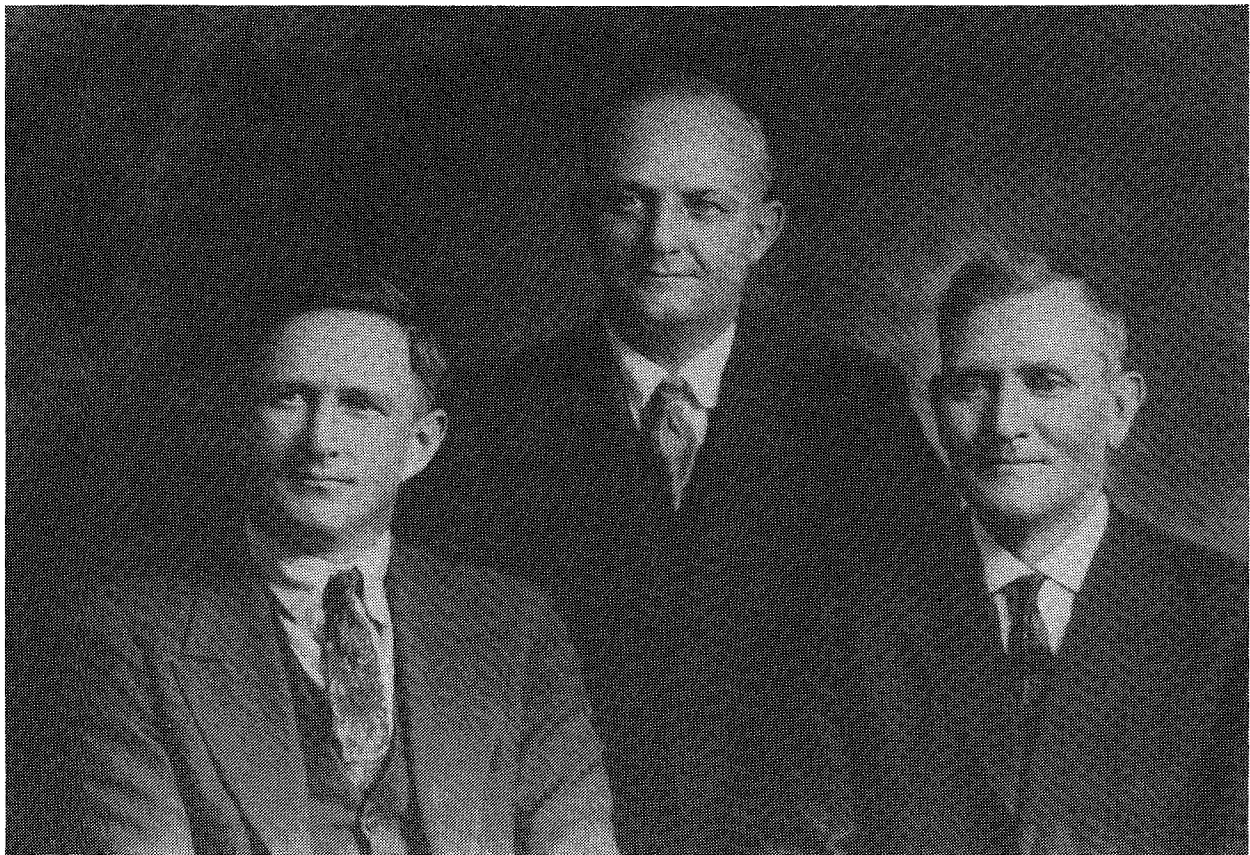
Elder Mathias J. Benson
Norway 1907



Patriarch Mathias J. Benson
1939



Front R: Mathilda C., Edward D.,
Andrew Peter. Back row:
Back R: Annie D., Mathias J., Hans
Andrew, and Annie Dorothy
about 1890



Bishopric Boise 2nd Ward, Boise Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints
 Franklin B. Smith, 1st Counselor, Bishop J. Emer Harris, Mathias J. Benson, 2nd
 Counselor. 1923



1930
 The "Boss" at the coal
 yard. 1919-1948



Mathias J. Benson

April 1948

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MATHIAS J. BENSON

At the urgent request of my family to write the story of my life I am writing this brief sketch.

As my record indicates I was born on the 12th day of April 1877, in a neighborhood called "Bleurme Lyng", in the Nylars Parish on the Island of Bornholm, a small island in the Baltic belonging to Denmark.

My parents, according to the Danish parish records, being Andreas Peter Hansen and Mathilda Caroline Aaberg. I was christened in the Lutheran Church in the Nylars Parish and my record there will appear as Mathias Julius Hansen. An explanation of the change in the name would perhaps be advisable. My father's father was Hans Bentsen and according to the custom at the time of father's birth, the suffix "sen" was added to his father's given name and formed father's surname Hansen. Hence, he was christened Andreas Peter Hansen.

On the advice of the presiding authorities of the Danish Mission where Father joined the church he was baptized and his record made with his father's surname, and his records in the church from that time on had been Andrew Peter Benson, Andrew being generally considered as the English for Andreas. I am not certain as to the reason for the change in the spelling of the surname. Grandfather's being spelled Bentsen and in father's case dropping the t and e and spelling the name Benson. However it has been my impression that father had been known among his associate by the name Benson and the change gradually adopted even in the latter years of Grandfather's life. There are three distinct forms of the name that I have met up with viz. Grandfather Bentsen, father's Benson and his younger brother Uncle Hans, who has added a d and his family spells it Bendtsen.

Our home was a humble but comfortable one and according to the existing standards had the common conveniences or inconveniences of the common home. The house, a straw thatched cottage facing the south. On the south a small vegetable garden and Mother always managed to raise a few flowers, also a couple of apple trees. As was customary, facilities for housing the animals and also dwelling quarters were all combined in one building. As we always had a cow and a pig, they were quartered in the extreme west and while the chickens and ducks occupied quarters next to them. Next was a small space where the grain father raised was stored with a hard clay floor where he would thresh the grain with a flail during the winter months. Hay for the cow was stored in the loft above the stable. Next to the threshing room was a room also with a clay floor provided with a large iron kettle in which Mother would heat the water for washing and other purposes where much hot water was required. Here also was the oven in which the bread supply for the family was baked at regular intervals. The oven was build of stone and on baking days father would build a fire in the oven and heat it up until it was hot enough for baking and then carefully sweep and wipe out the ashes and after putting the loaves of bread into the oven seal up the front opening and it would remain closed until sufficient time had passed for the

bread to be baked. Next to this room on the east was the combined kitchen and living room. This room had a board floor of white pine. Mother would scrub this floor at regular intervals and then sprinkle white sand which was brought from the ocean beach over it. Next on the East was " " the largest room, which was only used on special occasions or when we had company. Our beds were built in one side of the kitchen being filled with straw and feather quilts for our coverings. Our diet was that common for the average common family, rye bread, potatoes, usually cooked with the "jackets" on, salt herring, salt cod, and fish in their season. As we always had a pig which would be killed late in the fall and most of the time a calf, also, this would furnish the family with most of the meat. Our meat was all cured at home. After being duly salted by being placed in brine, some of it would be smoked by being hung in the chimney above the open fireplace above the large kettle, only wood being used for fire.

Our clothing was plain and almost wholly from cloth which Mother had spun the yarn and woven the cloth. Mother always knitted our stockings and mittens, and Father made our wooden shoes which were the common footwear of the country, with perhaps a pair of leather shoes for special occasions which were made by the shoemaker in the neighborhood.

Christmas, of course, was the great Holy day of the year and was looked forward to for a long time, not because of expensive gifts, but rather through having impressed upon us the Spirit of the day and also the treats in the way of the food generally a roast duck, wheat bread, and some candy and fruit on the side.

At the close of the harvest season we always had the pleasure of attending the "Hoste Bilde" (Harvest Festival) given by the farmers where father had assisted in the harvest. This always meant a lot of good things to eat and playing with the children of the other families and generally a ride around the country which itself was quite a treat.

Father followed the trade of thatching. As practically all the buildings in the country had thatched straw roofs he was kept quite busy at his trade especially during the summer months. In the long winter evenings we would usually sit around the hearth before lighting the coal oil lamp and father would tell us stories.

My earliest recollections of anything connected with the L.D.S. Church was the visits of the missionaries to our home and holding cottage meetings. I recall following one such meeting, shortly before father joined the church, the minister of the parish sending word that he was not to allow the Mormons to hold meetings in his home. As Father was away at the time Mother was somewhat upset by the notice, but when Father came home he only smiled and said, "I own my home and know what my rights as a citizen are."

After father joined the church he at once began making preparations for immigrating to America. He sold his home to a partner he had in his trade and held an auction sale to dispose of their furniture and equipment we

could not take with us. Father has related that at this sale some of neighbors brought in items they wanted to sell. The auctioneer sold Father's property first and while it was being for sale the bidding was brisk and a good price realized on everything, some articles bringing a price equal to their original value or price paid for them. As soon as Father property was sold, people became disinterested, the bidding was slow and very low price realized by the owners of the property. Father always said the hand of the Lord was in it and I agree with him.

I commenced school when seven years of age attending the same school and same teacher father had attended. We went to school every other day three days out of the week. The lower classes attending one day and the higher classes the next. As mother had taught me at home I was able to read and write before starting school. Our reading lessons in school was mostly Bible stories and I still recall the one about Elijah and the Raven. Reading, writing, and arithmetic constituted the subjects taught.

To provide clothing for the journey, the shoemaker was engaged to make us shoes and Father bought some material and the tailor employed to make our suits. Which I am sure was the first tailor made suit I ever wore.

Finally the day for our departure came around and on the 6th day of April, 1886, a neighbor brought two teams and wagons and brought us to Ronne, the place from which we were to sail and on the evening of the same day we went on board the ship and sailed for Copenhagen where we arrived the following morning. From Copenhagen we again took steamer and sailed to Hull England, where we arrived on the 12th of April and took train for Liverpool, this being my 9th birthday and my first ride on a railroad train. The customs and ways of the English city naturally appeared somewhat strange to a country lad from Denmark. I recall how queer the one horse carts on the streets of Liverpool appeared and especially when they would have two horses, one ahead of the other instead of side by side as was customary in Denmark. I was also quite impressed with the ragged and dirty appearance of the street urchins and their evident lack of food and clothing. For while our home had been a humble one and our food and clothing plain, our home and our clothes and bodies were always kept clean and sanitary and our clothing comfortable and never knew what it was to go hungry.

After spending a number of days in Liverpool waiting for a sailing date, we sailed on the S. S. Nevada which was ten days crossing the Atlantic and docking at New York where we were landed in the historic Castle Gard. From New York we traveled by train to Ogden, Utah arriving on the Fourth of May, 1886. Here we were met by Uncle Peter Poulsen who took us to his home in Plain City.

One incident on the trip from New York impressed me at that time. I think it was at Laramie, Wyoming, that the train was held up by a railroad strike. Against the advise of the leaders of the emmigrant company, a number of people left the train thinking it would be some time before the train would go on but unexpectedly the train pulled out being manned so we

were given to understand by officials of the railroad company. One of the leaders of our company left the train as it was pulling out. Our train stopped at a small station out on the desert. Those who were left behind was brought out to the train in an engine cab. The first summer we lived with Uncle and doing such work as boys could do on the farm, and getting acquainted and learning the language.

The following spring father rented a farm from L. W. Shurtliff, president of the Weber Stake. Here we learned and spent the time performing the usual farm labors. Attended school in the winter months studying the elementary subjects of reading, arithmetic, grammar, writing and spelling, and physiology. The schools were not graded as we have them now but according to the reader used. The fifth reader being the most advanced in the common school. My last schooling was in the 5th reader with F. W. Dalton, who later married my sister Annie, as our teacher. My first experience as a teacher in the church organizations was at the age of sixteen when I was called to be assistant teacher in the first intermediate department of the Poplar Sunday School. Several years previous to this I remember distinctly meeting and shaking hands with Richard Ballantyne who was Superintendent of the Sunday Schools of Weber Stake. This happened after we had been here a year or two and being somewhat bashfull as Bro. Ballantyne shook hands with a group of boys I hung my head and when he took my hand he put his other hand under my chin and raised my head and said "my boy I like to look people in the eyes when I am shaking hands with them".

While still living at Plain City, I joined the Y.M.M.I.A. and took an active part in all the activities afforded by that organization. I also was active in the Deacons and Priests Quorum to which offices I had been ordained in the Priesthood. I never held the office of Teacher in Aaronic Priesthood.

A number of people from Plain City had gone up into Idaho and filed on land in and around what became Moreland. Father also went to Idaho and filed on 80 acres of land. Construction of the People's canal had been commenced and Father worked on the construction of the canal for stock in the same.

Before leaving for Idaho in April 1896, Father fitted up a covered wagon and took the family to Salt Lake City for the April Conference. We camped in the old Tithing yard where the Hotel Utah now stands. We move to Moreland by means of two covered wagons loaded with household furniture and such equipment as Father had. Father drove one wagon and I drove the other while brother Andrew rode a pony and drove the cows. The roads were not graded and in places the mud was almost hub deep and in some instance we found it necessary to leave one wagon and put all four horses on one in order to get over a difficult piece of road and then return for the other wagon.

Our first summer was spent in working on a hay ranch during the haying season for which we received hay for our animals; and in getting out logs

from the Big Butte for a log cabin. In winter we got out cedar posts for fencing the land, working on the canal, constructing ditches and working for hay for the animals occupied the most part of the time, together with clearing the land of sage brush preparatory for plowing.

My church activities commenced with being appointed second counselor to C. J. Christiansen in the Y.M.M.I.A. I also participated in the plays which were presented under the direction of the M.I.A. as part of the recreational program. Commercial amusements were almost unknown so we had to devise our own amusement; chief among which were the plays and dances sponsored by the Mutual.

During the winter of 1897 I was called as a home missionary and in company with Chas. Liljenquest visited the homes of the Saints in the Blackfoot and Riverside Wards. I also filled the calling of home missionary visiting different wards in the Bingham Stake in their Sacrament Meetings. We usually make two visits a month.

Dec. 3, 1899, I was called and set apart as Superintendent of the Moreland Sunday School and on Sept. 28, 1902, I was sustained and set apart as second Counselor to Bishop W. P. Lindsay of the Moreland Ward and at that time I was also acting as Ward Clerk. I continued to occupy these positions until the organization of the Blackfoot Stake when I was sustained as Stake Superintendent of the Stake Sunday School at a Conference held in Blackfoot Feb. 14, 1904. I was set apart for this position by Hyrum M. Smith of the Council of the Twelve.

HISTORY OF MATHIAS J. BENSON

This was as far as father had gone in writing his autobiography. The following are excerpts from his diary and probably express better than we ever could how well he succeeded in his calling as Stake Superintendent of the Blackfoot Stake Sunday School.

"Summary of 1904

Traveled by team in visiting schools 1173 miles. By rail to attend District Convention and preliminary meetings and Sunday School Union Conference, 540 miles making a total distance of 1713 miles. Made 31 visits to schools. Reorganized superintendencies of 11 schools. Attended 8 Stake Board Meetings, 2 Stake Union Meetings, 1 District Convention and 1 Deseret Sunday School Union Conference.

During the year of 1905 made 41 visits to schools; reorganized or completed 8 superintendencies; attended 18 Stake Board meetings, and 10 Stake Union Meetings. Held 8 Sunday School Ward Conferences. Attended 3 special meetings for arranging District Conventions, 1 District Convention and one conference of the Deseret Sunday School Union at Salt Lake City. Traveled 1053 miles by team and 506 by rail for a total of 1559 miles in the interest of the Sunday Schools."

Father also taught school during this time of his life and we find teachers certificates dated: March 1, 1901; May 26, 1901; September 1 19??, 1 August 27, 1904; and the latest August 29, 1908.

In March of 1906 he received a call to go on a mission to Scandinavia. This necessitated his release from the Stake Sunday School Board and this was done March 25, 1906.

The call to go on a mission came to Mathias after he and Margaret Belnap had planned to marry. They decided to carry out their plans and Margaret would work and support herself in Mathias absence.

Again we quote from his diary:

"March 28, 1906 A farewell party was given in the hall to Elder Lewis Robbins and myself. Elder Robbins having been called to take a mission to Great Britian. The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity and an excellent program was rendered and much said that made my heart rejoice. Each received a present of a handsome volume of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, and Pearl of Great Price bound together. Elder Robbins being a present from the Moreland Sunday School and mine from the Stake Board. We also received a cash present of \$24.10 each. After the program picnic lunch was partaken of and the remainder of the evening spent in dancing. Had a very enjoyable time and one that I can never forget.

April 3-6: Spent at home making preparation for departure and in correspondence. On the evening of the sixth I left and bid goodbye to my home and Parents and took the midnight train from Blackfoot to Salt Lake City, accompanied by Margaret. Brother Edward taking us to the train. My feelings on this occasion are indescribable.

Before Mathias went on his mission he had a physical examination and in answer to the routine question concerning rheumatic fever he told the doctor that he had had it. Upon checking his heart the doctor remarked and seemed to marvel at the fact that it was normal. He was assured he would have no trouble. Father said he could always tell when he was in for a seige of rheumatic fever. One of his little toes would start to tingle.

On April 12, 1906 Margaret Belnap and Mathias were married in the Salt Lake Temple. President John R. Winder officiated. After they were married they took the train to Hooper, Utah where they attended the wedding reception of Myrtle Belnap and Lee Naesbit. On April 17th Mathias bid farewell to his wife and friends at Hooper and returned to Salt Lake City. Upon his arrival in Salt Lake he was given a patriarchal blessing by Patriarch John Smith and set apart for his mission by J. Golden Kimball.

While on his mission he was assigned to preside over the Trondjhem Conference of the Scandanavian Mission from October 1906 to May 1908. On his way to his mission he was able to visit his old home in Bornholm and relatives still living there. He says:

Walked to Arnager in compay with Bro. Lund. There we visited Karen Hansen. And from there we walked up to the old house where the lady of the house kindly admitted us and showed us through the rooms. Saw the old bed chamber, also

the old stove as it stood when we left. Many strange thoughts and recollections passed through my mind upon seeing some of the scenes.

On June 19, 1906 Mathias with the other Elders working in the Trondjhem area were privileged to watch the arrival of the King of Norway from the bridge of the English ship Tasso. Then on the 22nd of June, 1906 they saw the procession of the Royalty go to the Cathedral where the King was crowned.

The rest of Father's diary is filled with records of meetings held and other mission activities. In it we find several references made to talks by Sisters Widtsoe and Gaarden, who were filling their mission in Norway at that time.

On his first wedding anniversary he had this to say:

Friday 12th: This morning went and had my picture taken. This afternoon wrote letter to Margaret and went and visited Sisters Tiller and Moe. Today is one year ago since we were married and all in all the year has been full of peace and blessings.

Upon his release from his assignment in Trondjhem the Saints gave him a set of spoons engraved with his and Margaret's name and one with the initial "B". Of this he says:

This evening the saints gave us Elders who had been released a farewell party at which we had an excellent time. The saints made me a beautiful present of a set of Silver Spoons. I certainly felt in my heart to say God Bless them all and my greatest wish for them is that they may all remain faithful unto the end that we all may see each other again.

Before leaving for home Mathias was able to again visit Bornholm, and on Wednesday July 15, 1908 he left Copenhagen "HOMEWARD BOUND". While on the trip back to America he was in charge of the Scandanavian Saints migrating to Utah.

During one of his visits to Bornholm, Father said he found that many of the roofs that Grandfather Benson had thatched were still in good condition these many years later.

When asked how being such a newly married man affected his mission, he would tell that at first the Church officials were a little sceptical but that when he left his mission he was told that they didn't feel it would have been possible for him to have done as fine a job as he did if he had not been a married man.

When Mathias returned from his mission he and Margaret set up housekeeping in a three room log cabin at Moreland, Idaho. The logs on the cabin wall were chinked with mud and the roof was of mud. Oilcloth covered the inside walls. It was here that Marvin Mathias was born on 29 June 1909.

While living in Moreland, Mathias taught school and did some farming with his brother Edward. He was also called to the office of Stake Superintendent of Sunday Schools of the Blackfoot Stake in October 1908 and he held this position until March 1918.

On the 27 March 1914, Margaret and Mathias added a daughter to their family. They named her Leone.

In the spring of 1918, Mathias purchased a farm of 40 acres at Kimberely, Idaho and moved his family there. The farm was located one mile north and 1 mile west of Kimberely. The home had two bedrooms, living room and kitchen. They raised sugar beets, clover seet, etc.

While living in Kimberely a second daughter, Thelma, was born on the 26th October 1918.

In the fall of 1919 they sold the farm in Kimberely and moved to Boise, Idaho. Here they purchased 5 acres of land on Phillippi Street. The land was mostly in apple orchard and pasture. There was a home on the land that had two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, a screened front and back porch, and a most modern convenience, a telephone!

Mathias bought a Mr. Thurber's interest in Worthington and Thurber's Fuel and Transfer Co. located at 11th and Front Street in Boise. The business was carried on with team and wagons. Mathias took over the management of the yard work, looking after horses, wagons, deliveries, etc. Mr. Ed H. Coffin bought into the business and it became known as Worthington and Coffin Coal Co. With Mathias as the "silent partner". Later he and Mr. Coffin bought out Worthingtons interest but did not change the name of the company. He remained in this business until the time of his death.

A year or two after moving to Boise, Margaret and Mathias suffered a financial setback. They had sold the farm in Kimberely and the purchase failed to make the payments as agreed. So they had to take the farm back and make the back tax payments and water assessments.

During the summer of 1922 the house on Phillippi was wired for electricity - a time of great happiness for the whole family.

On September 19, 1922 another girl was added to the family. They called this little girl Ruth.

Very suddenly and unexpectedly on the 8th of December, 1922, Margaret died of a cerebral hemmorage. This left Mathias with four motherless children to be mother and father to and to provide them with the necessities and comforts of a home. For a time after Margaret's death, Mathias' sister Annie took care of Thelma and Ruth and he hired a housekeeper to help out at home. Finally Ruth was sent to Moreland to be cared for by Laura and Christian Christiansen, where she remained until their death in 1936.

Mathias and his family were never without the help of his sister Annie and her family which was greatly appreciated.

Mathias often mentioned that after Margaret died he wondered if he had used his talents and time more fully in serving the Lord, if perhaps Margaret would not have been taken. With this thought he vowed to better serve the Lord to the best of his ability - a vow he kept as long as he lived.

We have heard Father say that after Mother died he thought if only he could live twenty years until he saw his children raised then he too would be ready to be called home. Later after the shock and hurt had healed he felt a longer lease on life would be nice. Father never remarried after Mother's death and perhaps the reason he never looked for a new companion or at least never remarried was because he was afraid that his children might have to undergo some of the same treatment mother did from her stepmother (Grandfather Belnap's 2nd marriage).

In addition to working from 8:00 in the morning to 6:00 at night at the coal yard, Father took care of the 5 acres he had bought. He kept (until his later years) several cows on the pasture. In fact he had too many cows for his pasture and consequently in the summer he had to rent pasture land. Every morning he would get up about 4:30 a.m., milk the cows (by hand of course) then fix breakfast and be off to work before 8:00. He would work until 6:00, then come home to the cows and the 5 acres. Also he usually prepared dinner at night until some of the girls got a little older and could do more. After dinner he would be at the table washing dishes with the girls (Leone and Thelma) drying them. This is the time he would sing or recite poetry. One of the songs that he sang was:

My ole massa told me so
The cutest little nigger
in the country, oh,
I looked in the glass
and found it so
Just as Massa told me so.

The poem we were most impressed with was "The Raven". Also he used to tell us the story of "The Little Match Girl".

Leone records:

Father was a quiet serious man; but he was also full of fun and had a great sense of humor. One of my earliest memories I have of father was a water fight - Have you ever had a water gun - one of those little kind you squeeze to fill a little handle with water and then squeeze again to spray your victim. I had one and proceeded to "shoot" father and then the fun started - I think I came out the wettest.

Another thing I remember was going with Father to the "park" on such times as the 4th of July and the 24th. He loved to wander around the tables visiting with people - no wonder he became just a little stout.

When Dad was a young man at Moreland he took an active part in their "dramas". Also he used to call for the square dances. He like to dance and went to all of the church dances taking us with him. He also had a good singing voice and sang in the church choirs. I can still remember him singing the poem mentioned above. Or I can hear him reciting such as the "Wonderful One Hoss Shay".

On 11 November 1923 Mathias was sustained as second counselor to Bishop J. Emer Harris in the Boise Second ward. He was set apart to this position 1 Dec. 1923 by George F. Richards at Stake Conference held in Weiser, Idaho. He held this position until 13 January 1935.

On the 9th of January 1935, Father, Leone and Thelma were in the front room talking when the phone rang. It was for Dad from Scott B. Brown. As Brother Brown talked a look of puzzlement swept over Dad's face and he said "Oh, you must have the wrong Benson - this is M. J. Benson and you must want Ezra Taft". Then Bro. Brown informed him that indeed he was talking to the right Benson. After the telephone conversation and with much pacing back and forth Dad told the girls "Don't repeat this to anyone as yet, but Bro. Brown is to be the new Stake President and wants me to be his second counselor. Ezra Taft Benson is to be his first." He was completely surprised and flabbergasted to be called to this position. They later were affectionately called the "three Bees" of the Boise Stake. He was sustained to this position on the 13th of January 1935 at a conference held in Boise. He was set apart the same day by Elder Chas. A. Callis of the Council of Twelve.

When the Boise Stake was divided on November 27, 1938 Mathias was sustained and set apart as 2nd Counselor to Ezra Taft Benson. At this time the presiding Apostle recommended to the High Council that Mathias be set apart as Stake Patriarch. President Ezra T. Benson asked that he be made a counselor to assist in the work of organizing a new Stake, and his request was granted. Then on the 26th of March, 1939, the Boise Stake Presidency was released and Mathias was set apart as Stake Patriarch. He was ordained to this office by George Albert Smith. While holding this position he still remained active in teaching Sunday School, attending MIA and seeing that his children had the opportunity to remain active in church. There was no job too small or task too large and he did all that he was asked to do.

Mathias sent two children on missions. Marvin filled a mission to Norway from November 1929 to May 1932. Thelma filled her mission in California from March 1946 to March 1948.

One of his fondest wishes was fulfilled when all his children married in the temple. He lived to witness three of these children married; Marvin to Marie Grunder in the Salt Lake Temple on the 7th of April, Leone to Abram Ray Baldwin on the 3 October 1935 also in the Salt Lake Temple, and Ruth to

James Wesley Smith on 4 December 1942, in the Mesa temple. Thelma was married to Duane S McQueen on 31 January 1952 in the Idaho Falls Temple. Although Mathias died in 1948 he must have been aware and pleased with Thelma's marriage in the temple as much as he was with those marriages he was able to witness.

After attending the wedding of Ruth, Father wrote a letter to Leone concerning some of his thoughts at that time. We would like to quote part of that letter:

Boise, Dec. 8, 1942

Dear Leone: It is just 20 years ago today since your mother passed away. It hardly seems possible but it is a fact just the same. I can't help but wonder what a difference there might have been in the lives of all of us had she been permitted to live. Also of the changes which the years have brought. You and Marvin married with families of your own and me just returning (got home last night) from a trip of about 2,000 miles that I might attend the marriage of the 2 month old baby girl who was left motherless with the rest of you at that time. I said at that time that if the Lord would let me live the next twenty years and bless me with health so that I might be able to work and provide for my family that would be all I would ask. The twenty years are gone and as you know I have hardly had a day that I haven't been able to be "on the job", and although I haven't been able to provide what I should like to have done in the way of conveniences etc. in the home, yet we've never had to go hungry and cold and have had sufficient clothes so we could attend church and other activities without feeling ashamed of our appearance. Well now that that twenty years have passed I am asking for another 20 or 30 and I somehow feel that I am going to get it.

In 1943 Mathias sold his home on Phillippi Street and moved to a larger home with less acreage to care for and one with more modern conveniences at 317 Jackson Street in Boise.

In the last years of his life Mathias had two serious operations for Prostrate Gland trouble. The last operation in 1948 left Mathias with poor health and although he never at any time complained in any way he suffered with a lot of pain. We asked Father to go to a doctor in Boise - he declined. We then persuaded him to see Doctor Dean Belnap, our cousin in Salt Lake City. When his condition became so serious in July 1948 that he could no longer hide his pain, Marvin and Jim took him to Salt Lake to the hospital there. While in the hospital, Elder Ezra Taft Benson of the Council of the Twelve gave Father a blessing commending his body and spirit to the loving watchcare of our Heavenly Father. The doctors told us he had cancer and could nothing for him. He died on the 6th of August 1948. The doctors marvel that he had lived as long as he did. They told us he had no marrow in his bones, and only about 1 pint of blood in his body.

Thelma was living with Father these last months and remembers this about his last illness:

How well I remember - Dad insisted on going to work every day even though the pain became so great that he couldn't get up and down the steps going to and from the car. He would take a lunch and sit and do what he could all day. I drove him down and back (I was working downtown then also). Still through all the pain and suffering he never complained. Oh yes, he would wince and the pain showed in his face and many a time I had to help him but never a complaint.

I guess I'll never forget that when we knew the end was close and we were all in Salt Lake to see him; how Leone, Ruth and I knelt and prayed that he might be spared any further suffering. I think our prayers were answered

After his death, funeral services were held in Boise, Idaho and then memorial services were held at the graveside in Moreland, Idaho where Mathias was buried beside Margaret on 10 August 1948.

The following incident was related to Marvin by Bishop J. Emer Harris, after Father died:

Bishop Harris and Father went to the hospital in Boise to administer to a sister who had suffered a miscarriage. In fact there had been several miscarriages and the doctors had told her she should not try to have another baby. Bishop Harris annointed and Father gave the blessing. Among other things he told the sister that she would live to be the mother of a large family.

After Bishop and Father left the hospital, the Bishop said to Father, "You should not have told her she would live to have a large family." Father replied, "I had to say that. The Spirit told me to say it."

The woman lived and did in fact have a large family of loving children.

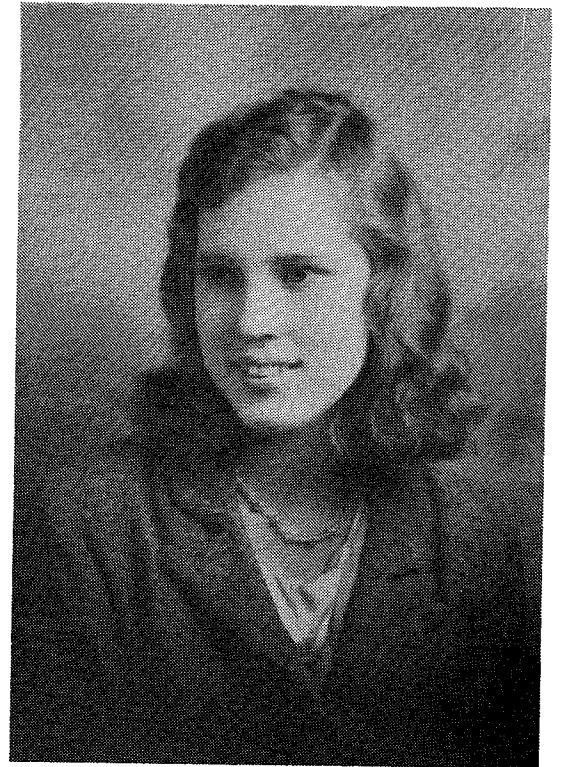
One of Father's many outstanding qualities was his great patience. None of us can remember more than one or two times when Father was provoked enough to use words or show anger in his speech. That he was "faithful to the end" and that the Lord could speak to him and say "well done thou good and faithful servant" we his children have no doubt. He was a kind patient and loving father that left a heritage of something far more precious than wealth. May the Lord help us to follow in his footsteps!

*Marvin
Leone
Thelma
Ruth*

CHILDREN of MARGARET and MATHIAS BENSON



Marvin Mathias 1945



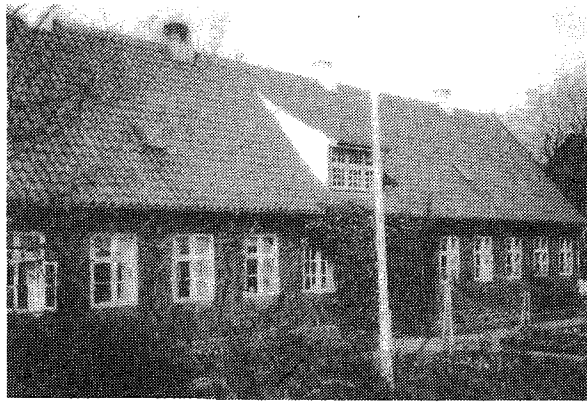
Leone 1932



Thelma 1945



Ruth 1948



School house, Bornholm, Denmark where Mathias went to school
Snap shot in 1932 by Marvin

VERDENSPOSTFORENINGEN
(UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE)

BREVKORT - CARTE POSTALE



Correspondance

Bornholm
June 29-1908

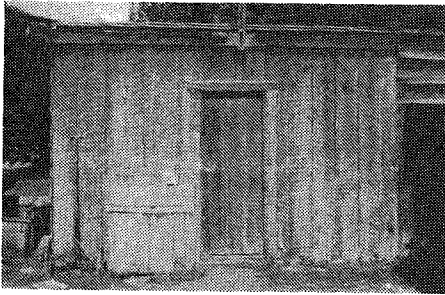
Dear Margaret
I have received
your letter of a few
days ago pleased to note
you were well as I am
also pleased to say is the
case with me. We've been
having fine weather so
I've had a fine time visiting



Mrs. Margaret Benson
Blackfoot Idaho
R.F.D. # 2
U. S. America



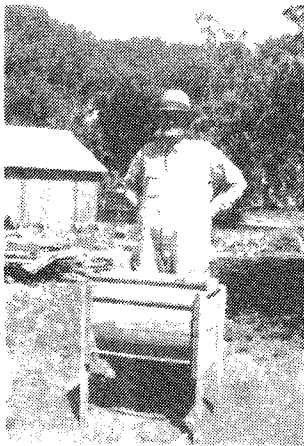
The church where Mathias was baptized or sprinkled as a child and where
his forefathers worshipped.



Margaret and Mathias
started houskeeping in
this place in 1908.
They soon moved to a log
house. Moreland, Idaho
(taken in 1940)



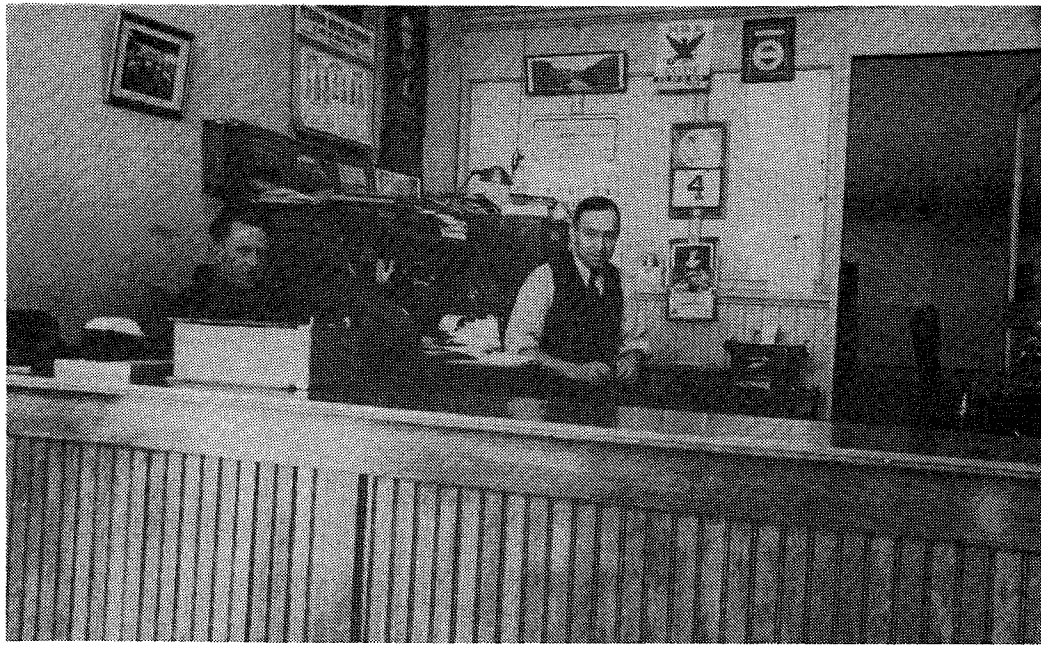
Bertha Benson and Margaret
(date unknown)



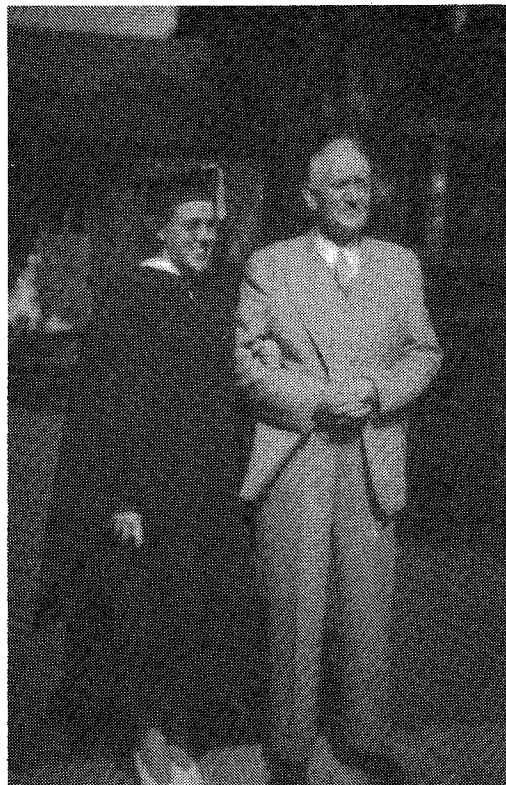
Mathias and the old butter
churn he and Margaret used.
(taken in 1940)



The old Church in
Moreland, Idaho
(taken in 1940)



The Up Town office of Worthington & Coffin, 315 North 8th. St Boise
Marvin at left - Mr. Ed H. Coffin, father's partner for over 25 years



Mathias J. Benson and daughter Thelma
At Thelma's graduation from Brigham Young
University in 1941

CORRESPONDENCE DURING DURING MATHIAS' MISSION

Salt Lake City Utah
April 18, 1906

Dear Wife:-

I arrived in this City all right yesterday and reported at the Presidents office at the appointed time where I made arrangements for my fare. We got our tickets from Salt Lake To Chicago and from Boston to Liverpool which cost us \$54. Owing to some changes in the Rail Road, we will have to buy our tickets from Chicago to Boston when we get there. That will cost us \$16 so you see it will cost us \$70 from this City to Liverpool then from Liverpool to Denmark it will cost us from 10 to 15 dollars; so you see the fare will be in the neighborhood of \$85.

I was set apart yesterday afternoon at the Temple annex under the hands of Orson F. Whitney, J. G. Kimbal and B. H. Roberts, President Kimbal being mouth. They will send a copy of the blessing to the folks and I have written Andrew and told him to send it to you. I also went down to Patriarch John Smith and got a Patriarchal blessing and I will make a copy of it and send to you the first opportunity I have.

Brother Lund was on the train all right and I suppose we will travel together to Denmark. There is quite a number going. I don't know just how many but I think there was about forty set apart yesterday. We leave this City this evening at 8 P.M. over the D. & R. G. and go by way of Denver and Chicago to Boston where we sail on the Steamer Cymric of the White Star Line to Queenstown and Liverpool. The Steamer is booked to leave Boston at noon Thursday April the 26th so about that time just think of me and remember me in your prayers; for I certainly feel that I need them. I went and looked at the proofs of our pictures yesterday but had hard time to chose between them but finally selected one and paid for them so all you have to do is to call for them.

Hoping these few lines will find you feeling well and with kindest Regards to your Grandparents and all the folks. And praying the Lord to bless you and to cheer and comfort you I remain

Your affectionate husband,

Mathias.

Grand Central Hotel.
Denver Colorado
April 20

Dear Margaret:- We arrived here at eleven oclock last night and as our train was one hour late the train for Chicago had left so we had to wait here till 10:40 A.M. today. We passed through some of the Grandest scenery yesterday that I ever saw. Will tell you all about it in a letter the first chance I get to write one. We left Salt Lake City at 8:00 P.M. Wednesday and have had a very pleasant trip so far. There is 18 elders and 4 Sisters in the company and I believe all is well. I am feeling fine this morning. Will try and send letter from Chicago *Mathias*

Chicago Illinois
April 22 1906

Dear Margaret. We arrived in this city last night at 5:15 P.M. all feeling well. Leave today at 3:02 P.M. Have passed through some very pretty country and had a very pleasant trip so far. The weather is fine and all are in fine spirits. Went down and seen Lake Michigan also Montgomery Ward & Co. Building today. *Mathias*

Boston, Massachussetts
April 26 - 1906

Dear Wife:-

We arrived in this City yesterday morning at 8:30. All well but feeling a little tierd. As I told you in my former letter we left Salt Lake City at 8:00 P.M. on the 18th inst. over the D. & R.G. Rail Road and during the night passed through Utah crossing into Colorado in the morning and arrived at Grand Junction Colorado about 5:15 in the morning and leaving again about 6 A.M. from Grand Junction to the mouth of the Grand Canyon we saw some very fine places, some of the nicest orchard that I ever saw we passed by in this section mostly Peaches Pears and apples, the Peaches and pears being in bloom and the apple trees just coming into leaf made a very pretty appearance. About noon we arrived at Glennwood Springs in the mouth of the Grand Canyon a very pretty place, a noted Summer resort for the rich. From Glennwood Springs we started up the Grand Canyon where I saw some of the Grandest mountain scenery I ever saw. In some places the Rail Road passes right along the base of the cliffs with the river below it and the mountain on the other side rising almost perpendicularly to a hight of 500 ft. while on the opposite side of the river the cliffs rise from the waters edge to the same hight. Then in places are small gullies and ravines leading up all covered with pines and cedars making a very pretty appearance. In one place we saw a town on the top of the mountain looked like they were straight above us 500 ft or more. We learned that it was a silver and Gold mining camp. Also saw the Mount of the Holy Cross but as it was all covered with snow and a cloud hanging over the top did not get a

good view of it. As we advanced we found some snow until near the summit the snow appeared to be quite deep. We got to the summit about four oclock in the afternoon, at the summit we passed through a tunnel about half a mile in length. This was at the very tops of the Rocky Mountains, and is called Tennessee Pass. From here we passed down in this side the mountains through much the same kind of scenery until we arrived at Pueblo about 7. P.M. and at Denver at 11 P.M. Being one hour late the train we should have taken for Chicago had left and we were obliged to stay at Denver until 10 oclock the next morning. Did not get to see much of the place however as we did not get up very early but what I did see looked very nice, and had the apperance of being a clean nice place. From Denver we traveled over the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Rail Road. Friday we traveled over the pairries in Colorado where there was nothing much to see but could not help but think how tiresome it must have been to those who crossed them by team in early days, and here we was feeling tierd while riding in a nice chair car with all the accomodations possible. I certainly felt that I ought not to complain. From Colorado we passed into Kansas, here the grain fields and meadows were green and the country being level presented a very pretty appearance; we also saw the remnants of some pretty good sized corn fields, with the stalks of last years crop still standing. Another thing that here attracted our attention also was the large grain elevators and corn cribs built along the road. From Kansas we passed into Nebraska through which we traveled Friday night arriving in Omaha Saturday morning at three oclock. Here we crossed the Missouri river into Council Bluffs Iowa. This state presented a very pretty appearance The country is quite rolling with small groves of timber scattered all over it. In the meadows and among the trees the cattle were grazing, while in places the grain was green or just coming up and in some places we passed through large tracts of corn fields with last years stalks still standing We passed through Des Moines 8:25 A.M. and saw some of the factories where much of farming tools and Machinery is made. About noon we crossed the Mississppi about noon Saturday at Rock Island. Just after crossing the river we got into Moline Illinoise where the Moline and Deere plows are made, we saw these factories from the car windows. From Moline we passed through some very pretty farming country also some towns containing large factories of various discriptions; and arrived at Chicago Saturday evening. Here we put up at the Majestic Hotell. This is a modern hotel in every way with everything fixed up in first class style each room having its own bath room with hot and cold water and every convenience immginable. We were four in a room and it cost us one dollar apiece for the night. We eat our meals at a restaurant. The hotel is fourteen (14) stories high and we was on the 10 floor. I believe this was the nearest heavan I ever slept. As we stayed in Chicago but a short time I did not get to see much of the city. The part that I did see; the streets are very narrow and the buildings tall most of them being over 10 stories

Saturday evening we went down and watched the bridge open to let the steamer down the river and Sunday morning went and took a look at Lake Michigan and Motgomery Ward & Co building. And left Chicago at 3:02 P.M. over the Grand Trunk line Rail Road. Traveled through the States of Indiana and Michigan. In Indiana we passed through Southbend where the Studebaker

wagons and buggies are made and whose factories we saw from the train; We also passed through the cities of Lansing and Battle Creek, Michigan; crossed the line into Canada about midnigh and had to open our grips for inspection by a custom house official who came on the train and looked at them and that was about all he did do. Arrived at Toronto about 7:30 A.M. here we had to change cars and made a stop of a little over one hour. During Monday we traveled along the shores of Lake Ontario and the banks of the St. Lawrence River arriving in Montreal Canada at 6 P.M. where we again made a change of cars and stopped till 8:40 when we resumed our journey back across the line into the U. S. when again had to have our baggage examined and arrived here 8:30 Yesterd-ay (Tuesday morning) The part of the New England States that we passed through by day light is very uneven and where it has not been cleared is covered with timber of different kinds. Most of it is very closely settled and what all the people live on is more than I can tell. The trains in the east make quite fast time, a mile a minute being nothing out of the ordinary; and some of the tracks are so crooked it would break a snakes back to follow them. Their coaches I dont think are as nice as they have in the west. We had the best service from Denver to Chicago.

Here there is four occupying one room Bros. Lund, Robbins, Norr and myself occupying one room and in the room next to us are Mrs and Miss Peterson and Mrs Felt from Huntsville Utah and Mrs Eliot from Rexburg Idaho. I have been busy taking in the sights since our arival and in my next letter will try and tell you what I have seen in Boston. I believe all are feeling fine. We go on board at 10 A. M. tomorrow. I have heard that the ship has a cargo of 100 head of cattle and if she gets on about 40 Mormons she'll have quite a cargo. So far I have enjoyed the trip fine and we have had no accident or mishap. Give my kindest regards to any friends you may meet. Praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain

Your Loving Husband *Mathias*

Write me at
Korsgade No 1: Kjobenhavn
Danmark Europa
Will write from Liverpool.

Salt Lake City
May 3-1906

Dear husband:-

All your cards and letters have looked good to me, so judging you by myself, one from Zion will look good to you.

I am glad you injoyed good health and fine scenery. Hope you was not sea sick. Was you? And Bro. Robins, how was he, did he get all those oysters? I suppose you will land in Liverpool about fri. today are tomorrow.

You suprised me very much. You can write a long letter some times. Bravo! write again. Not very good love leters, but quite a bit of good news. I injoy them.

They are not ahead of us much in orchards. Fruit trees are all in bloom here. Talk about rich and their resorts, it seem as though there is one here at Mrs. Elise's place here off late. I have cooked five meals and a big dinner sunday (swellest dinner I ever cooked). For some millioniers from Cleveland. They are quite taken up with Mormons. One would like me to go and be his housekeeper for \$2.50 a week, isn't that good.

I bet the bath tub seemed good at the Majestic after rideing so far on the dusty train. I think when I come back there is where I'll be But I don't care about sleeping up to high suppose an earthquake should strike it like it did in San Francisco there would be no hopes for me.

Wed. April 25

A concert was given in the Tabernacle for the benefit of the San Francisco sufferers, Hazel, Camron and I went. Oh it was just lovely Prof. J. J. McClellan played "Home Sweet Home" on the organ that melted peoples heart. One woman sat back of me she sayes My Lord this is the first time I've been in here for eight years and I never did hear any thing like that in my life. She lives in this city. I went to a missionary reunion in Hooper the day you left Uncle Lawrnce took me. Had a very good time considering. Jack came up and wished me much joy, wanted me to bring my husband out to see them, he would like to meet him (you) and congradulate him (you). I talked to him a while told I was a widow now. He sayes well that wont do me any good because you was married in the temple. I made a mash Sun. evening one week ago last sun. When Uncle Lawrnce took me up to the track the train was an hour and a half late. Uncle had to go. So a fellow came in the waiting room, we talked untill train time. He helped me on the train sat down by me bought me a box of bon-bones ask my name. I told him Benson. He called me Miss Benson, gave me his card, Jas. Anderson Morgan, Utah. When we got to Salt Lake I thought he would quite me but no. He brought me home than wanted to go down to supper, but I did not go. Excused myself and started in...He sayes Oh Miss Benson I do hope we will meet again. Seems as though I've known you all my life.

I have seen some beautiful scenery since you left. I've cleaned house every day but sun. The day you left grandpa and grandma went away all day I never seen such a day in my life. Next morning I got up and went to work. Uncle and I cleaned grandma's house, come down here and went at it again. Have got three more days hard labor before me yet. I have learned something since I came down here. I am taking care of Mrs. Elise's foot. She paid a trained nurse to learn me how to Mesause.

We are haveing lovely weather rain every day and the 26 of Apr. the ground was covered with snow.

I am so tired I cannot see to write any more so will close praying the Lord to bless you and lead you to the doors of the honost in heart .

Dearest did your lang out.

I remain waiting for the postman

Your loveing wife *Margaret*

P. S. Hazel Belnap ask, How do you sign your name Margaret? Do you say your most substantual and beautiful wife?
How many pictures shall I send you and who shall I give them to here?

Margaret

I would like to see you in my dreams tonight.

Blackburn England
May 6-1906

Dear Margaret:-

We Landed in Liverpool yesterday about 11 A.M. making nearly nine days on the ocean. Most of the time the weather was fair. On the evening of the first of May, the wind started to blow and continued blowing till the evening of the third. The ocean got quite rough and once or twice the waves splashed up on the deck. Most of the time it was quite cold and we had to wear our overcoats to be up on the deck. Most of the boys had a touch of sea sickness and I was no exception although I did not get as sick as some of them did. There was forty two in the company, thirty five elders and seven going on visits. Of these, twenty missionaries and three visitors stop in England, three missionaries for Germany, four missionaries and two visitors to Sweden and eight missionaries and one visitor to Scandinavia.

On board the ship we had breakfast at eight, dinner at 12:30 and tea at 3:30, it being an English ship everything was served in english style but was all right just the same. At eight in the evening and ten in the morning we would all meet in the dining room where we would sing a hymn and have prayer and sometimes when we were not sick would have remarks by some of the brethern.

In Boston we visited the South side Union Depot which is the largest Rail Road station in the world, contains twenty eight pair of tracks making room for fifty six passenger trains at one time, all under cover and supplied with rail road offices of different kinds, waiting rooms, lunch counters, and all in first class style, with crowds of people all the time like you see on the Temple Block during conference.

From there we took the elevated Rail Road to Charleston where we

visited the Navy Yards and saw some of U. S. war vessels. We went aboard the old Constitution which is over one hundred years old and was one of the first war ships owned by the U. S. has been in a great many battles and never met defeat. She is now held as a relic of old times.

Next we visited Bunker hill and went up to the top of the monument where we got a good view of the city. From here we took the underground car back to Boston. Next day we visited the Boston Commons where we saw some pretty trees and flowers and some statues and monuments in memory of historical events. We also visited the Public Library and Art Museum, as also the Museum of Fine Arts where we saw some mummies and relics from Egypt that date back to 2,000 years before Christ, also paintings and works of art from many different countries and peices of sculptor from ancient Greece and Rome. We also saw the Old South Church were Paul Revere had the lanthers hung while he waited on the opposite side of the river ready to ride and spread the alarm among the farmers. Also saw the place where Paul Revere, the Parents of Benjamin Franklin, Hancock, Adams and Payne Gov. Winthrop and other old, historic characters are buried, in fact we put in our stay in Boston to a very good advantage. We left at noon April 26, the band on the deck of the Romanic, a ship laying in the harbour playing -Home Sweet Home as we sailed out. Yesterday it rained all day and is still cloudy today. Bro. Brown was at Liverpool to meet us all right; and brought Leon and I out here with him last night; so I am spending the day with him. After we had landed and had our baggage examined we all went to the head quarters where the Eladers for England recieved their appointments and we recieved some very good instructions from President Grant. The cities of this country that I have seen are not as nice as some of our American Cities but the country is some of the prettiest that I ever saw everything being fresh and green now and in some places being just rolling enough to give it a pretty apperance.

This place is thirty five miles from Liverpool. "Elder Robbins" is going to labour in the Liverpool Conference. Those going to Scandinavia, Sweden and Germany leave Liverpool tomorrow at 2:30 P.M.

I am feeling fine at present and hope you are too

I am going to attend Sunday School and meeting here today and leave tomorrow morning for Liverpool again.

Give my kindest regards to all friends
and acquaintances you may meet

Praying the Lord to bless you and keep you from harm I am your

Loving husband
Mathias

P.S. We went through the public park here this morning and saw some very pretty things. The grass and flowers are all green and wherever there is

grass the little white daisies are to be seen. Allso went through the hot house and saw the plants and flowers there which would almost make a persen think he was in the tropical regions; while the white swans sailing on the ponds look very graceful.

Ronne Bornholm Denmark.
May 15-1906

Dear Margaret:-

I arrived in this place this morning all well. I am visiting with my aunt here today and tomorrow. I am going out into the country to visit for about a week and then I must go and get to work. I have been appointed to labour in Trondjem Norway away up to the land of the midnight sun where it will not cost us much for light this summer at least. Bro. Lund also goes to Trondjem.

We left Liverpool on the 7th and crossed England by Railway to Grimsby where we took the steamer for Esbjerg Denmark. We went on board about 8 P.M. Monday evening and landed Wednesday morning having arrived during the night.

From Esbjerg we went by Rail Road and Ferry boat to Copenhagen, passing right through Denmark with its quaint old wind mills, low straw thatched cottages, and green fields and forests, the forests especially took my eye, having just come out in leaf they look very fresh and pretty. We arrived at Copenhagen about 9 oclock Wednesday evening and immediately went to the Mission headquarters where we were kindly received and taken in charge by Elder N. L. Lund President of the Copenhagen Conference. President Christensen being away in a trip to Norway, did not arrive home till Saturday and we could not receive our appointments until he came we spent the time in taking in the City; and I saw some things that all I could do was stand with my mouth wide open and stare. Talk about style, pleasure, eating and drinking, why that seems to be the sole ambition of some of the people of that City, and they just put the Americans so far in the shade in these things that there is no comparison. Everybody rides bycycles and I believe I saw more bycycles in one day in Copenhagen than I ever did before in my life. Copenhagen has some of the most beautiful parks and pleasure resorts in the world and the people know how to use them too I can tell you. Thursday we visited one of the large churches and went up on the tower where we got a good view of the City. also visited the Court house which was fourteen years in building and contains six hundred rooms; saw the kings palace and the guards marching out and changing places; I think the king might have come out and shook hands with us, but he didn't; so I don't know that I'll call on him again very soon. Also visited the Zoological Gardens where they have all kinds of animals from a flea to an elephant and birds from a humming bird to an ostrich. Also a collection of birds eggs, I think it is over 2,000 specimens. Friday morning we visited one of the large cemeteries and I can tell you it is a grand place compared with our

cemeteries. Everything is kept nice and clean and trees and hedges kept in apple pie order. In the afternoon we went out to Klampenborg woods the kings hunting grounds where they keep 1,600 deer and all as tame as sheep in fact we walked among them as we would through a sheep herd. The forest is a grand old place of beechwood trees principally some of them great big fellows and a good many years old. Friday evening we went to Tivoli the greatest pleasure resort in Denmark; with its trees and buildings and different colored lights it was simply grand; there was some of the best music I ever heard, one orchestra of sixty five instruments gave a concert, while with bands; pantomimes; fireworks ect. almost made a fellows head swim; in all it cost us 50 ore apiece or about 13 1/2 cents so you see amusements are cheap here. Saturday evening we went to the theatre and saw a very good play it also cost us 13 1/2 cents but now I'll have to "cut it out" as the saying is and get to business, but take it all in all I've seen some great things since leaving home and I've only one regret and that is that you haven't been with to enjoyed but I guess regrets are useless and we'll have to live in hopes that you'll have the oppertunity some day. Sunday I attended Sunday School and meeting and had a very nice time. They called on some of us to speak in the afternoon and I'll tell you they got some great sermons; but them we made a break any way. My aunts here received me very kindly, one of them just came in and they say to give you their very best regards.

Well, God bless you and keep you from all harm and evil, and sickness. Give my love to Your Grandma and Hazel when you see them; and give my best regards to all friends and acquaintances. Don't work to hard and try to have a good time. Hoping that you are well and happy I remain Your loving husband.

Mathias

I will write again when I get to my field of labour.

If you write before you hear from me again, address your letters to M.J. Benson, Vesselsgade 7 Trondhjem Norway Europe c/o President E. Peterson

Salt Lake City
May 25-06

Dearest Hubby:-

I received your letter and was more than pleased Letters are are all I can see and when they don't come I have a feeling way down in my heart for you. I thought I would get a letter from you and one from father last thur. but did not untill Sun. I enjoyed it when it did come. I am pleased to know you or well and haveing a pleasant trip. Well I'd like to of seen you and Bro. Brown when you met I guess you were both happy lads. What did he

say when he found out you was married? and to me, did he think you made a mistake?

Nearly every one Mrs. Elise interduces me to, espicaly the older people say "Mrs. Benson Oh, are you married My but you do look young" One young man said Lorena England looked two years older than me and she got pretty warm. She and I are keeping steady company now. We went to a theator given by the L.D.S. students the Jrs. entitled "Sweet Lavender" it was all right. After it was out I walked down to the B.Y. monument with Lorena. She works on south sec. and third east for Morris. I left her there on the corner when I got down between west and first west I was frightened sick. What should I meet but my first step mother the last soul on earth I would ever thought of She is one of the lowest off low, and weares such a haggared look. She did not know me and I was very glad. She was all I could see all night long. Lorena and I went out to see Mrs. Larson about two week ago. She is looking for a letter from you so do not disappoint her. She called to see me Monday, so did Mr. Johnson. Uncle Will and Uncle Lawrnce tellephoned to me and wanted to know how I was getting along. Uncle Lawrnce came down to see me once. I thought that very nice of him. Did he give you some money when you went? How much was given to you all together?

My dear don't you think I have done well since you left. I have bought a new hat, two waists, paid the express, took in two theators and an opra, sent twenty dollars to Aunt Mary to get a head stone for Mothers grave and sent Hazel a dress an apron and have got five dollars left. I call that spinning it out.

What do you think about me getting a headstone I had ought to ask you after I get it. I did not think about it before you left..and knew I could not get a reply by the 30th of May so I went and done it.

I received a letter from father today, he and Wilford are feeling fine, he seems to think he done better than you, he says he was 32 years old when he went on his mission; left a wife and four children.

He and Wilford are out to camp Wilber area, Howe Ida. Henry is in Bourne, Oregon. I received a letter from Ida and Andrew they were well and prasying the baby. Mrs. Elise is looking for her son in the morning he has been in San Francisco since Monday, one of his companions is with us now. Bro. Smith from Idaho. his girl come down and met him. So they are to be joined by the holy bonds of maternony next wensday than he is going on home.

I'm going to stay in Utah untill you come back and than go home with you. We are haveing lovely weather.

Aervoire my love write often. You don't know how much I'm longing for you loveing good night kiss. You think kisses are soft but I don't. xxxxx

Your loveing wife *Margaret B.*

Trondhjem Norway

May 29, '06

Dear Wife:-You can't imagine how good it made me feel to get your letter which I received upon my arrival here this morning, the brethren in Copenhagen having forwarded it here.

My last letter I wrote from Bornholm; where I went to visit my relations, they all received me very kindly and treated me fine. One place, where I visited one of my Cousins, I stayed over night and in the morning his wife brought in a cup of tea and some cakes to me before I got out of bed which is the custom in that country -do you think you'll serve me that way when I get home? I visited my childhood home and many thoughts of those day's came back on seeing the old scenes though some of them are somewhat changed. The lady of the house very kindly admitted us and took us through the rooms; I even saw the bed in which I was born and the old stove which the folks had still stands in its accustomed place, as also does a large Kettle which the people there use for washing and other purposes where they require water heated or something boiled on a large scale. The old well is still there; as is also an apple tree which was but small when we left; while a stone hedge along the east of the place looked as natural as it did the day we left, and well did I recollect running into it one day and skinning my face all up. Although the man who now owns it has made some additions the main part of the house still stands as we left it even to the straw roof that Father laid, as tatching or laying straw roofs was his trade while in the old country and everybody says he was an expert at it. I saw one roof which they told me he had laid thirty one years ago and they said it was still good. They have the greatest rail road on that Island that I ever saw I believe I could stand on the ground and look right over one of their engines, and as for size they look like a man could pick them up and lift them off the track and as for speed Well, I traveled about eight miles on one and it took us a good half hour. Their freight cars are nearly all open and are about the size of one of the beet beds we use in Idaho to haul Sugar beets in. Their farm wagons are also very small and only look about half as big as our wagons out west. Their roads however are excellent nearly all of them being paved and a row of trees planted on each side, they are not as wide as the roads at home however as they are only wide enough for two wagons to meet nicely; taken as a whole Bornholm is a pretty little island, but in somethings I think they are somewhat behind the times and after being there and seeing conditions I am more thankful than ever that my parents embraced the Gosple and moved to "Zion". We got back to Copenhagen on the 23d and on the 24th went with the Saints of Copenhagen for an outing to "Frederics Dal" a place out in the woods and had a great time, they got to running and playing games and of course all the missionaries had to join in and I've been so stiff ever since that I've hardly been able to walk. President Christensen slipped and sprained his ankle so I don't know how he is feeling. The same evening at nine oclock we took a steamer for Christiania where we arrived about 11:30 Friday evening after a very pleasant journey, the sky being clear and the sea as smooth as glass most of the way. Coming up the Fjord to Christiania is a very pretty sailing in

places the water is not over a quarter of a mile wide with high hills on both sides which are covered with timber--principally pine--from the top to the waters edge.

In Christiania we met J. L. Hartvigson one of our company who was also appointed for Trondhjem,--he is the nephew of Peter A. Hartvigson. We all stayed in Christiania over Sunday and attended Sunday School and meeting and had the opportunity? of trying our hands at preaching in the Norwegian language. I don't know whether or not they were able to understand what I said but if they did they are good ones.

They have an exceptionally good choir in Christiania of about sixty members though just now the leader told us he is somewhat short of male voices as some of his best male members has emigrated to America. The leader is Elder Thor. Neilson of Montpelier Idaho and he is fine, but he expect to be released this summer and they don't know who they are going to get to take his place. Last Sunday I also had the privilege of seeing the King, Queen, and Crown Prince of Norway as we went up to the palace to listen to the music which plays for an hour every day and while there, they went for a ride and drove right through the crowd in an open carriage so we all got to see them; but if I had met them on the street I could not have known them from other people. Yesterday (monday) afternoon we took the train at Christiania at 3:15 P.M. and arrived here today (Tuesday) about 8 A.M. had a very pleasant ride although it was rainy the greater part of the way. This country is mostly mountains and where clearings have not been made is covered with timber. Nearly all the larger streams that we saw was full of timber which floats down to saw mills and other places where it is used. We saw and enjoyed many pretty scenes along the line a great many mountain torrents pushing down the mountain side through the pines to join the river looked very grand.

About 11 P.M. we crossed the top of the mountain range and although they are not very high the snow is still laying there in large drifts, but down here it is more pleasant although it has been storming here off and on since last Sunday. This place is very busy getting herself into tip top shape as the crowning of the King takes place here, I believe it is the 22th of next month, and which of course will be a red letter day in its history.

Bro Lund is going to Lavanger, Bro. Hartvigsen to Roros and I stay here in Trondhjem. I am enjoying fine health for which I am very thankful as one of the boys who came over with us took sick and has gone back allready.

I'll write and tell you all about the town here when I get a little better acquainted of course things and customes are strange to me, but I think I'll soon be able to get on to them and then I'll get along all right, and be just as great a Norwegian as any of them. (I had a mishap with my pen so please excuse surplus ink)

You say my letters are not much of love letters, well, you know I don't know how to write a genuine love letter but you know that my feelings are

just the same, and that you are more to me than you ever was. I suppose you had a great time with house cleaning and cooking for fancy people, but don't work too hard and when you get tired of it go and take a rest. I hope they treat you good where you are. If you chance to meet any one there whom I know just give them by best regards.

In regards to the pictures you may send me about six as I've five uncles and aunts over here that I promised them to and then I would like to keep one myself and the rest you can give our folks over there just as you please, but I suppose your brothers and sister would like one and I know mine would, however do what you think best only be sure and give your Father and Grandmother each one and my parents one. Well, may the good Lord bless and protect you and keep you for me until I return. Take good care of yourself and enjoy life all you can. Address your letters M. J. Benson Wessels Gade 7 Trondhjem Norge Europe.

From your loving husband
Mathias

P.S. Is Henry still at Pocatello if not what is his address.

We just eat the last of the cakes you made on our way to Christiania and I can tell you it tasted fine.

Salt Lake City
June 1-06

Dear hubby:

I received your letter wed. morning. Just fiveteen days from the time it was written. I am glad you are well. But sorry you was feeling blue. cheer up the worst is yet to come. That is what I think when I get blue. Decoration day I went to see the parade it was all right. Came home to get my letter from you I knew I would get it. I have been counting the days two months lacking four days since we left Home. Think what has happened since that time. You so far and yet so near A married man now, a single man then. Say I just saved you from being an old bachelor. Oh I feel crazy tonight, wish you was here so I could pinch you. I am alone, so am enjoying good company; that isn't any thing when one get use to it. Lorena England called on me tonight. She said Tressie was comeing down on the 7th. I received a letter from Laura tonight and she is comeing too -wont there be a happy meeting? Bishop Lindsay ate dinner at Chris's Wed. He told Laura to go to the store and get one of those large pictures for you and me. I am so glad Laura is comeing down -I do not know how to act. Hyrum Christiansen is in the L.D.S. hospital -I am going to call on him sun. He is to be pittied. Mrs. Elise's son came home one week ago. I could only forget the present and look forward to when my day would come. That is the happiest of my thoughts.

Mrs. Elise walked yesterday without her peg legs, as she call them. She gave me a very pritty plat and ink well today and she gave me a moon stone. Did I tell you about the moon stone before? I am going to have it put in a ring.

We have had some very rainy weather and quite chilley in the evening. I do not know of any news are anything to write about. So will close hoping to hear soon. I remain your loveing wife *Margaret B.*

P.S. In writing to Father the other day I signed my name Margaret Belnap (looked natural). Will you have to learn very much more of the language, is it is much differnt?

Trondhjem Norway
June 14 '06

Dear Wife:-I received your letter of May 25 and was certainly glad to hear from you and to hear that you are well and having a good time, or at least I hope you are. You must look young if you look two years younger than Lorena as she is young and blooming as May or at least thinks she is. Does she behave and act any better down there than she used to do at home?

I don't remember what Bro. Brown said I suppose he had heard of it before and I guess he thought it was all right at least he didn't say anything to the contrary. There was given me altogether when I left \$49.60. Your Uncle Lawrence gave me \$5. which was a great surprise to me and I must say very kind of him. I have been thinking of writing him a letter but haven't got at it yet. I wrote your Grandma a letter last Saturday I don't know wether she cared for it or not but as she was so kind to me before leaving I thought I'd show that I appreciated it. Yes I certainly think you have done well to get everything you mentioned and then not be broke. Why no my dear I had not the least objections to you getting a headstone for your mothers grave. I think you did right as as I like to see the children show love and do honor to their parents, as well the dead as the living. As for staying in Utah until I come back why you'll have to suit yourself, only don't work to hard and when you get tired take a lay-off. I hope Mrs. Elis is kind to you and treats you good. I am enjoying good health and find plenty to do to pass the time away; so I haven't had a chance to sit down and get home-sick yet and from the looks of things I don't think I shall. The Norwegian language is supposed to be the same as the danish and so far as the written language is concerned is the same, but when it comes to talking they have so many expressions peculiar to themselves and such a different dialect that I can hardly understand them sometimes, in fact, they seem to understand me much better than I can them, however I can make my way amongst the people, and explain myself fairly well but when it come to preaching, well, I haven't worn them out yet; nor am I likely to do so for some time to come.

Monday the 11th inst. it was a holiday here and the saints went for an

outing up to some waterfalls up in the mountains just outside the city. Of course the Elders all went and we had a very nice time. On the 7th it was Norways independence day and they celebrated it here with a grand procession, they had their carriages all covered with flowers and also sold bouquets the proceeds of which went to assist in sending the children the town has to care for out into the country during the summer months. Last Sunday evening after meeting a number of the saints, and investigators, and the Elders went for a walk out into the country and we did not get back till 11:30. We had a very nice walk as the sun does not set till 10 and at midnight it is just as light as it is at home just after sundown. I have not forgotten Mrs Larsen and shall write her one of these days.

The first place I went to when I went out tracting they wanted to know how many wives I had and I told them only just one. There are three of us lodging together here; President Peterson, Elder Olsen and myself and it cost us about \$2.50 a month apiece for the room. The lady of the house fixes breakfast and supper for us which costs us about 9 cents each a meal, then at noon when we are out among the people, sometimes we are fortunate enough to get something to eat, sometimes we don't and sometimes we go to a restaurant where we get a good meal for about a Crown which is about 27 cents. It is only once in awhile however that we go there. We send our collars and cuffs and all starch goods to the steam laundry, while all under clothes, Garments, handkerchiefs, etc. there is a sister washes for us. As a rule we don't get to bed till about 11:30 as if we are not out somewhere there is nearly always some of the saints who come in and stay till about 11. and so the time goes. Utah is far ahead of this country for working people as the wages here are so low that most of them can barely make enough to get along on; girls who do general house work, that is do the house work for families; get only about an average of \$4.50 a month. How would you like to work for that? Of course there are some who earn more but there is also some who get less. Last Sunday is the only clear warm day we've had since I got here as it is nearly always cloudy here, that is more or less so. Everything at present is green and pretty and it is surprising to see how fast things grow, but I suppose it has to in order to mature during the short summer season; I saw several fields covered with wild pansies.--"Step mother' flowers" they call them here-in my walk last Sunday evening, and as for for-get-me-nots I have seen the roadside just blue with them. More in Denmark than here, so you see they have a few flowers here to. Last Saturday our President was placed under arrest for performing a baptism and imposed a fine of 35 Crowns about \$9 or 15 days imprisonment, but when he appealed the case they turned him loose again so I don't know what it will amount to. Well, give my best regards to all my friends and relatives that you may see. Praying the Lord to bless you and keep you until I return I remain Your Loving Husband.

Mathias.

Salt Lake City
June 17-06

Dear hubbie

I received your of May 29 yesterday. I cannot tell you how glad I was to hear from you. I am so glad you are well and hope you soon become accustomed to the place and ways. I am enjoying the very best of health and for some time past the very best of company. Andrew Ida & baby, Laura C., Lola L., Nattie A., Mrs. Anderson, Miss Auston, Alta E., Tressie E., Laura stayed with me for one week I did have a good time. She thought I would goe home with her. Tryed to get me to, but I could not see the point. She said when she got my letter, father came over there and Lucy and they all sat down and had a good cry. I told her to cheer up for the worst was yet to come. I told her I intended to stay here for some time and then she did think I was soft. Do you think so? I don't care what the rest sayes. I feel content and happy where I am. But I will be more so when my owne dear Norwigean comes back to Zion to me. And we live in a little rage time home on the corner, wont you? In your letters you tell me what you see but nothing much about yourself. I want to know all about you. I dare say you felt happy to see your old home. It would do me good to see that. Do you think I will ever have the chance? You'll say I hope so. You told once when we were talking When you was in Rome you did as Rome did. So when you come home don't expect me to serve tea & cakes to you in bed, but quite the contrary. I'll let you do that.

Did your folks think your horns had grown since you became a Mormon? The Moreland crowd had quite a time out at Saltair one week ago last sat. I had a ride on the cimric railway and nearly meet my doom. Although I did not get hurt at all, it was a close call. We were comeing in at speed that all most took my breath and the brake man put the brake on so quick it threw the care of the track and nearly threw me in the lake-. But I jumped over on to the platforme. Frightened Laura so she did not enjoy her trip. She was watching us. I will send those six photoes when I send this letter. I received a letter from Father, he says. "I think a great deal of Mathias, not any more because he is Mathias, but of the characteristics of the man I see in him more than I do the ordinary man because of his strictiousness zeal, and his energy to make of himself more than the ordinary man. I love and admire him. Now that he has become my son I expect to make my love for increase because of the natural man, independent of his other characteristics. Kindly remember me to him." I will close praying the Lord to bless you

Your loveing wife *Margaret*

P.S. I saw Grace Stole Christensen today Oh she was so nice

Hooper
June 11

Margaret My dear girl

I expect you will think I have forgotten you but I have not nor Mathias either & now let me tell you I received a very nice letter from him from Liverpool I assure you I felt it quite a compliment & great kindness to remember me. Margaret I feel if the young folks only knew how much pleasure it gave the aged that are trying to go down life's stormy hill they would feel paid for their trouble in writing when you write to him give my love & best wishes & when he gets settled send me his address. Margaret Mary has succeeded in erecting a stone to your Mother's grave I have not seen it but from what I hear it is very nice. I was in Ogden one week ago & seen Verna she said you had written to her & she thought you felt lonely My dear girl how can you help it for I do think you have a brave heart to go out among strangers as you have but dear girl it will all come out right & I feel confident there is a great reward in store for you Margaret My girl I am proud of the stamina you have shown & did you remember this your Mother's birthday I know her care is ever over you to help & comfort you. I have been quite poorly for awhile with a bad back but I am some better now some. Margaret your Aunt Mary has been quite miserable this summer but I still hope she will be better soon. Joe is getting his house painted, it very nice. Jimmie is going home this week. Mable is here with me for a day or two for I have not been able to get around at all. Margaret I thank you very much for your pictures they were very nice but do not flatter either of you & this is why I like them. Well the things you sent Hazel was very nice & fit good she is writing to you now she has been quite poorly for a week oh Margaret I sometimes wonder if you would come home if you did not feel well surely you would. Good night My dear girl & may God bless & keep you & your husband is the prayer of Grandmother *Margaret Manning*

Trondhjem Norway
June 23, '06

Dear Wife:-

I have received your letter of the 1st inst. and can assure you that it makes me feel good to hear from you and to hear that you are well and having a good time, or at least I hope you are. We have been having a great time up here this week, -that is most of us have - Bro. Olsen the man whose place I take and who leaves for home about the twelfth of next month received the sad news of the death of his mother a few days ago so of course he has not enjoyed himself so much but the rest of us have been celebrating the crowning of the Norwegian King all week. There are 18 elders here at present so you see we are quite a crowd. Adolf M. Neilsen of Shelley who presides over the Bergen Conference is here and we had a right good talk about Idaho the other day; it seemed good to see some one so near from home.

The town has been celebrating ever since last Tuesday when the King came. The town is very nicely decorated and a greater display of flags I never saw in my life; it is a grand sight down by the harbour, just outside are anchored 10 war vessels of different nations and a number of other ships, while lying in the harbour are ships of every kind and description and all flying their national and signal flags makes a grand appearance, most of them have flags strung from the top of their mast to the deck and those that have more than one mast, have a string between the masts also. The war vessels have been firing salutes every once in a while I suppose at certain periods and yesterday when the King was crowned both the ships and the fort above town fired a salute of 42 shots which just made things rattle; sitting at home it has sounded almost like the fourth of July only the canon crack so much louder than the firecrackers; standing on shore and watching the vessels shoot one could almost imagine he was witnessing a seafight only he does not see the bombs explode nor the masts of the ships tumbling down. The people here certainly make a great show, but when it comes to real enthusiasm why I could pick out a dozen boys in Moreland that would put a whole mob of Norwegians to shame. Most of the soldiers they have here are raw country boys and act just about as awkward as I would if I had to be a soldier, but the officers are very proud and have some fine uniforms. There are war vessels here from Norway, Denmark, Germany, France, Holland, Russia, and Great Brittain and when the officers happen to get together they make quite a showing with their gold braid and polished arms. It seems to me that the people here could take a few good lessons from America on celebration, as it seems they go at everything backwards, for this occasion instead of cutting in rates as the Rail Roads do at home on special occasions, here they raised on the prices, and they even charged people for standing on the platform at the harbour to see the Kings vessel come in. We got the best of them however as we got permission from the captain of an English boat to be on board his vessel and we had fine seats in the shade where we could see everything connected with the landing, and it did not cost us a cent. You see the Mormons are always getting some friends. We had a good look at the King and Queen and crown Prince as they landed. We performed two baptism here the other evening and everything went of nicely and quietly so you see th work of the Lord is progressing. Praying that this will find you feeling well as it leaves me I remain as ever Your loving Husband *Mathias*.

Salt Lake City
July 1-06

Dear husband:-

I received your long looked for letter yesterday was pleased to learn you are well and busy. I am quite well. Most every one has got or is getting La Gripe around here. I have had my turn.

Last night I went out to the Lake Lorena, Margaret & Eva J. and those two girls we met the night we were up there and thire beaus were in the

crowd had a very nice lunch and a very good time. Still it seems strang to go out that way & only one are two boys for a crowd of girls. It was different years ago. How different I feel today than I did one years ago today. I suppose you do to. Do you remember when you Andrew, Bertha and Henry met me in Blackfoot. How different I will spend the fourth this year. I exspect to work in the kitchen all day. One week ago today I went to see my step Mothers sister. Lorena went with me. I never felt so ashamed of any one since I've been old enough to remember. She had one of her crazy spells and such talk and actions. I felt like ten cents. She has put on her best behavior untill then, In fact I never did see her act so good. The Moris family are going in the cannon for the summer she is going with them and stay untill Sept. than go to school in Logan. I am taken up with my step mothers sister she seems so nice, and treated me swell. I have discovered some more relation liveing here in this city. Two of Fathers cousins. Oliver McBrid's sisters. They called on me. I gave one of them our photoes. I only had the one. But I have ordered a half dozen more. I think them very nice don't you. I have given nearly all of our folks one.

July3-06

Well my dear I hope I will get this scratching done some time this week. Della Cannon came in and wanted me to go and have some ice cream so I went. Say it was good I wish you had some just like it. Than Lorena came and she stayed untill three oclock and Margaret Jergerson called for me to go to an organ recital that was fine. In the evening I went to Y.L.&Y. M.I.A. heard some fine preaching.

Yesterday our washing woman got drunk and so I had to do part of the washing and at night I felt to lazy. So I went to bed and layed there thinking of the past and what a change had taken place since July 1905 and how I little dreamed then of what I know now. Grandpa came to see me yesterday afternoon and went home tonight he doesn't look like the same man. He looks so much better. He sayes grandma is better one day and worse the next. I fear she will not last long. Oh, the weather has been hot yesterday and today. The Elise and family made up their minds they would go up to Mill Creek Canyon tomorrow I done a two days work today so I'll go with them I'm glad you are not here to go. Do you remember two years ago when you came up to Johnston's for me? Well it sounds like that now. I can't hear myself think. When we were out to the Lake Sat. evening Margaret J. and I sat watching the dancers and a man steped up to her and talked a while than he asked her if he could meet her daughter so she said to tell you that you need not worry about me as long as I had such a good Mother. Eva spoke up. -"and a good Father. I'll be your dad." I received a letter from Henry, a kind of confidential he and Lola are engaged but do not intend to get married for seven years. You and I are one so it don't matter if I do tell you. I'm the worst half. I guess you will tired when you get through reading this scribbling. So Aervoir -(twice a month thats all) My dear so near and yet so far. I remain yours. Margaret B.

Trondhjem Norway
July 5-06

My Dear Wife:

I received your letter of June 17 also the Photos today and I can assure you it gave me great joy to hear from you and especially to hear that you are well and enjoying your self which I hope and pray you may continue to do. It also did me good to see your picture. They arrived in fine condition not one of them has been injured in any way. I am enjoying fine health and have done so ever since coming here; you say to tell you something about myself well I hardly know what to tell you as I don't think there is much change in me since leaving home. As a rule I get up about 7 oclock in the morning have breakfast at 9 and then spend the forenoon in study or writing, then in the afternoon we either go out and visit the saints and investigators or else go out tracting; then in the evening if we are not holding a meeting there are generally some of the saints come up to visit us and we seldom get to bed before 11 or twelve oclock so you see I am getting into a kind of a bad habit so far as keeping late hours are concerned. This week I have spent the entire time in making out reports and fixing up records as I have charge of the conference records and I find there is quite a little work attached to it but then that is all right as work is what I am out here for and so long as a person is at work there is little danger of getting home sick; and out here of course we all try to forget "self" and think only of the work that is before us.

Last Saturday the President went of to another branch and left me in charge of the meeting here last Sunday so I had to make break and try my hand at Norwegian but as there was three other missionaries present one of whom had been here about a year we got along very well. I haven't preached any long sermons yet but am able to converse with the people and am getting pretty well accustomed to the customes and ways of the place. We've had quite stormy weather here for over a week and it has been quite cold so that an over coat did not come in amis but to-day it is fair and warmer. I can hardly realize though that it is July but such seems to be the case. Yesterday was the "4th" but we only saw the "Stars and Stripes" waving in one place and that was over the door of the American Consul however that looked good to us. I celebrated by working hard at making out reports. I am glad to hear you had such good company and that so many of the Moreland people attended the Mutual conference but say you'd better keep out of such dangerous place as I don't want you to get killed while I'm away nor after I get home. I'm glad however that you did not get hurt and hope no one else was and I know that the Lord is able to save us from all dangers if we only serve him and that is what we are trying to do or I should certainly not be way out here.

You say you would like to see my birth place. I certainly wish you could and if you'll come over here about the time I'm released I'll take you over there and show it to you. I hope that sometime at least you will have a chance to visit Denmark and it may be that the chance is nearer than we

think for however we'll hope that everything will turn out for the best. As to your staying in Salt Lake City if you feel contented there why I have no objections to you remaining there and when you get tiered of staying there why you know what you can do. But if you feel more contented there than you would up in Idaho why I see no reason why you should not stay but if you do why I think you ought to take your reccomend from Moreland and join the ward in which you are living however suit yourself. I was very much interested in your Grandmothers letter and am glad that she feels the way towards us that she does and only hope she may regain her health. I am glad she felt about me writing her the way she does as I was a little afraid perhaps it would not interest her. I am glad your father has such a high opinion of me and only wish I meritted it and shall certainly try and do so in the future. I received a letter from Bro. Brown today and he wanted to be remembered to you said he was well but had been sick for a couple of weeks.

Well, I hope you are getting along all right. Write and tell me all about yourself now. Do you find anything to do where you are? What do they pay you for it? You know it interests me to hear anything about yourself. You say you think you can be happy in a little cabin on the corner in Idaho well, I know I can. Praying the Lord to bless and protect you and hoping that you may continue to have health and to enjoy yourself. And hoping to hear from you soon I remain as ever

Your Loving Husband *Mathias*.

Give my very best regards to your Father and Grandma when you write also to all friends. I have been going to write to Henry for some time but haven't got at it yet; I will do so though one of these days

Salt Lake City
July 10-06

My Dear husband:

I received yours of June 23 yesterday, to say that I was pleased could not express how I felt.

I am glad you or or have been celebrating and enjoying yourself.

Mr. Elise took us up in the cannyon on the fourth and I haven't had as good a time for a long while as we had that day. On one side of camp was a mans ranch a little of every thing was in it. All kinds of vegetables and fruit, he told us to help ourselves and we lost know time in doing so. Say that was a treat. On the other side was the Mts. Mr. & Mrs. Adaire was with us, he and I went up to one of the highest points we were walking from the time we left untill we came back and we were just five hours. Well I wore out a new pair of shoes & a skirt. Next morning when six oclock came I went to get up but -you can guess the rest.

I am limbered up now but if you could off seen me you would laugh if you could see your bab Oh, my.

Della Carmon (Mrs. Elise's daughter) and I were fooling and we ran into each other. My nose and eyes were swollen two or three days and are black and blue yet. We got quite jok on our selves. Us three girls went up in the cannyon in the pony cart and on our way we past a camp where a crowd of men were working. Hazel says "It's the fourth of July today and time and time to have fune." They were standing stareing at us so I told them to get buisy. One ask if he could come to dinner, we told them (sexy bugs.) yes we would see them later. In a bout an hour eight of them came and camped about fivety yards from us. They had a sixteen gallon keg of beer. We did not know they were the fellows we had seen. Well two of them brought us over a pitcher of beer and said they had come on the invitation of three young ladies. Say we felt sillie but we gave them their dinner some of them was very nice.

I received a letter from Laura today she said George McBride and Flornce Clement was married last Sat. he has gone off to work and she is liveing with his folks. Lizzie Jardon and John Robson were married on the seventh of inst. Poor Lizzie I am glad she is married. I don't know much about him but seems to me he is an odd fellow. Lorena England has gone, I do miss her especialy sunday my it was lonesome everyone went away but me but that is part of the past.

Nearly three months gone, I have been working today ironed seventeen waists, three shirts, and two white dresses besides the rest, cooked three meals and done up the work. Are styles in dress any thing like they are here. Did you get a Prince Albert suit. Are neck ties and collars the same. I do hope you will keep well and that you don't have to stay two long I remain you loveing wife *Margaret*

Grandma sends best regards

Salt Lake City
July 17.-06.

Dear husband:

I wonder where you or tonight, my love, as all alone I sit and dream. I wonder if your hearts with me tonight and if the same stars for you gleam. I wonder if the weather is as hot over there as it is here. Just 94 deg that is all in the shade. When I iron it is a little warmer. Rendered a qt. of greace out of me to day. To night it rained six drops and the blessed wind is blowing so tis cooler now. Grandpa came to see me again Sat. and stayed untill Mon. morning he is now in Cammous visiting his sister. He says grandma is not as well but he is feeling fine. Does seem good to see some one of your kin once and a while Grandpa said Eugene Robson

(Aunt Mary's boy) came down on the fourth to show me a good time, but I was in Mill Creek Canyon. I was very sorry for I haven't seen him since last Oct. Sat. evening Grandpa and I went out to Saltair. Della Cannon and I went in bathing that was simply out of sight. I guess I'll come again. I learned to flot and amazing to learn to swim. Well we had an all round good time. Sun. after meeting we went down to Mrs. Evans place to dinner and spent the evening there. She is grandpa's neice, and was married one month before you & I. She is not quite as green as me, she is over thirty. Her hubby seem to be very nice. Last evening I went to hear the famous Tout singers well here is a program. They appear at Saltair to morrow evening. But I'll appear in bed. I had ought to be there now, because six oclock comes early in the morning.

Three months to day was a fatal day. I have done very well since than Haven't mist getting up after six only on Sun. We don't have breakfast untill nine. Inclosed you will find a 20 cent meal, go and get one and think of me while you are eating. What kind of a looking fellow are you in a Prince Albert? You have a walking stick? What kind of a house do you live in and who takes care of it? Do you have a good bed? Do you ever feel like you could eat a good home dinner. Do you ever get the blues? (guess not)

Bro. Angus Cannon cam home from England he told me he saw you on the other side of the pond. He is a great fellow. He was trying to teas me about being a grass widow says if any one gave me any thing it should be a lawn mower. He says "I don't blame Bro. Benson for going on a mission after takeing a child like you to raise. Well hoping this finds you as it leaves me. I am awaiting the post man.

Your loveing wife *Margaret Benson*

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Trondhjem Norway
July 19,'06

Dear Wife:-

I received your letter of July 1st yesterday and was indeed glad to hear from you as I always am. I was sorry to hear that you had had an attack of Lagrippe, but hope that ere this you will have fully recovered and be feeling good again. I am glad to hear that your Grandfather is improving but sorry that your Grandma keeps so poorly and hope that she may recover and feel better again, and hope that she may live until I return as I should certainly like to see her once more. I was also glad to hear that you are finding so many friends and relatives. Tell the Jorgensen sisters that I certainly appreciate their kindness in offering to be Father and Mother to you and that they shall have their reward some day, hope they will find you a good obedient child as children always should be. Give them my very best

regards. I had a letter the other day from Henry he didn't tell me of him and Lola being engaged but seven years is a long time to wait and I wonder if they don't know that "There's many a slip twixt the cup and the lip," however I have only the very best of wishes for them and hope that their hearts desires may be granted them if they are for their good and happiness. You see I got my desires granted so I am willing others should have theirs. Yes time certainly does bring many changes and of course we can't always foresee what is going to happen which I think is a good thing some times of course a year ago on the "fourth" I did not think that I would be away up here in less than a year nor do I suppose you thought of being married and your "Old man" away on a mission and you a grass widow, making your own way in the world, but never mind my dear there is a reward in store fore those who are willing to sacrifice their feelings and desires and I feel that all is for the best even if we are unable to see it at present. So we will have to try and be contented and depend upon the Lord and I feel that the future will be bright and happy. I often think of the happy day we spent in the Temple and of the things we saw and heard there and of the great blessings they bring if we only live for them and when I look upon the people in this country and see the condition which they are in that they are not privileged to enjoy these blessings and they have no hope of enjoying each others society after this life and in fact so far as mariage is concerned is only made for for this life, I feel to thank the Lord that I am not in this condition and that our association and our relation does not end with this life but will extend through all eternity this makes me feel very happy and thankful and makes me feel determined to strive with all my might to be worthy of them; but if I'm not careful I'll get to preaching and I know you can get plenty of that over there, but then you'll have to excuse me for this time as you know I can't help but notice these things and it makes me happy to think of the great blessings I have received and I would certainly hate to think that our marriage contract was only for this life and would have to take our chances in the next.

We see somethings here which makes ones hear ache one case just came under our observation the other day where the man had been caught stealing and was placed under arrest while his poor wife sits at home absolute destitute with the exception of what the town gives her and she has four small children the youngest of which is about three weeks old while the home is a poor little room up in a garet; but I had not ought to be telling you of these sad things as I am pleased to state such cases are not so frequent here as they are in some larger citites. There was an emigration left here one week ago today and one of our elders also a family from here emigrated that is the family emigrated and the Elder returns after filling a two years mission. When we went down to see them off I was reminded of the time when we emigrated as they had two or three small children and with their bustle and excitement I could almost fancy seeing ourselves. We had one more sister leave for America to-day, there was quite a number of people sailed on the same ship for America and it may seem strange but the majority of them seemed to be glad they were leaving and those who were left behind seemed to almost envey them and wish they were going too. A great many seem to be anxious to get away and I don't know that I blame them; as conditions

here are not of the best. The other day I was out tracting and I run across an old lady whom the Elders had visited a few years back, she seemed very pleased to see me and invited in, we had a very pleasant talk and while talking she wanted to know how old I was and when I hold her she said "twenty nine?" yes about twenty three" so you see I am looking younger this country must agree with me. Quite a compliment wasn't it? I had a letter from Bro. Brown the other day and he says when you write to your wife give her my best regards, he had not been well for a couple of weeks but when he wrote was all right again. I am feeling well both physycally and spiritually and trying to content myself in the labours I have to perform, and I sincerely hope that you are enjoying health and strength again and getting allong all right. Give my best regards to Bro and Sister Larsen and to all friends. Ever praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain

Your Loving husband *Mathias*

Salt Lake City
July 25-06

Dear husband:-

I received your letter of July 5 Mon. morning. It gave me great joy to hear from you. It all ways does, and to know you are enjoying good health. I'm all out of breath the fire engine just went by so I went running to see where the fire was. It is the Warm Springs Foundry. Most to far to go and see so I came back. I'm all of a tremble so if you can't read my scribbleing send it back and I'll have it type written. I can well afford too, I have so much money.

May be you think we or not haveing some hot weather 96 degrees in the shade. Today when I was ironing I was wishing I was in the land off over coats. Really I never felt the heat worse in my life. Do you get the newspaper of any kind from here? I you don't I can send you one. I am very glad the time passes rapidly with you. It seems to me this is this the month of July and the last part I'm always glad to see another month go. I did not do any thing yesterday but cook. In the evening I went up to see Margaret Jergenson, she and I spent the evening in the shade of an old apple tree, alone. I was out to see Mrs. Larson Sun. evening. She was tickled all over and the first thing she did, was get your letter. She said "Oh! dat poor boy yust to tink he is a way over dare, I tell you." and she cried. I hadn't been to see her for a long time, she felt quite hurt. I haven't got time to go and call on every one I have met. I haven't got time to and call on every one I have met. I haven't many hours to myself. Thur. afternoon from the time I get my work done after dinner untill five. And every other Sun. after the morning work is done. The first four weeks I was here I got five dollars per week. Since than I've been getting four. Sun. my lady and I had a falling out, untill that time we got along fine. She got up on the wrong side of the bed. She came downstairs like a whirl wind sweeping everything as she went. I did not feel that way and would not be

whirled, and she flew all to pices. told her if she did not like the way I done her work she could do it her self. I went and dressed up and packed my trunk, when she saw I was not going to stand for such treatment she began to humble herself. She came in where I was and ask me to forgive her, I never said anything so she came and put her arms around me and begged me to forgive her, so I did, would of done in the first place only I wanted to tease, so I am here yet, I thought I'd get another place before I left a good place to sleep. The next letter I write to you I don't know where I'll be but send your letters to the same old address. I have such a nice room that I hate to leave it. It has two bookcases full of good books, a fireplace cozy corner, three up holstered chairs two rockers a table and one of the most hand some folding beds I ever saw, I am in love with it, so beware. I would not mind haveing one like. There is a lady up on sec. and N. wants me to come and cook. Margaret J. wants me to go to Provo and work for her sister or take her place while she goes. She is going to be sick. I don't care for such work very much. Aunt Violet has got another boy I got a letter from Lillie England she sends her best regards to you. I got a letter from Evylean Holmes she wants me to come and stay with her a while. She sayes she is so lonsome. I wonder if it's catching? Did you ever get that way? (guess not)

Well aervoir. My eyes are asleep. Hopeing to hear from you soon and praying the Lord to bless you, I remain

Your loveing wife x x x x x *Margaret*

Brighton Silver Lake
Cotton Wood Canyon Utah
July 29-06

Dear husband:

I suppose you will be suprised to know where I am. Tis only twenty eight miles from Salt Lake City I am working for Mrs. Rob Walker as sec. maid there is a collored cook, but she is just as good as she can be to me. Tis alway honey dearie or dareleng, or some pet name I do not cook at all some times prepair vegetables and wait on table, make beds, dust and that is about all. We are only camping out. To some poor people liveing high. I am not going to be here very long about three weeks. Then go back to Salt Lake. When I get there I don't know what I'll do and care less. The Lord will provide something for me to do. This is one of the most beautiful valleys Mts all around us, about 860 acors of land in the valley and on the west side is a very pretty lake. Tis Silver Lake. Some of the grandest flowers, of course there all wild and such a grand oddar, Lorena is up here not more than a block away. I have seen her once. I quite Mrs Elise last Fri. She sayes she wanted one untill Sept anyway But I wanted a change of work. Does seem strange I all ways happen to get in a place where collars are the rage. When I left Elise I was feeding from twelve to fiveteen a meal less pay and more work. I would not stand for it so gave her five hour

notice and came up here She told me if I come I would be sorry. I haven't been yet and I've been here since fri. and I have done less than I have at any time since you went away.

When I got to here I quite and went up on a Mt. and down a mine, say it was all right: tis so cool and nice there is only one objection, the mosquitoes or as larg as beans. And all have a pick on me my arm is just covered with bits. But tis all right when one gets use to it. I wish you were here but I am not supposed to even think about any thing like that. I feel fine up here, Don't tremble near as much as I did. When you write to Bro. Brown give him my best regards. Oh dear I wish you could see this place. It is grand. Flowers in bloom and not more than three feet is snow in some places. Well I will close hoping to hear from you often tis all the comfort I have. I remain your loveing wife *Margaret Benson*

Address 74 N. First West
Salt Lake
untill I send you some other address
x x x x x x x x x x x x x

August 3 1906

My Dear Wife:-

I've just returned from a ten days tracting trip in the country and found your letter of July 10th here upon my return and I can assure you that I was very glad to hear from you and that you are well and getting along all right. I can assure you that your letters are always a source of joy to me especially when I find you are feeling well. I am in fine health and the climate and country seems to agree with me fine so far which I am in hopes it will continue to do. I was glad to hear that you had a good time on the "Glorious Fourth" and hope you did the same on the twenty fourth". Of course we think about those days out here but that is all; So just think of me when you celebrate again and try and have a good time for me to. Well, I've had a little experience of tracting in the country now and have done some pretty hard mountain climbing myself in the last ten days; as here in Norway we find people living in places away up in the mountains where they would hardily think of locating in in America. It does make a person feell fine however when after climbing up a steep mountain side for about a mile when you get there to have the the people turn you down cold without even so much as a pleasan look and wont even accept a gosple tract it does seem sometimes that when a person works so hard to bring the Gosple to their doors that the least they could do would be to investigate it. But then of course when we have taken it to them it is up to them to accept or reject it and if they wont receive us all we can do is to turn around and go back looking as pleasant and feeling as happy as possible although I'll have to acknowledge that sometimes it makes a person feel like saying somethings that may not be very grammatical to say the least. It is quite interesting to travel among the people in their homes where you find them in all kinds

of conditions and circumstances. It is not an uncommon thing among the poorer class in the country to find the women walking around bare-footed and without any waist on in fact barely enough clothes on to cover up their nakedness a little I felt rather embarrassed the first time or two that I found them in this condition but as they seemed to think nothing of it a person soon gets case hardened and I soon got so I scarcely noticed whether they had any clothes on at all. That however is among the poorer classes among the better classes conditions are somewhat better although as the women have to do all kinds of out of doors work you generally find them anything but neatly dressed.

Just now is hayaing time here and it would amuse you to see the way they put up their hay. As there is so much rain they have to hang it up to get it dry; to do this they drive stakes into the ground on which they string small ropes or wires and on these wires they hang the grass where it then hangs until it is hauled into the barns this makes a hayfield have a vedryu odd but picturesque appearance. If you can imagine a hayfield through which a wire fence of four or five wires is built every four or five rods and hay hung over the wires to dry, you can get a pretty good idea what a Norwegian hayfield looks like; The people use two wheeled carts with one horse in this country nearly entirely and on these they also haul in the hay and I tell you it looks rather odd to us Americans. I also saw them packing it in on their backs bundled up in ropes it may sound strange but it is a fact that some poor people who perhaps own a cow and a little patch of grass on the mountain side where they can hardly get at it even with a cart will cut enough of that grass and pack it in on their backs to feed the cow through the winter. One place where I called, the man and woman had a wheelbarrow each and was wheeling in their hay. How would you like to be a farmers wife in this country and have to help wheel in the hay? You don't want to worry however as I don't intend to settle in this country but then of course we could try it in America. Even where they use machinery with which to cut and rake their hay here they always go over the field again with a hand rake and this is done nearly entirely by the women.

We had a very nice time while out in the country met some very nice people and on the whole was treated very good. We had what we wanted to eat and a bed to sleep in every night we were out so we ought not to complain. The law will not allow us to travel without "purse or script" here so of course we had to pay our way but then the people treated us nice which of course made us feel good. Although I imagine you would have laughed if you could have seen us a time or two, for instance one night when we went to a place and asked for lodging after taking us in the lady wanted to know if we wanted some supper and as we told her yes we would like some she went and got some bread and butter and brought in a large wooden pan full of clabbered milk and set it on the middle of the table, gave us each a knife and a spoon and told us to help ourselves which we did; to a stranger it would look rather amusing to see a couple of fellows eating clabbered milk out of a wooden pan half as large as a wash tub but of course here that is the custom so it is all right.

We've had some very warm weather here that last week and it seems to me that when it does get hot here it is more oppressive than it is at home I believe it is on account of the altitude being lower and the air denser. Sometimes while walking out in the country especially up the sunny side of the mountain it seemed like it would get so warm that I could hardly get my breath, one good thing however there is an abundance of trees here and very frequently I would sit down in the shade and take a rest. The country is nearly all covered with pines and they make a fine shade; My companion and I would separate in the morning after appointing a place to meet at a certain time towards evening and then we would take each a section of country where we would go from house to house and to the people out in the fields and offer them our tracts and if possible explain the principles of the Gospel to them and perhaps sell them some kind of a book which treats on the principles of the Gospel. Then when we would meet we would start out to find a place to stay.

I haven't got a Prince Albert yet but I may get one this fall as my old gray suit is about worn out and I'll have to take my black clothes for every day. The styles here differ in some respects from our American styles instead of the round toed shoes worn by Americans they have a very peaked toed shoe although you can buy the American clothing here but it is more expensive. Collars and ties are much the same but there is more of the single stand up collars worn. Their clothes as a whole don't fit as well as the American clothes does and you can always pick out an American by his clothes. Well give my very best regards to all acquaintances, Remember me to your Grandma when you write. Ever praying the Lord to bless and keep you I remain as ever your Affectionate and Loving husband

Mathias

If this too heavy let me know and I'll put more postage on next time

Aunt Mary sends best regards so do Lorena and Father.

Brighton Silver Lake Aug. 6-1906

My Dear Husband:

I received your long looked for letter today. Was so glad to get it. It seems to me as though the last one is always the best. I am also glad you are enjoying good health and that you take well and look so young to the people. It was a compliment to receive, and from a woman. She would not of been smart if she hadn't thought so. I think you look like you was about twenty six or did four month ago. I think I've got the dearest best and nicest man in all the world and I love him now as I never did before. You say you feel happy to think our marriage contract will not be broken at death maybe you will be happy to have it broken before that. You or caring your hopes quite high. But I am of the same opinion as you in that regard. But still I think those who or liveing here and have the privilege of going through the temple and fail in keeping the covenants they make, tis for

worse for them than it is for those who do not have the privilege. There or so many cases of that kind in Salt Lake. Do you remember that woman that came to Mrs. Beck's to get a girl for Mrs Elise? Mrs Beck called her an old maid. She washed for Mrs. Elise I thought a lot of her. She came to this country when she was fiveteen years old, worked out a emigrated her mother, brother and two sisters to Utah, soon after they arrived here, her Mother and brother died, one of her sisters married had two children and she and her husband died, than Carrie was married her husband died She gave birth to a baby and it died, her sister died and in her grief she went to the bad and was cut of the church. She after wards joined again quite her wicked ways except drink and chewing. She is about fivety years old. When she was cut off the church she laid asid her garments and she sayes when she dies she expects to be burried in her temple clothes. Can that be unless she goes to the temple again? I do feel sorry for her. And she was so good to me. There or so many who could not keep up with the fashions and wear them (garments), because of their long sleeves and high neck, so they eather throw there garments to one side or cut of the sleves and hollow out the neck. Some take them of to the waist. Which is the worst? Take Salt Lake all through and the ones who pertend to be so good or the very worst. I am enjoying good health, Sun. afternoon Mr. Walker's hired man took me around up in the Mts. to see how beautiful they were. We went horse back over three Mts. saw five lakes each one had an island in it. We went up as far as a mine on the horses than we climbed up some steep rocks and when we got to the top we were in snow about two ft deep. These little yellow flowers I picked in the snow the blue and white not a ft from it. Hopeing to here from you I remain as ever your loveing wife.

Trondhjem Norway
August 22-'06

Dear Wife:

I have just returned from a trip to a place called Roros; that is I got back last night; and have received your letters of July 25th and 29th and must say that I was very glad to hear from you as I always am and I must acknowledge that you are better at writing than I am but of course circumstances alters cases and when I am away from here I very seldom have an oppertunity of writing and as my mail lays here until I get back you will have to excuse my answering two letters in one; and I won't let it happen again till the next time. You say in your letter that you are having some warm weather we have had some but where I was last week it was quite cold and Monday we had to have a fire in the stove to keep warm of course that is away up in the tops of the mountains where it freezes every month in the year but I don't think we will suffer from the heat any more here this summer. Yesterday afternoon and last night we had a heavy wind and rain storm one of the worst I've seen since coming here, we were called out to administer to a little girl who is sick and coming back our unberellas turned inside out and we had a gay time.

I certainly was surprised at hearing from you at Silver Lake. I have read of the place in the papers and judging from that and from what you say it must be an Ideal place for a summer residence. I hope that you are getting along all right and that you will not regret going up there it is a very good change from the city out into the mountains and one that ought to do you good which I hope it will do.

You say that you wonder if I ever feel lonesome, well I haven't much of a chance here as there is nearly always some one here or else there is something to do that I have to keep my mind on so if I am not talking to some one why I am busy some other way and of course when out in the country or away visiting other places why there is always something new to attract a persons attention and keep his mind occupied and keep him from getting lonesome and then of course we have to strive to overcome that feeling as much as possible. Of course there are times when a person feels that he would like to see his loved ones or even an old acquaintance but then we try to keep our minds of such things as they are not to be realized just at present but we all look forward to the happy future. Some of the Elders get very homesick when they come out here. One elder who came here just a day or two after we did has been homesick all the time since and the other day he went back to Copenhagen he said he could not stand it here. He was the most homesick man I ever saw, of course you know that I am so hard hearted that I can get along anywhere.

I received a letter from Bro. Brown the other day and he wishes me to remember him to you, he told me that Bro. Robbins had been released and returned home on July 20 on account of ill health. I was very much surprised and sorry to hear that as I know it would have been a good school for him had he been able to have stayed for a couple of years and I only hope and pray that the Lord will continue to bless me with good health as he has done so far and that I'll be able to fill a good mission as I certainly would not feel satisfied to return home until I've done so and I know that you feel the same way. Yes we receive the Deseret News twice a week so you see we have a fair chance of reading what is happening out in Zion although they are somewhat "old news" when they reach here. We received the "News" of August 2nd last Monday the 20th.

Last Sunday forenoon I attended a Lutheran Church service up at Roros the first one I have attended since coming to Norway. We exercised our gall a little and went right up to the front and took seats where we could hear and see everything. I think the minister had some thoughts that he kept to himself when he seen us and I must admit that after witnessing the ceremonies of the day that we had some thoughts of our own, also he preached a very good sermon but the other ceremonies certainly appeared ridiculous to us. They had a baptism after the services and baptized a little infant. The minister asked the child if it had faith in God the Father and in Jesus Christ and in the Holy Ghost also if it desired to become a member of the Church by accepting a Christian baptism and one or two other questions to all of which the woman packing the child answered yes then after reading some bible passages (all of which show that infant baptism is ridiculous) he

baptized it by dipping his hand in a basin of water three times and pouring it on the child's head. I could not help but think of how foolish and how inconsistent it looked and how far away it was from the practices of Christ and his Apostles whom they claim to follow and it certainly made me feel glad that I have a greater knowledge than they possess.

Well I don't suppose you care to hear about these things but then that is what we are studying out here and trying to show the people a better way than that they already have; and I thought perhaps you would be a little interested in knowing what your poor old man is doing away out here in Norway. I started to write this this morning and had just got started when there were two new Elders who has just arrived came in and as we were four here before there has been six of us here all talking and I've had to quit a couple of times on account of some one wanting something done so if it is kind of mixed up why try and make out of it what you can. Hoping this will find you well and ever praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain as ever your loving Husband *Mathias*

Give my best regards to all friends.

Your letter had postage enough on send those large letters they or [are] the kind I like.

Hooper Utah
Aug.27-1906

My Dear Husband,

I recived your letter of Aug. 3 on the 25 of inst. was so glad I didn't know what to do. I am so glad you and I or blessed with good health. I came to Hooper Sunday evening. Aunt Mary ask me to come and help her out. Her girl quite her. Tis all most impossible to get a girl in a case of this kind. So I will stay with her for a month or two. Grandma's health is failing she looks worse now than I've seen her look for a long time.

I have been down to grandma's today and helped put up a little fruit, nothing is the same as it use to be. The place Eve and her beau and Jack and I use to keep the grass wore down is all covered with weeds Grandpa & Grandma live in two rooms. Sole their home everything seems so cheerless and differnt that I really felt down hearted. I began to wonder what we would do when we get old and ready to die and if we would be happy or if we would grow tired of each other.

In your letter letter of July 19 you said you would stop writing before you got to preaching to me. I wish you would preach to me sometimes I think it would help me to live a better life. But I am glad after all to know that my joy and sorrow is to be shared by you. I am liveing at present by thinking of my future.

I enjoyed my trip to Brighton very much the change was fine. But there

is no church to go to of any kind so I haven't been to church for 7 Sundays. But I will get to go here. You see a little preach is just what I need. I wish I could give you some supper once and a while something besides clabber and bread.

The styles are something alike single stand up collars are the rage and peaked toed shoes are coming in.

When you come home I'll do the farming of course I will. I have worked in the field. Lorena sends her regards. I hope you get clabber enough to keep fat and get all the beer you was going to get to make you barrel shap. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your loveing wife.

Trondhjem Norway
Aug 29th 1906

Dear Wife:

I have received your letter of August 6th and as usual was very much pleased and glad to hear from you and to know that you are well and getting along all right. I am still enjoying the best of health and beleive I am getting along all right. I find plenty to do to occupy the time and then when I get a little to eat and a good bed to sleep in why I ought not to complain and in fact I have no complaint to make.

You say that you think that those who go into the Temple and there make Covenants which they fail to keep are worse off than those who do not have the opportunity to make these Covenants. To be sure they are, those who do not have that privelege are under no responsibility while the Covenants and obligations we take upon ourselves in the House of the Lord are sacred and are not to be treated lightly as many alas do. If kept they will prove a blessing to us but if broken I fear it will be quite different, and at any rate it is better not to make a covenant or promise than it is to make or enter into one only to break it; and those who do break their covenants will certainly have to suffer the penalty. I really don't know who are the worst those who lay away their garments or those who cut off the arms or otherwise mutilate them. It seems to me that they must not understand what they are doing or else they are willfully blind or they do not understand the purpose of the garments. And which one will be held most responsible I don't know but the Lord gave us the pattern for the Garment and I can't see how any person can feell justified in changing that pattern by mutilating them. What the Lord has given no man or woman has a right to change except by revelation from God and that will come through the proper head and until that is done those who attempt to make the changes deprive themselves of the blessings and also place themselves under condemmantion to a certain extent. I should not like to do it nor to be responsible for such an action. When people mutilate or lay aside their garments in order to be abl to follow the

fashions of the world it shows plainly that they prize the fashions of the world more than they do that which the Lord has given them and when they reject a blessing from God for fashions of the world they will have to look to the world for their reward and at any rate the Lord will not hold them guiltless. In regards to the woman you mention who has laid away her garments while out of the Church being buried in them and in her Temple Clothes I can hardly see how that can be done unless she can again get the opportunity of going through the the Temple and renewing her Covenants.

I think the warm weather is over with up here for this summer we've had stormy weather for a week now and today many are wearing their overcoats on the street. I am faring fine. I have one invitation out this afternoon and another for tomorrow afternoon and when we are invited out it always means chocolate and cake ore something of that nature. I am getting pretty well use to drinking chocolate now and in fact I can eat and drink anything they've a mind to put up. Last night two sisters came to see us and each brought a nice boquet of flowers so to-day we have two boquets on the table in fact there is some sisters here who have kept a nice fresh boquet on our table all the time for the last month and I tell you we appreciate it too. The saints are just as good to us as they can be and try to make us as comfortable and happy as possible.

Last week there were three more new elders came and one of them had done just about like I did, just got marrid and then came away only he had been married a month; he said it was pretty hard on him to leave his wife and come away. I comforted him by telling him that I had done the same thing; and tried to make him believe it was the best thing that ever happened to him. Mission work is a great work and if a person goes at it with the right spirit he will not only benifit himself in one but in many ways and at the same time benifit his fellowmen. My hope and ambition is to retain the spirit of my mission and calling and to do all the good I can while out here that when I return my loved ones will not be ashamed of me but that you will be pleased to bid me welcome.

Give my kindest regards to the Jorgensen girls and to all acquaintances. May the Lord ever bless and protect you for me is the prayer of your loving husband *Mathias*.

Hooper Utah
Sept. 3-06

My Dear Husband:

I do not know what to write about or how to begin this letter. I am enjoying the very best of health and very glad you was when I heard from you last.

Five months Wen. since we left home time is slowly comeing and going. I some times think Oh! joy how glad I am times does not stand still.

Yesterday I went to Sunday School for the first time since I left Moreland and really it did seem so good. In the afternoon I went to meeting. Earl "Aunt Mary's took me out to Uncle Franks and Uncle Williams than to the ice cream parlor. Every body is just good to me as one could ask for. Ready to do any thing they can. It does make me feel good. I do wish you had as many friends where you or as I have where I am. I pray that you may have some that are friends indeed. It is nice to be here among my folks. But I can live a quiet married life in a strange place and not try half as hard as here.

Sunday night is the worst if you could just run in about an hour it would be more like it was five months ago. But I would not have you come home untill you have filled a mission for anything on earth. I went to see Mrs Larson just before I left the City and she intends to come and see you next May. They want me to try and go with them. There is going to be very low rates to any part of Europe next spring.

Uncle Lawrence is running the canning factory here in Hooper. Most all farmers or bussy thrashing and getting up tomatoes. We have had such a lot of rain nearly every night a little.

All send regards. Hoping to hear from you often I remain your loveing wife

Margaret Benson

P.S. Define The spirit of God and the Holy Ghost? There is a dance in town tonight But not for me.

Trondhjem Norway
Sept 8 1906

Dear Wife:

I have received your card of Aug 14 and was very much pleased and glad to note that you are well or at least that you were at that time and I sincerely hope that you may continue so. I am feeling well and getting along all right or at least I think I am. Before long I think I'll be a genuine Norwegian so you had better be studying the Norwegian Language every chance you get as I may not be able to talk English when I get back. I sometimes think I'll have a pretty good mixture by the time I get through here. I expect I'll mix up the English, Danish, and Norwegian in good style and be unable to speak either correctly expecially if I forget the English and don't learn the Norwegian.

We are having some stormy weather up here now, for the past two weeks it has rained every day it has also been quite cold and an overcoat has been quite comfortable at times. I have been having it all my own way here the last two days as the others are all gone off into the country but they will

only be gone a couple of days so I don't think I'll have time to get lonesome.

The choir here have been trying to learn an English Anthem. Their leader who is a Norwegian has been teaching them the music and I have been teaching them the words or at least trying to and it is quite amusing to hear them try to pronounce the English words, they do very well however and most of them seem to have a desire to learn the English. I suppose because most of them have a hope of sometime getting to America.

Next Saturday, Sunday and Monday, (September 15, 16 and 17th) we are going to have our Conference here and you don't want to be surprised if you hear of me being sent four or five hundred miles further north as there are some places up there where the Elders will undoubtedly be sent to and it is just as likley to be me as some one else; it's about a thousand miles from here to the Northern most place where we have elders. Which is a place called Vardo and to get there they have to sail around North Cape but as we have two elders there now and they are not coming down to Conference I know it'll not be farther than Hammerfest and I hardly think that far and it may be that I'll get to stay right here as I am pretty well acquainted here now and acquainted with the work in the office. However I'm not worrying a bit over it and will go wherever I'm sent; Well, my dear I hope that you are getting a long all right, that you are enjoying good health; and getting what comfort out of life that you can by knowing that it is the Lords will that we should be separated for a little while and that we are engaged in his work. I am enjoying my labours and see more to live for every day.

Give my kindest regards to all friends and relations and accept my love for yourself. Hoping to hear from you again soon I remain as ever Your
Loving husband

Mathias

Hooper Utah
Sept 17-06

Dear Husband:

I have been longer in ans. you letter this time because I am afraid I write to often. I do not want you to quite writing to me though.

Aunt Mary has got another boy born on the seventh of inst. That is seven children and only on girl.

Aunt Mary got along nicely, she sat up about three hours to day. Grandma received a letter from Jael to day she has a baby girl born sixth of inst. Aunt Violet has a boy. Really I am glad I am not in the swim. Last week Aunt Mary was in bed and I had to cook for thrache s and put up fruit. Baby kept me awake nights so I did not have time to write a letter. Grandpa

and grandma have moved a way from the old home. They or living in a three roomed brick house down by the meeting house. Tis a very pretty place but the old people did hate to leave the old home. Grandpa looked like he had been sick about two weeks. They may like the place when they live there a while. I hope so at any rate. Say my dear if you will just step in I will give you a big bit of cream cake, come on tis good beets clabbor all to peices. Hulloo baby wants cousin Margaret. Your to late for cake now. Uncle Lawrence is mannegar of the Hooper canning factory so he lives in Hooper now.

Uncle Eugene starts to get up beets day after to morrow. When you get time send me a copy of your blessing.

Tis getting late I must go to bed. We eat breakfast at six thirty so we have to get up in the morning

Good night and may you be happy and contented I remain

Your loveing wife *Margaret Belnap Benson*

Trondhjem Norway
Sept. 22 1906

Dear wife:-As our conference is now over and we are beginning to settle down again and able to collect our thoughts and steal a few moments from the bustle that is always evident on occasion of that kind; I thought it about time to write to you. I have received your letters of August 27 and Sept 3 and can assure you. It gave me great joy to hear from you as it always does. I tell you when a person is about 8,000 mi away from home and among strangers it makes him feel good to receive a letter from his loved ones especially if all is well with them. I was very glad to note that you are or rather were at the time you wrote enjoying good health and I do hope you may continue enjoying the same blessing. I am glad that you have so many friends and that they are treating you so good and hope that you may be able to enjoy yourself some at least: I am glad to know that you are with your relatives and that you are helping your aunt Mary if she needs it. I feel that she will be good to you and I think we ought to do good wherever we have a chance. You say that you are living the present by thinking of the future I think that is a very good plan which if we would always follow we would be saved from many heart aches and unpleasant conditions; if we would only think every time we did something what effect that act would have upon our future lives or what the results of that act would be I believe we would leave a great many things undone which we do and perhaps do some things which we fail to do; and I know that if we are faithful at present there are great blessings in store for us in the future. You see I have great hopes for the future.

I am glad that you are trying to do all the good you can vere there I am trying to do the same here I have quite a number of friends here who are

very good to me and they do all they can for us and we are getting a few more all the time so we get along very nicely, and the old lady with whom we are staying does every thing in her power to make us comfortable.

Our Conference went off very nicely and we had a fine time we held five public and one priesthood meeting and I tell you we enjoyed them very much. President J.M. Christensen who presides over the Scandinavian Mission was present and gave us some excellent instructions. I tell you it seemed good to meet so many from boys home and although some of us had never seen each other before it would surprise you how soon we get acquainted and feel as if we had always known each other. Two meeting Sunday we held in a large hall belonging to the Mechanics Lodge it is a large fine hall next to the best in town the best being the Masonic Temple which of course we couldn't get. There are a number of other less pretentious halls but the people are so prejudiced that they would not rent them to us so we were forced into one of the very best quarters and perhaps it was a good thing for us, we had a very good attendance but could have made room for more as we had quite a lot of empty chairs.

Well, my dear I didn't get sent up north but am still in the old place and if something unforeseen don't hapen will be here all winter and perhaps all my mission with the exception of short trips that I may have to take to different places.

Last Tuesday evening the Saints here gave a social for the Elders and we had a very fine time had a nice program and also refreshments, -berries & cream and cake, -it was all right. It was also as a farewell party to a young sister who left for America last Wednesday evening. She had been president of the Y. L. M. I. A. while here and is a very fine woman She goes to Weston Idaho her ticket was sent by an Elder who has been here on a mission and went home last winter and I understand there is prespects of a wedding after she gets there.

In regards to your question to define Holy Ghost and Spirit of God. About the only way that I can define them is that the Holy Ghost is the third member of the Godhead the other two being the Father and the Son or God and Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost is the third member is not a personage of or rather does not possess a tangible body of flesh and bones as does the Father and the Son but is a personage of Spirit; able however to manifest himself in the form and figure of God and possessing personal powers and affections, of which we read in the New Testament. John 14:26 John 15:26 John 16:8 Acts 10:19 Romans 8:26 Ephesians 4:30. Strictly speaking the Spirit of God is the spirit possessed by the Father as man possesses both a body and a spirit so does God possess both, hence I should say that technically speaking The spirit of God is the Spirit of the Father the first member of the God Head. And as in man it is from the Spirit that the intelect the power or the influence that we exert exists so it is with the Father it is through his spirit that he is able to influence or rather to make his influence felt.

In the scriptures the terms Holy Ghost and Spirit of God are used synonymously and we will have to judge by the context to which reference is made. In referring to or rather using the word or expression The Spirit of God in talking praying ect. We usually have reference to the Holy Ghost who's mission it is to testify of the Father and the Son and whose special ministrations all are intitled to who have obeyed the first principles of the Gosple.

I don't know wether you will be able to understand this as I have tried to explain it as it is rather hard for me to explain and destinguish between. If you could get the Articles of Faith by Talmage and read the Chapter on the Holy Ghost it may give you some light on the subject.

I received a letter from your Grandmother Yesterday and when you see her just tell her that I'll answer it as soon as I can get settled down a little again.

Give my best regards to all relations and friends. I am enjoying fine health and hope this will find you the same Ever praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain Your loving husband

Mathias

Hooper Utah
Sept 25-06

Dear Hubby,

I just received your letters of Aug 11 and 29 was glad to get them if it did take a long time. Seemed to me like never would come.

I am glad you are well that is what I beleave in. Before I go any father Frank Newman is going on a mission in the spring. I have had it on my mind all day. Doesn't seem like it can be. You didn't tell me wheather you went and ate a dinner or not? We are haveing weather hot enough to burn a hole in your stove pipe hat in the day time and at night a little frost. So we or quite busy putting up fruit. Aunt Mary has not been able to do a thing yet so I have to get down a drill. She can not walk to the door but she is give out. Aunt Eliza Manning has leakage of the heart and Dr. has no hope. Aunt Lola Belnap's baby died last week so did cousin May's

This little beet diger of Aunt Mary's is going to be named Paul Morgan. I tell you he keeps Uncle and I bussy at night.

I went down to see Myrtle and Lee Sunday night they send their regards. On my way home I meet Rich Hooper and Eugene Belnap. Gene said to give Cousin Mathias his best. He just come from Idaho said all was well. But I suppose you hear from three times as often as I do. I am very glad you have

a nice room and that your old woman is good to you. The post card of Trondhjem is all right only you never said which side you lived.

Well every on is a sleep but Paul and I. You see I still sit up with the boys if I am a grass widow. Does that poor fellow feel any better now? the one that felt so bad about leaveing his wife. I have a sneaky feeling for his wife. Paul will not allow me to scratch any longer so Aervoir I remain your loveing wife *Margaret*.

Hooper Utah
Oct 1-1906

Dear Hubby

I received your letter of Sept 8 and was very much pleased and glad to note that you or well. I was going to ans. to you letter yesterday after I came home from meeting but I had one of those sick headaches and so I went to bed. I am all right to night, hope you or feeling as good.

Aunt Mary and I went down to grandma's place to day she was feeling very good for her. She seems to be so contented in her new home. There is a new school house in Hooper since you was here. T'is something like the one up home but a little larger it has four rooms and a basement. School comensted today. Jennie is one of the teachers. She can not get over comeing into our room that morning down to grandm's.

I think it sad we can not exchange a little hot weather for a little cold. T'is very warm in the day time.

I guess I will go down to Confernce Sat. and Sun. I will have to see my Dad and Ma Jergenson. I received a letter from Margaret last week. She said to send her best regards to you. I did know wheather to or not but you are so for a part that I will just to be doing.

Why don't you just keep on going north? Maby you would find one of the lost tribs. Some times I think you or nearely far enough away with out going any father, maby I had better go by way of Alaska when I come to meet you. Do you think it will be any closer? If it doesn't worry you it hadn't ought to me.

Evylean wants me to come and stay with her for about a month but I haven't made up my mind yet.

I am takeing quit a lay of and will not care to do any thing but follow the Dr. and finnish up his work. T'is sad I don't know the trade we would be rich when you get back because I am sure I could get plenty of cases. The post card and flower were lovely. Hopeing soon to hear all well with you I remain your loveing wife. Grandparents send best regards. Everyone is in asking about my Husband

Aeorvior Margaret

Trondhjem Norway
Oct. 6-1906

My Dear Wife:

I have received your letter of Sept. 17 and as is always the case was very glad to hear from you and to note that you are getting along all right and I sincerely hope that you will continue to do so. You say you are afraid that you write to often but don't worry ever that write as often as you can find time it does not take long to read one of your letters and if I don't get time to answer each one I'll answer two at once. Two weeks ago tonight I had one of the prettiest sights that I had ever witnessed. There was a young man who requested baptism and he and one of the saints and three of us Elders went out to attend to the ordinance. We went to a place about two miles out of town to a very quiet place on the sea shore. It was a beautiful evening the moon was shining and just enough clouds to make the light nice and mellow not a sound was to be heard but the gentle rustling of the leaves and the rippling of the waves as they gently laved the shore it made a person feel fine in fact there was one of the most peaceful and heavenly feeling there that I ever experienced. Coming home we came to the top of a hill about a mile and a half from town from which we got a good view of the whole town all lit up and as in many places the lights are right on the water edge they were reflected in the water making one of the grandest sights that I ever saw; or at least I enjoyed it as much as any sight I have ever seen. I tell you it is a great trial to many who receive the Gosple out here, the young man who was baptised on the night I mention was up to see us yesterday and he said that since he had joined the church many of those whom he had counted among his best friends would not even recognize him; One young man who joined the church here when he went home and told his mother what he had done she said she could have forgiven him for anything else he could have done but for that she could never forgive him. He said after she got through he said to her. "Mother I have always tried to live a decent life, you say if I had become a drunken sot or something low and mean you could forgive me but now because I have made a covenant to serve God you say you can never forgive me" He said after he had talked awhile she broke down and asked his forgiveness for what she had said. Bro. Lund of Plain City has been called home on account of his wifes sickness and will leave here on the 17th inst. Kindly remember me to your Aunt Mary and Uncle Eugene to Grandfather & Grandmother Uncle Lawrence, Hazel, Eugene Belnap, Mr. & Mrs. Naisbit and anyone else whom I may know. I am feeling fine and hope you are the same. Hoping to hear from you again soon I remain Your Loving husband

Mathias

Tell your Uncle Lawrence that I have not forgotten my promise to write him

but will get at it one of these days

Salt Lake City
April 17th 1906

A blessing given by John Smith Patriarch upon the head of Mathias Julius Benson son of Andrew P. and Mathilda C. Benson born in Nylars Bornholm Denmark April 12 1877

Brother Mathias Julius Benson, Thou art of the house of Israel one of those who were chosen at their birth to be a messenger of life and Salvation Therefor I say unto thee reflect often upon the past and present and thou shalt realize that the hand of the Lord has been over thee and that thy life has been preserved for a purpose. Thou art also chosen of the Father to labour at home among the youth in Zion and there are many who look to thee for counsel by example as well as by precept and as thou art now called to leave thy home to cross the waters of the mighty deep a Messenger of life and Salvation thou shall go in peace fill thy mission and return in safety. Be prudent and thou shalt find kindred and friends of thy youth. Thou shalt have joy in thy labours. Thou shall lay hands upon the sick and they shall recover and the name of the Lord therein shall be glorified. Thou art of Ephraim and entitled to the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with the gifts and priveliges promised unto the fathers in Israel among whom thou shalt be numbered. Therefor look foreward to the future with a prayerful heart and an inquiring mind and thou shalt be wise in counsel valient in the defence of truth Virtue and righteousness. It is necessary that you learn to listen to the whisperings of that still small voice for through this voice thy guardian Angel will converse with thee raise up friends among strangers and give thee powers over thine enemies and enable thee to rebuke the distroyer and cast out evil spirits. Therefor remember that there is a God in Israel in whom we should trust and that he will reward according to merit and it shall be well with thee and thy name shall be handed down with thy posterity in honourable remembrance. I seal upon thee in the name of Jesus Christ and I seal thee up unto eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection even so Amen.

The above is a copy of my Patriarchal blessing which you requested that I send you. I believe you have a copy of the blessing I received when set apart for my mission.

M.J.B.

Hooper Utah
Oct 8-06

Dear Husband

I received your card of Sept 15 and your letter of 22 this evening. I was, as I always am, glad to hear from you.

Your conference is over and so is ours. I went down Sat morning and came back last evening. Bishop Lindsay and Nettie Anderson were married last Thur. Don't you think that all right? They both look like their happiness is complete. Both had a smile all over their faces. Andrew was down Sun. He did look good to me. Emma Hatch, Docia Baldwin and Mary Hatch were down and all three of them were dragging two children each. They must of enjoyed themselves. I never did see so many people in my life before. There were people every where. The notices please keep of the grass did not do much good. Pittra and Bishop Bingham were there and wished to be remembered to you. Jergensen girls wished to be remembered to you allso. I did not have time go and see Mrs. Larson, I suppose she will take spell over it-but t'is all in a life time (I mean dissappointments). They are nothing when one gets used to them.

I am glad you did not have to go farther north than you or now. I don't know why but seems to me it would hard on the Missionarys in such a cold for away place. Much worse than staying the city of Trondhjem. Did you think you would be keeping book in some City when you were joking before you left? Lester is going to take a missionary corse in Rexburg this winter. Joan Randale was at Conference, she insisted on me coming up to see her. Looks like married life did not agree with her she is as poor as a rail. She sends ther best regards to you so does Aunt Mary. We are haveing lovely weather, and feeling fine in body and spirit. I will close praying the Lord to bless and protect you. I remain your loveing wife

Margaret Benson

P.S. Your Queen and King are very nice looking.

Gareland Utah
Oct 15-06

Dear Husband:

I received your card yesterday and it did seem good to hear from you again. I guess I keep you bussy buying stamps but never mind if you run short let me know.

I am afraid you will think me a roveing Joe or something else when you learn of me being a way up here.

Correspondence - 68

I am staying with Evaline Holmes. She has got a homely baby girl. Of course I dare not say so to her. I will stay for three or four weeks. Her husband was shoeing a horse to day and it surprised him by sitting him down so hard it sprained his ankle so I have three of them to wait on.

This is quite a town much larger than I thought it was. I came up here last night so I haven't been here long enough to tell you much about the place. Parley Belnap has the Typhoid fever very bad. Aunt Mary was anything but a well woman when I came away. But I promised Holmes. I'd come. So I had to come.

Aunt Mary and I went down to Aunt Eliza Manning's on Wen. last. She is very ill. There is sickness every where.

We are having very good weather for this time of the year.

I went to the dance in Hooper Sat evening with Earl and had a very good time. I danced twice for you did you enjoy them?

Every one asks about you especially Jack. He asks how you were I said you was well so he says that's good I wish him success on his mission.

The youngest one of the Hammond girls is going to be married soon so is Verna Manning she is going to marry Jack's brother Jessie.

The baby is calling so adieu, My Dear, May the Lord bless and cheer you.

I remain as ever your loving wife

Margaret Benson.

Trondhjem Norway
Oct, 20-1906

Dear Wife:

I've received your letter of the 1st inst and was certainly pleased to hear that all was well with you which I sincerely hope and pray that it may continue to be. I am still enjoying good health and enjoying my labours as usual. There is plenty to do and of course one secret of getting along all right is to keep busy. Bro Lund left for home last Wednesday evening the 17th inst so his stay in Norway was rather short, he would no doubt like to have stayed longer but I guess circumstances would not permit it. You say in your letter of Sept 25th that I didn't tell you whether I went and got a dinner or not; well I did and a good one too and as we had beef steak it cost me 27 instead of 23 cts as you said but then I guess that is all right. I was glad to hear that Frank Newman is going on a mission as I certainly

think it is the finest experience a young man could have and will make a man out of him almost quicker than anything else.

Tell Jenney not to worry any more over coming into our room that morning as worrying will only make her go grey quicker and I am sure I had almost forgotten about it. And if it don't make any difference to us it ought not to her. I suppose that by this time you are having cool weather over there too. We've had fair weather here for about a week but quite cold and the last two or three night its froze quite hard; the leaves are nearly all gone from the trees and it begins to look a great deal like winter in fact it is likley to snow any time. I suppose you had a good time at Conference. I beleive I could have enjoyed attending one but I'll have to content myself with reading the sermons in the Deseret News.

As I am still in Trondhjem and expect to leave by about the same way that I came I don't think you had better go by way of Alaska when you come over as I think the other way is more pleasant.

Well, my dear I hope this will find you feeling well and contented as it leaves me. I only have Sunday evening to myself and then we generally go visiting; all my other evening are occupied so you see I haven't much chance to get lonesome. On Monday evening we have M.I.A. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings meeting, Thursday evening I have a class who are trying to learn to read English, Friday evening Singing practice and as I am supposed to attend to all you see I have to keep busy. Give my kind regards to every one I know and especially your Grandparents. Hoping to again hear from you soon I am Your Loving husband

Mathias.

Your Blessing is just fine both of them.
Does me good to read them.

Garland Utah
Oct 24-06

My dear Hubby:

I received your letter of Oct 6 to day and was as I all way am glad to hear from you. And to note that you or getting along all right.

Winter has set in. A weeks ago to day the snow fell all forenoon and the wind has be blowing ever since. Saturday and Sunday the wind blew from the east and did a great deal of damage through out the entire country The weather is very cold. Tis in this room just now be cause I have let the fire go down. Wm Holmes has gone to Ogden to night that leaves Evylean and I alone. She is asleep everything is just as quiet.

Garland is about as large as Moreland only built up nicer more stores and larger ones, a flour mill, saloon and sugar factory. The street is very narrow and the blocks small.

Most of the people are Mormons. There is a lady liveing by us. She is in the depth of poverty her husband is a drunkard. He went to Ogden two or three weeks ago and left her with a sick child it died last Wed. and was burried Sat. The man cannot be found. The woman takes in washing for a liveing. A lady across the road came over here Sun. interdused her self to me said she had had her eyes on me every since I cam to stay with Mrs. Holmes and when Mrs. Holmes could do her own work she would like to have me come and work for her. I told her I did not care to stay in Garland. She came back last night and coaxed me to stay untill Jan. 1 if I liked the work. So I will give her a tril.

Do you have to do Baptiseing at night. It was to bad Bro. Lund had to come home and Robins. Evylean ask me if I didn't wish it was you, I told her no I would reather die than have you come untill you have filled a mission and I know that you will.

Aervoir My love praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain your loveing wife

Margaret Benson

x x

x x

Trondhjem Norway

Oct. 27- 1906

Dear Wife:

I received your letter of the 8th inst. last Wednesday and is always the case I was glad to note that you are enjoying good health and I hope good spirits. I am glad to know that you went to Conference and had a good time. We've received the Deseret News with the report of Conference in but so far I've not had time to read it. I have been very busy the last week as on the 20th inst. E. Peterson who has been presiding over the Trondhjem Conference was released and I have been appointed to succeed him as President of the Trondhjem Conference and as we had to have all accounts and Books balanced and everything transfered to me before he could leave it kept us quite busy. Last night the saints here gave him a very nice little Farewell party and this morning he left for Denmark where he goes to visit Relatives before returning home so now I am practically alone in Trondhjem that is will be next week as at present there are two of the Elders here from another branch on a visit but they expect to return next week. I wont be alone long however as we are expecting some new missionaries here about the first of November. I tell you I feel very weak in taking this responsibility that

has been placed upon me but hope with the help of the Lord to be able to fill it.

The Trondhjem Conference is about 1000 miles long and embraces all of Northern Norway north of a place called Molde. I don't know whether it embraces any of the territory in which the Ten tribes live and I don't suppose I'll have a chance to go and find out. At present we are 19 Elders and 2 Lady missionaries labouring in the Conference. As I am doing my own secretary work I think I'll have plenty to do to keep me busy.

Yes I think it is all right of Bishop Lindsay and Nettie getting married glad they appeared so happy and certainly wish them all the happiness possible I suppose you congratulated them for me. As to whether I thought I'd be keeping books in some city when joking before I left, I had not more idea what I'd be called to do when I left home than you did but came intending to do anything required of me and with the help of the Lord I'll do it.

I was also glad to note that Lester is going to take a missionary course as it will certainly be a great benefit to him. If you write him just remember me to him and give him all the encouragement you can he will appreciate it and it will be a benefit to him and he'll be a good man some day if he'll only keep on the right road. You see I haven't got over being interested in the young folks. Give my very best regards to everybody. Hoping this will find you well as it leaves me I remain Your Loving husband *Mathias J. Benson*

Don't forget to remember me to your aunt Mary, Grandparents Hazel, Uncle Lawrence, Eugene Belnap, Myrtle & Lee Nassit, ect.

Garland Utah
Oct 30-06

My Dear Hubby,

Well I have made up my mind to live in Garland for two month any way now what do you think of that?

Maybe you think I am wandering quite a bit and be glad to hear I had settled down I am going down to Ogden next week and get me a coat and to Hooper and get my trunk then come right back. I may stop of at Hot Springs going down and call on Joan wont that be jolley. What shall I tell her for you? I am going to work for Mrs. Wheelon just accross the road from Evylean and she keep boarders so I don't think I'll be lonely. I am glad you are not boarding with us. I received a letter from Wilford to day he is in Oxford and feeling fine. I have not been any where in Garland only to the Post office so I don't know of any news. I am enjoying fine health and do hope you or the same Aerevoir My love Hopeing hear from you soon. I remain your loveing wife *Margaret*.

Garland Utah
Nov. 6-06

My Dear Hubby.

Politics, Politics, Politics. Some people have gone crazy over politics but to day will end the suspense for some poor wretch that is running for office. There or not quite so many people on the streets of Garland as there is in the picture postal you sent me. Dear that must of been a pretty scene. I think the King and Queen very good looking. But I would not trade places with her if I could. I received your letter of Oct 20 yesterday and I was certainly pleased to hear from you. I am enjoying very good health and pleased to learn that you or the same.

I suppose Bro. Lund is home now. I will have to see him and get an ideah how you or behaveing yourself.

One of the good sisters that went over when you did told about your sea sickness that is more than you did. Say my dear I had a feeling way down in my heart for you. I received a letter from Bertha and one from father to day. Father began his letter by saying "you must certainly be here by Xmas, if not before. Please try and arrange for Hazel to be here too on that date do not for get it. He all so says "I have very recently located three new claims and the name of Margaret Benson appears on the notices." Look out or we will be rich.

Bertha and all were well, says "I have been helping pick up potatoes on your & co's lot so now thank me for that. We are haveing quite cold weather now. I am going to Ogden in the morning but I am comeing back in a short time So send my letters to Garland Utah P.O.Box 116. I received a letter from Earl Robinson and he said Aunt Mary had been very ill since I left. So I may stay down there two or three weeks. Evylean is around and able to do her own work. Aervoir sweet heart I remain waiting for the mail train.

Your loveing wife
Margaret Benson.

Trondhjem Norway
Nov. 10-1906

My Dear Wife:

I wrote you a card a week ago today and promised you at that time that I'd write a letter next time so I'll try and fill that promise to day.

I see by your letter of Oct. 15th that there is a great deal of sickness; sorry this is or rather was the case and hope and pray that you may be able to escape the same; and that conditions have changed for the better before this. Yes you certainly are roving about the country a good deal but then

that is all right so long as it is in a good cause. If Verna Manning is married or if not yet when she gets married be sure and congratulate her for me.

Yes I suppose I enjoyed the dance very much but to just find out about it three weeks later is not much satisfaction you know. And then I wouldn't dare to say so aloud here or I am afraid half of the people in the branch would apostatize as a good many people here look upon amusement of any kind as being a sin and I don't know but what it would be a sin to frequent a good many of their places of amusement here as there is so much imorality carried on if I am rightly informed. I had quite a discussion last night with a young couple who claimed it is a sin to go to a dance, theater or other places where a person goes solely for amusement. I tried to show them that a person could attend a theater under proper conditions and commit no sin by so doing and even learn a great deal thereby also that a person could participate in a dance and be just as chaste and moral and free from sin as those who did not do it, wisdom of course to be used in all things. But they are so traditionated and narrow minded that it is hard to get them to beleive anything only that you must sit with you hands folded and look up into the heavans. This however is not the case with all the people as a great many of them look upon it the same as we do and are willing to listen to reason. Of course we don't preach amusement but then once in awhile we get into discussions on such topics and you can see from that how carefull we have to be in our amusements and in enjoying dancing even if it is three weeks before we find out about it and it happens eight thousand miles away. However I am glad you had a good time and hope you will every chance you get.

I'm still alone in Trondhjem but hope I'll get a companion before long as I sometimes feel that I'd like to have one of course there are quite a number of saints here so its not so bad as it might be.

We've had fine weather here for a long time. Yesterday the first snow fell and today the ground is covered with snow and still snowing at intervals. The sleighbells were jingling this morning before I was out of bed. Did you come in contact with the wind storm which I see by the "News" you've had in Utah?

Last Sunday one A.L. Sannes who joined the Church here and emigrated to Utah but after being there a short tme came back and has been fighting us ever since, came out with an article in one of the daily papers which he calls "Mormonismn as it is" and in which he tries to roast the church and us in a good shape, but it is really amusing as he can only find the same old stuff to rehash that has been dished out to the people so many times before. Among other things he tries to show that Pres. Joseph F. Smith has all power in his hands and that the church pays him a higher salary than the King of Norway gets. Says it is impossible for a common labourer to make any headway as the church claims the greater part of his earnings his wages being taxed 19 different times. That a foreigner cannot get over \$1.50 a day which may be very true but here they can't get work even for there board

as I know of young able bodied men who would like employment if only they could get it. Says that all the Mormons are after is women and money and that Joseph F. Smith so stated at a conference a year ago. Says that when a poor man gets so old that he can no longer work or support himself the church turns him over to the poor house and that the Government has taken steps to exclude all Mormons from the poor houses. He finally goes after the Elders saying that they seek only those who are discontented here and that by smooth talk and cunning devices seek to lead them away. Any one who has listened to us here will be willing to acknowledge that our talk is anything but smooth as a great many of us can scarcely express our thoughts in the language let alone using smooth and enticing words. Finally he bewails the fact that the Government here does not forcibly eject us from the country. Taken all in all his article was such a weak attempt and bears the mark of a lie on the face of it so I have not considered it worthy of an answer deeming it the best answer to ignore it intirely.

I am feeling fine both bodily and Spiritually and I hope and pray that this will find you the same. Kindly remember me to everybody whom I may be acquainted with and who may care to remember me. And don't forget your Grandparents and Hazel and Uncles and Aunts and all the rest of them if you are among them if not when you see them again. When you see Eugene Belnap give him my best regards also Myrtle and husband. As you stated in your letter that you was only going to stay in Garland for three or four weeks so I suppose you'll be back in Hooper or some other place by this time or rather by the time this gets there so I'll maile it to Hooper.

Ever praying the Lord keep you and comfort you I remain your loving husband
Mathias J Benson

Hooper Utah
Nov. 13 -1906

My Dear Husband:

I received yours of Oct 20 last night.

I can not say I was suprised to hear that you had been appointed Presedent of that Conference. I have looked for it. Where was E. Peterson from? How long was he there? I am glad to hear you or well and hope you will be of good cheer. The Lord will be with you in your labours and bless you and comfort you. I am well and getting Oh so fat. I think Garland agreed with me. Aunt Mary wants me to stay with her untill you come back. I am going to help her house clean this week. Uncle Eugene is rejoysing to night to think he got throu toping beets to night. He had about ninety tons.

There are lots of beets in Hooper nineteen cars loaded down or taken away every day. How is that?

We have been haveing lovely weather but tis cloudy to night and looks like storm.

I received a letter from Eva and Margaret Jergenson to day they sent there regards to you. Eva wanted to know when I thought I would go to Europe she is ready.

Grandpa and Grandma are getting along very well. Do you remember that old adoba School House close to Grandpa's just west. Grandpa has changed that in to a very pretty dwelling house, three rooms and pantry you would not know t'was the same house. I got me a new coat and hat in Ogden last week putting on lots of style. Have to keep up with the times no matter what the cost. Every body that knows me enquires about you.

Uncle Eugene says well that means he will be gone three or four years. Goodnight I am all most asleep. All the boys have gone to see "Ben-Hur". to night. I done a big washing and did not feel like going. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Your Loveing wife
Margaret Benson

Hooper Utah
Nov 22-1906

My Dear Husband:

I received your card last night. It was very nice. I am pleased to know you are still enjoying good health and hope you will continue to do so. Most every one around here have very bad colds. Mine is all right now but I had about two weeks of it. Aunt Mary's baby has been quite sick with just a cold. He is as pretty as a picture.

If you was here we might have a sleigh ride. The snow fell all day saturday. And Sun. the wind blew, all day Monday it snowed. In all there is about six inches and tis frozen. To night there is an east wind and cold. Oh my. Has been freezing all day. Earl and I went skateing last night on roller skates, when we come home my black shawl was white with frost. I am learning to be a sport I guess.

Oh my the wind is howling. Wind never blowes where you are? (guess not)

Was Bro. Petterson from Kainsville? If so when will he be home? I am acquainted with Bishop Petterson and his wife. They use to send me the grandest flowers I ever saw, the summer I lived to grandma's.

Today the mail carrier ask me if Bishop Petterson's son and you were in the same place. That is how I came to think he was the man.

I received a letter from Jael she said they had just received a letter from you and they were doing very well. If you are writing to all of our folks and a few friends besides I think you had better keep a private sect'y.

Why don't you write and tell me what your doing I am buisy wipping the end of my nose off. I went down to grandma's one day last week and she made me tair rages. I ask her what in the world she was making carpet for and she said that carpet was for Margaret and Mathias Benson. So you see every little bite helps. I don't suppose you ever think about such things. If you do you never say anything. Haven't time don't suppose.

Do you ever hear from Bro. Brown? If so give him my regards when you write.

I am crazy as a bed bug to night I would like to run in long enough to bite your ear. Well aervoir my dear. Hopeing to hear from you soon I remain

Your loveing wife
Margaret Benson

P.S. Aervoir is not Norwegin but you will understand.
Uncle Eugene refuses to teach me Danish because he is a yankey.

Trondhjem Norway
Nov. 24 - 1906

Dear Wife:

Since sending you my last letter I have received your letters of October 24th and 30th and was very glad to know that you continue having good health and feeling well. It does me good to know that you feel the way you do about my being out here on a mission and I certainly do hope and pray that I may be able to stay and fill a mission and so live that you will never regret the sacrifice you are making for the Gosple sake and I know that if we will but be faithful and try and do what the Lord requires of us he will certainly reward us in his own due time besides us having the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our duty.

You can't imagine how it made me feel when I read your letter although I knew all the time that you was anxious for me to fill a good mission, still I couldn't help but think if only more of the missionaries wives would express themselves that way to their husbands there would be fewer of them worrying over their affairs at home. Of course peoples circumstances are different so I shouldn't judge.

As I stated in my card which I sent the other day I now have three companions who arrived one week ago to-day. They are Elias Andersen from Elwood Boxelder Co. Utah, Joseph Christensen from Preston Idaho and Peter M. Mortensen from Sanford Colorado. Elder Mortensen don't understand a word of Norwegian so I'm going to try and give him a few lessons and see if I can't help him on the track of learning the language so he can go to work.

No, we don't have to baptize in the night time but we sometimes do it as we can be more in peace then than in the day time and we always try to perform

such ordinances in as quiet and peaceful a way as possible; and it doesn't have the best effect to have a mob of curious people looking on and some of them ridiculing the ordinance.

We've had a little snow up here and some cold weather but now it is quite mild and yesterday and to-day it has been raining quite hard all the time.

I am still enjoying good health and hope to continue doing so. I also find plenty to do as I have to preach three and four times a week so it keeps me busy studying what to tell the people.

Last week there was an emigration left and as we had one young lady from here who was going with it I had some extra work to do as she was out in the country visiting relatives and not expecting to go so soon. I had to keep the telephone and telegraph wires hot for about three days before I could locate her and then she just got here in time and didn't even get to say good-bye to her friends. I know it was rather cold blooded to hustle her off that way but I had to do it.

Kindly remember me to all relations friends and acquaintances when you either see them or write to them.

Ever praying the Lord to bless you and keep you I remain

Your loving husband
Mathias.

Hooper Utah
Nov. 30, 1906

Dear Mathias:

I received your letter of Nov 10 to day. I was Oh so glad to hear from you again. Glad your well but sorry you or lonely. My dear you never said so but I know you must be away over there with out so much as a companion.

What kind of a thanks giveing dinner did you have? Mine was all right I wish you had had some of it, duck and cream cake, fruit cake and it was not sad like the one you had, well every thing was nice. I thought of you while I was eatting.

Last Sunday one of Mother cousins from Cal. came here on a visit. Mrs. Gibson, Husband and son. They are not mormons and all they could talk about was you and me. They could not see how you could go away and leave me for such a long time. She said "If there ever was a reward we had surley ought to have it." For she had not heard of any one passing through such a trial and looking as happy as I did. Than she wanted our picturs so she could show them to her bro. and sisters, I gave her one. She did think it one of the liveing wonders of the world.

Monday Aunt Mary & I were hurrying around trying to get things ready for thanksgiveing dinner, washing and I don't know what all. My knee gave way and let me down. I haven't walked since. T'was only a sprain and will soon be all right. I told Uncle Eugene If I had of worked a little harder and shuck the fat off so there would not of been such a weight on it, it of been all right. Besides I only did it for a lay off. I was going back to Garland about Sunday but I won't go at all now. I will stay where I am for a while.

Aunt Mary is quite ill but cannot quite work be cause we would go hungry if she did.

Everyone around here went to the skateing rink yesterday but Uncle Gene and me. I tryed to get him to go but he said he had to stay home with his little girlie.

Last night the boys went to the dance and we old folks went to bed. I was off to the islands of dreams. When one oclock came who should wake me up but Wilford, nearly frightened me out of a month growth.

After he went to bed and I went to sleep I was dreaming you came home in the same way. Last friday one week ago to day Eugene Robinson and I visited the school. The new school house is just lovely, they have one in Plain City just like it. Jennie is teaching in one room. I enjoyed my visit very much.

You ask if I come in contact with the wind, Well, no there was a little wind in Garland but not enough to amount to much. I had some things hanging on the fence and they did not blow off. T'was down this way more. We have had one here since that one that was bad.

Joe Manning is going to be married on the 3rd of Dec. to Martha Reed. So Nora, his sister, said last Sunday. Do you remember the Harmon girls? the youngest one has just got married.

Uncle Gene and Aunt Mary send best regards.

If you cann't read this when it gets there send it back and I will try and write it with ink. I can not get the ink just now and I don't like to bother Aunt Mary. Well good night. Hoping to hear from you soon I remain your (homely) loveing wife

Margaret

Address me at Hooper

Trondhjem Norway
Dec. 7-1906

Dear Wife:-I have received your letters of the 6th and 13th ulte and was very glad as I always am to hear from you and to know that you are enjoying health which I hope you may continue to do. I am still enjoying the best of health for which I am very thankful; and I trust I shall continue to do so and that you will do the same. The weather up here has been quite stormy of late changing from rain to snow and from snow to rain so when we get up in the morning it may be clear and freezing and before noon snowing which may change to rain before night so you see Idaho is not the only place the weather is changeable. We have had but a couple of cold snaps and they have not been very cold. To day it has been snowing.

Well, last Thursdaay was "Thanksgiving" but we had neither turkey, plumpudding, nor pumkin pie; but as we all thought we would have to celebrate a little we went down to one of the best restaurants in town and orderd a right good dinner so you see we had a little extra on that day. We also had a baptism that evening and I baptised the first time since coming to Norway so you see I have something to remember the day by. It was somewhat different from going to a dance as we have been accustomed to doing at home but there was more real pleasure in it.

To day we was out and seen a new Steam Ship launched, they clain it is the largest passenger steamer ever built in Trondhjem and was named Haakon VII which is the name of Norway's king it looked very grand as it glided very gracefully from the Docks into the water. A great mass of people witnessed the launching.

I have also been out to a wedding dinner to-day, but neither bride nor groom were present in fact we were only four elders to participate in the celebration. One of the Elders here had younger brother get married at home, he himself is an old bachelor about 35 years of age so of course we joked him a little about it and told him he could be thankful that he was out here or he would certainly have had to dance in the pig trough, he acknowledged the fact and said he would put up dinner for the crowd just to celebrate the occasion so he took all down to one of the finest restaurants in town and ordered the best dinner they had. You see we've been having quite a celebrating week this week.

Ephraim Peterson was from Mink Creek Idaho and he was in Norway a little over twenty three months. Days are getting quite short now, it does not get light before half past nine in the morning and if we are going to do any reading or writing we have to light the lamp at about three in the afternoon while it is almost right dark at four so you see we don't have a great deal of daylight but there is one thing sure they will be shorter yet. Remember me to everybody especially

your Grandpa and Grandma and Hazel also Aunt Mary and Eugene and Myrtle; and if you write the Jorgensen girls tell them Hello. With a prayer to the Lord for your protection and welfare I remain

Your loving husband *Mathias*

If you can get a hold of a small Calender one that you can roll up in a piece of paper, roll one up and send me will you, as I should like to have one for the office.

Trondhjem Norway
Dec. 8-1906

Dear Wife:-I don't know wether or not this will be able to reach you before Christmas, but if not before it will no doubt reach you not long after and I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year and do hope that you will be able to enjoy yourself that the Lord will bless you with health and that he will give you his spirit to comfort you and cheer you. The people up here are allready begining to prepare for Christmas and after it is over I'll try and tell you how a Norwegian Christmas goes. We are having what the Norwegians call a Norwegian winter up here now, one minute it is blowing the next it is raining and perhaps in the next it will turn to snow and then for a change it will do all three at once. The fore part of the week we had about a foot of snow but yesterday and today it has been thawing so now it is about gone. It has been fine sleighing but of course I haven't had much benifit of it, only the benifit of hearing the bells and most of them are but one little bell hung on the front of the collar, sheep bells some of the Elders call them. It would interest you to see some of the sleighs they run in this country, most of them are just a pair of runners with a pair of shafts fastened to them and a platform laid on top of the runners, they are nearly all run with one horse, of course the sleighs they use for riding in are provided with seats but even they are different from our American Sleighs as they nearly all have a seat on the back for the driver and some of them have a nice little basket like seat for carrying a passenger while the driver stands on the runners on the back.

Well, I know of nothing new to tell you as it is pretty much of the same old routine with me, but I manage to keep busy as I always have a lot of writing to do and in fact almost more than I can get done as there is nearly always some one here who wants to talk to me or else I have to go out to one place or the other and so the time goes. We have had a little sickness and the last week I have been visiting the sick nearly every day. On the 15th of August, Hosea Berg and wife of Tilden came to labour in the Scandinavian mission and were appointed to labour in the Kristiania Conference and I have just learned the Sister Berg died Nov. 21st from Typhoid. I have met them both at

Tilden a good many times and it made me feel real sad to learn of her death especially here away from home.

Well my dear I hope you will have a good time during the Holy day's and I will try and do the same here. May the Lord bless you with health and strength as he is doing me and may his spirit cheer and comfort you and guide you from day to day and strengthen you for every task is the prayer of your loving husband

Mathias.

A newspaper clipping was enclosed titled "ON A SAD VISIT".

H. H. Berg, for many years a resident of Provo, but now of Pocatello, Idaho, is here awaiting the return of his son. Hosea Berg, who is expected any day from the east with the remains of his wife. Mrs. Berg died in Norway while there with her husband, who was filling a mission. The interment will be in the Provo cemetery.

Hooper Utah
Dec. 10. 1906

My Dear Husband.

I received your card was as I all ways am pleased to hear you or well.

I am down at Grandma because to day is her seventy first birthday. I tell her we are growing old to-gather.

Joseph Manning was mairred last even. to Martha Reed. They went through the temple. She was a Sunday School teacher and the children had a tin shower for her. When they got there and each one gave them some thing one of the party ask Joseph and Martha to sing We want to see the Temple. This happened the Mon. before they were married. I was invited to the reception but I did not go. Hazel and I stayed at home while the rest went.

My knee is getting well as fast as it can. I can walk a little and the time flys as quick again. I am feeling fine and dandy this morning. Grandpa has got his house finished all but pappering so they will soon be moveing in.

I was going to send you a Xmas parcle but I am two late so you will have to over look my lazy ness for once. Won't you?

I received a letter from Father yesterday and he is going to take his family out to the mines for at least a year. He wanted me to go but I would not. I don't know where they will be next. I am afraid if I went, there would be a sunny room in Blackfoot for me when I came back.

I received a letter from Andrew he is going to send me their baby's picture, he says the sweetest in all the world one I could pattern after if I would.

I never did see such changeable weather as we are haveing tis so dark I can not see what I am writing and the wind is blowing and the rain is falling. One day it freezes and the next tis as warm.

I wish you a marry Christmas and a happy new year. The hallowed feeling of love and attachment, the pleasing remembrance of the past, and the joyous anticipation of the future. While the song "Peace, good will toward men" is in the air, may it take full possession of our hearts, and make all our days happy with it's joy.

Grandma wishes to be remembered to you. With love I remain your wife

Margaret B. Benson

Jennie send best love

T'is the last flower in bloom.

Hooper Utah
Dec. 17. 1906

Dear Husband:

I received your letter of Nov. 24. and was very glad you continue having good health. I am feeling better for I can walk more. Will soon be wearing roler skates. Wont that be joley.

Myrtle came and took me down to her's and Lee's place I stayed two nights and days, enjoyed my self very much. But still it seame so strange for just us three to be there all alone. I told Myrtle I would not know how to act when you and I started house keeping.

I say Myrtle the other day (Earl was giving me a buggie ride) and she said every night since I was there she had dreamed Lee had been sent or was going on a mission.

I received Ida's and Andrew's babys picture to day. Ida said she sent you one. Do you think or could you emagon she could be the baby we saw lieing there that night we left?

We are haveing cold weather and there is snow on the ground.

Lawrence is shaking the table so t'is impossable for me to write any more. I do not know any news that would interest you. I told Grandpa to send you the Xmas news did he do it? I hope you will be full of turkey when you get this note.

I remain awaiting the post man. Your loving wife *Margaret*

P.S. You must be a very busy man with a class in English and one in Norwegian.

Trondhjem Norway
Dec 24-1906

Dear Wife:-I have received your letters of Nov 22 and 30th and as I always am, was very glad to hear from you but very sorry to hear that you had met with such a sad misfortune and I do hope that you are recovering from the same all right and that you are able to get around again. I am glad however that you was not out among strangers when it happened as knowing you were in good hands gave me a great deal of consolation and I hope and pray that you will soon get over the effects of it.

I am still enjoying fine health and also enjoying my labours and hope I shall be able to continue doing the same; which I know I shall if I'll but be humble and faithful. You ask me in your letter of the 22nd to tell you what I am doing; Last week I spent Monday and Tuesday in writing as I had to write all the Elders in the conference in regards to getting up some reports for the year. Wednesday forenoon I also spent in writing correspondence and in the afternoon visited one of our member who is sick and is at present on the Hospital. In the evening I visited a family of saints. Thursday afternoon I visited an old blind man who is also a member of the church and Thursday evening we were called out to administer to a young lady who had taken very sick; her home is north of here but being a dressmaker and a cripple she lives here and her and another young lady have a room together, both are faithful Latterday Saints, she has been home alone all day and had not been able to get even a drink of water and as she was suffering with a heavy fever it had been quite hard on her but we administered to her and she has been improving ever since. Friday I spent visiting with the sick and poor and Saturday at doing odd little jobs besides this we had Mutual Monday evening and General meeting Tuesday evening and on Friday evening singing practice; and then there is nearly always some writing to attend to each day. Sunday we have Sunday School and meeting and so the time goes. Don't think however that I visit only the poor and sick as we are out among strangers also preaching the gosple to them and offering them out tracts and books but it just happened last week that I had that work to do.

Yes the wind blows quite hard here sometimes. It is not very long since we had a heavy wind and two fishing boats were lost at a place south of here, in one I think 5 and in the other 8 men were lost and besides perhaps other's lost along the coast of which we have not heard. It is very hard on the poor widows and children who are left as most of them are very poor and have only what the husband and father could earn from day to day to subsist on and when that is cut

off it leaves them in a very sad condition; but then I ought not to be rehearsing these sad things over to you. No Pres. Peterson was not from Kanesville his home is in Minkcreek Idaho, we did have an Elder from Kainsville here, but he was transfered to Denmark and left one week ago to-day; Samuel Peterson is his name and he told me the Bishop was his Uncle.

I must acknowledge I have very little time to think of carpets or anything like it at present as my time is all taken up with my missionary work so I try and think about that now and will think about carpets and I suppose a good many other things when I get through with my mission.

We are now three Elders here in Thjem and three more have come in to celebrate Christmas so we are quite a jolly crowd.

Well, Christmas is here and I should think the people here would be glad of it as for nearly a month they have been preparing for it until it seems to me that the great amount of preparation would destroy the pleasure of the occasion but it seems quite to the contrary to add to the pleasure. To-day all business ceases at 5 P.M. and tomorrow and next day all business will be suspended, then for a week or two after that the people will be celebrating in various ways so all in all it will take about a month to celebrate and get over the effects of it in. Of-course we will celebrate too. I am all ready invited out this evening and for dinner tomorrow that is pretty good for a starter isn't it?

The people here celebrate Christmas in a different way from what we do in America. Christmas day and the day following are considered to holy to have parties in and on those days the people attend Church and are very religious but after that they begin to celebrate and I am told that a good many of them do it in a way that makes the streets to narrow for them to walk in. We don't expect to do that though.

The Norwegians are evidently great people for Christmas trees. For nearly a week a person would meet them by the hundreds on the street packing home Christmas trees, the trees ranging in hight from 3 & 4 to 10 & 12 feet. This morning I went down on the Market place where they have them for sale and I must say I never saw so many trees in one collection in my life. That is Christmas trees cut down and for sale and as for people why it was just as if you had thrown the top of an ant bed and all buying Christmas trees and a little bundle of oats which they hang up on the walls and around on the poles for the birds you see they remember the birds here at Christmas too. The Sunday School here is going to have a Christmas tree for the children and I suppose we'll have a party for the old folks next Friday evening. We've had a short spell of real cold weather but last week it was quite mild and rained off and on. to-day it has been snowing

again and is a little colder but it has not been as cold yet as I expected to find it up here. Our days are very short now from about 11 A.M. til half past two is the size of our days sometimes a little longer depending on the condition of the weather the sun has not disappeared entirely but we haven't seen it for a long time owing to cloudy and foggy weather. Kindly remember me to your Grandpa and Grandma Hazel Aunts Uncles and all. Hoping you are up and around again and getting allong all right I am your loving husband

Mathias

Hooper, Utah
Dec. 26, 1906

My Dear Husband:

I am quite slow in answering your letter I received last Sat.. But I do hope you will pardon me on account of such buisy times. How did you spend Xmas. Of course I'm glad you was not with me. My dear this is the first Xmas I have spent since I was thirteen years old with out as beau. Now what do you think of that? Will I had a very good time considering I could not dance but every body treated me sweell. I went down to the hall and sat there and watched every body else dance. Grandpa, Grandma, Hazel and Jennie ate dinner with us. In the afternoon Jennie and I went down to the skating rink when I was down there Nora came and told me Bro Lund was up to Jones and would like to see me. I went out there only to be disapointed. He then phone over and said his wife did not feel well enough to come. If she is all right Sun. they will be down.

Santa did not for get me. Did he you? Aunt Mary and Uncle Gene gave me a lovely pair of house slippers. Hazel gave me a handkerchief. Eugene R. gave me two dollars, Bertha sent me her babies photo. Hasn't she grown. Bertha sayes t'is not half as nice as she is.

You can be glad you are not here to day if you was I would hold your head under the eves off the house just to let you know we are having spring weather, rain is just pouring down.

I am at Grandma's and she is up to Aunt Mary's, but if it ever quits raining I am going up there. Jennie is over to the meeting house sacking candy and nuts. The Sunday School give an enertainment to morrw. They or just going to have a program in the morning and all go to the skating rink in the afternoon and at night. Children dance friday afternoon, dance at night "old fashion".

Theator Saterday night, M.I.A. Sunday night, skating to night and monday night, dance tuesday. Grandpa just came in with a big fish so I have put on to cook for three. Step in and have some. What did you have for dinner yesterday? Me? Oh, I had duck, dressing, gravie, potatoes, pickles, meince

pie, current pie, cream cocconut cake, fruit cake, chocklet cake, plum pudding, candy, nuts, oranges, bannas, everything good.

The days or very short. Say Dearie when do you know when to go to and get out of bed? How do people do their work when t'is dark so much of the time.

Dinner over I will try and finish writing for a time. I tell you that fish was good. I ate your share.

The Hooper Band or Belnap Boys gave a theator last Saterdag night entitled "The streets of New York" t'was surely all right and every one did fine. Eugene Belnap and Jennie have been runing around to gather for some time, recently they had a lovers quarl and quite. I have been haveing a sircus with her every since. Unce Lawernce has gone to Los Angles sayes in the land of dusters. Joe and wife are going to stay in Hooper for a while than Ogden. Jennie sends a buster and Hazel sends her love. Grampa and Grandma sends regards. I send my love and best wishes

Yours truly *Margaret B.*

Hooper Utah
Jan. 1, 1907

My Dear Husband:

I received your kind and welcome letter Sunday evening and to read the the blessings of a loving busband all ways does me a great deal of good. That was a very pretty little Xmas card but I haven't had time to read it yet Wish you a merry and happy new year. Ask the Lord to bless you in all your under takings and to be with you in time of need. Bestow his blessings upon you and your companions. To day is a very strange day for the beginning of the year but seem more like Xmas than any day dureing hollidays. It has been snowing and blowing all day long. To night it is freezing very hard.

Grandpa, Grandma, Hazel and Miss Riges from Payson (Gene's intended) was here and spent the day with us. They have all gone eather to the dance or to bed. T'is now about ten o clock. I would like to know what you or doing about now. Haveing a very good time. I hope so at least. Gene gave me orders to keep a good fire, and retire when they came home. I told him I would on conditions that he would see that she had warm feet when she came to bed with me.

I have been haveing a very good time considering I was partly bogus all dureing hollidays. Last night was the first time I have danced since the twentith of Oct. 1906 and I sertanly did enjoy my self last night. I did not make very much head way but it will not be long before I will be all right and than I'll show them how t'is done. Gene and I washed each others face with snow to day my face is burning yet. I guess his is too for he had his share.

Jennie and I went over to Grandpa's last night after the dance made some resolutions and wrote them down so we could read them once and awhile and remember them. Well I don't suppose you care to hear what they were. I and Jennie went down to Uncle Harry's fir. stayed all night. Verna came up here Sat. and stayed all night. If you want to know what kind of a time we had write and ask Grandpa.

Aunt Lizza is sick most of the time-one of Uncle Wm Belnap girtl's is very ill. The rest are feeling quite well. Uncle Gene's nephew will be burred to morrow and there has been two children die in Hooper to day, one fourteen and the other a baby. There is a great deal of sickness every where. And most all bad colds.

I showed Miss Riges our photos she said she thought you a handsome fellow wished Gene was as good looking Now don't get the big head. I hope you will continue to have good health. With love I remain your wife

Margaret. B. B.

8 months & one half has gone by I am a sleep.

Hooper Utah
Jan. 4. 1907

My Dear husband:-

I received your kind and welcome letter or card last night. Was a I allways am glad to learn your or well and pressed for time. An idle brain is the devil's work shop.

We have haveing lovely weather untill yesterday that is for the last week Yesterday t'was snowing and blowing something firce all day and to day has been thawing all day I belive that is why so many people have bad colds. I attended two funrrels yesterday one was a Wardwaorth girl about fiveteen years old she was a lovely girl. Her father is a drunkered and of course he tried to dround his sorrows in a bottle of whiskey and went mad. Coursed God and man said their was no wisdom or justis in eather one. Still he pertends to be a morman. I never did feel so bad for a woman is all my life as I did for her. The other was a boy baby two weeks old the first boy among five girls.

I have been teasing Gene and his girl all day to-day. I thought it wise to leave them alone for a few minuets to night because she is going home in the morning. She seems very nice but isn't any larger than ten cents. She just comes up to my ears and I just come to Genes so you can imagon, the long and the short of the Robinson family.

Uncle Gene has been laid up for a week with Rumitisum but is on the mend. Etta Belnap cook has typhoid and is very sick. I am well and glad I am

living and hope you or and will be all ways. Uncle Gene and Aunt Mary sent very best regards. Uncle says I hope that kid gets along all right. This is a punk picture of Aunt Mary's Paul. He is just grand. Hoping Gene and Lilla are soon wed I remain your loveing wife

xx Margaret B.

Trondhjem Norway
January 5 - 1907

Dear Wife:-

I have received your letters of Dec 10th and 17 and as I always am - was very glad to hear from you and especially to know that you are improving so that you are or rather were able to get around again and I hope that ere this you have overcome the effects of your injury. I hope you had a good time during Christmas; I have had a very good time taking all things into consideration. Christmas eve I was invited out to one of the Saints and as we were four Saints and Six Elders there we had a very nice time eating Cake, nuts, and fruit and as three of the Elders and two of the saints are good Guitar players and singers we had all kinds of songs and music. Christmas day I eat dinner with a family of Saints and had as good a dinner as a person could wish to ask for. Then I have been invited out to have Chocolate and cake to a number of places and have still some invitations to fill. So you see I am having a very good time even if I am in Norway, of course what we enjoy most is to get out and talk to the people about the Gosple but that has been almost impossible for the last two weeks as people are so busy celebrating but I guess they will soon settle down to their Normal condition again. And we'll be able to resume our work again; the last few days I have been very busy as I have all the books to close up all the books and records and make out the reports but a few more days will see that all completed.

The day after Christmas I went to "Mass" in the Cathedral and witnessed some of the rites common to the Lutheran church as well as some other churches.

Christmas day and New Years day of course we held meetings as that is the custom of the country. New Years eve we was invited out to a brother who was celebrating his tenth birth-day in the church and when we got home we found one of the sisters had been up to the office and left us a nice basket of cake, nuts and fruit so we had another feast. We also had a Xmas tree for the Sunday School children and a social for the older members of the branch so take it all in all we've had a very good time. I see in the paper that Nephi Christensen of Blackfoot has come to Scandinavia on a mission but as he has been appointed to labour in Christiania I don't know wether or not I'll get to see him. Yes I received a picture of Ida's and Bertha's babies. They have certainly grown since we seen them last.

Say you'll have to excuse all the mistakes in this as there are four of the

elders here and they are arguing about the sun moon and stars and the bible and to tell the truth there isn't one of them knows what they are driving at so if there are some words that you cant make out pass them over. Tell Myrtle not to worry over her husband going on a mission as his turn will certainly come. Kindly remember me to Aunt Mary Grandfather and Grandmother Hazel, Jennie, Lawrence, Eugene Belnap and all the rest whom I know. Hope this will find you feeling fine as it leaves me. Praying the Lord to bless and keep you I remain your loving husband *Mathias*
Thank Jennie for her love but as you have all of mine I can't send any in return unless you feel like sparing her a little and giving the same to her but this is nonsense and I shouldn't write nonse

Hooper Utah
Jan. 13, 1907

Dear Husband:-

I received your letter of Dec. 24 and was indeed pleased to hear from you again. I am glad you or enjoying fine health. I think it one of the greatest blessings on earth. I am feeling fine. My knee is getting stronger all the time.

We have dandy sleighing snow is about a foot deep and is still snowing has be all day. Gene came over home last night he had to go back to day so Earl and him put the wagon cover on the bob sleigh and Aunt Mary, Babie, Veta, Glen, Earl and I all went over to Wilson to take him back. Of all the roads we went through them over by the factory, all we could was put on our holders and stay with it.

Oh, Bro Lund sent over a little basket last Sunday to my great surprise. T'was rather late for my birthday but came on Hazel's she was fourteen on the 6 of inst. Grandma let her get her head read the fellow told her she was going to be a school teacher and a great hand for music. So she is working as hard again as she did befor she was told. But I did not thank you for the basket t'was just lovely. When I undone that little rool on the inside and found that little shoe I sat down and laughed as I haven't laughed for a long time. So did Grandpa and Jennie. Thanks for both T'was very kind of you.

There is a great deal of sickness all over the country. There has been several more death around here since I wrote you last. Tis getting to be a common thing around here.

Uncle Joe was drinking not very long ago, got to sashing around went in the bed rooms, pretty soon he came back with his sock in his hand and said some fellow was in there trying to rob him so I don't think we have to go very far away from home to find all kinds of meanness. We all felt bad about such actions but we are not to blame.

Uncle Will is to be married to Josephine Mitchel in a little over a week. I

suppose you remember them. You met them at conference in April last. Nine month yesterday since we were married. Say Dearie do you feel liked a married man?

I don't think you started out poor for holidays, but I do hope you did not over do yourself espically your stomach. Have you a mustash started yet? Well t'is nine thirty past my bed time so Aervior. I remain your loveing wife *Margaret*

A little truth may make you laugh.

Kristiansund Norway
January 16 - 1907

Dear Wife:-

I received your letter of Dec. 26th yesterday and was I always am very glad to receive the same and especially to know that you are feeling as well and getting along as nicely as you say you are. I was very glad to note that you was having a good time during Christmas. But I was really surprised that you wasn't sick if you eat all that you state you did on Christmas. What do I think of this being the first Christmas since you was thirteen that you haven't had a beau? Why I think that you are a married woman and that you are realizing that fact, but never mind my dear such is life and there are many bright days in the future.

No Santa Claus did not forget me even if I am in old Norway. In the first place I received \$2.00 from my wife. I don't remember whether I have ever told you that I have received the same or not but if I have it won't hurt to tell you and thank you for it again, will it? And if I haven't I'll have to ask your forgiveness as I certainly intended doing so. Then two of my English pupils gave me a half doz. Tea spoons. The prettiest little spoons I ever saw all fixed in a nice little box. They said they thought they might come in handy sometime. I know when you see them you'll think they are all right. I tell you I was surprised when I received them as they had them sent up from the store Christmas eve, and of course I wasn't looking for anything of the kind. You need not think that you have any the best of us on the fish question as we can get any kind of fish we want and any quantity we want here in Norway in fact that is about all some of the people live on.

This place - Kristiansund - is supported nearly entirely by fishing. Here is a fleet of about 150 small steamers and sail ships that does nothing but go out in the ocean and fish so you see we can get plenty of it here.

This place is about 100 miles from Trondhjem it takes ten hours sailing to pass between the two places. It is built on three cliffs or small rock Islands in the edge of the North sea, it has about 8,000 inhabitants nearly all of whom live by fishing or sailing. For street cars here we have boats and we can't walk from one part of the town to the other as the channels divide it so the only show is to take the street car and if it is rough you

are likely to get sea sick. Yesterday it was blowing hard and we went up on the highest point on the Island where we could look out over the Sea and watch the large waves come in and break on the rocks throwing spray high in the air. I believe I felt better on land than I would have done on the ocean. It was from this place that two of the fishing boats got wrecked this winter and most of the men on them got drowned.

A young man, one of our saints here was out in the ocean in the same storm and he said all that they could do was to keep the boat headed against the waves and the open sea in order to keep from drifting onto the rocks. I don't think a fishermans life in Norway is any to pleasant. I came down here last Saturday to visit the Elders labouring here and also the branch as we have a small branch of the church here; will stay about a week and then go back to Trondhjem.

You don't want to think that you are the only people who are having spring weather and if you was here I could treat you to the same kind of proposition that you proposed for me viz hold your head under the eaves just to let you know it's raining and if that wouldn't satisfy you I'd take you out and show you the green grass as the moss and grass out among the rocks is green even if we are in the northern part of Norway. As the Gulf stream passes right up the coast here it tempers the climate very much, but withal it is quite damp and I don't think the very healhiest climate in the world in fact I am sending one of the Elders who has been labouring here back to Copenhagen as he cannot stand the climate.

You want to know how we can tell when to go to and get out of bed. Well we go to bed when we get sleepy and get up when we can sleep no longer; and then we try to keep our watches somewhere near the right time and as for the people doing their work, what they don't get done by daylight they do by lamp light. You see if they can't do the best they learn to get along with the next best. Did I say it was raining? well it isn't for just now the sun is shining but no telling how soon it will rain again.

What is a "buster" please explain you see I have been in Norway so long I have soon forgotten the English language. I think it would make you laugh if you could hear me talk to some of these old Norwegians. I believe I am beginning to look and feel just like a Norwegian.

Remember me to "Grandpa and Grandma" Aunt Mary Hazel Eugene, Jenney and all others whom I may know, and some whom I may not know.

I am still enjoying good health and also my mission as I tell you we can get a satisfaction in doing our duty that we can find in no other place. I feel that the Lord is good to me in blessing me as he is doing and in giving me his spirit and I only hope I may be able to prove worthy of them.

Trusting this may find you feeling well and praying the Lord to ever be with you I remain your loving husband *Mathias*

Kristiansund Norway
Jan. 24 - 1907

My Dear Wife:-

I received your letters of the First and Fourth inst. both to-day, and of course was very glad to have the same. Thanks for the Photo.

I am certainly glad to know that you are getting along so nicely and having a good time which I hope you may continue to do.

As you see by this letter I have not got back to Trondhjem yet, I had intended going back yesterday but then I had to send one of the Elders labouring here back to Copenhagen on account of his health and so I'll have to stay over Sunday to assist in holding meeting as the other Elder labouring here is not able to hold meeting alone. And then it has been so windy and stormy that I have felt more like staying on land as I am not particularly fond of the sea when it is so rough; however, I'll have to go back one of the first days next week; storm or no storm.

We have just come back from the Poor House where we visited an old blind couple who are members of the Church, that is he is entirely blind and she is almost but can see enough so she can get around a little. The Elders go to visit them quite often as they feel so lonesome and say that time seems so long as they are unable to do anything but sit and talk to each other on account of their eyesight. They are very old she being 82 and he 78. Their children are scattered around in different parts of the world and apparently take little notice of the old folks who are thus forced to spend their last days in loneliness in the poor house which makes it very sad about all the enjoyment they have is when the Elders come and talk about the Gospel to them in this they take a great comfort.

I believe I told you in my last letter about this being a fishing town. Last week in one night the boats from this place caught 8,500 kegs of herring and as there is from 500 to 600 herrings in a keg or barrell you can form some kind of an idea of the enormous amount of fish caught here as whenever the weather is favourable they go out and fish but of course they don't always catch that many. It is quite a sight to see them come in with the fish piled in large heaps on the deck. The herring are caught in nets which they let down into the ocean having floaters attached to the top and sinkers to the bottom and when the herring come along to feed they get tangled up in these nets or rather they get their heads through the holes in the net and the holes are too small for them to get through and their gills prevent them from going back and so they are caught. After they bring them in here they are salted and packed and then sent to all parts of the world. This salting and packing makes work for a great many people especially women and girls who do the biggest part of the work. Many of the women here make their living by working with the fish. After the first of March they begin catching Cod fish and of course this also produces a great deal of work as it has to be cleaned and then salted and dried. I am informed that a great deal of this work is also done by women and they tell me that during the

season that they are drying Cod fish the cliffs surrounding this place is literally covered with fish and women, so when you eat Cod fish again just try and imagine the process it has gone through before reaching the table and what hardships some one has had to endure to provide the same. First the sturdy fisherman who fearlessly braves the Ocean storms and Currents to catch it. Then if you can picture a poor old woman bent with age and hardship walking on the cliffs in the cold percing wind watching the fish dry and ready to gather it up and put it under cover in case of storm or if the sun shines to hot to protect it from that as either one is injurious to the fish. While much of this seems to us to be a rather hard life, yet it is the way a good many people here have of making their living and they seem to be satisfied and happy with their lot. Well, I suppose you think I am writing a funny letter but never mind I'll try and do better next time and perhaps then I'll think of something that may be inter- esting to you.

You say that you and Jenney made some New Years Resolutions. I hope they were good ones and then that you will keep them as you know that to make resolutions and not keep them is worse than to not make them at all. If we are ever going to become perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect which is the Saviours injunction to his deciples we will have to do it by making resolutions and then keeping them and practicing them until they become part of our very natures. I can't say that i have made nor written down any resolutions but I hope that I will be able each day to do a little better than I have done the day before; to overcome some fault or failing or conquer some weakness and in their place establish some good trait or charactaristic or some virtue, in short to make what is good and noble and elevating, more of a power in my life, make it part of my nature. I believe this is what resolutions should lead to and that this is the only way in which we will attain unto perfection. But excuse me if I'm not carefull I'll be preaching again.

Give my best regards to "Aunt Mary" "Grandma and Grandpa" Hazel, "Eugene, Verna, Jennie, Myrtle and all the rest of them that I may know.

Congratulate Eugen Robson for me on his choice of a lady who has such excellent judgement. I'll try and keep my head small enough so I can wear my old hat as I can't afford a new one. Trusting this will find you well as it leaves me and ever Prayin the Lord for your good and and welfare I remain

Your loving husband
Mathias

Hooper Utah
Jan. 25. 1907

My Dear Husband:-

Your kind and welcome letter of Jan. 5 was received. I am very glad you or well - am that you enjoyed your self so well during Xmas and new years. I hope you will be that way all the time your away. I am quite well. There is a great deal of sickness in Hooper at presant and seven deaths inside of fiveteen days. I don't think that so slow. The weather is very cold. Sleighing is the best I've seen for a long time. Sam Olsen and his siter came and took me for a ride Sun. evening We went to M.I.A. all so. We had some popcorn balls and keep taking them away from each other. We passed Earl and he yelled out Look out Sam she married. He sayes well Earl I just come from a place where married men were on missions and I know how they act so were all right. Well the ride was all right so was the crowd and so was the meeting. There is a theator in the hall tonight a swell affair by the way the add goes. But I am not there. Aunt Mary and I have been fixing things and cooking for Veta's birthday party tomorrow she is six years old Sun. of all spoilt kids she is one. The only girl amoung six boys. We just shortened baby's clothes yesterday he is just as pertty as a picture. Grandpa and Grandma are haveing pretty good health for them Grandma is staying in Ogden for a few days. Jennie sayes she is batching and would like me to bring down my basket of butter for the children were so much bother she just could not churn. I guess I won't go, because walking is crowded.

You have written and told me several times that nonsense should not be written. Perhapps not but I cannot write a letter or any thing else without nonsense. Maby you don't care to read such trash, take up to much time. I think a little nonsense mixed up with common sense is a very good tonic. I will not be so stingy as to accept of all your love so give Jennie, a cousins love any way. I was reading about Viola Mc. getting married was some what suprised. Uncle Wm. & Aunt Joe were married last Wen. Well I told you every thing I can think of except our neighbour had an increase in the family to-day. I don't know wheather tis a girl are a child. Earl put a blanket on the mule to night and he all most tied him self in a knot. Has been talking and scolding every since. I will just stop writing nonsense to night my dear so Aervoir

I remain Yours as ever
Margaret.

P.S. T'is firce the way tads or snoring in the other room. makes one think of the haunted mill.

Stenkjar Norway
Feb. 4 - 1907

Dear Wife:-

I received your letter of Jan 13 yesterday and must say that I was glad to hear from you and to learn that you are getting along so well and I hope you will continue to do the same.

I am still feeling fine and enjoying my labours. I feel that the Lord is blessing me and giving me strength to perform the work that is required of me so I have indeed much to be thankful for. As you will see by the heading of this letter I am now at Stenkjar and it may surprise you when I tell you that I am traveling at the expense of the Norwegian Government and I believe it is the first time the state of Norway has paid the traveling expenses of a Mormon Elder but as they pay the Lutheran ministers for preaching to the people I can't see why they ought not to pay my expenses also though of course I have a different story to tell than the Ministers have, but I'll have to explain.

As the Elders are traveling around so much and frequently have their address changed they nearly all have their mail addressed to Wessels Gade 7 Thjem and when it comes there I forward it to them as I am generally posted on their whereabouts. On Dec 6 a letter came through the office for Elder John A. Israelsen who is labouring at Levanger and of course I forwarded it as usual but when it reached him it had been opened and a draft for \$20 on "Privat Banken i Thjem" (Trondhjems Privat Bank) was missing. Of course the first thing Elder Israelsen did was to write me and ask if I had noticed the letter being open when it passed through the office and telling of the draft missing. I immediately went to the Bank to find out if such a draft had been cashed and if not to prevent payment on the same if it was presented. The draft had not been presented at the Bank and of course they were willing to hold the draft if it came in until the right party presented himself. About Dec 27 I again went to the Bank and was then informed that the draft had been presented for payment but that they were holding the same until the party to whom it belonged came to claim the money. A man claiming to be a drummer had come in from Levanger and registered at one of the Hotels as John A. Israelsen and after registering had produced the check, endorsed it and asked the porter to take it to the Bank and cash it for him as he was very busy this the porter did but at the Bank was told that Mr. Israelsen would have to appear in person to receive the money. He then started back for the hotel and on the way met Mr. Israelsen and informed him of what they had said at the bank after which he returned to the Hotel and Mr. Israelsen started for the Bank. This was the last that was seen of John A. Israelsen No 2 as he did not go to the Bank and also failed to return to the Hotel. And now the officers would like to make his acquaintance. As Elder Israelsen came down to Thjem during Xmas I went with him to the Bank and got his money, and the matter was given into the hands of the Police at Levanger, and they have been working on the case since and as I was the one who reported the matter at Trondhjem I was summoned to Levanger and tell them what I knew about the case and that only took about fifteen minutes and

after that I was allowed to do whatever I pleased but as I came there on the order of the Police they of course paid my Rail Road ticket and also for the time spent in traveling so I received enough for my trouble to pay my way up here and back and so I say I am traveling on the expense of the Norwegian Government. At Levanger there has been so much prejudice that we have been unable to secure a place to hold meetings in but the boys finally succeeded in getting a hall and advertised a meeting for Thursday Jan 31. We had a fine meeting. The house was packed and all listened very attentively to us while we in our weak way tried to tell them what Mormonism is. After meeting we distributed a lot of tracts and books and I hope we did some good. The Lord was with us to a wonderful degree and we all went home rejoicing. I learned after meeting that the Methodist Minister was present which rather surprised me as he had been writing some pretty hard things about us in the papers.

As the Elders who are labouring here was also down to Levanger I came back with them and we held a meeting here yesterday and had a fine time it was at a private house but the room was full and all listened attentively. I expect to leave here about Wednesday and if we can get a place to hold meeting in a small town down the line from here I'll stop there and hold a meeting and then go from there to Trondhjem. So you see I am getting a chance to preach the Gosple to quite a lot of people and having the Government pay my traveling expense. We are having winter up here too; quite a lot of snow and also quite cold, that is it is cold today but yesterday it was fine. Yes I have a mustach started that is the root of it is there, but my razor has been in pretty good shape yet so my mustach don't show up any more than it did at home. I did let it come out so I could count the hairs once but as there were six on one and only five on the other side I cut them off again; it was onesided. Do I feel like a married man? Why to be sure I do or at least I suppose I do as I have so many things to think about I hardly know how I do feel.

Kindest regards to all friends and acquaintances. Trusting this will find you still improving and with an earnest prays to my Heavenly Father for your welfare I remain

Your loving husband
Mathias

Hooper Utah
Feb. 7. 1907.

Dear Husband:-

It has quite raining now and so warm the old man had to pull off his coat. Water and mud everywhere, but not enough to use for street cars. There is all kinds of excitement over water around here. More so in Ogden. Uncle Will and wife had to move in the middle of the night because the water from Ogden river run them out. He said that mill on the bank was in four foot of water.

I received your letter last night and was endeved pleased to hear from you. When I have to wait two weeks to get a letter from you seem a long time but I'm very glad when I do get one if its only a post card.

Are you sure your health is quite good. It being so damp you better be careful. I am feeling fine. Grandpa and Grandma are going to Cal. on the fiveteenth of inst. just for fun. Uncle Lawrence is down there waiting for them to come. They have moved into their new house and have everything new in it. My dear you won't know them when you return. The old folks or as comfortables as need be. The only thing I fear Grandma wont live many years to enjoy it. She has very nearly had phnemonia all week. We have been working hard to pervent it and I think she is better and will get along all right.

I went down and helped them move so of course that was done O.K.

A week ago tuesday there was a ragtime dance I was down to Grandma's and never had only my working clothing on Jennie wanted me to go to it. So I told her if she would dress me up I go. So she got her skirts and Grandmas waist and Hazels collar put them on me. I wore Jennie's coat and she wore Grandpa's overcoat so we went to the dance and I danced three or four times - just think I danced. IT DID SEEM GOOD TO ME. We fooled around over there untill three thirty in the morning. The funny part was Grandpa just let us sleep till six thirty. And oh what a difference in the morning.

I should think you would be use to the water so as not get sea sickness. Say while we or so for apart lets not put each other in the water just for fun.

You ask what a buster was, I wont tell you, when you come home I show you wont that do?

I to am enjoying your mission and get satisfaction of out of knowing you are satisfide May the Lord lead, comfort, and bless you I remain your loveing wife

Margaret.

P.S. I will soon be off to dream land making as much noise as those in the next room and dreaming of -----

Trondhjem Norway
Feb. 16 - 1907

My Dear Wife:-

I have received your letter of the 25th ult. and can assure you that I was just as glad as ever to hear from you and to learn that you are getting along all right which I sincerely hope you may continue to do as when I know that you are getting along all right I can go about my work feeling happy and contented and as I just had a letter from Andrew and he stated that all

was well with them so you see I have all reasons to be feeling good especially as I myself am enjoying the best of health and the Lord is blessing me with his spirit so that I am enjoying my labours very much. I have been very busy since I got back from my trip as there was so much work collected while I was away that I have been working hard to catch up and am still catching up.

Say my dear last Thursday was Valentine day and I should have sent you a Valentine but I had forgotten all about it til Thursday morning when I went to do some writing and looked at the heading I had put down Feb. 14 then it dawned upon me that it was Vaentine day and as it was then too late I hope you'll excuse me his time and I'll try and do better another time.

You say that you have fine sleighing, well, I can say the same for this place, we have quite a lot of snow and still snowing off and on. But you do have the start of me in having had a sleigh ride as that is something I haven't had and don't expect to have as if I want to go any- where here I generally walk. "Walking isn't crowded in this country" But I am glad that "our" friends at home remember you and give you a little enjoyment and hope you may have more good times a coming. Did Sam Olsen give you a bad impression of the conduct of the married men who were on missions? Now I am behaving myself fine, and if you don't beleive it why just wait till I come home and I'll prove it to you; or if you can't wait that long why just call in and spend a day or two with us and I'll prove to you that I'm "walking the line". Pretty good opinion of myself haven't I? I don't think they are sending many married men out on missions now. In this Conference out of twenty missionaries we are five married men four old bachelors, (if I haven't been so lucky there might have been five) and seven young men all of whom ought to be married and four boys who are too young to get married yet. So you see we are just enough married men to keep the others straight, that is, kind a keep an eye on them and keep them in line. So we put on our most imposing air, (Is that right? I have forgotten a great deal of my English) and austere looks, walk straight to the mark and if the others get out of line bring them back in again with a glance of the eye, or, if they are a little obstreperous, with a shake of the head. Now perhaps you can see why the boy when they come home sometimes intimate that the married men don't act as good as the boys out here. And then, "US MARRIED MEN", are so much better looking, more intelligent, and have had so much greater experience than the "boys" that we take all the "shine" from them, and when they are with us they lose their luster even as the poor glass imitation loses its luster and sinks into insignificance when placed side by side with the genuine Diamond. Now are you not glad that your husband is a married man? You see the boys have cause to be jealous. But they will perhaps be men some day and then they'll be able to see things just as they are. Now don't think I am getting conceited for I'm not but these are hard, cold, logical, uncontradictable facts. (Maybe "Nonsense" would be a better word there but I am reminded that I mustn't write nonsense).

Sorry to hear there is so much sickness in Hooper and do hope that you will escape the same and that conditions have improved ere this. There is quite

a lot of sickness here also due I beleive to a great extent to the changeable weather we've been having. Several of our Saints have been sick but so far we've had no deaths and I beleive that all of them are now on the improve.

Did I tell you in my last letter that the Moreland Relief Society sent me fifteen dollars? Very good wasn't it? I tell you it came as a surprise to me as I had never thought of such a thing but was thankfully received just the same and hope I'll be able to spend it wisely.

Days are beginning to be a little longer again now and when it is clear the sun shines a little all of which makes it more cheerful. Next week there is going to be a big meet of Sports here, with racing on "Ski" (Snow Shoes) and skates. The racing lasts for four days and I think will be very interesting as skaters and "Ski" experts from all parts of the world will be here to participate. I think there will be racing for the World Championship. The King is expected here to attend the meet so you can see it is no small insignificant affair but will tell you more about it next time I write if I get a chance to see it.

Well, I don't know of anything that would be of particular interest to you as our work out here you may say is one continual round of Preaching the Gospel, explaining the Scriptures, refuting lies and stories that are told by the thousands about the Mormons; and teaching those who have received the Gospel how to live in compliance with its laws and encouraging them to be faithful in all things and in spite of the persecution they are subjected to especially when they first accept the Gosple. In some instances this goes no farther than being rediculed by their friends but in some cases their own folks turn against them. In a town that I visited while away from here we have two young ladies who belong to the Church and they informed me that if they happened to go out on the street of an evening together people would often shout after them calling them a great many tough names and sometimes even crowds would follow them and address them in language that is neither fit to be spoken nor written. At another place where we have two sisters who are members of the Church working at the same place they told me that about the only kind words they ever received was when they were talking to the Elders. So you see they sometimes have a little to go through for the Gosple yet. As ever, praying the blessings of the Lord to be upon you and his watch care to over you I remain your affectionate husband

Mathias.

Kindly remember me to all the "folks", you know who I mean without me writing their names. I was talking with a lady the other day whose husband is a sailor and she told me when I wrote to my wife I ought always to write love letters. That that is what her husband does and she thinks it all right. So I started out to-day to write a love letter but as you know I don't know how so this is the result. But you understand.

Excuse all misspelled words and poor writing a I have one on each side of me

learning to read Norwegian and when they get stuck I have to help them and am trying to write at the same time.

Hooper Utah
Feb. 22. 1907

My Dear Husband

I received your kind letter of 4 inst. I was endeued pleased to hear from you I am enjoying very good health. We are still enjoying rainie weather.

The sun has been shinning to much to last. So last night it began to rain has been raning all day and is still raining. I was going to selebrate Washintons birthday but there was more water going than I cared for.

The school children had a dance but none of us went, there is one tonight. The owner of the hall has put down a new floor. I don't care to help wear it of so I'll remain at home.

We are only eleven in faimly. I tell Aunt Mary and Uncle Gene they will have to enlarge their house. Jennie and Hazel live here now. Grandpa and Grandma or in Los Angles Cal. They left here on the 15 of inst. They had to lay in Salt Lake untill 5:20 Saterday on account of a washout in Nebraska. Grandma felt quite punk when she left but stood the trip fine. Uncle Lawrence is there to show them around. Grandma's bro's wife and children live in Tulare and they will go there on returning home.

Mable said to send you her love because you look just like a boy she went with once. Jennie says you must be afraid of yourself maybe her name will be Benson then she'll show you.

I received a letter from Jael she said Lorena England and Al Benson would soon be man and wife.

Oh; say I sent Henry an hugley post card and made him hot at me. Jael sayes he and Lola or at outs. Has he written you since you've been gone? Did you get the Xmas News"? How are you spending Washington Birthday. Telling the little tads how he never told a lie. Did Cupid visit you on the 14 inst?

The joley urchins were all around here. I guess you think me a hot one for not answering your last letter. But I--- I--- wont you tak the will for the deed. Earl just came in and insistes on me going to the dance. Has the horse and buggie waiting for me so Aervior

With lots of love I remain
Margaret

Hooper Utah
Mar. 5. 1907

My Dear Husband:

Your letter of Feb 16 and was more than pleased to hear from you again and to know you to or getting along alright. To I am very glad the sailor's wife was good enough to give advice to one who stood so much in need. Don't you think so? By the strain of your letter I would judge you were feeling in good spirits when you wrote it. And such letters make me feel so good. I guess I must confess I'm glad your a married man after getting those hard, cold, logical and uncontradictable facts. I can just imagin how dark, and cloudy you look when "One of the boys get off the track." I see them in my dreams.

On of the Hooper families "Haynes" have lived here fivty years now they or going to Canada to live. He has been President of Choir for twenty five years so they (the good Saints of Hooper) gave a farewell party last night, and a time that it was. We had lots of time to sit around and eat and talk between acts. There was a program well t'was one oclock when I retired. I have been visiting grandma Belnap to day She has been quite ill. When I went in she wanted to know how her jolley little girl was and also her blessed husband She is seventy eight and does the work for her and one boy. I could not get away untill nearly 8:30 P.M. When I got home Jennie made me help her with a theator part and t'is now 12:30 I feer there will be such a difference in the morning. The girls or going bugs over a theator The "Mechanics Reprieve" Jennie is "John Rogers" a young mechanic. There is eight male charactors and girls are taking them. I have teased Jennie untill she said she would find out how she did look so she has on Lawrence's hat and coat and Earl's pants, the only objection I have is the big la oll in the sicle the son sits on. She sayes this is the first dress rehersal and knows she has your faith and prayers.

Grandpa sent me one post card and, t'was pretty, to help fill my album. I am feeling find and Dandy. Only want a bit of peace quiteness. t'is now 1:oclock so I will remain Aervoir

Your loving wife
Margaret B.

P.S. O that I had only the time (and opportunity) to send you a season ticket to the great unparaelled entrancing stage success which is about to take flight I fear - however which is about to favor Hooper's most appreciative audience. Your own good wife I have appointed my prompt and business manager so more need not be said concerning the results thereof. My heart o'er swims with joy this night as you will doubtless be surprised to hear I have changed my name, even if it was not the one I had thought of adopting. I now remain -- John Rogers Jr.

Trondhjem Norway
March 5 - 1907

Dear Wife:-

It is now nearly a week ago since I wrote you a card and at that time I said I would write a letter after a few days so I guess I had better be getting at it or it will be many days instead of a few days. I have received your card of Feb 11 and am glad to hear that you are well and busy as I must confess that I am, in fact it seems that the days are hardly long enough to get everything done that ought to be done, but I guess that is a good thing because if the days were so long that I didn't know what to do with them I am afraid I'd get homesick but as it is I haven't time. I have too many other things to think about. From the 22 to the 25th of Feb. we had a time of sport here. There being skating for the Worlds Championship. I went and seen them one day and I thought it was fine, besides racing they had fancy skating and dancing on skates and of course it was something new and novel to us. The Norwegians are certainly experts on skates and some of the figures they could cut on the ice was simply wonderful; and as for the dancing I never saw as graceful a dance as to see them waltz on skates, keeping perfect time to the music and gracefulness in every move as they glide over the ice. They also danced the Mezurka which was also very pretty. It was much more interesting to watch than a circus. The racing was also fine and was really surprising to see what speed they can develop on skates. The fastest skater there made a distance of about eight miles in nineteen minutes and forty five seconds it was very interesting to watch them. They also had races on "Ski" (snow shoes). The most interesting of these was the jumping contest. They have a place fixed on the side of a steep hill something like they use for leaping the gap on a bicycle only of course this is on the hill side and as they come down the hill at a violent speed they make a jump and sometimes jump a long distance down the hill. The place they fixed in fact is a narrow platform built on the hill side and as they come down and run out on this it of course throws them out from the hill. The longest jump made was a little over 108 ft. It was all very interesting to witness.

In going up to the mountain where they had this jumping we had to go through a great deal of snow and in fact the road looked like a canal in the snow about four to six feet deep that is the snow along the side of the road where they had opened it with the snow plow was five and six feet high in some places being higher than our heads and as the mountains are covered with pine trees the sight was very pretty and we enjoyed it very much.

Last week we had some of the worst snow storms I have ever seen and the snow here in the streets piled up so much that along the side walks where they have shoveled the snow off to make them passable there are snow piles as high as a persons head. The people are still busy hauling it off. All this week so far it has been as fine a weather as one could wish to see.

Last Friday and Saturday we advertised that we would Lecture on whether Joseph Smith was a Prophet or imposter. The result was we had a house

packed full of strangers, and as the lot fell to me to do the talking, I felt very weak and somewhat shaky but tried in my weak way to tell them our belief and our claims concerning the Prophet Joseph and also a few of the evidences we have to prove that our claims are true. We had such a good turn out that we are going to try it again because if we can get the Gosple before them be giving it in the form of a lecture it is certainly worth trying.

I was glad to note in your last letter that your Grandparents are comfortably situated and that they are getting along so nicely in their new home. It always gives me pleasure to see old folks who have about finished their term in this life spend the last period of their lives in happiness and contentment but how many are there not who spend their last days otherwise and I do hope that your grandparents may now have strength and health that they may enjoy the fruits of their labours So don't fail to extend to them my congratulations and best wishes for them in their new home that they may live to enjoy the same for many years.

Say my dear I had a big surprise the other day I got a letter from Lewis Robbins and he send me \$25.45 which he said the Y.M.M.I.A. had donated for me. Wasn't that fine? I can assure you it came as a great surprise to me; but made me feel good to think my friends at home have not forgotten me. Well, I can't think of anything else that might be interesting to you so maybe I had better quit. You see we have much the same routine to go through up here all the time; That is talk and strive to get the gosple before the people; and when the Lord is blessing us and strengthening us in this work we have cause to feel joyful and thankful and I can assure you we do so.

Now my dear I hope you are still enjoying health and that you are enjoying life. And I trust that the Lord will bless you and protect you and be with you in all things and at all times.

Kindly remember me to all relations and friends.

Hoping to hear from your again soon. I remain as ever

Your affectionate husband
Mathias

Hooper Utah
March 15, 07

My Dear Hubbie:-

I received a card from "my buisy body" to day but I was so glad to hear he was well. Those few lines looked very good to me. We or haveing a few lessons on dress making to night and a little theator and a chapter from the History of Utah, until I can't tell what I'm writing about.

Say the little girl on the post card is a beauty or they all as good looking as she? I have come to the conclusion that I don't want to be a farmers wife in Norway. I am afraid you will be entirely spoilt and I'll have a dreadful time traning you over. If the women or as good to you as they or to some. I received a very sad letter from Henry telling me of his grief, said he and Lola had broken their engagement and he had loved his last. Oh t'was full of sorrow but so sweet. He has not written me for quite a long time I am truely sad about the case. Lester is trembling all over wondering what they or going to do with him now. He thinks he would like to go to Austraila if he is called on a mission.

I can not imagone him being old enough to be a man. And to go on a mission t'is a dream to me, Only a short time since he was about ----- three foot six. Really these guies wont let me write there. Hazel is trying to kiss a cold sore off my lip. If t'were you I may not object. Jennie sayes she would write but John is a tailor now making overjumpers for Miss Skofield to weare to Conference next Sun. Sunday School in Ogden I don't think I will ask the kids to be still many more times.

Oh Dear after chasing a mouse about the pantry and the kids to bed I will try and proceed.

I and Aunt Mary have been doing Grandma's washing to day and our own Wed. besides I made a waist and a part of another for Hazel and an apron and did it all this just think. Ahem ----- If I stay with Aunt May this summer I'll be a model house keeper, jack of all trades.

I was reading a peace in the paper about the good Sisters of Moreland getting up a party and sending the proceeds to M. J. Benson. I read the other night Andrew had been released from Y.L.M.I.A. Abrum Hatch put in his place.

Say do you know Father just thinks me terrible but I did not know it untill this week. He in writing to gradma told her I had gotten above receiving advice and counsle from him. It just made me sick for I never dreamed of such a thing and for him to tell grandma that. Grandpa and Grandma or still in Cal. and enjoying life.

We had a very nice snow storm Monday but the wind soon melted it away t'is blowing very hard to night. Well my love I must close so aervoir with fond hopes and best wishes I remain

Your loving wife
Margaret.

P.S. This is the initials of a woman who's Husband died near us. Mrs. S.S.M.S.R.R.J.G. child.

Moreland
3.13.09

Mrs. Margaret Benson

Dear Margaret

It is my turn to get married to I will be married on the 20th in the Logan Temple and will have a super on the 28th of March. and would like you come up.

Well good by Lorena

At last I hope she is satisfied. I guess the unlucky man is A. Benson Marrie is what she wanted and I hope she gets her fill. Crazy Lorena What do you call this note at the top?

Trondhjem Norway
March 16-1907

My Dear Wife:-

Your letter of Feb. 22 was received on the 11th inst and your card of Feb 28th this morning, thanks for the same and for the "handsome"? valentine but as I am no Rail Road Engineer or engineer of any other kind but just a common Mormon Missionary I'll not take the hint and get up on the shelf if that is what you mean. Yes I realize I am going down the path of life although I have a few more years to live before I am 73 years old but my hair is beginning to get thin on top of the head and you don't want to be surprised if it is quite shiny by the time I get back. I don't know that I have any very large wrinkles yet but I suppose they'll come with time. I was very glad to hear from you and to hear that you are well and I do hope that you may continue to be so. You say you have been having lots of rain over there; here it has been different we've just had snow and winter is still in full swing although to-day has showed slight indications of a thaw so it may soon change but I don't suppose we need look for spring much before May. A few days ago I had the privilege of seeing the "Northern lights" in their full glory; and I must say it was a fine sight. One night it was a little cloudy and the whole heavens were covered with rays of light of different colors all changing rapidly till it looked almost like flashes. The other night it was almost clear but the heavens was lit up in the north just about as if the sun was getting ready to rise there. The rays of light shot up from the horizon and while they were not so many coloured it was nevertheless a grand sight especially for one not accustomed to seeing it. You see we have something to amuse ourselves out here to even if we don't have a chance to go to dances and theatres ect. and I dare say we get more real pleasure out of them and it don't cost us a cent either; but you know such things are worth seeing and I only wish you could have the chance of seeing them I know you would enjoy it. Yes Henry wrote me once when I first came here which I answered but I haven't heard from him since. I don't blame him for getting mad if you sent him an ugly postal card. To bad him

and Lola are at outs but then you know there is many a slip twixt the cup and the lip and all is not smooth sailing in this life but then what does a little lovers quarrel like that amount to anyway, it is worse when married people are at outs; and if they are going to be at outs better so before there are closer ties than friendship or what shall I call it - lovers ties. Yes I got the Xmas News O.K. It was fine and the people here were surprised to see such a larger paper especially when I told them it was just one issue of our leading paper in Salt Lake City. Near everyone who comes in has had to look through it and as they can't read it I've had to explain to them all about the pictures. It has been used so much that it is almost wore out the cover being entirely gone.

I started this letter this morning and got this far when I was called out to administer to a sick boy and when I came back there were two young ladies who are investigating the Gosple came in and I spent the afternoon explaining the Gosple to them and then this evening some of the saints came in and now it is eleven oclock but I'm going to finish this letter before I go to bed; but now you've heard my troubles and this will give you a pretty good idea of how I spend my time. Thank Mabel very much for her love and if you can spare it give her a bit of mine in return.

Ask Jenney to explain herself. What does she mean by my being afraid of myself? Won't she show me if her name don't get to be Benson? You see this maby is so uncertain and I like to be sure and certain of what I may expect. In other words I don't like to be in suspense. O! say a thought just occured to me I beleive I know what she means. But, tell her to send a more difinite explanation anyway then I'll be certain; you know I'm kind of slow in comprehending such things. If it had been something pertaining to missionary work I may have caughty on a little sooner. Well, never mind just give her a bit of my love. But say my dear is that quite the right thing for a married man to do? I mean sending a bit of his love to the girls? However I guess there can be no harm in it as I am sending it through you, and then when it is in the family too., The Bible says we should love all men and I suppose it means women and girls too.

I suppose you will think I am getting light minded when you get this but you said in one of your letters that you thought a little nonsense was good at times and as I have written this now I'll sent it and then try and do better next time; and as it is getting late and I didn't sleep good last night I had better go to bed. I was talking with one of the saints here last night at singing practice a girl about twenty one years of age who has been a member of the church for some time and her parents are very bitter against her and from what I could learn treat her most shamefully at times on account of her having joined the church and as she was telling me of some of the things she has to put up with it kind of worked me up a little in my feeling and after going to bed instead of going to sleep I lay and thought of her and some of the other saints here and a wondering what could be done to get such narrow minded people to have a Christian spirit as they all claim to be Christians; but when they have such a spirit that they will heap abuse on the head of their own child and make conditins such that she is at

times afraid to go home and trust herself to the care of her own parents and not know what time she may be turned out on the street and all on account of differing in religion. Such people haven't much of a human spirit let alone a Christian Spirit. And while I refer to this one we have others who condition is not much better. But what is the use of telling you about all our trouble, you can't make matters any better and I am only thankful that you are away from the great amount of misery we see of and on out here although we can see some little of it at home at times. This however will give you an idea of some of the things we have to put up with out here. I am feeling fine and do hope that you are the same, as ever praying the Lord for your protection and welfare I am your affectionate husband *Mathias*

Kindly remember me to Aunt Mary, Hazel, Eugene and everybody

Hooper Utah
March 22, 07

My Dear Husband:-

Your most kind and welcome letter came last night but I was not at home was sleeping with Grandma Belnap (grandpa's first wife) She was alone for two days and nights so I went and stayed with her. Your letter was here waiting to be read, when I came home this morning.

I am glad you're enjoying yourself and are still able to get your head above the top of the snow. The big meet must of been quite a swell affair But you can tell me more about such things when you come back can't you dearie? Well that won't be long only another year.

The people of Moreland are very good to you most everybody is better to you in that line than your wife. Now that I have grown stronger I will get out and do some thing instead of lounging around here. I told Aunt Mary I was going to wear my welcome out. She says that is impossable. Uncle Eugene said I had to stay untill you came back than he wasn't so sure about letting me go. I told him that was you and him for it. The Relief Society had a big due here last Saturday or I mean Tuesday in the afternoon they had a program and picnic and an old folks dance at night. I was one of the "old ladies" so of course I went and I had as good a time as I have had in a long time from two until two. But there was such a difference in the morning I my last letter I told you Mr. Child was dead. He was a very large man weighing about three hundred and ninety pounds. They were unable to take him out through the door so they took out the bay window. How is that for size?

There was a very strange death in here "Hooper ville" this week a Walter Green was found dead in a ditch with a horse on top of him. Tis eveident the horse killed him.

Grandpa and Grandma are in San Francisco now having a tip top time Grandma says she is better than she has been for twenty year.

I don't think I told you I was taking part in this grand theater that is to come off one week from next Tuesday. Well, I am Mrs Meria Bings a man hater. There is no males in the girls are taking boy's parts so we are bent on a good time. The Y.L.M.I.A. is doing it alone.

We are haveing more wind than our share. Night before last there was a great deal of damage done, I can't tell what all windows broken houses turned over. But I slept on in peace and quietness while most people were frightened out of their wits.

The Odgen river is higher than has ever known to be before. The water just lacks four in. of touching the bridge on Washington Ave.

Jennie is not home to night but I am so tired I can't see what I writing.

I do not know whether this will reach you before or after your birthday. But I wish you many happy returns of your birthday and happy remeberances of your wedding day. Hoping that you too are still enjoying good health and life. And I pray the Lord to bless you and his Holy spirit to guide you I remain your loveing wife

Only a wee small token A book mark that's all

Roros Norway
March 23 - 1907

Dear Wife:-

Just a couple of lines to let you know that I am still alive and well as usual. I came up to this place - Roros - yesterday to visit a few saints whom are living here; and expect to stay for two or three days when I return to Trondhjem again.

This is a little mining town located up in the tops of the mountains about 2,000 ft over sea level and while that is not quite half as high as Utah is it is high for this country which you can realize when I tell you it is right in the edge of the timber line that is when we get up higher the trees wont grow and even this is too high for pine trees and nothing but a scrub birch will grow up here.

King winter still reigns supreme and the cold makes your ears and nose sting when you get outside. It would be hard to tell how much snow there would be if it was all leveled out but as the wind blows so much it blows the snow together in huge drifts which are all the way from six to twelve feet and even deeper. The people walk around irregardles of roads gates fences or anything else as they are all covered up and in many place it is difficult to tell where they are. A good many of the small houses and cabins are almost snowed in and the people have to dig their way out. So you see there is not much sign of spring here yet. It is still blowing and drifting just as if it might be Christmas instead of March. While on the way up here

yesterday I saw some of the grandest winter scenes that I ever witnessed in fact I think it would be hard to find a grander scene. For quite a distance the R.R. lays along the west side of a mountain. Looking to the west we see away down below us a deep narrow valley perhaps from a half to a mile wide along the bottom of which winds a stream. Along the other side of this valley is a low mountain all covered with pines between which the dots of white snow glistened in the sunlight. Forming a background to this was or I should say is a long high mountain; bare and bleak towering above the tree line and covered with snow which being whirled and driven by the wind glistened in the sunlight like a cloud of Diamonds. It certainly formed a picture no artist can paint. There are also many other pretty scenes along the line but if I tell you about any more I suppose you'll think that I am getting stuck on Norway or I should perhaps say Norwegian Scenery. So I'll just say we have some fine winter scenes here. If cold weather and winter should hold out as long over home as it does up here I don't know what we'd think but out here it seems quite natural that it should be so and it seems that the winter has a charm here that it does not have at home; perhaps it is because of the mass of snow and the power it exhibits that makes it that way and it may be on account of expecting it that way; which makes us prepared for it; That is we are prepared to take it that way.

Last Sunday after meeting there was a man a stranger to us wanted to ask some questions which of course we granted and pretty soon we got into a discussion and had it up and down for three good hours but were no nearer an understanding when we quit than when we started as he stuck to his idea and I to mine and we both tried to prove our doctrines from the bible. He was an expert however in turning and twisting the scriptures something which of course I could not agree to and so the results was as stated, we were no nearer an understanding when we quit than when we started.

Well, my dear I hope you are enjoying health and feeling well in every other respect as I am pleased to say that I am. I certainly feel that the Lord is blessing me away beyond my own worthiness and my desire is to make myself worthy of these blessings in the future. I am getting to see many things and coming in contact with much that I know will be of a benefit to me if I only profit by the same You see I have hopes of being better when I get through with my mission than I was when I came or at least to know a little more and I know you hope the same so I am trying to profit by what I see and learn.

Excuse this big paper as it was all I had handy and I'll send some thing larger next time. Kindly remember me to your grandparents if you write also Aunt Mary uncle Eugene, Jenney, Hazel and all the rest. As ever praying the Lord for your behalf and welfare I remain your loving husband

Mathias

Thjem Norway
March 30-1907

My Dear Wife:-

Your kind and welcome letter of the 8th inst received; as I always am glad I was very glad to hear from you again and to know that all was well with you; and I do hope and pray that the same may continue to be the case.

You seem to think I stood in need of advice in regards to writing love letters; well, I suppose I do if you say so but you know that even if I am no hand at writing love letters or perhaps don't show my affections outwardly as some do, they are there just the same.

We have also had a party up here for two who have now left us; and it was rather a sad party too. One of our Elders who have been labouring here for two years was released and so the saints wanted to have a party for him but what made it somewhat sad was the fact that one of the members a young lady who has been very faithful and energetic; but has been sickly for some time was at that time compelled to quit her work and go home; her home being north of here but she being a dress maker has been working here in Trondhjem. Upon consulting a doctor here he said she had consumption and he could hold out no hope for her so she decided to return to her home and so we had a party for the two but as you can no doubt realize we all had somewhat of a sad feeling. However before leaving we administered to her and she felt much better and I certainly felt and feel yet that notwithstanding the doctor says that no earthly power can save her that she will yet get well and I felt to make her that promise; and while the doctor may be right that no earthly power can save her there is a higher power that can. But then you know such circumstances made all feel a kind of gloomy.

This week we have had a series of Holidays as Thursday and Friday preceding Easter are among their principal Holidays in this country; during those days all traffic and business is suspended and people are supposed to give themselves up to worship. Sunday (Easter) and Monday following are also great Holidays so you see we are getting a whole bunch of them at once. Thursday is celebrated to commemorate the institution of the Sacrament, and the betrayal; Friday, to commemorate the Crucifixion and Sunday and Monday the Resurrection.

The snow is fast disappearing here now and if it keeps on a few more days like it has been yesterday and today we will soon be looking for spring however I fear we'll not have much spring for a month yet; but it seems quite nice now that the days are a little longer and the sun beginning to shine a little when it is clear.

Sorry I wasn't there to assist Jenney a little. I might have given her a few pointers you know but then I suppose you did your best, and that should be my best as you know man and wife ought to be one. What is the reason they have to dress up for boys haven't they got enough of them in Hooper? I know the Scriptures say that the time will come when seven women shall cling

to one mans coat tail but I didn't think they--the men--had got so scarce that they--the women--have to dress to represent men. Tell Jennie that I know she did fine and as for that objectionable roll; the tailor when he made the pants has evidently had no idea that they would be worn over dresses perhaps if she had some made a purpose that objection could be eliminated.

Well, my dear as I have had a description of the first dress rehearsal I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of the mail that will bring tidings of the success of the play. You say that judging from the tone of my letter I was feeling in fine spirits, the fact of the matter is I am always in fine spirits. You see I have no reason to be otherwise and I hope you are the same.

As I don't think of anything else that might be of interest to you I guess I'd better quit before I get to writing nonsense again.

I expect to be very busy during the next month as on April 27, 28, and 29th we have our Conference and for then reports books etc. has to be gotten up and balanced all of which requires work.

Give my kindest regards to Grandma and Grandpa Manning and Grandma Belnap, Aunt Mary and Uncle Eugene; Hazel, Jenney, Eugene Belnap, Myrtle and her husbasnd, Verna and all the rest you know their names better than I do.

Praying the Lord to bless and protect you that you may enjoy health and his spirit as I am doing I remain

Your fond and affectionate husband
Mathias

P.S. Mr. John Rogers Jr.

Dear Sir:- Permit me to use this imperfect manner of expressing to you my appreciations of your kind wishes; and regrets at your inability- through circumstances--of bringing your hearts desire to realization. How I longed for the eagles eye to pierce the distance or the wings of the dove (perhaps I should have said goose) to carry me swiftly there. As it is I must remain impatiently awaiting the speedy arrival of the ship that shall bring me the tidings of Victory

Yours Truly
M.J. Benson

Hooper Utah
April 5, 07

My Dear Hubby,

I received your letter and was Oh so glad. There is nothing in the world does me more good. This last week has been a very hard one. Monday grandpa and grandma came home they look just fine and had one of the times of their lives.

Our theator came off the same day and night. It seemed to take well or at least I felt as though it ought to for I never had a worse sick head ache in my life. We cleared \$49.00. When we were about half through the play word came that one of my cousins was dead Etta Cook Uncle Wm daughter or Henry Belnaps sister. She left a husband and two children one six years and the other two. I started out there tuesday but it rained so hard I had to give up. But I went out Wed. morning and sat up Wed. night thursday morning I helped dress her. That is the first dead person I ever helped to dress. I came home from the services dead tired no one was home so I floped over and was soon with you - and Aunt Mary woke me up telling me Aunt Violet and Uncle Rob would be here soon. Before I could collect my thoughts here they were with all there kids Uncle Lawrence in with rest. Charles Statterd came down to the funral and he told me Andrew and Ida, Bertha and Frank came down on the same train so I am going down to the City in the morning and will get to see them. Lester is called on a mission to the Southeren Stats leaves in September. John Belnap and Frank Newman go to Germany in June.

Uncle Frank is building a house. One year ago tonight we left home. Jennie has been keeping company with a Benson in Logan I guess that is what she ment.

I do think you must see so grand sights when you see the Northern lights the way I have things pictured they are the grandest of grand.

I have got to go to bed so Aervoir my love.

I remain as ever

Your wife
Margaret

Trondhjem Norway
April 6th 1907

My Dear Wife:-

To-day is the 6th of April. Do you remember one year ago to-day? Well I must say I am very thankful that the year that has gone has been so full of blessings to me and that to-day I am still enjoying the same health that I was a year ago and I must say that the time that has passed since we left home has gone very quickly and to-day I hope that the next year will pass

equally smoothly by and find us next sixth of April in the enjoyment of the same blessings we are enjoying to-day

I can hardly realise that tonight it will be one year ago since I said good bye at home to Father, Mother and Bertha and turned my back upon Moreland for awhile and it seems that to-day my thoughts have been determined to wander back there especially after receiving your loving letter of March 22nd this morning, and then I received a letter from Andrew yesterday stating that Frank and Bertha intended to go to the Temple at Conference time and Mother was going with them and so I have been wondering if they are all at Conference today and if you are with them and what kind of a time you are having etc. I hope I'll be forgiven for letting my thoughts dwell on these things this being a kind of a memorable day for us and I'll try and concentrate them more upon my work tomorrow. In looking back upon the past year I must confess it has been one of the most eventful in my life. I have since leaving my home changed from a station of "Single Blessedness" to one of Married Bliss! have traveled through several states of the "Union" seen a corner of Canada, crossed the mighty ocean, paid a brief visit to Old England and my Native land Denmark, where I again visited the scenes of my childhood after an absence of twenty years, and have finally wound up in this far off "Northern" country with its "Fjords and Mountains" where I have explained or tried in my weak way to explain to a great many people those principles that are going to be the means of saving and exalting the Children of God and here I am at the end of that time preaching those same principles unto a people and in a language that were practically strange to me one year ago. But I feel that I am somewhat selfish in speaking only of what the year has brought me for I know that it has brought great changes in your life also and feel that it has not been without its blessings if it has brought some trials. You are at least gaining the experience of being a grass widow. I feel today that the future is bright and has many blessings in store for us; if we will only live for them knowing that faith and patience and courage will conquer all things and come out victorious in the end.

I also received your letter of the 16th ult. Thanks for the same and thanks for the beautiful present you sent me which I received in your letter this morning it is fine. The other Elders were all here when I got it and I let them look at it and had to promise to let them copy the verse they thought it was so fine. So you can imagine how tickled I felt.

I was indeed sorry to hear that your father feels that you had got above receiving counsel and advice from him and cannot imagine what makes him think that as I can't believe you have done any thing to merit such censure; We are certainly always willing to receive counsel and advice from our parents. However I hope that when his mind is disabused of that Idea he will feel different. I received a very kind and cheerful letter from him yesterday and he says he had just had a letter from you so I hope he is feeling different now.

I was pleased to hear that your Grandma is feeling so well and do hope she

will continue. Well, as one of the brethren is here waiting for me I guess I'll have to close hoping and praying that this will find you as it leaves me in the enjoyment of health and strength

I remain your loving husband
Mathias.

Remember me to everybody.

Hooper Utah
April 8, 07

My Dear Husbbie

I have got so much to say in this letter and I am so sleepy I may go to sleep before I write it all down.

Well I went to Conference and sertainly did enjoy my self. Uncle Lawernce went down with me but I soon lost him, he said I was to much like Grandpa had to stop every three feet to say a few words to some old friend. But that was the maine object in going. The first one I met that I knew was Emma England she took me over to John and we sat there and talked about Lorena's wedding reception. Then I found Elizza England and Will, I just spoke to them when I saw John Wray plodding through the crowd, I went through at the rate of 2:40. The police thought me crazy "Stand back". He told me you could not imagon how he had missed you, said he had written to you but hadn't received an ans. I ask him how soon he answered letters, he told me how long he was in ans. your so I consoled him by telling him, I never would ans. Next I met Mrs. News- papper Wray and got all the news since we left home. She is just as broad as she is long. Milo and Suzy were next Milo sayes she is boss yet. They have a very nice baby. Mr. Hammond appeared on the seen so did Mr Geddas Bro. Geddas said he had just received a letter from you. Well I went to dinner with Milo while we were eating here came Andrew and Ida I talked to them until my dinner was cold and didn't tast good I went with them from there to meeting where we found Bertha and Frank. Bertha hasn't changed a bit. The baby is quite cute, but cross Oh dear. Frank's just the same. After meeting we found your mother Oh joy she looked good to me. I all most wished you was there, but didn't dare entertain such a thought, I could only imagin Bro Walker singing as he sang to me one night in Blackfoot "For duties sake she's cast aside". I was wheelling Adelia up the walk and met him He said "What can I belive my eyes. Is it yours? I said no. He sayes I am so glad. Bro Thomas came up and grabed hold my hand sayes you must come back to Blackfoot. I than meet Bro. Brown and of course the way I talk to him was not so slow. He told me all about you. Showed me a lot of pictures. He gave me one of you and him sitting on a bench by a rock fence. I told him you both looked like you had sat down for a good long rest. You skamp, you never even told me you had them taken. Bro Brown seemed to be feeling very bad to think he had to come home. Andrew Ida Bertha & Frank insisted on me bunking with them. So I did, two beds for six. How is that for cutting expences? There was a

drunken woman and a crowd of men having a quarl in the street just below the last we heard she was on the way to the place where such people gets free lodging.

Your Ma sent Bertha down town to get a pin for a picture when we got out to Markers where she was, she halled out that stamp picture of me that was yours just think of her wearing my face. Well that is be cause she thinks so much of you. But then I don't see how she can help it. Some thing like the song, "Oh there some thing in your maner and there's some thing in your smile, something seems to tell me your just my style." I saw cousin Hans. He's just as fat as ever so are his folks. Well I don't think I'll tell you about the others I saw be cause this routine may be tiresome when you get to reading it over. We ate supper out to Marker's saterday evening t'was all right I can tell you. Kind of a family gathering I stood for you but of course did not fill the bill.

I received your letter and am glad there are others in the world especially one that is injoying good health be sides my self. Ida hope you had a good time one your trip. Marker's daughter's baby died when nine months old.

Well dearie do you feel one year older now than you did when you went away? One score and ten. I sent you a book "In-an-around Salt Lake" yesterday I hope that will be enjoyed as well as the Xmas news.

We are having the grandest weather every thing is getting so green and pretty. I picked a peach blossom to night.

April 9 .07

My dear it will be impossable for me to write much more to this letter because I am to be nurse girl to day to night and to morrow for Aunt Violet, she and Uncle Rob are going to get their second indoment and I am tending the two youngest.

So Aervoior. How I would love to bite your nose but the pond is so deep I am afraid I'd get my feet wet, so won't try. May the Lord gard, guide and protect you is the prayer of your loving wife *Margaret*

Trondhjem Norway
April 12 - 1907

My dear Wife:-

Today is the twelfth of April and so one year has rolled by since that happy day you and I spent in the Salt Lake Temple when we were united by a servant of the Lord for time and all eternity. I can hardly realize that a year has gone since that time and that I have added one more year to my age and am now compelled to say that I am thirty! years of age, but such seems to be the case. I can hardly realize that it is today one year ago since I received the blessed birthday gift of a kind and loving wife and I could not

help to-day but secretly wonder if to-day you are feeling any regret for the step you took on that fatal day one year ago or if you have in the year that has gone sometimes felt that it would have been better if you had not taken that step; and I could not blame you if you at times had had that feeling but something tells me you have not and that makes me feel happy indeed; I know the Lord is able and will bless us for what we do for his cause and while at times the separation may seem hard we know that if we are faithful we shall win the victory and after the victory comes the crown. And as for myself? Why I feel more contented and satisfied to-day than I did a year ago if that be possible; and why should I not; when I know that the woman I love is mine not only in this life but throughout the eternities and that nothing but sin and transgression will ever be able to separate us. When I know this and know that I have her love in return why shouldn't I be happy and contented and thankful to my heavenly father for his great blessings. for blessings they are indeed. And while the first year of our married life has been spent in separation and if nothing unforeseen happens the second will be the same yet I feel that we have great cause to look forward to the future as it no doubt has many blessings in store for us and I feel that the past year has been one of blessing to me for it is certainly a great blessing to know that you are engaged in the work of the Lord and that your service is accepted of him so I rejoice in my work and sincerely hope that you will be blessed so that you may be able to enjoy the same feeling. Often that which seems to be the greatest trial proves to be the greatest blessing.

I was sorry to learn that Henry feels so bad over the termination of his love affair but as for him having loved his last I can hardly believe that statement as I have heard of fellows talking that way before and within a short time they were up to their ears in love with some one else and he is indeed foolish if he allows one dissapointment to drive him to live the life of an old bachelor; but nevermind the wound will heal sometime and he will find someone else whom will draw out his affections and he may have better luck next time that is if they don't fix their engagement for so long a time as he and Lola did seven years is a long time you know; The best thing that could happen to him now would be to send him on a mission that would soon heal his heart and put other thoughts into his head. How's Lester? Has he received his call yet? I hope they do send him as that will be a good school for him to prepare for life in. What's his address? If I have time maby I'll drop him a line some time especially if he is called out.

I received a card from Nephi Christensen the other day. He's in a place called Larvik in southern Norway and says he is enjoying his labours very much.

I received your card this morning and all the boys had a good laugh when I told them it was my wedding day; They all declare it has taken me a year to get weaned. Is that what you meant?

Well I hope you had good success with your play and that you had the good

time you anticipated.

Am pleased to say that I am still enjoying the best of health. We've had fine weather all this month so far but to-day it is cloudy so I suppose we'll soon have a change perhaps some more snow it is hard to tell. The snow is practically all gone and the streets are quite dry. It is not very warm yet however.

Say my dear I have received cards of congratualtions from all the Elders here and some of the saints. I don't know how they all found it out but it has come out in some way.

Well my dear I hope you are enjoying this day and that we may spend a great many twelfth of April's together and that we may always look back with comfort and satisfaction to that day.

You say in you letter that you wish me many happy returns of the day and I hope the time will never come when we shall look upon that day with anything but happiness. I know it won't for me and it will not for you.

May the Lord bless you and comfort you and fill your heart with joy this day and not only on this but on all other days and whenever an anniversary of our wedding day shall come around may we be able to look back upon the past with the same satisfaction that I feel we can look back with on this the first anniversary of our marriage is the earnest wish of your loving husband

Mathias

P.S. Remember me to everbody

Hooper Utah
April 17. 07

My Dear Husband

I received your letter of Mar 30 to day and was glad to hear from you once more. Very glad there is one other in the big old world enjoying good health be sides myself although I don't know wheather my nerves or quitted down or not. I belive I was nurse when I wrote my last letter. Well talk about hot times, than sing "Hunting for Paregoric when I cannot aford a light There's no place like home". Just imagon my feelings walking the floor in the middle of the night. But that was not the worse next day when they came back. Mary Nickson (Uncle Robs sister) came with them and brought three childern with her. Aunt Violet and Uncle Rob and kids Aunt Mary & Uncle Gene and family all tolled were nineteen in number. They went home Mon. and I am not sorry for I never did see such an unruley mob in my life. Uncle Joe was fivety years last monday so they surprised him fri. evening we had quite a time. Jennie and I were fooling with grandpa and all at once he frattened out on the floor; then we could not be found. Well Grandpa

caught Jennie and gave her Hail Columbia but I excaped because he was wore out when he got to me.

Oh, I made a mash Sunday evening on one of Hooper's best just think me -- a married woman. After meeting we went over to the ice cream paulor and had some very good ice cream Of course I thought Mathias and I or one, so large so so large it took to dishes I enjoyed it didn't you? Rich Hooper was the lad Mothers cousin so don't worrie. Aposal McKay talked here Sunday evening Just grand under three differnt headings "Pleasure Riches and Happyness. and ask which path we would take.

My dareleng you have been gone a year. T'is thirteen years to morrow since Mother died of consumption - she thought she would live untill the last. I never did hear of any one recovering from that most dreaded desease. So if the young lady you mentioned gets well it will surtenly be a wonder to me. You have mentioned her several times but never told me her name. We are having quite warm weather. Men or trying to find beet thiners but only a few. Most men have there crops in. All the early fruit trees or in blossem and every thing is green (even to me) and looking fine just like winter had not heart it, espially me I only weigh 151. How much do you weigh?

I think I told you in one of my letters that the girls got up this play just to show the boys how independent they could be and for a benifit allso. It took just fine. We may go to Serecuse with it. Don't you approve of suck? Jennie say the jok is she did not have any dresses on.

The river is just roaring talk about high. I wonder what Old Snake River looks like. Seeing the folks from up there made me kind a home sick I don't no why. But I think I shall go home this summer some time. Well be a good boy and never get discouraged just cling to the rock,

I remain affectianate wife
Margaret.

Trondhjem Norway
April 20-1907

My dear Wife:-

I thought I would just drop you a few lines today as next week I expect I'll be so busy that I will have very little time to write.

Our spring conference starts one week from to-day and as the Elders are all coming in to attend it we are in more or less of a stir all the time. We have had quite a stir in our little branch this week as two of our most active members left us and have gone to America; One was the leader and the other the best Soprano singer in the Choir so of course we miss them very much especially now that we are pre- paring for Conference but I think we will get along all right. We are having another young winter up here with

cold and snow, for the last three or four days it has been snowing quite steadily but to-day it is clear and pleasant though quite cold.

I got a letter from Andrew yesterday and he tells me Con. McBride and Olive Talbot had got married. I guess there will be so many changes among the people by the time we get back to Moreland that we'll hardly know it is the same old place. He also tells me that they had great success with a play they had put on. I hope you had the same with yours. Well I don't know of anything new that would interest you as everything moves much in the same old way. The boys are all living in hopes and fears. Some of them who have been out here nearly two years are wondering whether or not they are going to be released and others wondering where they are going to be sent to labour so they are living on expectation. I have the satisfaction of knowing my lot so I have neither fear hope nor expectation only a desire to be able to fill the position where unto I have been called, if the Lord will but give me strength to do that then I have no fear of the results but know that everything will come out all right. I got a letter from Bro. Brown the other day and he said he expected to go to Conference so if you went down perhaps you seen him by the tone of his letter he seemed to be feeling all right.

Well my dear take good care of yourself and may the Lord continue to bless you with health as he is doing me that you may feel well both bodily and spiritually; Kindly remember me to all the relations, friends and acquaintances that care to remember me especially Grandfather, Grandmother, Aunt Mary & Uncle Eugene, Jenney, Hazel, Myrtle & her better half, Eugene Belnap, Uncle Lawrence and some more whose names you know better than I do.

Hoping to hear from you again soon I remain as ever Your loving husband

Mathias

Hooper Utah
April 22, 07

My Dear Hubbie:-

Your most kind and welcome letter of 6th inst was received on the 20th I am quite slow in ans. but will explain why later. I was so glad to hear from you Isn't it a blessing you and I enjoy good health. It seems to me as though our thoughts must of been running together about the 6 of inst. Don't think for a minute you are selfish in speaking only of yourself in the events of the past year because there is such a contrast between you or the events of your life and mine in the last year, that I'll step down and out and listen and learn of the daily walks and talks of your every day life during this year. There is nothing does me more good. There is nothing cures the sick headache quicker than a good letter from you. Sat. evening after receiving your letter Earl says hurry and read that letter and come go to the dance. Him and Rudger, are so good to me, they never go anywhere without insisting on my going. My dear I am afraid you will have a terrible

spoilt wife when you get home. Well I went to the dance and had a jolley good time. Sam Olsen took me over to Ogden to conference yesterday t'was just fine Grant, McKay and Tessdail were the Apostles present.

Bro. Grant says "Don't judge a man be his relatives He can't help it, the're pushed onto him. But judge him by the company he keeps." I do think he is a grand man. Pettra and her hubbie were there. They said to tell you they had not forgotten you and they intend to write someday. I told them I would tell you they had forgotten you lived until they seen me. I am going up to stay with them about two weeks. I will go Saturday, I'll impress on them the fact that we both live.

I saw your Uncle he looks well. Everybody inquires about you. I saw Heber Fulton's baby yeaterday, tis prettier dan its foder, a heap. I went to sleep this afternoon, when I layed my head down I said to Aunt Mary I had ought to ans. Mathias's letter instead of being here. Well I soon went to by-lo. And was looking at the trees and flowers every thing looked so green and beautiful I raised my eyes and saw some geese flying towards me. They seemed so large so when they got a little nearer I could see you with those old gray pants on and a white shirt and flopping a pair of wings the other seemed to be men with about the same dress, I said you might as well go back the theator is over. Just than Paul began to cry and I came out of it. I have spring fever Don't suppose you know what that is but don't come over because tis contagious.

Aevior my love

I remain your loving wife
Margaret B B

Trondhjem Norway
April 27-1907

Dear Wife:-

Just a few lines to let you know that I have received your letter of the 5th inst. Was very glad to learn that you are or rather went down to Conference and I hope you had a good time and that you got to see the folks while down there. Our Conference starts to-day and we are expecting to have a good time. President Christensen is here from Copenhagen and then we are 18 Elders so you see we have some lively times just now; and as the Office here is a general gathering place there is not much chance for writing a letter so I'll have to be brief. Was very glad to learn that Lester was going or rather is going on a mission and know it will be a fine thing for him.

I sent a postal card we had taken that you may see how we look in Norway.

Hoping this will find you in good health as it leaves me I remain.

Your loving husband
Mathias

Will write more after Conference

Trondhjem Norway
May 4 - 1907

Dear Wife:-

I received your letter of April 9th a few days ago and your letter of the 17th this morning and was as you know I always am very glad to hear that you are well and enjoying life as I realise that a good healthy body and mind is one of the greatest blessings we can enjoy.

I too am enjoying my usual health and also spirit for that matter. I was indeed glad to know that you went down to Conference and had such a good time; and that you saw the folks especially Mother as she was no doubt glad to see you. I got a letter from Andrew a few days ago and he told me that while in the Temple taking care of Adelia Mother had the misfortune to stumble while going up some steps and hurt her one leg which had been very painful since and that she had been in bed for a week after coming home but I hope she is all right by now.

Well we've had our Conference also and have certainly had a glorious time. Some of the Elders declare it to be the best Conference they have ever attended; Certain it is that the Spirit of the Lord was with us and caused us to rejoice. Everything passed off smoothly which of course made me feel good as I felt like the whole thing rested on me and if it was not a success I would be to blame. Now everything is quieting down again and the boys will soon all be back to their feilds of labour again and all will be back in the old rut. We held five public and two Priesthood meetings so you see we had quite a lot of preaching to do and of course I had to do my share of it. Well, I think spring is coming up here too now as the grass is beginning to get green and the buds are swelling which I think is a very good sign. It is now nearly ten oclock and just begining to get dark so you see the days are getting longer again and in another three weeks it won't get dark at all.

We've had some fine weather the last few days with warm sunshine and that makes it real cheerful as when the sun does shine now it shines from before seven in the morning til after eight at night.

May day the labour Unions here had a big time with a big parade & Demonstration speeches ect. Here as in America they are always agitating for shorter days higher wages or something else and of course when oppertunity affords they make quite a demonstration. The parade was O.K. there was about 4000 people participated and they had several bands.

Well my dear I hope this will find you well as it leaves me. Ever praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain your loving husband

Mathias

Give my regards to everybody.

Middleton Utah
May 5, 1907

Thanks for your cards, I haven't had time to read them yet.
My Dear Husband.

I received yur most kind and welcome letter of 12 of Ult. It left a few impressions on me. One of them was that my husband is learning to write a love letter I am very glad you feel the way you do about your birthday gift as you call me. And I do hope you will never have cause to feel diffrent. I have had no cause to regret any thing. I have had cause though to be very proud of the man I love. I feel like you, am quite contented and satisfied. Now that we hold a claim on each other I know I can be true to you with out much of an effort. While on the other hand if we had not been married it would of been harder. The hardest thing for me to do was to cut out going going or we will put it flirting as Father calls it. But that is done away with now. I am only glad to share your sorrow as well as your joy. Every where I go somebody knows you they all have something good to say about you and I feel proud to know I am the lucky maiden. Well I may for you could of gotten some lady far ahead of me. Something seems to say "work hard and you will be his equal someday.

I am still with Petra and injoying myself very much. This is a very pretty valley Mts all around it. It has been very cold and is yet. Petra has got a very nice little man. But their's is a home of complet happness. I came up here a week ago yesterday and will stay until Saturday. Last Sun. we all got weighed Petra went 175 and her husband 130 and I went 148 so I am not so small. I am enjoying good health I have had lots of dew drops to throw away but there all gone now. Petra has gone to meeting this afternoon and left her boy asleep He is awake now and wants his mamma so I will have to close

May the Lord continue to pour out his blessings upon you is the prayer of your loving wife

Margaret.

Huntsville
May 5 1907

Mr Mathias Benson

Dear Cousin

Well I have just got home from meeting and your wife is getting supper so I thought as she had been writing and had room for me to put in a line I would do so, I wish we could send you a tast of our supper but I hope that the day will come when you will come and have supper with us. I gess you think that we are dazyo for not ansvere your letter but then I gess you will forgive us for you know what a poor thing I am at writing and Albern it seem keep puting it off and I tell you it keeps him bissy and I gess you know a little what he has to do, but I can say that as a little ward we are not doing so bad all the trubble is that they wount all work so it maks it harder on them that will. I dont know what I am writing for Albern and Marget is talking and the baby is wonting to write so I gess that I had better stop trying to write. Pa was feeling pretty good the last time I see him but then he miss Ma. and all the rest of the folks were well. Annie has a boy and Ella a girl this spring so you can see that they are helping Zion to grow. Albern says he will try and ansvere your wecom letter soon so this is just a note. May God bless you

From your cousin
Pitra.

Trondhjem Norway
May 11 - 1907

Dear Wife:-

I received your kind and welcome letter of April 22 on the 8 inst and was once more glad to know that you are enjoying good health as usual which I am pleased to say I am doing also. We have been having ideal spring weather up here the last week, and now the grass is beginning to get green and the buds are bursting on the trees so it is real pleasant here now. Last Tuesday evening I had the prevelige of going through one of the finest ships that sails along the Norwegian coast. It is the largest and finest passenger boat that has ever been built in Trondhjem and is going to be used for carrying Tourists from England to Norway. It was launched Dec 1-1906 I believe I told you at the time that I had been and seen it launched. It is called Haakon VII in honor of Norways king. One of the local brethren has been working on it and he took me all through it from the Bridge where the Captain stands to the place away down in the bottom where the men that does the fireing works and explained it all to me as he was aquainted with the whole thing. It is certainly a floating palace; has several sitting rooms and dining rooms all finished in plush and beautiful carpets on the floors while the silver, nickel and brass trimmings shine til they almost dazzel you besides the large mirrors that are in the various rooms. I think it

would be fine traveling on a boat like that but it will no doubt cost quite a lot of money to travel in such style.

Well I hope you had a good time while up visiting Petra. I am as usual enjoying myself in about the same old routine, but have plenty to do so I manage to keep busy and when I get my work in the office done up I go out visiting and preach the Gosple to whoever I can get to listen.

I went down and had my picture taken a short time ago and am sending you one so you can see how I look now. You will notice that my hair is getting quite thin on top and if you could look in my mouth you would also observe that my teeth are coming out but the photographer wold not let me keep my mouth open. He has filled out most of the wrinkles so they don't show up so bad.

I am also sending you a picture of my companion and myself or was last winter but I had to send him north this summer. He is standing at the very front on the card I sent you.

Hoping and praying that this will find you well as it leaves me I remain

Your loving husband
Mathias

Hooper Utah
May 13.07

My Dear Husband

I received your letter of 20 ult yesterday Although t'was short t'was sweet and I was glad to hear from you once more. I am all ways happy when I know your well. I too am enjoying good health and happy as a queen. I came home Saturday left Petra and Bishop feeling fine Petra is nearly as large as Hans. I saw your Uncle in Ogden Saturday he said they were all well. Did Petra tell you Hans and Ella had an increase in the family? So has Annie & John. I had a fine time while I was up there. I do think Ogden valley beautifull every thing green even some of the people. Grass is growing every where. I went down to the fish hatchery fir. last and Oh! my the fish. I never did see so many in my life before. Aburn has some wooden shoes. He willed them to me but there some what to large. So I didn't except of them. Dear heart you would burst laughing if you could see me with them on. If you don't belive it just bring me a pair home and see. The next largest size will do. On night I put on the wooden shoes and an old dress of Petras and went out and milked two cows. I was just trying to see how it would be to have to be man and woman both but when I had milked two cows I had had enough O, my poor armes hurt yet. Bishop said I looked as though I had just come over. I don't know but the next morning I felt like I had.

Do you remember how nice and clean we were when we came down from Rexburg.

If you do you will know how I looked Saturday when I got home. The wind blew all day and dust is giving it a mild name. When I got here Eugene Belnap and his gal insisted on me going down to the ball game so I went talk about times well we had it. The girls gave the boys supper in the meeting house just sixty of us sat down and ate. In the evening it didn't rain but poured. So three of us made Eugene take us over to the hall to the dance. We didn't get there until after ten o'clock I did enjoy it so much. Stayed all night with Jennie and we sleep four in a bed. Oh my her and Jack gave me a great slam after the dance. I will tell you when you come home. I went down to the P.O. to night and met Jennie with her new beau. He just returned from a mission to the central States and ah don't we think we or it! Well I guess we do. He was supposed to lecture here Sunday evening and there was no more lecture to it than there is to this letter.

We are having cold weather and the wind blows worse here than in Idaho I know I could plant two lips on my face at times.

School let out last fri. Rugder is trying to graduate. Hazel passed into the eighth grade A and is as tickled as a little boy with a ran-new red wagon. I was invited to a wedding last Thursday but was not home so I could not go. Miss Alice Jones was the bride. She married a Smith from Brigham.

I bid farewell to one of my cousins last night Augustus Belnap from Salem Idaho he is going to Australia on a mission.

Grandma sends her love to her dear boy.

The frogs or singing me to sleep so aervoir my love.

I remain awaiting the post man the same as ever your loving wife.

Margaret B B

P.S. Jennie's Mamma Aunt Jane graduated an M.D. and Surgon last week

Hooper Utah
May 24, 07

My Dear Husband:-

I received your letter of May 4 yesterday and was as I always am very glad to hear from you and to know you are well and busy.

This past week has been a hard one. The forepart was so warm we could hardly endure it, day before yesterday the wind blew the sand up so bad we could hardly see across the road. Yesterday it rained to beat time and to day it rained harder. Tomorrow we expect to have frost.

Eugene Jr. has come home to stay for the summer than he is going to east to

school for two years. That will be all right. I think I will go back too. He is working at the factory so that means get up every morning at five oclock. Every morning at five the pillow pulls. So the quicker to bed now a days to better because I am getting to lazy to live. Uncle Lawrence is lounging around here their all talking at once I cannot collect my thoughts.

Say my dear pal your getting stingie with paper when you write, only one sheet and that hardly full. If twas me there would be an excuse but I can't find any for you, do my best trying. Now try and do better.

Oh! that card (photos) of the Norwegin Elders is all right. My dear you or certainly looking well. Aunt Mary says clabber seems to agree with him. And grandpa did not know you. Grandma said you did not look so well as in your other pictures so I told her the reason was because you had not been in the evening press for over a year. I mean you suit. And the other fellow the same you forgot to tell which ones were married Jennie can not choose until she finds out. She has fallen in love with a returned missionary and they both carry a very high head. There or several around here in the same way. I do hope and pray that several of you fellows won't be left in such a hopeless condition when you come home for they are to be pityed.

Well I have been smart enough to make a waist for my self and two for Hazel all ready yet. I have a lavender and I can not tell whether tis me or the waist but I all most made a mash in the dance Saturday night. The poor fellow found out I was married so he had to slink out. Jack gave me some blackjack gum to send you. But I told him you would not indulge so don't be looking for it. While I was sitting talking to a young lady in the party I overheard a conversation that interested me very much. A Mrs. Holliday was talking to Charles Jones (he used to be my beau) about getting married before he went on his mission. She was advising him not to, and among it all she said "I never did see a case where they were married and left with in from one to ten days where there was one ever lived happy." What do you think about that

Aervoir

Everybody sends regards

Five oclock comes early for me. With love I remain your wife

Margaret B.

P.S. In your letter you said you got your cards where you was getting your work done. but you did not say what work.

Excuse the ragged edge for this paper has only been scrambled twice.

Trondhjem Norway
May 25-1907

Dear Wife:-

I received yours and Pitras letters a few days ago and as usual was pleased to learn of your continued good health which I certainly consider a great blessing. I am as I have been still enjoying good health and feeling fine in every way. I am certainly glad that you had a good time while visiting with Pitra and especially pleased to hear your report of their home that it is one of complete happiness and my greatest desire is that Ours shall be the same which I feel it will be. I shall try and do my best to make it so and I know you will do the same so I don't see why it shouldn't be, do you my dear? I had a letter from Bertha the other day and she says that she thinks Mother fell in Love with you when you were down to Conference (Now don't get conceited) Well, I only hope she did and that she will continue to love you and I feel that she will because I know you will all you can to make her do so and of course that makes me feel very good in fact it makes me rejoice.

I am spending my time much in the same old way with but very little variation. The 17th of May was Norways independence day and we had a grand celebration which commenced by the Bands playing in the Church towers of four different Churches in town the music being elevated so high had a very pretty effect. Then at ten oclock all the school children between three and four thousand- paraded the principle streets and as every child had a flag it was very pretty. Four different bands accompanied the parade. At one oclock the band belonging to the Military Post gave an open air Concert lasting for an hour and at four oclock there was a grand parade of all the Citizens and organizations through the principle streets in town and out through the park where Patriotic songs were sung, speeches made ect. In the evening there were balls and Concerts at different places. We took in the whole thing with the exception of the balls.

Last Monday was also a holiday and we had a little outing up to some falls in the river about three miles above town. It was fine strolling through the green hills and along the stream. There has just five new Elders come to-day and as I have to go with a couple of them to find their lodging place I'll have to close praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain as ever

Your loving husband
Mathias

Hooper Utah
May 30. 07

My Dear Husband:-

I received your letter of 11 inst. on the 28th and the photoes last night. Thanks for the same If you really are as you say you are then tis a very punk job. But it does look good to me. I am glad he fixed the wrinkles so they don't show may-be I'd of worried about you if they had shown. I am happy to know you look so well. Your companion is quite a good looker. Isn't he quite short?

To-day is Decoration day and most every one around here is celebrating. I had my day yesterday. Mable and I went over to Ogden and cleaned off Mothers grave put floweres on it and it looks now like I've wanted to see it look all my life. I never worked harder in a weed patch in my life before burnt my face all over and blistered my hands so to-day I feel like the last rose of summer. I just got this for last night and had to quit and eat supper then I got ready and went to the dance. We had a jolly good time. I thought of you and wondered if you was having a good time. There was a dance in the afternoon for the children and a ball game Gene and I stayed home and washed. He says he feels sorry for you if I work you the way I do him. Do think it possable?

I feel just like one does after the ball. I don't suppose you know.

Aunt Mary is quite poorly and looks quite bad. Oh! down in the dance last night there was a young bride. (married just the day before and she sat down and went to sleep she looked like I felt when I was married so I know how to sympithize with her. Eugene Belnap says to give you his regards now and all ways. We are having lovely weather. A little wind a little rain and sun mixed together makes it just fine. Aunts boys have the beets thined. Most every one around here has. Every thing looks fine and dandy. Just as green and pretty. I saw Petra and hubby in Ogden Wensday they were going to Plain Ciy.

Dear heart I have got to preach Sunday evening wouldn't you like to hear me? And am going to teach a class in Sunday School the first inter. dept. So you see I am quite buisy. I haven't got my mornings work done so will have to get to doing it. I got a letter from Father he said they were all well, the kids have had the measels but are all right now. I would like to see them quite well. I guess I'll be taking a speel up there one of these first days.

Lesters address is Rigby, R.F.D. #2, Idaho

Aervoir my love wishing you sucess I remain you loving wife

Margaret.

P.S. Mable says you just to sweet for any thing in your picture. Joseph Manning is getting to be it in his thoughts since he was married.

Jennie's Mamma will arrive here to day.

De sidste Dages Helige
Kontor Wessels gade 7
Trodhjem, Norge
Jun 1- 1907

Dear Wife:-

I received you welcome letter of May 13 a couple of days ago and was indeed pleased to note that you are still enjoying good health and feeling so good and I sincerely hope that you may continue in the same condition. I too am feeling fine and still enjoying the best of health and am certainly happy in my calling.

We've had a young winter up here the last week with snow and cold weather but to-day it is somewhat warmer and more pleasant so I think we will have some fine weather again now and the people up here say that when it is cold in May we always have a fine warm summer so I suppose it will come now that June is here.

I had a peculiar dream a short time ago and if I had been ever so homesick I believe it would have cured me forever however I wasn't homesick but perhaps it came to keep me from getting that way. I dreamed I had left my mission and gone home; just how I got there I don't know but I found myself in the hall up home and it seemed that they were going to have a Conjoint meeting of the Mutuels. I was the first one in the hall and as the stage was all set as if they had been having a play I went up and looked around when presently Father came in; he shook hands with me but that was all he seemed to take no notice of me but went and took a seat on the stand of course I thought a little peculiar and so went down and stood by the stove as it was quite cold when presently in came Laura and the other Officers of the Y.L.M.I.A. and as they went up on the stand they all shook hands with me but it seems that they did it simply as a matter of courtesy as they didn't speak to me at all but went quietly and took their places, This of course made me feel more funny than ever and it seemed that I went up behind the scenes and then the thought struck me now if they call on you to speak to them tonight what in the world are you going to tell them here you have left your mission you have no release and absolutely no excuse for coming home. You have only been gone a year and what excuse have you got. It seems that this thought made me feel fearful and the more I thought about it the worse I felt until I was in an absolute state of misery and anguish in fact I have never in my life experienced such a miserable feeling. While in this state it seemed that I commenced to pray and if there ever was an earnest prayer that certainly was; and I thought if the Lord would only open up the way I would do all in my power to get back to my field of labour again. Just as I was feeling the worst I woke up and I tell you I was happy to find that I

was still in Trodhjem. I certainly do not desire to have that experience in reality as if a state of hell is possible on earth that would certainly be it.

I had another dream also a short time before that but of a different nature. I had that also just come home from a mission and I thought that when I came home and you came to meet me you were old and wrinkled and I thought my wife has certainly got to looking old while I've been gone but I thought she was true to me in my young days when I was out on a mission and I still love her and will still protect her and I thought in my eyes she looks just as good now as she did when she was young; I don't know whether I was old or not as I seemed to have no thought of myself but only thought of you. I suppose this means that I will still be in the harness and perhaps doing missionary work when we are old; and I certainly hope this may be the case. Well, now that I have been telling you all about my dreams don't think that I dream all the time because I do not most of the time I am too busy sleeping to dream.

Last Wednesday a crowd of us went through the Cathedral here which is one of the oldest if not the oldest church in Norway; it was first built a thousand years ago and since that time it has "built and rebuilt, altered and added to, plundered and robbed, burned 5 times and as many times rebuilt. It has been the scene of Royal Burials and Coronations and yet used as a stable by the Swedes." They are now reconstructing it and putting back in its original style as near as possible part of it having been in ruins since 1719. To get the ornamental work of the inside as much like the original as possible they have taken all the pieces they could find in the ruins and made Plaster of Paris Casts of them and then they cut the stone after the model thus secured. The inside trimmings are largely of cut stone.

I visited while in there some of the vaults where the old Royalties of Norway had at one time been deposited; also the place where one of the "Saints" had stood: being an old king called St. Olaf.

Well I don't know that this interests you so I guess I'll quit; as everything here is strange to you and there is nothing new to tell.

Kindly remember me to Grandma & Grandpa Jennie, Myrtle & Husband, Uncle Lawrence Hazel, Aunt Mary, Eugene Belnap and in fact all that I know. Tell Hazel to study hard and see if she can't be out of the eighth grade by the time I get home. As ever praying the Lord to bless and guide you I remain

Your loving husband
Mathias

Hooper Utah
June 14,07

My Dear Hubbie:-

Your most welcome letter arrived last night and I am pleased to learn you are still enjoying such great blessings. I am just the same old stick and looking in the same old way. I am housekeeper now so I had ought to be. Aunt Mary is over in Ogden with Glen. They had him operated on a week ago last wensday for apendicties. T'was a very criticial case they think he will pull through all though he isn't out of danger yet. Maby you don't remember him. He is a little tad smaller than Hazel. He all ways calles himself my boy. I lived with Aunt Mary when he was a baby. He says when you come back he is going to live with us a year. Liddie Manning Uncle Harry's daughter cut her hand last winter on a broken pane and she did not have any use of it at all and two weeks ago they cut it open and fastened the cords. There is all kinds of sickness all around here. Any diriction one starts in they find sickness.

We had a Ward reunion here tuesday and had a big time. Had a program in the morning after which they served lunch than in the afternoon an old folks dance and a dance in the evening for the young folks. Frank Newman is going to pay us a visit next week. He is just going to pay his best friends a visit befor he goes to Geremany. Got a letter from Aunt Violet they have measeles up that way and hooping cough. Lester is there still and his girl too. I don't know who she is but Aunt said she was very nice little girl. Said she was sewing and Lester was cleaning out the cuboard so she is teaching him and her both how to do something for them selves. There will be a missionary farewell party next Monday evening. Parley Olson going to the Central States. There is going to be a time here on the fourth of July. To day is "Flag day. I am very pleased to know you Mother fell in live with me. I only hope she will all ways do so. I havn't known much of a Mothers love and seem to me that would make a great difference in a persons life to know there was one to depend on all ways. I would be very proud if I could only love and be loved as one of you by your parents.

You wish or hope Ours will be as happy as Petra's. Sweethart you don't think so any more than I do. T'is all on earth one could ask for. And we can have complete happines if we both try to make it. For life is as t'is made.

Praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain as ever

Your loving wife
Margaret

Hooper Utah
June 14

Dear Cousin

I went to school winter
When are you coming home
I hope so soon
I am six years old

Your cousin
Veta Robinson

Little Veta wrote this all alone and she is a happy over it as can be. She is all ways writing to you.

Trondhjem Norway
June 15-1907

My Dear Wife:-

I have received your letters of May 24th and 30th this week and as it always does it made me feel good to hear from you and to note that you were getting along all right.

You ask me what I think about a Mrs. Holiday's expression that she did not know of a couple that got along well who were married just before the man departing for a mission. Well, now that may be possible that she don't of-course I couldn't dispute her word on that as I don't know what she knows or don't know but my opinion is that she hasn't looked very far or I don't think she would have made that kind of an assertion. I know several who have got married just before going on a mission and so far as I am able to discern they live just as happy as those who get married and start up house keeping right away and now after a years experience I can't see that I for my part could be any more happy, contented, and satisfied, nor that we could have lived any happier together if I had stayed at home and I hope you feel the same. I have no fear whatever but that we will be and I believe are just as happy and contented as those who get married and never have to go on missions; and as for the future why I have no fear of that but beleive, yes I know we will be happy if we only both do what is right. I can't see and I don't believe that we would have been able to have lived more happily together if I hadn't come out here on my mission than we will be able to do now and it seems to me if there is any difference we ought to be able to get along so much better after a separation like this as we are certainly both gaining an experience that will make us better fitted for life. So you see my dear I am not affected much by that kind of talk and I hope you are not and we will show by our lives that although there may be casses there they don't live happily they don't apply to everybody. Of-course I wouldn't advice everybody to get married before going on missions as a good many of them are to young and foolish and don't know their own minds but if a person knows his mind and feelings I can't see but what he is just as well off.

Say my dear I got this far this afternoon when I was called out. A lady who has been attending our meetings some wishing to talk with me and I talked Gosple with her all afternoon, got home at eight and found a party here waiting to see me and have just got through talking so will now try and finish my letter. It is now ten oclock but I can still see the sun shining on the houses across the street so I need no artificial light to write by. This past week it has been fine up here. I beleive it has been nearly as warm as it is at home during June and all over the country the flowers are blooming and making it beautiful and one is almost led to exclaim--when one takes a stroll through the country--How beautiful is the world and what a love and kindness the Creator has displayed in preparing such a world for his children to live on surely of all beauty there is none can compare with the beauties of nature. I tell you my dear this is a beautiful country in the spring and summer.

Yesterday a companion and myself took a long stroll out into the Country and I can tell you I enjoyed it after being shut up in the city all winter. We took some tracts with us and distributed at some of the farm houses and where they would listen to us explained the principles of the Gosple to them. I think we walked about ten or twelve miles and on the way visited twenty four houses we were gone about eight hours; and had a fine time as we found several people who were willing to talk to us and this of course is what we are after and so long as we could keep them interested we kept talking and after we couldn't interest them any more we would go on to the next place in fact that is the way we work all the time; but I don't very often get a chance to go out in the country so yesterday was just like an outing to me.

We had the prevelige of baptising two more last Monday a man and his wife; They came down from the North being on their way to Salt Lake City and as they had to stop here a few days they decided to be baptized before leaving. The Elders had been visiting them up north and through them they had become converted to the Gosple.

If all goes well I expect to take trip up North and visit the different Branches in the Conference and I expect I will then have a chance to see the "Midnight Sun". I expect to leave here somewhere about the tenth of next month. and will go as far north as Tromso" and perhaps to Hammerfest depending somewhat on the movements of the Elders up in that section. I should like to go clean around to Vardo" but as it will take considrable time and also some extra expense I hardly think I will go that far but perhaps have the Elders from there meet me at Hammerfest or Tromso". If I make the trip I have outlined it will take me from six weeks to two months. Say my dear you can't imagine how good it make me feel and how happy it made me to hear that you are working in the Sunday School and to know that you had to preach because I know it will develope the talents God has given you and you know I want my wife to have her talents developed just as much as anybody else. Trusting this will find you well I remain with Love Your husband *Mathias*.

Hooper Utah
June 18. 07

My Dear Husband:-

I received your welcome letter of June 1st Sunday morning but I haven't had time before to ans. I am the busy woman you read about but I am well and keep fat.

Sunday morning at one oclock cousin Wm Belnaps little girl died about seven years old. I sat up there Sunday night and yesterday. I was all in but today is wash day so I am all right again half to be and hurry for the funeral is to-day at two oclock. One of our neighbors died Saturday. Wm. Simpson died of cancer he will be buried tomorrow.

Uncle Gene had to go to Ogden this morning very early because Glen is worse. We were in hopes he would keep improving but I think he will get all right yet. He has be slowly improving for a week.

George Craythorne a south Hooper man was drinking Sunday and his horses ran away threw him out of the wagon and fixed him up about propper he has not come to yet. And some think he never will.

Parley Olson farwell party last night. I did not go Rudgar did and he said t'was just all right. They served strawberries and cake and sold ice cream. They certainly gathered in the money. I wish you could be here on the 7th of July. I would use you for my substitute I am going to talk on "Reverance to parents and the aged" and I don't know what to say. May be you can offer a few suggestions in time to help anyway.

We have taken up the summer work now the meetings only last an hour. Taking up mostly music and Literature and talks similar to the one I am going to give t'is very interesting. The Y.L. and Y.M. meet conjointly.

We are having lovely weather every thing is looking tip-top. May Oleson was in here just a minute ago and she is feeling bad I can tell you because Parley is going. I know how she feels. There was a missionary returned from the Islands not long ago. He has been away four years. He said he felt better while on his mission than ever did in his life and felt worse when he left those natives two to one than when he left his wife and childern and parents. He told his wife that and preached it from the pulpit so his wife refused to live with him and I feel like congratulating her for refusing.

Will Parker was telling a dream he had when on his mission and t'was just like the one you had, and he expressed himself in the same way.

I went over to Wills to see little Louise and as white a corps I never seen before. Her blood turned to water. But t'was a perfect picture of inosents and happiness. About three days before she died she ask her mamma questions all day long about where people went to when they die. May told her all

about it. Than she said "Well mamma now I can die." So May began to cry and she ask why she May did May told her because she was so sick. "Do cry Mamma I'll be so happy up in Heaven." Will and May sat for 27 hours waiting to see her breath her last.

Sweetheart what do you think about me learning to be a nurse. I can start in the Hospital any time I want to with small wages and as I learn more, wages then will raise. I would have to sign a contract for two years so you see that would be longer than you would be gone. Tell me what you think about it because I would not do anything like that if you did not approve of it. I may go out nursing and help to get a start in this world. The only thing, we two would live apart so much I would not like that part of it but what little I could do would help.

I may go over to Ogden tomorrow and stay with Glen and let Aunt Mary come home for a while. She is sick her self.

I have to iron to night and t`is now 4:30 so aervoir my love

I remain your loving wife
Margaret.

P.S. I sent you a book of views in April did you get them? T`was in and around Salt Lake city.

Hooper Utah
June 27. 07

My Dear Husband:-

I received your card of June 8, was pleased to receive the same. When I come over there we will sure have to have a ride in one of those bonny little carts, but we do not want a driver. When I first looked at the card I thought it was a funeral. Such thing are getting to be so common now a days. That Mr. Craythorn I told you about, died and so did his baby they were both buried in the same coffin he had his arm around the little boy. His poor wife is all most crazy. She went off in a stupper and never spoke for four days. Now she come to for awhile than go off. Oh dear I am so glad we are both enjoying good health.

Glen is on the improve still. Sat up to day a few minuts if all goes well they will bring him home Sunday. I will be glad because it is so lonesome when their all gone.

The Dr. thinks Grandma will have to under go another operation. She is quite poorly. Grandpa isn't feeling the best in the world. He had a well drove and of course he had to be main push and over done himself that's what ails him. They have a dandy well. The water flows four and a half in. above the two in. pipe.

Do you have mosquitoes? Something has been taking the peas up this way as fast as they were ready for use. I walked down in the garden last night and when I came back I told Gene there was now question on my mind as to what was taking the peas because the mosquitoes put me in mind of retired race horses.

Well I am house cleaning and it is so warm I don't like to move around for fear of getting to warm.

Oh yes I'm making butter for sale now and getting ten cts per lb. more than any one else around here. But I am doing it on Aunt Mary's reputation may be I'll win one of my own.

Well adieu my honey. May the Lord continue to bless and comfort you is the prayer of your loving wife

Margaret

Trondjhem Norway
July 6-1907

Dear Wife:-

I suppose you will wonder what is the matter with me that I have been so long in writing. Well, I'll have to explain. About the 24th of June I received a letter to the effect that Apostle Penrose who now presides over the European mission was going to be in Christiana to hold a Conference June 30 and requesting me to be there as he wanted to meet all the Conference Presidents so I left here on the 27th of June and went down there and did not get back til last night and while down there my time was so taken up that writing was simply out of the question. All the Elders from the Christiana Conference was in as was also the President from Bergen;- A. M. Nielsen of Shelley--and then there was Pres. Penrose and his wife and Pres. Christensen who presides over the Scandinavian mission also Pres. Matson of the Swedish mission and one or two others; there were about forty all told and I tell you we were quite a jolly crowd.

Sunday the 30th we had two meetings and Monday we held two Priesthood meetings each of which lasted three hours also had a meeting Monday evening as also one Tuesday evening. Apostle Penrose spoke in all of them and told the people a little about what Mormonism is; what it is here for and what they will have to do to be saved. There were a great many people out and what he said ought certainly to set some of them to thinking. In the Priesthood meeting of course was the place where we had our best time and where we got our instructions and we certainly had an enjoyable time together and received some excellent instructions and if we can only follow them we certainly ought to be better missionaries. Tuesday forenoon--July 2nd-- with a companion I strolled around the city and visited some of the places of interest also saw some of the nicest parts of the City and some of the parks. It is certainly very pretty. Tuesday afternoon we all went on a

trip to a place called "Holmen Kolen" a mountain west of the city. It was a beautiful clear day and from there we had an excellent view of the City and the surrounding country and it was certainly a grand sight to look down and see the City surrounded on three sides by beautiful summer villas while on the fourth side the Fjord lay glistening in the sunshine and studded with numerous green islands. And at this time of the year up in this country nature is at her very best. On Wednesday the 3rd we paid a visit to a place called Bygdo" where the Kings summers residence used to be but it stands there now simply as an old historic place and in the castle there is a collection of paintings and carvings and some of the Royal costumes. It was however very interesting to look at but as it rained so very hard we did not get to go over all the grounds surrounding the old Castle.

Wednesday evening the Choir gave a concert; there is about sixty members and they certainly did some good singing. I enjoyed it very much as it was the first of the kind I had listened to since coming to this country.

Elder Nephi Christensen of Blackfoot was there and we had some pleasant strolls and chats together about old Idaho and various topics. He was the first man that I have seen that I was acquainted with from since Bro. Lund left last fall and he said I was the first one he had seen that he knew from home so it did us both good to see each other; he said when I wrote to give you his best regards. I also met a couple of the Elders I came over with so you can imagine what a time I had.

My trip down there and back was very nice as all the way you are either travelling through mountains all covered with timbers and along beautiful streams full of falls and rapids or else through farms and fields where the grain is growing and the meadows all covered with flowers and the grass waving in the breezes.

I learned from Pres. Penrose while down there that the presidency of the Blackfoot Stake has resigned and I am awaiting with some curiosity further news as I am somewhat curious to know what the reason was and also who has been chosen to fill the place.

Your letter of June 14th was here when I got back and I was certainly glad to hear from you once more and to know that you are still well and I do hope that ere this Glenn will be over the effects of the operation; it certainly seems hard when they have to pass through such an ordeal so young.

Well, now my dear you know the reason I have been so long in writing and you see it is not because I have forgotten nor that my love has grown cold nor anything of that nature but you know we missionaries can't always do just as we would like to that is if we do our duty; and that is what I am trying to do and know that you want me to do and I can tell you it is a great help to a person when he knows that his loved ones are united with him and pleased with his efforts so you see your love and faith is a great help to me and I hope that mine is to you. Yes life is certainly as we make it and we will make it bright and happy.

I am still enjoying health and strength and feeling fine.

Kindly remember me to Grandfather and Grandmother and everybody.

From Your loving husband
Mathias

Thank Vita for her letter.

Hooper Utah
July 8. 07

My Dear Husband:-

Now that the rush is over. There has be so much to do and excitement to go with it I haven't written a letter to any one since I wrote to you last. We had a fine time on the 4th. The people from Roy, So. Hooper, and Kanesville were over. There was a program in the morning, all kinds of sports in the afternoon and a dance in the evening. But they or going to have a better time on the 24th. I suppose you Elders will have some kind of a do. I am well and feeling fine now. I just gotten over trembling from fright last night. When Bro. Beaus said (just after singing) Sister Benson please come to the stand. My heart begane to thump. I tell you t'was a very warm evening or it seemed that way to me.

We or haveing h-o-t, warm weather and mosquitoes, Oh they or horrid, and so many of them. We have a big smug, trying to drive them away.

Little Glen is getting so he can sit up an hour at a time. I packed him out on the porch today.

Lena Fowers (the girl that was married the day Myrtle was) has a baby girl.

There was four of Hoopers young folks married the week before the fourth. Charles Jones & May Singleton. He is the one Mrs. Holliday advised not to. He leaves for England on 24th inst. Those Jones or great friends to Lunds. He used to be my old beau. Lottie and Emma Peterson married two fellow from Ogden have gone to Cal. on a tour. The other was Nora Jones. She married a fellow in Los Angles and or now in New York spending their honey moon.

There was another funeral last Sateday. And one to day. Two aged ladies. Baby has whooping cough. Who is your companion. I expect befor you get this letter you will be traveling. Will you please tell me what "Vardo" means. Is it a town? I do wish you a very pleasant trip.

May the Lord protect you is the prayer of your loveing wife

Margaret

Bodo" Norway
July 13-1907

Dear Wife:-

You'll see by the heading of this letter that I am again away from Trondhjem and this time farther north in fact if you will take a look at the map you will see that this place is located north of the Arctic circle and if it wasn't cloudy I should be able to see the midnight sun as I am now within the regions where it shines. This is quite a little ways north but not as far as I expect to go before I get through as if all goes well I will go as far north as Tromso" before I turn my face to the south again.

i left Trondhjem yesterday morning at 8:30 and got here about 11:30 this forenoon so was about 27 hours on the road; when I say road I of course mean Steamer as by water is about the only way to get up here. The trip up was very pleasant; the weather was fine and the sea as calm as a mill pond so for once I didn't get sea sick but there is plenty of chance yet as I have a good deal of boat riding yet before I am through with this trip.

With the exception of about three hours when we were out in the open sea the route lay through narrow fjords and channels some places so narrow that it looked like there was barely room for the ship to pass through and on either side the cliffs rise almost perpendicularly from the waters crest to a height of from 20 to 500 and 1000 feet; and wherever it slopes a little gently towards the water or there is a level place large enough to build a shanty on there is a fishermans hut.

These cliffs are nearly all naked and barren as there is no soil for vegetation to grow on if there has ever been any is has undoubtedly washed off as they are so steep. About 11:30 last night we passed an Island called "Torghatten" which is a large Cliff or mountain Island which rises to a highth of several hundred feet in the distance resembles an old time hat that is a hat from the first part of the 19th century. About half way up is a hole through the solid rock they say big enough for a small ship to pass through. It of course is all the work of nature. All the way up the coast there are thousands of rocky Islands and cliffs which of course make it very difficult as well as dangerous of navigation.

This place has about 4500 inhabitants and as we have a few saints and a couple of Elders stationed here I stopped here to make my first visit; from here I will go over to a place called Narvik and from there to Harstad and from there on to Tromso" so if all goes well I'll be away from Trondhjem four or five weeks.

I learned of rather an amusing incident upon my arrival here and it will illustrate what an Idea some people have. The king of Siam has been visiting this country and last week stopped here on his trip north; as you know the King of Siam has a great many wives and he perhaps had some of them with him on his trip. Now an old lady where the Elders has been staying had heard some of them say that they expected the president up and she had

undoubtedly heard them talk of Zion so when she heard that the King of Siam and his wives were in town she thought they said Zion and concluded it was the Mormon President who had come and went down to the docks to see him and his wives. Of course the boys had a good time when they found it out. To-day when Elder Hemmingsen introduced me as the President from Trodhjem she would hardly believe him as she thought I was too much like the rest of them, just a common man she had evidently expected to see some great personage. So you see people sometimes get funny notions.

They are having quite a lot of Royal visitors here this summer as all in all they expect six of the crowned heads of Europe to visit the country at once. The German Emperor is here now and several others are coming. The Norwegian King is also going to take a trip to North Cape this summer but I didn't have time to wait for him or I have no doubt he would have asked me to have gone with him. They were fixing up a ship for him at Trondhjem when I left but as his not going for a few days I concluded to take third class on a common steamer.

I received your letter of--I have forgotten the date--before leaving Thjem and was certainly pleased to hear that you was well especially when there is so much sickness around and I hope you will continue to keep well.

You ask what I think about you going and take a course in nursing. Well, my dear I would like you to learn all you could or rather can but I hardly think you ought to sign a contract that would tie you up so long; I don't expect to be gone much over another year and I think when I get back or by the time I get back we will have been separated about long enough. Don't you think so my dear? I certainly admire your pluck and love you the more for your desire to become useful I mean more useful but I don't quite like the idea of having to be separated when I get back.

If the Lord will give us health I feel that we will be able to get a start and will be able to build us up a home without being separated if we work together in love and harmony and I am sure we will do that. So learn all you can both in the way of nursing and every other way but I hardly feel that you ought to tie yourself up for so long. I am certainly glad that you are taking an active part in the Mutual and hope you told them something; but believe points and suggestions from me will be rather late. With love and best wishes I remain as ever

Mathias

Give my regards to everybody.

Hooper Utah
July 25. 07

My Dear Husband:-

I received the long looked for letter of 6 inst. night before last. I have been quarenteened for Diptheria in the mean time and that made it seem longer. I am very glad you went and had a good time. I can imagon just about how you felt when you saw Nephei C. If you write him give him my regards. I am so happy and thankfull to think we are nearing the end of this trouble. Tomorrow Mr. parker will disinfect everything and every body around the place. Veta came down with it first and came nearly passing in her checks. She had mambrane croup and has lost her voice. Lawerence came down next, he only had it light, but when he came down Dr. told Aunt Mary the best thing she could do was to send Glen away so they brought him and me down here to Grandma's. We came on Monday and Hazel came down with it on Wensday night so they took her up to Aunt Mary's thursday evening. She did not have it so very bad. I had a sore throt but was not sick at all. Glen is quite hard to take care of. I have to carry him around most of the time. But he is doing as well as can be expected. Dr. Rich has decided that Grandma is to weak for her operation so she will have to suffer on untill the end of her days.

Well enough trouble for a you to know. I wish I was in the land of the "Midnight Sun" long enough to finish this letter.

Well dear, dark came on sooner than I expected last night so I will finish this morning. I was up half the night with Glen so I don't look very gay this morning. He feels better now.

How did you spend holiday. I guess the 24 was celebrated the best it has been for many a long day here in Hooper. They had a lovely parade it went by here. I tell you I was dressed to a queens tast. Had on a calico dress and a big straw hat and big kitchen aperon. When Gene came along with the mail cart I took Glenn and we went down to the square to see the sham battle. There was six Indians and several boys dressed up. We could not go close enough to hear the program, but we could hear the Band and singing. We saw some of the races and the war dances. I could hear the music from the hall at night so I didn't have such a bad day my self.

There was a farewell party given last saterday night. John Belnap and Charles Jones. Both left here tuesday for there missions. John to Germany and Charles to England. They both felt very blue. Charles because he was leaving a young wife and John because he did not have one to leave. Charles is the fellow Mrs. Holiday gave such good advice. You or aquainted with him. May be you will meet him in Liverpool or some where else when you come home.

We are having very warm weather on the 23 twas 94 in the shade. Yesterday and day before twas cloudy. People or cutting and halling grain. Every thing looks fine.

Aervoir With love I remain Your wife

to hurry to catch the mail

Harstad Norway
July 30-1907

Dear Wife:-

I have received your letters of June 27 and also July 8th the one sent June 27 got of on a wrong track so was a little slow in reaching me but I got it just the same so it is all right.

I am indeed glad to notice that you are still blessed with good health and as you say it is certainly a blessing that we are permitted to enjoy the same and I am truly thankful that such is the case, especially when there is so much sickness in the country.

I sent you a card from Narvik and I hope you have received the same fore this reaches you I had a very nice time over there visiting the Elders, saints, and friends; and also had the previlege of bearing my testimony to the people and had my first experience in outdoor preaching as we held an out-door meeting out-side of the home of one of our members just outside of town, quite a number of people came to listen to us and it was quite a novel experience to speak to a congregation setting scattered around behind the trees and upon the rocks some of them apparently afraid to come to close I suppose they were afraid they might get converted if they came to close. We also held a meeting in one of the largest halls in town where we had a good crowd turn out to listen to what we had to say.

I beleive I told you on the card that Narvik was a place where they load the ships with "Iron Ore" the greater part of which comes from a mine in Sweden. When they get the dump finished they will have one of the best if not the best place for loading ore in Europe. The rail road that carries the ore from the mines to the docks is the northern most rail road in the world and the Narvik rail road station the northern most Rail Road station in the world.

One of the Engineers who runs on the road is a very good friend of the Elders and he talked us into taking a ride a short distance up the road just to see how it was built and it was certainly well worth the time. The road bed has been nearly entirely blasted out of solid rock and lays high up on the mountain side so a person looks almost straight down into the Fjord several hundred feet below. I think it is one of the greatest pieces of Engineering work in the world. In about two hours ride and as it is very steep they go very slow but in about two hours you pass through eighteen tunnels.

I left Narvik Monday evening at 6:45 and got here to Harstad at 4 oclock Tuesday morning. From here we took a trip out into the country to a place

called Kasfjord from where a good many people have Emmigrated to Utah and quit a number of them are now living in Hyrum. I beleive I told you last spring of a young lady coming back here to bring her Mother over to Utah, Kasfjord is her home and we had a very nice time visiting with her. They are also related to one of the Elders labouring here so it has been a kind of home for them. But it seems that Sister Eibertsens mission so far as getting her mother to go with her to Utah is going to be in vain as she evidently has no particular love for mormonism although all her children are in Utah and members of the church with the exception of one who is still here and I think he will soon join and go too. But while it doesn't look like she is going to accomplish what she came for yet she is doing a great amount of good as it is only seven years ago since she left and has a great many friends here so of course she is doing quite a missionary work in preaching the Gosple to them and having been to Utah and come back they are quite curious to see and speak with her as there are a great many stories told of the fearful conditions of the women in Utah. From Kasfjord we went over to a place called Kvwfjord where one of the oldest members of the Church in Norway lives, he is now nearly eighty years old and has been a member for over 40 years. That is also the place where Peter A Hartvigsen was born and raised and I talked with quite a number of his old companions none however that are as big as he is. I met some of the most hospitable people I have met in Norway over there. We held one meeting Saturday evening and another Sunday afternoon and of-course told them a little about Mormonism. After meeting Sunday we walked about twelve miles so you see we got a little exercise too; but we certainly did have a fine time. The weather has been very fine up til yesterday when it started to rain and yesterday and to-day it has been raining so it has not been quite so pleasant. From here I am going to a place called Tromso" and I think that I shall perhaps turn around and go south again. You ask what Vardo" is, it is a little city away around North Cape.

Say you didn't say what Bro Beaus wanted you to come to the stand for. Preach though I suppose and I hope you gave them a right good sermon. Well that is right my dear just preach every chance you get if it does make it seem warm as every time you get up it will seem that much easier. Hope I shall have the chance of hearing you preach when I get back. Not a curtain lecture at midnight though but just a good Gosple sermon. So if you make a reputation as a housekeeper and Buttermaker and then as a preacher also why I'll have the best wife in the country in fact I have now. Well, my love take good care of yourself and may the Lord ever Guard and Protect you is the prayer of your loving husband

Mathias

Remember me to everybody. Please excuse this being so speckled as my pen has taken a balky streak. I forgot to tell you that on the evening of the 24th We also celebrated not by Dancing but three of us Elders and the Sister I have been telling you about went rowing on the Fjord and saw them take up their herring nets they took in about 50 bushel of herring at one haul. It

was calm and beautiful and we had a fine boat ride. Also tried to fish but they would not bite evidently the biggest suckers were on the end of the line in the boat.

Hooper Utah

Aug. 9,07

My Dear Husband

Now that we or cleaned up once more I'll try and do a little scribbling. I took Hazel and Grandma to the track to night. They have gone to Salt Lake City to stay with Aunt Jane for a while. Uncle Sam came in from Denver and is going to make Salt Lake his home.

Grandpa has been taking quite a spell. Coalville Camas and is in the City now. Having a time of his life. The children or all doing fine and how thankful we all or. I am enjoying the very best of health and see by your letter of July 13 and card and by your picture that you are also. I can't help but admire you in the "Prince Willie" and that smile, how sweet. Is that the kind that never wears off. You do look good to me any way. I would just like to bite your ear a little. You do look good to me anyway. I would like to bite your ear a little.

You haven't drank enough beer to fill out your coat like Bro. Henricksen. I've learned how to make it now so you can not get the best of us. Is Oder Harvigsen related to those in Moreland? I would not mind being up on that hill just a little while. You must be going over a great deal of country and seeing beautiful seenery. I am glad you are just a plain common man instead of the King of Siam for my part. Isn't it sad you could not wait for the Norweigan King but cheer up it mite of been worse.

We are having extra warm weather well 95 & 97 degrees this last week. Most of people around here have there grain halled and some thrashed. Tomatoes will soon ripe. I think I'll work in the factory this fall in stead of going home Aervior I will have to retire

With love I remain your wife
Margaret.

Tromso" Norway

Aug 10-1907

Dear Wife:-

Well, I have got this far on my trip North and am now about ready to turn around and go south aain as the Elders who have been labouring North of here has come down to this place. So now I don't think that I shall go farther North but will leave to day for Narvik. Will leave here at 2 P.M. to-day and get to Narvik about 7:30 A.M. tomorrow so you see I have about 17 hours boat ride ahead of me but as it is fine weather and the sea is calm it is

not bad but quite to the contrary one enjoys riding through the fjords and watching the scenery on either side.

I have certainly had a fine time on my trip so far and enjoyed myself immensely. Besides getting to see the country I have met a great many people and of course that is always interesting; as one never strikes two persons exactly alike nor two who think or look at things just alike.

We have not been suffering with the heat any up here as it have been quite cold in fact the first part of the week an overcoat was almost a necessity I would shake whenever I got outside the house but the last two days has been more pleasant though none to warm. An old man here was telling us that it being so cold was caused by the North wind blowing the ice-bergs from the Arctic ocean down along the coast which looks very reasonable and they would certainly chill the atmosphere.

The other day I had the privelege of visiting a Laplanders home. Across the Fjord from here there is a number of Laps and we got a man to row us over and went up and visited them in their stone and sod hut. In the middle of the hut between a couple of large rocks they have a small fire and around this they had spread the green boughs of trees and on these they squatted. In the hut were an old woman smoking her pipe and a younger woman sowing on some trinket or ornament of some kind and a young man making trinkets or ornaments of some kind from reindeer horn. In the farther side of the hut were a Coffee kettle and one or two other pots or kettles together with a few other cooking utensils; while in the corners on either side of the door were the beds, the bedding evidently consisting of reindeer hides; as they could talk Norwegian we had quite a little chat with them; they live entirely on the reindeer or rather the reindeer supplies with all they have as they use both their milk and meat. They also sell their meat to get money with which to buy what they need.

Well my dear as my time is limited I will have to make my letter short this time. Hoping and praying that this will find you enjoying health and strength as it leaves me and ever praying the Lord for your welfare I remain your loving husband

Mathias

Take good care of yourself my love.

Bodo"

August 17-1907

Dear Wife:-

I arrived at this city last Thursday and found your letter of July 25th here waiting for me and as I always am was very glad to get the same. I am sorry you have been having so much sickness and do hope that you are all through with it ere this and are all enjoying health again. Am inded sorry to hear

of the condition of Grandmother and hope she will not have to suffer to much pain and misery.

I wrote you a week ago from Tromso" and from there I went to a place called Narvik and again visited the saints and Elders and helped the boys hold a meeting; we also had the pleasure of adding one more soul to the church while I was there. I left there Wednesday evening and got here Thursday noon, will stop here over Sunday and hold a meeting and on Monday we are going out to an island called Steigen where the young lady whom I told you about early in the spring was taken down with consumption lives, and pay her a visit and if we get a chance of course we will preach to the people, will get back here on Wednesday and on Thursday I will leave for Trondhjem reaching the latter place at 3 P.M. Friday 23 inst. I have certainly had a fine time on my trip so far. The weather has been fine though a little cold at times but the sea has been calm so I have escaped being sea sick and of course I am glad of that. I have also had an opportunity of seeing what northern Norway looks like and have seen some as fine a scenery as a person could wish to see. In one of the fjords through which we sailed the other day the water was so smooth and quiet that objects were reflected in it as perfectly as in the best of Mirrors. The mountains on either side of ther fjord, the sky and even the sea gulls flying over the water could be seen just as plainly by looking over the side of the Steamer into the water as they could be by looking into the distance or into the air, in fact it was one of the most perfect reflections I ever saw and but for a few ripples that the ship made one would hardly know wether he was sailing on the water or in the air.

One of the principal diets of the people up in this country is fish and I have certainly had all of that I could wish for as I have eaten both fried fish and boiled fish, fish soup and fish pudding and for a change fish cakes and fish dumplings, the other day we sent out fishing and five of us caught about 200 very nice fish. I caught more fish on that trip than I have ever done on a fishing trip before so I thought our trip was successful.

I have met a great many people on this trip some very nice people and some who are not so nice, some sinsible and intelligent people and some who are just the opposite and the ideas some of them have about the Mormons is really amusing and I tell some of them if they really are as ignorant as they profess to be and really beleive the stories they profess to believe about conditions among the mormons and especially in Utah, the government ought either to provide a school where they could go and learn a little common sense and get an idea of what there really does exist outside their own little Norway or else hire some one to hit them in the head and plant them out in somebodies cabbage patch perhaps they could become a little useful there.

I sat up til after twelve oclock the other evening discussing the apostacy with a teacher in one of their schools, and he had to acknowledge that he could not prove that our principles and teachings are false but he could not or would not beleive there has been an Apostacy and when I brought him all

kinds of proof and evidence that he could not get around all he could say was that he couldn't believe it so I got a little satisfaction out of him. I tried to get him to put all the different denominations to a test and see how many of them really taught the pure Gosple of Christ and then he could soon find out how far the people had strayed from the truth and while he had to admit that that would be a fair way to prove them he still held to his old opinions, this is only one case but we meet them by the score who can not prove that what we teach is false and all they can say is that they don't beleive it and of course we can't force them to do that.

I happened to call at a house the other day where there was a crowd of religious women and the way they went after me wasn't slow. I told them that the Prophets of old had said that many false teachers should come in the Latter days, yes says one lady and you are one of them. Of course I thanked her for her compliment and then kindly invited her to prove it and told her I would be willing to be put to the test. I further suggested that she direct the same question at all who claimed to be teachers of the Gosple that the Jews did at the Apostles on the day of Penticost. "Men and brethren what shall we do"? and all who didn't give her the same answer that Peter gave she could put down as false teachers, this showed her about where she stood and she didn't have so much to say after that; and that is the way it goes it is really amusing sometimes to talk to them.

Well my love I suppose it is enough of this. I am very pleased to state that I am still enjoying the best of health and as before stated having a fine time.

Hoping and praying that this will find you well and the the spirit of the Lord may ever be with you protect and guide you is the earnest prayer of your loving husband

Mathias.

Promantory, Little Mt.
Salt Work's
Aug. 21, 1907

My Dear Husband:-

Now it is your turn to read the heading of my letter and look surprised. I am now enjoying the beautiful Lake breezes as they whistle through my currley locks of hair also the surrounding seens. The lake lies to the west Promatory in the North west, Little Mt. in the north east and the river beds take up the rest. I am now enjoying the very best of company because I am all alone most of my time. I am cooking for salt diggers there is Parley B. and Elise Belnap, Eugene and Carl Robinson, and then happy Jack and his brother Jim. My friend Rose Mitchell came over with me. We started away from home last fri. about 7:30 P.M. all went along nicely until we got to the river. Parley drove in about the length of the wagon and the horses refused to go they worked about an hour and started out again drove a little

to far to the east and got into a sink hole. So they had to take the horses off and unload. Mud knee deep, we girls got out and helped we all worked just as hard as we could until about two the boys put the horses back on and the would not straighten their tugs we were just about frozen so the boys got on the horses and went back to Hooper for a team. Rose and I were alone in the middle of the river at night. We were all wet and shivering with cold so we each wrapped in a quilt and lied down in the bottom of the wagon and I listened to the fish splash in the water. Well when the boys got back they had a good team and they pulled us out all right. We got over here in time to change clothing and get breakfast. Oh my the house was a fright so we began to clean, tired, I never was so near give out in a long time. Rose simply faged and Eugene took her home Sunday evening so I am induring it alone. But the house is cleaned now and the four boys went to Lagoon monday so I am just resting up. I went down to the pump house Sunday afternoon and learned how to run the engine yesterday I learned how to sow sacks go so I could put one up in three quarters of a munit If I was strong enough to shake the salt down all day that is just what I would do I know I could cleare \$3.00 a day. But I can't so Margaret be contented with less.

Aunt Mary phoned to me last night dear but her voice did sound good to me she said she was lonely with out me and wants me to come back. But I simply can not do it. I haven't got the nerve, just think it is nearly a year since I went there they have supported me and treated me grand, all the time I was on crutches they done all they could for me to make me happy so now that I have the chance I will stay here and sacrifice my own feeling for Gene and Earls sake. This morning I told them I was going home and you should of heard them beg. We are having very warm weather when we want any shade we have to go and crawl in be hind a greese wood. There is four boys here for dinner so the crew.

I was talking to Annie this morning and to Lunds yesterday they said to tell you hello. Well aervoir With love I remain your wife

Margaret Benson

Trondhjem Norway
August 31-1907

My Dear Wife:-

I have received your letter of August 9th and was indeed glad to hear that you have got through with the sickness and are again all straightened up and feeling fine and I hope and pray that you may continue doing so. I am feeling fine as usual and am still enjoying my labours so have no complaints. I have been very busy since coming home to Trondhjem and still I can't see that I have got anything done so time goes very fast.

The last letter I wrote you I beleive I wrote from Bodo" and I told you I was going out to visit a sister who left here last spring sick with the Consumption; well, we went out there and was indeed surprised and gratified

to see her as she is almost entirely well, says she has no pain nor cough and feels fine and I must say she looks better than she has ever done since I learned to know her and what is better still she is willing to acknowledge that it is through the blessings of the Lord that she is getting along so well, I beleive I told you last spring that we administered to her before she left here and she has great faith in that ordinance and is keeping the Word of Wisdom strictly and I certainly do feel that she will yet get all right she certainly has great faith and courage. As I told you in my card of a week ago I got back here to Trondhjem on the 23 inst the last day on the boat was about the only storm I saw on the trip and then it did not storm bad but enough to make me sea sick for about an hour but that was not to be wondered at as there was a man on board who said he had crossed the Atlantic 11 times and had never been sea sick til that morning so you see I felt a little jusitified in being sick; but that is all over with now, and I would not be afraid to make another trip but expect stay here in Trondhjem for awile at least.

You say in your letter that you have been having some warm weather over there and I almost wish we could divide things up a little as it has certainly not been any too warm over here but quite to the contrary in fact here has been so much storm that it has been almost impossible for the farmers to get their hay dry and they claim that it has been so wet and cold that most of the grain will have to be cut for hay as it will not ripen so you see a little more sunshine and warm weather would be a good thing over here in fact the people say that this is the coldest summer they have had for years.

Yes, Elder Hartvigsen is a Nephew of P A Hartvigsen but as you see by the picture he is not quite so large. We have three Elders here who crossed the Atlantic with John Belnap and Charles Jones one of them N. P. Neilsen is from Pocatello and as I got acquainted with him through Sunday School work it was almost like some one coming from home the other two are G. W. Christ-offersen from Salt Lake City and A. H. Andersen from Fountain Green Utah, only one of them can talk Danish so the others have something to learn before they can do much good but as they are bright intelligent men they will soon learn.

No I am not quite able to fill out my "Prince Willie and am afraid I will not be before I get back but if you have learned to make beer why I may be able to improve when I get home as I know the beer you make will make me fatter than that which these Norwegians make and then what is more I drink but very little of it as we have such fine water in this country. I am glad to know that you are satisfied with me although I am only a common man and a very common one at that and if you are satisfied why I certainly ought to be.

Well my love as I have no news to tell you I guess I had better quit this scribbling. Everything is moving along smoothly and when I get a good encour- aging letter from you every once in awhile why I certainly think I

ought to feel happy and contented and I'll confess that I do so and sincerely hope you do the same.

Give my best regards to Grandpa and Grandma, Aunt Mary, Uncle Lawrence, Hazel, Eugene and everybody else that I know.

Take good care of yourself my love and may the Lord bless and protect you at all times is the prayer and wish of your

Affectionate Husband
Mathias.

Hooper Utah
Sept 5. 1907

Dear Husband:

I received your letters of Aug 10 and 17 last night. I assure you I am glad to get a little news from you once more Well I came back last night and I wasn't sorry either. I enjoyed it but still I had enough. Day be fore yesterday I had a fine time went out to Bagley about half way between Little Mt. and Promatory, tis built on the water. There was a Mrs. Wilson out there she came up to the Salt Works to see me. So I went out on a speeder with the track walker.

Jack was not working so he came out to bring me back. Him and Mrs. Wilson her husband and four little girls went out to Bear River Bridge, my it does seem strange, the fresh water running down through the salt water. Jack got a row boat and we went out to the Promatory steam ship, went on board and all through the thing three decks, it was anchor but there was a wind blowing from the south and it blew the boat around so that we got off in the oppisite direction to what it was when we got in and I didn't even know it had moved until I noticed the land mark. While we we looking wise the waves washed an ore away about a hundred yards out in the lake so Jack used the ore and I the rudder until we got the floting timber. I was trembling so I could hardly stand up when we landed. That is the third time I've been in boats, and the first and only barge one I ever saw and I saw all that was to be seen. I don't suppose it would be a good size play thing by the side of an Ocean steammer but it give me a faint idea what they are. The Promatory is over 100 ft long. The water or the ride or something made me so hungry I haven't gotten enough to eat since. Well when we went back to the work Jack and Mr. Wilson worked the speeder and I sat in the back we were going at a very high speed, I was sitting there thinking over the events of the day when the speeder jumped the track. My how it did plow along Well none of us was hurt. But I'll never forget it.

Well I had the chance to see Mr. & Mrs. Lund a week ago last Sunday the Plain City choir came over to Hooper. Lillie England, Ina and Della Moyes came too they are quite nice looking young ladies now.

Lillie E. Wilford England Margaret Brown's oldest bro. daughter came out to the Salt works sun. Mr. Simpson wife came so I had quite a time and enjoyed it. H.D. Brown, wife and family or living in Ogden. Do you ever hear from him? Eugene Robinson left here this morning for Denver where he will attend school this winter. Going to be an M. D.

My tis more like a funeral than any thing I can think of just now. Poor fellow he felt blue.

Grandma is up to Milo so is Hazel. They are feeling about the same usual. I don't think they will stay very long because school starts Mon. Jennie was here last night she is in Ogden attending institute, she is going to teach here in Hooper this winter.

Today is Mead babys birthday and to morrow is Pauls that Aunt Mary boy, or the boy we live with. Just think I have been here a little over a year. I am going to work in the factory. Will start Monday if all goes well. There is so much to do this time a year with fruit, tomatoes and now beets or to be dug Uncle Gene got notice to begin at once. I suppose you or in Trondhjem by this time. I am happy to learn you enjoyed your self while on the trip. Every body is in bed and asleep but me. Five oclock comes early in the morning for a sleepy head like me. I received a letter from Mead, he and Jael or coming down this fall I guess Bertha & Ida have quite me. I havent heard from them for such a long time.

Well good night sweetheart. Sweet dream to thee. And may the Lord bless you and soon bring you back to your little wife

Margaret B.

P.S. Bro Lund said he would write soon sent regards.

Trondhjem Norway
Sept. 14-1907

Dear Wife:-

I sent you a card a week ago and said I would write a letter in a few days, well, the few days have passed and in counting them I find they make a week so I guess I had better be as good as my word and write or else I might get a curtain lecture and I wouldn't like that especially as I am so far away and it would take such a long time for it to get here.

I have received you welcome letter of Aug 21 and read the same with great interest as I do all your letters. Sorry you had such a time getting out to where you were going but sincerely trust that you will not feel any bad effects from you exposure. I hope that you will be able to get along and not overdo yourself or get sick while you are out there. So my dear take good care of your health and don't expose yourself any more than is absolutely necessary, I am afraid that if I had known that my wife was

laying out in the river in a wagon box and all wet I would not have slept much that night. Now don't think from this that I am worrying about you nor that I think you are not able to take care of yourself because I know you are but at the same time you know I am more interested in your welfare than any other person and if I thought you were not all right why of course I would not feel so good as I want to feel while out here.

I am glad you have concluded to do something easier than sowing sacks as I would not like you to wear yourself out in that manner so try and be contented with something less even if you don't make so much.

You say it is very warm over there, well, if I could I would like to exchange some of the cold weather we are having here for some of your warm weather as here it is cold and stormy nearly all the time so we could stand a little heat very nicely. With the exception of about two days it has been stormy every day this month.

This week I have spent a great deal of my time caring for the dead as one of our members died a week ago. Here in this country they do not dress their dead as we do but simply wrap them in a shroud or more properly speaking cover them with a shroud as it does not reach around the corps but simply covers the front.

Of course I would not consent to one of our members being buried in that manner and told her husband who is also a member of the church so and explained to him my reasons and what our customs were but as it was something new to him why I had to superintend the whole thing so I got a couple of the sisters of the Releif Society to go with me and we went to the Undertaker and explained what we wanted so we got her dressed real nice. The Undertakers wife thought it rather peculiar that we placed so much importance on the way our dead were dressed and one of the sisters said that we wanted to be dressed in the morning of the resurrection and that we expected to rise in the clothes we were laid down in. This she said she did not beleive but that she beleived that as Adam and Eve were naked before the fall even so would we be in the resurrection that then we would be without sin as Adam and Eve were and we would not know that we are naked even as they did not know it before the fall. So you can see what kind of a conception people out here have of the resurrection and the hereafter. I told her that Adam and Eve gained some- thing through the fall and that that was the knowledge of good and evil and that with that knowledge came the realizatin that they were naked and as we beleived that we would still in the resurrection have the knowledge of good and evil so we would also have the realization of the condition of our bodies. She had to acknowledge that if this is the case we are the most consistent in burying our dead as we do.

As the sister who died had not had her name stricken out of the State Church the Law demanded that the priest officiate at the grave. This of course he did and after he got through we sung a couple of hymns and I made a short speech and then we dedicated the Grave so we had to take turn about with the minister, but everything went of very nicely.

Well my dear, I hope this will find you well as it leaves me at present. I have had a severe cold but am over it and feeling fine again now. One week from to-day we have our Conference so all is hustle and bustle here now and will be for the next week or two as there will be about 25 missionaries here and I have to rustle board and lodging for all of them.

Kindly remember me to everybody that I know and may our Heavenly Father be with you to bless and protect you from all harm and evil and that we may both have health and strength until that happy time when we shall again be united is the earnest prayer and wish of your loving husband

Mathias

Hooper Utah
Sept 22, 1907

My Dear Husband:-

Work, work, work, work. I hope that explains why I haven't written for so long. We put in between sixteen and eighteen hours every day. When night comes t'is quite welcome because calling it tired is a mild way I have of telling you how I feel. I have been working in the factory in the tomatoes, pears, and peaches for the last two weeks. Aunt Mary is quite ill she says she knows it is typhoid fever but I don't think so. But I have been doing all I could in the morning and the rest at night and t'is too much so I will stay home for a while. I was just getting so I could make something. \$1.75 per day is as high as I got. The first day was the hardest and I only done 33 buckets @ 3 cts that is the only time I fell so low.

I received your letter and card, was so glad to receive the same. How sad I was absent when you was so sea sick. I should like to of held your head. When I was reading you letter I could not help but smile because it made me think how bro Lund laughed when he was telling me about your experience going over.

I telephoned the other day at noon to Lund and he wanted to know how you was so I told him. Oh how the wires rang with laughter and give him my regards.

I was put in teacher in the Y.L.M.I.A. so I will have something to do if I stay here this winter. Don't you think my staying qualities very good? T'is after eleven oclock, will finish in the morning.

Well one more day begining with its toil.

Grandma and Hazel came home this morning, was feeling fine considering, said she saw Lester or he and his girl went to see them. He leaves Salt Lake on the eleventh of Nov. for the mission, is coming down here on the 20th of next month. But worst of all he is going to be married before he goes. Just emagon only nineteen last July, it just makes me sick. Well he has his rights and will do as he pleases the same as I.

The way people or rushing in beets and tomatoes isn't slow. We have had two quite hard frosts. I suppose that accounts for it. But then it hasn't come to wearing over coats. People up at the factory don't believe I am married. What would they think of Lester. I guess Bertha and Ida have forgotten me. I have not heard from them for so long.

Aunt Mary is feeling better to day so I think I will try the factory in the morning.

Goodby sweetheart, I remain your loving wife

Margaret B.

Trondhjem Norway
Sept 30-1907

My dear wife:-

I have received your letter of the 5th inst. and read the same with much satisfaction and enjoyment as I do in fact all your letters. I was certainly thankful to learn that you are still enjoying good health and spirits as I consider that to be one of the greatest blessing we can have. I am glad that you had a pleasant trip out on the lake and that you had the opportunity of seeing the steamer but if it is as you say about 100 ft long it is only one fifth as long as the one I crossed the Atlantic on and some of the ocean going steamers are 800 ft long so you can see they are some larger and of course their depth is also greater as also their width; some of them have four and five decks and one of the largest ones that go between England and America has a crew of 800 men and carries between two and three thousand passengers so it must be a little bigger than the "Promontory". It was too bad that you didn't have a sail on it so you could have sea sick because that is where the real fun on a boat comes in; but maybe you got sea sick in the boat. I am glad that you did not get hurt when the "Speeder" left the track and feel that the Lord protected you and trust that he will continue to do so and if we only do our duty to him and to his cause which I feel we are trying to do why I feel we can put our trust in him and that is what I do and believe you do the same.

I am feeling fine and still enjoying my labours and know that the Lord is blessing me even beyond my own worthiness and know that his hand is over us and I hope you do the same for you know that you have a part in this mission and I hope it will make us both better. Sure it is that we are getting an experience that we could get in no other place or rather in no other way. I sometimes think that I am getting more good out of my mission than anybody else and hope it will make a better man of me don't you my dear? But what a foolish question I know you do, and knowing that I have your love and confidence I feel that I can work so much harder to improve myself and do all the good possible and by the way I think that trying to do good to others is one of the best ways for a person to improve himself especially when he does it by preaching the Gosple. The principles of the Gosple are

nobel and elevating and when a person is engaged in preaching them and and trying to get other people to understand them why of-course they become almost a part of a mans nature and when they do that why of-course they elevate him to, in fact I think we will have to make the Gosple a part of our natures before we will attain perfection. But enough of that.

We have had our fall Conference a week ago and had a glorious time. Held several meetings which were well attended and we all felt fine. We were twenty-four elders all to-gether and of-course so many of us coming to-gether made us feel good besides our Conference meetings where we had such a good time. Pres. Christensen was here from Copenhagen, - he is President of the Scandinavian mission- but this was his last visit with us as he has been released to return home and Soren Rasmussen of Draper Utah who has been presiding over the Christiana Conference is going to take his place. I had so much to do during Conference that I hardly had time to either sleep nor eat and I tell you I was almost wore out when we got through but I am rested up now and feel fine; and am ready to start on the winters work.

It was very cold and stormy here all during Conference and in fact has been all the time. We have only had two or three days of clear weather the last two months and on the 21st it snowed so you see we are not having summer up here.

So Eugene Robson is going to study medicine? Well, that is good I hope he has success, I should like to go to school to but I don't think I'd care to study for a doctor as I don't like to be around sick people well enough for that. At present I'll content myself with studying the Gosple however and if the Lord sees it is for the best that I should study something else after awhile why he'll open up the way.

Well my love take good care of yourself. And I'll do the same. Give my kindest regards to Grandpa and Grandma, Aunt Mary, Hazel, Eugene and all the rest; don't forget anybody.

Praying the Lord to bless and protect you and to keep you safe at all times

I remain as ever Your loving husband
Mathias.

Trondhjem Norway
October 12-1907

My Dear Wife:-

I received your kind and welcome letter dated Sept. 22 day before yesterday and was certainly glad to hear from you again. Was certainly pleased to know that it was just "work"! that made you so long in writing and I will certainly take that as an explanatin and be thankful it was nothing worse. I have also had lots of work to do but am getting things straightened out a

little now so they don't crowd quite so much; and I can get time to get an occasional breath and get my bearings and see what I am driving at. Say it was too bad that you wasn't with me when I was sea sick but I am not so certain about your holking my head as I can so easily form a mental picture of some bodies poor little wife feeding the inhabitants of the mighty deep more vigorously than I did and I am afraid that picture would have been the case after seeing the action of several ladies on board - and they were 'sombodies wives - too but they were engaged in quite another occupation than holding their husbands heads.

However I hope we shall someday have the chance of having a boat ride together and then you shall have the chance of trying your skill; that is if I get sea sick.

Yes, I certainly do think your staying qualities are very good and if you stay much longer I will come pretty near thinking that you are going to do as you said when I left stay there till I come back; well, as I said then so I say now you will have to suit yourself and if you do stay there this winter why just show your staying qualities just as much in the M.I.A. and go to work with a determination of making it a success and you will succeed and find a great deal of joy in your labours, remember that at that as well as working in the factory or any other place the harder you work the better success you will have and the more you will get out of it. Well, my dear you shall certainly have my faith and prayers that you will be able to succeed and you know that I am greatly interested in that kind of work and nothing would please me better than to know that you were making a success of it.

I got a letter from Andrew the other day and by the way he writes Moreland must be getting pretty slim as there has so many moved away and perhaps they will have a new Bishop there before we get back so I don't suppose we'll know the place at all and I'm afraid it will not seem natural with so many out of the few people living there moved away. But then I guess we ought to expect some changes in two years. As you have no doubt heard Andrew is working for the Sugar company and this necessitated him moving to Blackfoot.

So Lester is going to get married before he goes on his mission; I must confess I was somewhat surprised to hear it as it does seem to me he is quite young but as I did the same thing I don't suppose I have licence to say anything although I was a little older. They must have a pretty good opinion of us though when they'll go to work and follow our example in such a matter as that and if they do take that step I only hope they will feel as well satisfied as we do or at least as I do. I can't of-course speak for you but I know that I have felt happy and contented. I confess I beleive more so than I could have done if we had not got married as I feel that I have your assistance, confidence, and interests more now than I could possibly have expected had it been otherwise and I hope and pray that you shall never have occasion to regret the step you took and by the way it is just eighteen months ago to-day so a year and a half has slipped by since that time.

With the experience you have had in that time you ought to be able to give them a little good advice and prepare them somewhat for what they can expect and when they are going to follow your example they ought also to be willing to accept your counsel and profit by the experience you have had; so give to them.

If I get time I may write them a letter and address it to Hooper and I guess they'll get it. If I do I'll also give them a little "advice" and tell them that if they follow our example in one thing to follow it others and we'll set them a good one wont we?

Everything is moving along about as usual with me and I have nothing to complain of. Have plenty to do and enough to interest me so that time goes very smoothly how is it with you my dear.

I have no news as things around here are of course strage to you and things that are happening outside of the mission field I don't think would interest you much.

Give my kindest regards to "everybody" I'll not write their names as you know who they are.

Praying the Lord to bless you and strengthen you and that his spirit may always be with you I remain as ever

Your loving husband
Mathias

Trondhjem Norway
October 19-1907

Dear Wife:-

I am not going to write you a long letter this time but just a few lines to let you know that I am still alive and prospering as usual and that of course means that I am well and enjoying my labours for which I am certainly thankful.

We have just been having quite a circus and some little fun at the expense of one of the Elders here as he has been complaining of itching for several days and yesterday when he came to make an examination he found he had got a dose of lice and big ones. They were about the size of crickets; of-course we all had a fit of itchy and crawling sensations but I beleive the rest of us have escaped and mighty thankful we are too as it is certainly anything but pleasant even if we do have a laugh at it. Did I ever tell you that I got a dose last summer? Well I did but found it out in time so that by bathing and changing clothes about twice I got rid of them.

I thought sure I was in for a good shaking the other day and what is more it was an old maid whom I thought was going to give it to me. But I managed to get of with a good tongue lashing.

You see there is a young lady who has been invistagating Mormonismn for some time and who by the way is a friend of this old maid well last Sunday this young lady requested baptism and after satisfying myself that she was sincere and had faith in the Gosple I baptized her. When the old maid got to hear of this she felt anything but pleased and last Tuesday I met her and the way she went after me wasn't slow, talk about h-ll a pping, if it can pop any worse than her tongue why I miss my guess; of course I defended myself as best I may but did not know for a few minutes but I might be in for a little bodily punishment as she is as big and strong as an ox. Well, I was told last night that she was coming up to have another talk with me and I only hope she does and leaves her temper at home and I shall certainly try and show her where she stands. But that is the way it goes, when an honest soul makes up their mind to serv the Lord and obey his truths it makes Satan rave and well he might as he knows his power is drawing to a close.

Have been very busy this week as Sisters Widtsoe & Gaarden who have been labouring here as missionaries for a little over four years are going home and I have been helping them a little and then the Saints here had a farewell party for them and of-course it all takes time. Well my love I'll have to quit writing for this time as I have to go out to the hospital and visit a brother who has had to go under an operation and there is only certain hours visitors are admitted.

So hoping you are well and praying the Lord's choicest blessings to be with you I remain with love

Your husband *Mathias*

Hooper Utah
Oct. 20-07

My Dear Husband:-

At last I will try and find time to write to you. I will be so glad when this "Fall rush" is over and everybody isn't worked to death.

To day is Stake Conference in Ogden so there isn't any meeting here to day. I am very glad you enjoyed your Conference so much. But I am in hopes you will only be there to one more and than be in this the far better land far away to attend all the rest with me. I went down to Salt Lake City two weeks to day and Mr. Wray was the only person I saw from Idaho. He said they were all well. And Moreland was dead, nothing doing at all. Lester is going to be married before he goes on his mission. Mr Wray said he thought the best thing Lester could do would be, to get married by the Justice of Peace and wait a while be for he went away. I don't know why but I don't credit that st atement. T'is to terrable to even think about. Lester will be here next Saturday and is supposed to leave for his mission on nov. 6. Henry is going to school in Logan. I received a card from him, and one from Jno. Belnap. Jno. is in Germany, sayes he was very sick all the way over.

Myrtle is the Mother of a bouncing baby girl. Three weeks old and I did not know it until last Monday. Poor Evelean Holmes has another baby tis a boy this time.

I saw H. D. Brown in Ogden last week. He said they were all but he did look tacky. He invited me up the house but I didn't have time to go.

The M.I.A. is going to play "Beyond Pardon" I have a part but don't know when or how to learn it. One of Mother's cousins Mrs. Eveans and Husband is here but will go home to night. I stayed away from the factory yesterday and went out to Low's and picked ground cherries and sand bures and grapes. The grapes were just fine. I should of sent you some if I could. We are haveing lovely weather only a little frost one night this fall that did not do much damage. I am getting so fat, gained 10 lbs. in two weeks.

Well aervior I remain Your loveing wife

Margaret B.

Hooper Utah
Oct. 30-07

My Dear Husband:-

I received your kind and welcome letter of the 12th inst. I was very very glad to receive the same. Happy to know you are enjoying good health.

I would not need to tell you I am well if you could hear Lester talk. He looks at me for a while then says "Maggie Dear you're so fat, never be in a better condition to kill". But Uncle killed a pig yesterday, so it isn't necessary. We had baked ribbs for supper, Dear heart how would something from home like that tast to you? Are do you have just the same or better?

Everything is quite and every one has gone to bed but me. And I am baking wedding cake. Lester and (Vere) his wife were married to day at Salt Lake in the Temple so I think Mr. Wray's statement was not true. I am going to have a reception for them fri. evening at Grandma's. Would send you an invitation but I know I would receive a letter from you, begging to be excused. Would that you were here to night, to talk to me so I would not have to write. But there will come a time, when as sweethearts we will rome down the path that leads to home.

Lawrence Johnson and Nellie Fowers were married to day all so. Last night we girls got Mr. Millneer to let us go and throw rice at them just as they took the five twenty five train for Salt lake. Talk about four foolish looking people well they4 shur was massy. Johnson's reception is to morrow evening. Lester and Vere have a special invitation are I should of had his then. I suppose the young folks that have not received invitations will fix him about propper be cause it is Hallowene. I heard some were going to use

him quite rough to night. Honey bunch of pig weeds, don't you think we escaped lucky?

The star factory shut down Saturday and on Mon. evening they gave the employes a dance and invited the other factory hands to come. I went and had a better time than I've had for a long time.

Uncle Gen's bro. Geo. Robinson was sent to Col. on a mission about a year ago, four weeks ago he was brought home sick and sun he was burried. Died thur. of typhoid leves a wife and five children. She has all most lost her mind.

One of Uncle Gene's best cows died Sun.

Uncle Will and Aunt Josephine have a bounsing 12 lbs boy arived on Sat. last. They are living in Salt Lake. T'is twelve oclock and my cake is done. I've been studyin my theater part untill I am asleep. So aervior my Gaston.

Praying the Lord to ever bless you I remain your loveing wife

Margaret B.

Trondhjem Norway
Nov. 2 1907

Dear Wife:-

About a week ago I wrote you a card and told you I would write you a letter after I got back from my visit out to Borseskogn and as I made the trip and got back I'll redeem my promise. I did not get off on the day I had expected to as sisters Widtsoe and Gaarden who have been labouring here were preparing to leave for home and they did not get ready to start as soon as they had intended so I had to stop and send them off before I could go. We left here Monday forenoon about 11:35 and went on the train about twenty miles and then we got off and walked over the mountains a distance of about fourteen miles to where the people whom we went to visit live. They are two old people and were as tickled as two little children to see us. We got there about 5:30 in the evening and sat up and talked til after twelve and it was Gosple right from beginning to end. The old man is 68 and she is 58 and it seems that to talk and think about the Gosple is their souls delight. If some of our people at home who have the chance of learning and doing something would only take the same interest and think as much about their religeon as these old people do why they would be a whole lot better of and there would be more activity in church work than there is among some of our people.

They have lived in their present home which is away back in the mountains for thirty eight years. The house is a log one and contains two rooms down stairs and two upstairs under the rafters. One of the rooms he said that he

had built and tha he had packed and pulled the logs for the same on a sled in winter, of-course he has not had so far to go but still some distance so he has certainly worked hard.

In one corner of the room is an open fire place and over this she does all her cooking and I suppose has done for the last 38 years. When we came of-course nothing would do but we must have a cup of chocolate so she got out her kettle-which perhaps has served as long as the fireplace has-hung it over the fire put in some milk and chocolate and soon she had it ready for us. After pouring out the chocolate she put in some water with which she washed the dishes and after this was done the same kettle done service in cooking the mush for the evening meal so it was over the fire pretty much all the time and when it was over the fire there was room for nothing else. The only other cooking utensils I saw was an old black coffee kettle a frying pan and a smaller kettle. As for dishish all I saw was about four cups and saucers and that many plates, three or four knives and forks and a couple of bowls. The remaining furniture in the room consisted of a table two chairs a bench (seat) and a bench which does service for both work bench for the old man, kitchen table side board and most anything else that it would come handy to use it for.

You see I took pretty good notice so that I would know how to start on an economical basis when We start housekeeping. How do you think you would like to keep house with that kind of an out-fit for about forty years? By that time I hope we'll be rich enough to buy a stove. My companion - and he is an old bachelor- says that he didn't mind cooking on a camp-fire out-doors but he didn't think he would like it in the house. I am just writing this to kind a prepare you for what to expect when I get back and we go to housekeeping.

I certainly enjoyed my visit with the old people although they are poor; not but what they have plenty to eat and clothes to keep warm as it does not require a great deal and are more happy and contented than many people who are better off. It almost made tears come to my eyes to see the old lady get out the best she had for us and do everything in her power to make us comfortable even if they had to deprive themselves to do it.

They have a couple of cows and three or four head of sheep and of these they make their living. The hay to feed them with he cuts with a scyth and packs it in on his back. They also pack all the wood they use.

We left there Thursday noon and walked back to the rail road station and from there we took the train back into town as I had to get back for a meeting Thursday evening. I had intended walking through the country and tracting on the way but being three days later getting away than I had expected I did not get time.

Well, my dear I am pleased to state that I am still feeling fine, and I believe everything is moving along smoothly. We have baptized three members here in Trondhjem during October so that is a little encouraging. I had a

Telegram from one of the Elders that he has met with an accident and broken one of his hips and this has caused me a little worry as he is so far away that no one can reach him before Tuesday and I am afraid he is without a physicians care also as there are none in the immediate vicinity but hope all will be well with him.

I sincerely trust that you are still enjoying good health and that all is well with you. Oh! while I think about it I had a letter from H. D. Brown the other day and he says to tell you to call on them when you are in Ogden he says they live on Quincy Avenue between 21 & 22 St.

Praying the Lord to bless and protect you and hoping to hear from you soon I remain With lots of love

Your husband
Mathias.

Hooper Utah
Nov. 5, 1907

My Dear Hubbie:

I received your letter of Oct. 17 yesterday was indeed pleased to hear from you. Well Lester went to Salt Lake City this morning to be set a part, and to morrow he goes to his mission. Vere is here will go home to morrow or next day. She had more nerve than I had. Neather her nor Lester broke down untill after he had gone. Then -----

The reception was a success. Dear heart how I wish you could of been with us. Well I will tell you about it. In the first place We did not have a large croud because the house was not large enough. The table was decorated with sammon colored chrisamthias and the wedding cake was trimed with "English Ive". Lester and Vere sat in mine and Jennie's high chairs. Lester ate with the carveing set and mustared spoon, Vere with a soup laddel, an extra large fork and little peeling knife. Both of them drank out of egg cups.

Vere was looking her best in a white hand embrodered dress and Lester wore a black suit. Both warring chrisamthias and looked Oh! so sweet. We played games, sang songs, gave toasts untill about one or half past. Than most every body went home. Jennie, Mable, Hazel and myself stayed for fun just to tease. Mable and I sliped in the bed room took off the springs and sliped them under the bed, put four slates on and made the bed up just lovely. Then we took Vere and undressed her and braided her haire in twelve braids. Then we started on Lester but he was game and took his close off all but pants so Vere was disgusted by this time so she ran and jumped "in or on" the bed and down it came all in a pile. Well the poor kids looked as though they would die. Mable and I began to make the bed. Jennie said she was very tired guessed she would see about her own bed. She went out of doors and got both hands full of dirt and brought them in behind her and

offered to help make the bed. Just as we put on the top sheet she just threw this dirt all over. The bed was made and they climbed in, we left them alone about half an hour then made Lester get up and let us in for our night gowns. We all four went in and climbed in bed with them. They kicked us out so as we went the bedding went all so. Grandma came in to help them out and make us go to bed. She got a hold of Vere thinking it was Jennie and there she stood just slapping her for all she was worth.

Well all four of us slept in one bed and narrow on at that. Talk about your wild dreams. I was getting married all night the night after.

Sat night we all went to the dance had such a good time. On Sunday I went to S.S. in the morning then came home and went to bed, didn't get up until four thirty P.M. I ate my dinner and retired at seven forty five with a good old sick head ache. It does not pay me to be so wild in my old age. Monday morning I was all right. In the evening a crowd of young folks came here to wish Lester Goodby and this morning the kid went.

Nov. 10-07 Dear Mathias know dough you think it a strange way to write a letter. Well this is, but pardon me, dear, because I write when I have time. Vere went home thursday evening and Rudgar went with her. We all went to a wedding reception wed. evening. Mr. & Mrs. Gwilliam, the bride was twenty six the groom an old batchelor of forty six. Everthing was very quiet although they had grand supper.

Well the factory closed fri. morning. Millner our boss gave us a banquite. Yester I went over to Ogden and spent my hard earnings for clothing. Can you get things cheap over there? Everything is an unearthly price here. Well must go and get some coal are freeze to death. Good by sweet heart I pray the Lord to bless you. Your loveing wife
M.

P.S. I received you card of Oct 25 and hope you have a plesant trip. I all so received your letter. Am so glad you are well.

Trondhjem Norway
Nov. 15-1907

My Dear Wife:-

It is now a week ago since I received your last letter and I have been thinking every day that I should get time to answere the same but the days have slipped by until they have made a week and still I haven't got at it. So I'll have to explain the reason why. In the first place I had to send off some people to America as there is an emigration leaves Liverpool on the 21st inst and that of course took some time. Then the Lady from whom we have been renting om Wessels Gade 7 had a son come home sick so she needed her room and we had to get other quarters and that with moving took some more time. Finally last night we got settled down in our new home where we expect to stay for the present. We have a very nice room to live in but it

is a little to far to one side of the town for the Conference Office so I expect we'll have to move again when we can secure more suitable quarters.

We are living up on a hill and as the roads get very slick and icy here in the winter time I expect all we'll have to do will be to get a good strong seat put into our pants and then go out on the street and sit down and we'll go to town just a flying.

I was indeed pleased to hear from you as it was three weeks since I got your other letter and that seemed quite a little while. Am very thankfull to know that you are still well and sincerely trust that the Lord will continue to grant you the same blessing. I am feeling fine as usual and I certainly feel that I can't thank our heavenly father enough for so blessing both of us, for it certainly is a blessing and one we ought to appreciate.

One of our Elders- L.P. Henricksen of Parker Idaho--who is labouring in the north had the misfortune on the 29th of October of falling while he was going down a hill and breaking his right leg about four inches below the hip. He had to ride about seven miles before he could get to the place where he was staying and then telephone a long ways off for the doctor and he did not get there before Nov. 1st so he had quite a hard time of it. He is now laying on his back with his leg pinned between two sand bags and another one on top to hold it down. A rope with a weight attached is tied to his foot and passes through the foot of the bed which keeps the leg from contracting and getting shorter. The Doctor says he will have to lay in this position for four months, but I hope it will not be that long. I tell you he has our sympathy and I feel to thank my heavenly father that he's protected me from accident so far.

Say my love some people have more trouble than a little bit and I had to quit writing to hear a lot of them but will try and finish now. You see while I was writing there was a man came in who has been a member of the church for four years and wanted his name taken of the books as he didn't want to belong to the church any longer and gave as his reason a lot of grevianas more fancied than real. I had to talk to him of-course and although I had to quit writing and missed my dinner too I am not a bit sorry as I succeeded through the assistance of the Spirit of God of convincing him that his griviances were more imaginary than real and I hope also to see what a tirrible thing it is to apostatize thereby closing the gates of the Kingdom of God against ourselves.

But my dear I suppose you think that I have started in to tell you all my troubles and I must admit that it looks like it by reading my letter over. However as all is well that ends well I trust this will be the case with these things. I can assure you that all is well with me if only I didn't have so many other people troubles to listen to and of-course they don't have such a great effect on me but what I think I'll live through it and when I once get back to my own little wife why I'll no doubt be glad I've had the experience.

We are having fine weather now although a little cold but we don't mind that a bit. It gets dark here early now. It is just a quarter to four but all ready so dark I can't see wether the letters stay on or between the lines.

I am going to leave on the Steamer at midnight to-night for Kristiansund to visit the Elders and Saints there. As I have quite a lot to do I guess I'll have to quit writing.

Hoping and praying that this will find you in good health and spirits I remain as ever your loving husband

Mathias

Our Add. is Ovre Mollenberg Gade 62 Trondhjem Norway

Hooper Utah
Nov 25-07

My Dear Husband

I received your letter and was so glad to hear from you. I am pleased to learn you are well and enjoyed your visit with those old folks. Oh dear how could that poor woman ever stand to live that way for so long thank goodness people or blessed in a different way over here.

I can not help but think about that poor Elder that has his hip broken How tarriable, poor fellow. I do hope he will recover. One year ago to morrow I hurt my knee. Oh how time did drag along. Last thanks giving day all the folks went away but Uncle Eugene, how lonely I was. How different I feel now.

Saterday evening I went to a dance thinking there would be a large crowd when I got there I was the only one of my crowed and the only married woman in the house so I had to club in with the sixteen year olds, and of all the times I had it. Yesterday after noon Uncle Gene, Aunt Mary and I went out to Uncle Will Belnap's. Last night I had to take charge of the M.I.A. class and he, Uncle Gene, would not bring me in so I could go, I could not walk for the mud is knee deep. I was mad enough to eat nails but he only laughed at me. I never knew of him staying away from home after dark before. I had the outlines and the names of the ones on the program and all. Well I can not help it.

I began this letter at five thiry a.m. Earl went to Salt Lake this morning with a load of apples so after I got his breakfast I thought I would write to you before the rest were out of bed.

We had quite a snow storm last wed. but it is melting day times and freezing nights.

I wish you could see "Lady Gay Prattle next Sat night in "Beyond Pardon". I

will be glad when it is over with.

The band boy's ask me if I would help them with a play. I guess I will. I am going over to Ogden and stay with a cousin Augusta Johnson for two or three weeks and have my teeth fixed up. Not until after the play.

Aervior sweetheart for this time. I remain your wife.

P.S. I received a letter from Father sat. The bishopric is reorginized t'is now Bishop W.T. England, Con. C.J. Christiansen and John Wray. A farwell will be given the old fellows thanksgiving, a big eat and I don't know what all.

Did I tell you I had another sister? Well I have born on the 24th of last month. Her name is Alice. Well be good.

I remain as ever. Lady Gay

With love M.B.

Trodhjem Norway
Nov. 29-1907

My Dear Wife:-

I have received your letter of the 5th inst. in which you tell of the reception tendered Lester and Bride and I can plainly see that it will be necessary for me to come home before many more years and give you a few lessons on how to treat your little brothers. Now you know the Golden Rule says that we should do unto others as we would have them do unto us and I am sure you wouldn't like to have received that kind of treatment or we didn't receive it as least when we were married. So please take notice that when the next one of your little brothers gets married I shall expect you to treat him differently. Tell Grandma that I hope the next time she has a wedding reception in her house I'll be home to kind look after you and see that you treat them right. I'll have to ask her to report your conduct to me so that I'll know just how to teach you when I get back as you know that to be forewarned is to be forearmed.

A good many of the women in this country get up in the morning and make the fire and warm the Coffee before the man gets up and I've come to the conclusion that it is a pretty good custom so think we had better adopt it when we go to house keeping. I'm just telling you this so that you'll be prepared to go right to work when that time comes. But enough of nonsense.

I am still feeling fine in every way and am very thankful to note from your letter that the same is the case with you. I had an excellent time at Krisiansund visiting and holding meetings. Got back here last Monday and tomorrow I am going up to a place called Roros as the Elders who are up there have secured the use of a hall for next Sunday and want me to come up

and speak to them on the Devine Authenticity of the mission of the Prophet Joseph Smith so will go and do what I can.

Yesterday was Thanksgiving so of-course we had to celebrate so we sent down and got a pound of nuts and as one of the boys says cracked nuts and told yarns. It snowed all day yesterday and part of the night so to-day it is good sleighing and you can hear the bells jingling all over town.

You ask if we can get things cheap over here. Well some things we can but not clothing. I think it is fully as high here as it is at home and this is without a doubt one of the highest priced towns in Scandinavia as it is so far north. If we want to buy a pair of shoes that are fairly good we have to pay from 14 Kroner and up this would be the same as from \$4.00 up and a suit of clothes that looks somewhat respectable will cost from 60 Kroner and up or from \$15 to \$20 of course you can buy things that are cheaper but then it doesn't amount to much. A shirt will cost a man from \$1.50 to \$2.00 and then they are not of the best and ties etc. are about all in proportion so I don't think they are much cheaper. So far as underclothes are concerned you can buy some quite cheap here but if you want something good it will cost you nearly as much as it does at home. Hats and gloves and a few other articles I think are fully as cheap here and perhaps cheaper than they are at home. This of-course is Gents clothing and so far as Ladies supplies are concerned I don't know but suppose it is about the same.

Well, my dear it will soon be Christmas again and then time will soon go as the days will then begin to get longer or at least will get no shorter and before we know of it spring will be here again. I don't know how time goes with you but with me it goes very fast as I have just a little more to do each day than I can get done and you know that when a person is busy and interested in his work why time flies and now when the time is approaching that all reports have to go in and all the books to balance why I can see a whole mountain of work ahead of me so I'll have no time to sit down and get the blues, but will have to work, work, work.

Come to think to-day it is just eighteen months since I came to Trondhjem so if I spend another six months here perhaps I'll stand a show of being transfered to Denmark, but then I don't worry over such things as I guess that time will come soon enough if I just keep working. I don't know either what the policy of Pres. Rasmussen will be but if he follows Pres. Christensens policy I don't think I'll have to spend over twenty four months in Norway but will have a chance to labour in Denmark a little while and perhaps visit among my relatives again which I expect to do at any rate if I have to go there on my own time after I am released.

Well my love take good care of yourself this winter and don't get laid up like you were last winter and by the way that is just a year ago now.

Give my very best regards to all acquaintances and be sure and remember me to Grandma and Grandpa, Aunt Mary, Hazel and all the rest. Hoping and

praying this will find you in good health and spirits and that the Lord will ever keep and protect you I remain with love your husband *Mathias*.

Ogden Utah
Dec. 9, 07

Eugene Belnap will be wed in Jan. sometime

My Dear Husband

I received your letter of Nov. 15. some time ago. Well I have been over here a week and it seems longer than that. I went out to Hooper Saturday evening. We played "Beyond Pardon" again. Cleared about \$85.00 with both night spon. I think that is doing well. I am staying with Augusta Johnson a cousin of mine. She gave birth to a baby girl on the sixth of this month. This is her sixth child. She has burried one so I am busy most of my time.

Well how do you make your way up hill by this time? How do you like your new home? How is your old Landlady's boy by now? Do you think she will want you Mormans to move back there again or don't you want to? How sorry I do feel for poor Bro. Hendrickson how tirriable for him. Now I think of the slippery hills you are climbing, Dear, and an earnest prayer is going up to our Heavenly Father for you protection.

I don't suppose you have very long days now. We have but they are plenty long for me. I got a birthday letter from Laura and such a pretty collar. Aunt Mary gave me a "Post Card Album" so, you dear, are the one to get some cards to fill it with. I have another favor I would ask of thee, would it cost very much to have a belt pin made out of some of the money over there? About the size of a half a dollar. How will you spend Xmas. The last one, I hope, we shall ever spend apart, I hope. Do you - do you think you will be released in the spring so you can be home about the last of May? If I only knew wheather you would or not I would feel more contented I belive. Mabe I am foolish but realy I can not help it. Jennie is going to give up her school and her ma is going to doctor at the L.D.S. hospital they wanted me to go down and work and let Jennie stay with the school but I would not do it. Verna will be married this week to Jessie Simpson. Did I tell you Roda Hamond was married? I got a letter from Lesters wife Vere and she says give my love to M. J. With love to you dear I remain you wife.

233 Hailey Ave. Ogden Ut
Dec .13, 1907

My Dear Husband:-

Well my dear what will you be doing on New Years day? I certainly wish you a happy new new year. I suppose by the time you get this your Xmas joys will be over. I guess you had a very good dinner, turkey plum pudding, pumpkin pie, cranberries, and everything nice. And Santa called to, I suppose, with his pack of -----not the same things I sent you I hope. If I knew what the styles were over there I would of been better to you, dear heart, but you will pardon me won't you dear?

I cannot think of any thing better for new years day than to take the inclosed five and go get a good dinner. I wish you had one of the cakes I have been making today. They were for Augusta she wants me to send one of them to Lester.

Mabe Henry will come down to Hooper some times during holidays. I hope he does. I would like to see him, so well, if he don't I will try and go up there, mabe onto Moreland, I do not know what I will do yet. We have had a little snow fall every day this week and rained a little once and a while so now we have slush and mud. It is not cold. I only wish it were.

How are you and the slipery streets getting along to gather? Well dear it is now eleven o'clock and I must retire. I cannot tell you any news as I haven't been out side the gate only once. And then I took Augusta's little girl up to be baptized thursday evening. Aervior. May happiness be your lot. I remain your loveing wife

Margaret B
xx

Trondhjem Norway
Dec. 14, 1907

My Dear Wife:-

I have received your letter of Nov. 25th and as is always the case was very glad to receive the same. Am indeed thankful that you continue having good health and trust that you had a better Thanksgiving this year than you did last.

I am getting along just as of old; have not been feeling well for a few days as I have had a severe cold and I beleive a touch of the "Grip" but am all right again now and, "still in the ring," just looking for a chance to get at some poor sinner and show him what he has got to do; or to get a chance to show some of these self righteous people and their hired ministers where they stand.

I have heard that one or two of the ministers have made the assertion that they are going to have us run out of town and I must confess I am a little interested in knowing how? It appears that we have been causing them a little trouble through some of their members leaving them and coming to hear us.

One of them even went so far as to go and try to get a young lady who belongs to the Church discharged from her position in a laundry where she has been working for something like two years; which serves to show the narrowness of mind and smallness of character he is possessed of to say nothing of the spirit in which he would do or stoop to such a thing. The Superintendent of the Laundry was more free minded however and told him no, he did not feel like discharging one of his employes on account of their religion and besides he did not think it would be right to turn one of his working force out in mid winter without employment. So she is still working there.

Another young lady who belongs to the Salvation Army has been attending our meetings some and was getting and for that matter is yet much interested in what we teach; well, last Sunday she wanted to come to our meeting but they put her under guard and would not let her come and the Captain took a "Voice of Warning" which one of the Missionaries had let her take away from her and would not let her read it. So you see it is not always an easy matter to study "Mormonism" out here.

Just now received a letter from the boys who are with Elder Henricksen whom I told you had got hurt and they say he had been up a little one day when they wrote so he is certainly getting along nicely considering what the Doctor declared that he would have to stay in bed at least four months. He also states that he has had no pain and adds that he attributes this as well as his quick recovery to the blessings of the Lord in answer to the faith and prayers of his brethren in which I certainly agree with him.

Well my dear, it is soon Christmas and they are all busy as bees here preparing for the same as that is without doubt the greatest Holliday of the year here, the way they scrub and cook is not slow one would almost be tempted to think that they were trying to cook a supply for the year and that they hadn't scrubbed or washed for a year or since last Christmas. Am getting my face ready and my digestion in order for some goodies that I have been promised so hope I'll not get disappointed.

We had a thaw a few days ago so all the snow is gone but it is stinging cold and the streets are dusty, that is where they are not covered with a coat of ice. Say I had a serious mishap the other day and if you'll promise not to laugh I'll tell you about it. You see Elder Christophersen and I had been out to the Hospital which is out in the outskirts of the town visiting one of the members who is out there. Coming back we got in company with a young lady also a church member who was also going to town, as we was walking along we came to an icy place in the road and I ask her if she would pick me up if I should fall which she agreed to do, well we got over that all right

but as we was walking along a little further on and as you would say rubbering what should I do but step on a sheet of ice with the result that both feet went out from under me and down I sat but instead of helping me up they both stood and laughed at me so I got up and looked at the spot where I had sat and then we went on but this was not the worst as when I got home I found I had a large rip in that part of the pants that a person sits down on. I tell you I was thankful I had an overcoat on as it not only helped to break the fall but just think of what it did afterwards while I was going through town.

I trust you are still enjoying good health as this leaves me at present and that you'll have a rousing good time at Christmas and New Years.

Kindly remember me to all the folks and all acquaintences.

Praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain as ever

Your loving husband
Mathias.

Hooper Utah
Dec. 27-07

My Dear Husband:-

This is the last letter I will write you from the "back woods" you call it. I am going home on monday next and the time we will have-- you can imagine. I will be there sweet heart when you come. I have had a very good time the last week some thing doing all the time. I ate Xmas dinner at Uncle Franks and another one here at Aunt Mary's thursday. I suppose one of them was for you. Did you enjoy it? We had duck instead of turkey, plum pudding, fruit cake (that yours. Santa was was quite good to me. Aunt Mary gave me a new waist, Henry sent me a nut cracker and half dozen picks. Father sent a handkerchief and Aunt Biney gave me one. I have been on the go until I am completly give out to night.

There was a married peoples dance last night of course I went and talk about your sport. To day I had a sick head ache to make up for it.

Joseph Manning is the father of a 9 lb. boy. Eugene Belnap will be married directly after new years. Well, Well. He said to wish you a happy new year for him.

Dearest this next year is leap year so- Father and Mother can do the work while I have all the fun. I'll have the best end of the deal so beware.

This is the warmest Xmas. Two years ago last 4th of July was colder than it is now. There was some men out having a time to day. Men with families and of all the dress. One had on his wif's night gown and a sun bonnet and

another had on an old straw hat and mother hubbered aperon and another put on an old wrappr. They had fire water to drink, and oh how they could sing. Got a wagon and team; of all the horrible actions.

I am going to bed so good night. Sweet dreams.

Margaret

Moreland Ida.
Jan 8-08

My Dear Husband

I received your letter of Dec. 14-07 the other day, I was pleased to hear from you but so sorry you was so unfortionate as to forget your self and sit down hard as to rip the west side of your pants. And especiey when there was a yong lady along. But cheer up it mit of been worse. I read your letter to your ma and pa. Oh, how they did laugh. (of course I never) I wish you could of seen your Pa when I steped around the house day before New Year and your Ma too. Henry meet me in Blackfoot, Mead and Oliver Lindsay and Jim was there too. We went over to Meads place and had lunch than came out here. Got here about one A.M. Every body was a sleep but they did not sleep long. Mead's kidlets have hooping caught so they have an all winter job. Bertha has a very fine baby girl. Both or doing fine. Well dearie so many new comers, my I was stumped. I have had such a good time since I came up here. And I left a good time behind me.

Joseph Manning wife died Dec. 30. They had been married just a year. She gave birth to a baby boy Dec. 26. Poor Joe is all most broken hearted. I left every one feeling pretty good.

We are having some cold weather, there is some snow but not enough to have a sleigh ride.

You had ought to see the Benson Grimmett Mercantile Co. Whee. Ed and I are going to see Annie and Aunt Violet and then going up to Rexburg to see Vere. I tell you we are going to have a time.

Oh say we are going to have a plumb pudding to-day would you like some. Come in and I'll give you a peice. To-day is wash day so I must jar loose.

There is going to be a wood dance here to morrow night and a charictor ball one week. Leap year brings its good times for the girls so be ware. Well aervior my love, I remain your loveing wife

Margaret.

Moreland Idaho
Jan. 14-08

Dear Husband:

I received your card and was pleased to learn you are well. I am enjoying the same blessing and hope we both will continue to enjoy good health. All the folks are feeling fine. I was up to Blackfoot yesterday to Reilef Society conefernce in the morning and in the afternoon I called on Viola and Ida. I do feel sorry for Viola she has changed so much she is not like the same girl at all. Ida was looking fine and has a fine looking baby but their girl is quite small.

I saw Andrew Sunday at coneference. We had some very good meetings. Geo. A. Smith, Joseph McMurrin and a Bro. Richards, I don't know his name, he was working in the general S.S. Board but he spoke just fine. The asst. Supt. of the Sunday School of the Blackfoot Stake were released and Bro. Wray was sustained as Supertendent for a short time. So I think you will have another mission if you come home in the spring. Of course I don't know. That is just my opinion.

Maby you think we are not haveing winter up here. Tis snowing and the nights are so cold. Chris is building three new rooms and they have part of the boards of off the side the house. And the room up stairs has plenty of fresh air. Neils has put weather boarding on his house and helps the look of it.

Luis Robins has two very sick children, typhoid phnemonia. Oh, Dear, Moreland is a punk place. The wood dance was a fright. Most of the boys were drinking and it was a horrible dance. There is going to be another one fri. night. I don't know wheather I want to go are not. I was sitting in Sunday School a week ago last Sunday and Ralph Robinson was walking by and droped a dollar in my lap, said New Years presant and was gone. He sends regards to you. So does Peter G. Johnston, in fact it is as C. J. Christiansen said for the people to do the night of your farwell party, "Ask their wives how they are". ha! ha!

Maby I left Hooper just in time. I see by this mornings papper that over a dozen homes were stricken with small pox.

Well I guess I am glad I'm here. Aervior My love May the Lord bless and protect you I remain

your loveing wife M.B.

Trondhjem Norway
Jan 4-1908

My Dear Wife.:-

I suppose you are wondering or will wonder why I am so long in writing this time and I must confess that my conscience upbraids me a little but you know that circumstances alters cases and what with Christmas celebrations, meetings, and reports to make up I have hardly had time to think wether I was dead or alive. I had very urgent instructions from Copenhagen to have our annual report in not later than Jan. 5th so the last two weeks I have had to put in every available moment on that work and just got through last night. Now my dear I hope you will understand the reason and not lecture me to severly.

I have received your letters of Dec 9th and 13th and also the \$5.00 which was inclosed and all I can do at present is to thank you for the same, pray the Lord to bless you, which I always do and trust that I will be able to show my appreciation more fully in the future; or some time in the future. Was indeed glad to hear that you was still in good health and my constant prayer is that you may continue so. So far I have got along very nicely with the slick hills so haven't had any more tumbles. I showed the boys that card you sent me and I tell you they had a hearty laugh at my expense after what had happened.

You want to know if we have a nice home now. Yes we have a very nice room, better in some ways than the one before. Yes I believe our old landlady would be pleased to take us in again if her conditions were such that she could and we needed the room. Her son has the consumption and as he now has to keep to the bed I fear there is little hope for him.

You want to know how I spent Christmas. Well, Christmas eve we were all invited out to a family of saints and we spent a very pleasant evening in chatting, drinking chocolate and eating fruit, cake, nuts, ect. Christmas forenoon at ten o'clock I went and witnessed the ceremonies in the Lutheran church and as I was invited out to dinner I went out and had a fine dinner this was also with a family of saints, did not have turkey nor plum pudding nor yet cranberries; but had nice roast ribs and "Multegrot" and I tell you it was fine. In the evening we were all at a Christmas party and this of-course means more good things to eat. Had a fine time there too. Thursday I spent in the Office all but awhile in the afternoon when we held meeting. Friday afternoon we had or rather the Sunday School had a Christmas tree and of-course I had to take that in and Saturday evening the Branch had a social in the hall where we had a good time to-gether with our friends. New Years eve a lady presented us all with a ticket to a sacred concert in the Cathedral so we attended that and New Years night we were all out to a new Years party so you see I have kept going pretty well besides slipping in and having a cup of chocolate with some of the people between time so I haven't gone hungry. Have certainly had a good time and I hope that you my dear have had the same.

Now it is settle back to the old routine of work again and I don't know but that I feel just about as good when I am working as when I am celebrating. I hope that the next Christmas we shall celebrate to-gether and that before 1908 closes I shall again see my loved ones and be with my own dear wife. But I must not let my thoughts dwell on such things; they will present themselves; however, and I can't help having a kind of hope that they will be realized. Still I also realize the fact that I am in the service of our Heavenly Father and should be and am willing to stay as long as he may desire me to do so and with his aid will do it cheerfully knowing that all I am I owe to his blessings and if I can be of any use in making my fellowmen acquainted with the Plan of Salvation I want to do so. You ask if I think that I'll be released in the spring, now that is something that I know nothing about, that is in somebody elses hands entirely. I do not expect however to be released before sometime in the summer and perhaps not til fall still I can't tell. I do not expect to be transfered from Tr'hjem til spring Conference or after that time and will perhaps then have to put in awhile in Denmark. The time depending somewhat on the amount of Elders in the field. However I am going to try and content myself and do the very best I can while I am here and I hope you will be able to do the same for remember my love that the cause we are engaged in is one of life and salvation. It is not the work of man but of our heavenly father. That even as the Savior called his Apostles in his day to leave their all and be fishers of men or as Joseph Smith was called of the Lord to do what he did so are we called to do what little we can for making mankind acquainted with the Lords ways. So let us try and bear the separation bravely knowing that one must be able to endure to win the fight; rejoice in each others love and then when the time comes we will be able to enjoy the rewards of a clear concience and a kind fathers blessings to-gether. As ever praying the Lord to bless you with peace and contentment I remain your loving husband

Mathias.

Congratulate Vera & Eugene both for me.

Trodhjem Norway
Jan. 18-1908

Dear Wife.:-

I received your welcome letter of Dec 27 a few days ago and had the usual pleasure in reading the same. Was indeed glad to learn that you were well and had a good time at Christmas and now that you are home I trust you will have more "good times," which I have no doubt you will.

You say you had a warm Christmas; well, Xmas was cold enough up here but the last ten days it has been quite warm and raining a little every day. As one of our Elders who are away up North puts it "rain and thaw in January in the land of Icebergs Polar bears and Northern lights and where a man has to look straight up to see the North star may sound a kind of fishy but its true

nevertheless." Today it has been raining part of the time and pouring the remainder.

Say my dear if you could have seen me the past week you would have thought that I didn't have a friend on earth or that I looked that way at least. The fact of the matter is I had the blues so bad that the air around me was blue and if I had given vent to my feelings I'd have sworn until the blue streaks would have appeared in flashes. In short I've been "hot " and think I've had reasons. Everything up to the present time or up til that time had moved along smoothly and without trouble but through, I think, principally jealousy some little misunderstanding arose between a couple of saints and, I was going to say an evil woman with a tongue but had rather say, a woman with an evil tongue undertook to make other peoples business her private business with the inevitable result that rumors and charges multiplied faster than the wind blows and of course this meant more misunderstandings. Had the chief instigator been a man nothing would have suited me better than to have taken him and given him a good trouncing, however I hope that the current is stopped now and that we'll soon get matters righted again. I suppose it is necessary that we have our ups and downs in order that we may realize that we are alive, but such things are very disagreeable to say nothing of their hindrance to the progress of the work. We'll enough of troubles, I don't suppose they interest you and wouldn't me if I wasn't where I had to take an interest in them.

Oh, say did I ever tell you that we are "living high" now, or in other words keeping "bachelor quarters." The lady of the house was unable to board us and as we could find no satisfactory boarding place we secured a little room and kitchen and went to housekeeping on our own hook. There are four of us in the deal and we get along very nicely. So far I've got out of doing any cooking. You see they favor me a little being the President. One of the Elders is an old bachelor and he knows how to cook most anything so we have appointed him cheif and I tell you we have some royal dishes.

You say "Santa Claus" was good to you, and I'm sure he did not forget me. First I got \$5.00 from My Wife, then \$6.15 from the Y. M. M. I. A. and the other day I got a letter from your father and he sent me a pair of the prettiest little cuff bottons you ever saw, so you see I have not been forgotten though I am away from home.

You say that you'll probably be at home to meet me when I come and that may not be so many more months now, probably sometime this summer. So hope you will be able to feel contented and I have no doubt you will now that you are home where I know everybody will do all in their power to make you contented and happy and then I don't think you have ever been much discontented have you dear? I want you to feel as I feel that you have a part in this mission and to realize which I have no doubt you do that it is not the work of man but that it is the Lords work and that it is his will that the Gosple shall be preached and the inhabitants of the earth warned of the comming judgements as well the honest in heart prepared to meet the Saviour. This I feel is a duty that rests upon me as well as every other Elder in the Church

who may be called thereto. And after the Lord has blessed us with so many blessings ought we not to be willing to use what time he may require of us in carrying out his purposes.

Am still enjoying fine health and sincerely trust the same is the case with you.

Kindly remember me to your Father & Stepmother, Wilford, Mead & Jael, Chris & Laura and any other enquiring friend. If you see Father and Mother tell them I am still well and getting along very nicely. If you write Lesters wife why thank her for her message and if you spare it send her a bit of mine in return.

Tell your Father that I have received his letter and the buttons all right and will write one of these days when I can scare up the time. If you see Father & Mother tell them I'll try and write them before long.

Ja nu maa du vare en smil jente og leve saa vel.

With love I remain
Your husband
Mathias

Moreland Idaho
Jan. 21- 08

My Dear Husband:-

Oh: If you don't think we are having cold weather up here just come home and see. I am working in the store now. Come in and I'll sell you some goods at low prices.

Maby you think we are not doing a rushing bussiness. Your Pa, Ed and Frank are out putting up ice to day. Your Pa is not doing janitor work at the school house now he had to give it up because he had to many chores to do. He has not completed his house yet, but says he is going to try and have it done before you get home. Andrew and Ida was out here to Union meeting Sunday and brought there children so we all went over to your Ma's for dinner. Frank and Bertha, their two babies so there was quite a family gathering. Your Ma had a lovely dinner. Roast duck, potatoes, and gravy pickles (beer sweet) sour cream cake and fried cakes and I do not know what all. Bertha's girls are larger than Ida's girl and boy according to their ages. All the folkes are well. Im just feeling fine. Am fat as a pig. Your Ma had some sover for supper last night so I drank your share. I thought it would be well for your worse half to learn to like such things so when you get home we can eat and drink together.

Well I can not imagon what you are doing about now but I have got to get closer to the stove.

We had a very good time at the charictor ball fri. evening. Mrs. Cobbley and E.d. took the prize. E.d. was a tramp and Mrs Cobbley was a huntress. She had the costume you bet. I did not take anything. They danced by phonegraph music. It is far better than the other they had here.

Saterday after noon Della Stoddard and her cousin Mrs. Hovy came up to see me. I fell in live with the latter, she is teaching school out by the Good place. Her husband is on a mission in Germany. He has been gone only seven months so they were married and spent their honey moon just the same way we did.

Joseph Mannings baby died with smallpox. They tell me it all most turned black before it died. Docia Baldwin has been quite sick for about a week. One of the school Mothers has been sick and there has not been any school for the lower grades this week. Father is janitor. Say but Lillie and Heneretta are just as sweet as can be. Meads children are just getting along fine.

Well sweet heart I cannot write any longer so Aervoir. Every body sends regards

Your loveing wife
Margaret

P.S. Father came in, ask me to ask you if you would write a piece for the Idaho Republican. Lola Lindsay is the west side girl. Groveland, Riverside, and Thomas and Moreland are working for Lola. She is to give the Piano to the wards. The Bishops will draw for it, that is if they get it. I understand Groveland have a piano so they don't want it. So write about every body and everything and give the West Side a lift. The contest ends Feb. 29 so get buissy at once.

Eva just came running in with my letter from you dated Jan 4-08. I am so glad you had a good time Xmas. I was indeed glad to hear you are still enjoying good health. May you ever be blessed with the same I remain

Yours affectionately
M.B.B.

Trondhjem Norway
Feb. 1-1908

Dear Wife:-

I have received your letters of Jan 8th and 14th and it certainly makes me rejoice to know that all is well with you which I sincerely trust will continue to be the case. I am still enjoying good health and feeling somewhat better than the last time I wrote you as I believe we are getting

matters straightened out somewhat and making a better feeling all the way around.

We are having some fine winter weather up here now, enough snow to be fine sleighing and quite cold but none to cold for this time of the year. If I had a pair of snow shoes or "ski" as we say in Norwegian I think I should be tempted to go out and try my skill, I would want to go through my first performance however where there were no spectators as I don't think I would like everybody to see my acrobatic stunts, and I have no doubt I should be performing some.

Last Wednesday evening I attended a conjoint meeting or revival of the Methodists, Baptists, Free Mission, and Salvation Army. The principal theme of their discourses was that a person should repent and come to Jesus but they utterly failed to show what he required of them. There were four preachers, one from each denomination and they were all united in calling on the people to come to Jesus but I should very much like to have asked them all one simple question, What shall I do to be saved? and I have no doubt I should have received four different answers, and their unity would have turned into disunion. After the preaching they had what they call a "moment of prayer" which lasted about half an hour and there indeed you could hear "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth" while one would be praying the rest were either sobbing and groaning or else shouting haleluja and the way they used the name of Diety and the Saviours name made the cold chills run down my back and I felt an almost irresistable impulse to get up and rebuke them as it certainly appeared to me that they were making a byword of that which is sacred. Well, I don't know how many "Souls they saved" but I do know I would hate to have to be responsible for what was said and done. I tell you when a person visits a place like that it makes him appreciate the Truth as he never did before and he feels like he could defend it in the face of all the world.

I have just received news of the death at Kristiansund of an old man who belonged to the church and it may be necessary for me to go down and attend the funeral, if so I shall go down Monday.

Well my dear I don't know of any news to tell you as everything and everybody here is strange to you and of-course my work and thoughts all lay along one line and that how can we best get the people interested in and get them to envestigate the Gosple. We have no greater pleasure out here than when we can find someone whom will become interested and give us a chance to explain our faith to them and bear testimony to its truths. As I told some people who stayed after one of our meetings and I talked with them for a long time when they excused themselves for having detained me and kept me from supper I told them I would rather talk than eat and I believe this is the case with all the Elders, as there is no time when a person feels quite so satisfied as when he is explaining the Gosple to interested listeners. I suppose you'll think from this that I am getting to be a regular rattle box and talk all the time. Well maybe I am but that is the business I am sent out here for and I want to try and do it right.

Give my best regards to Chris and Laura, your Father and all the rest of the folks as well as any enquiring friend. Tell the folks I am feeling fine and getting along all right.

Hoping and praying that this will find you in good health and spirits I remain as ever

Your loving husband
Mathias

Trondhjem Norway
Feb. 15-1908

My dear Wife:-

Your very kind and welcome letter of Jan 20th was here waiting for me when I got back from Kristiansund from where I wrote you a card last Saturday. Am sorry that I did not get it before as then I would have written a few lines to the "Republican" and tried to help the good cause a little but as it was my mail stayed here in the office til I got back and then there was no show of reaching the paper by Feb. 29th the specified time.

Had a fine time in my visit down at Kristiansund and got good weather to come back in so escaped being seasick. Have had fine weather this last week with just cold enough to make it agreeable. The snow is not very deep but enough to be good sleighing. When it is clear now we get a little glimps of the sun again and that makes it more cheerful.

I wish I had a picture of the Ocean the way I seen it last Saturday to send you. The wind was blowing so hard that one could scarcely stand up when he got out against the open sea and the way the waves broke over the rocks throwing the spray high in the air was simply awe inspiring. I stood on a cliff a little out of the wind for fully half an hour just looking at and facinated by the roaring surging waters. I couldn't help but think and feel how little man is when confronted by the powers of the elements.

Since coming back I have put in the greater part of my time in the office and visiting the sick as we still have quite a number on the sick list.

So you are working in the store and doing a "rushing business" well that is good as business is what it takes to keep such an enterprise agoing, and I hope that now they have started in it they will make a success as I should hate to see them lose anything in the undertaking.

Am pleased to note that you are feeling fine and can say the same for my part and I have so much to do that the time passes very quickly and it seems that I hardly get time to turn around after one Sunday before the next one is here. We have lost three of our oldest Elders, so far as time in the field is concerned, so that throws more work on the rest of us; the three

elders mentioned have been transfered to other Conferences where they have relatives living and where they will labour the balance of their missions. All these three have been in Trondhjem and them leaving leaves me with a companion who is young and new in the field so I'll have most of the preaching to do myself but I guess I'll get through it in some way as the Lord has never forsaken me yet when I needed his aid and I have faith that he will continue to assist and strengthen me to every task. We have had quite a number of strangers attending our meetings of late and that makes it quite encouraging as it is much easier to preach to a full house than to a lot of empty benches, and if they will only keep coming we'll try and show them the way of Salvation;- if it was some of the other sects they would say save them;- but the Latter Day Saints don't save people, all they claim to do is to show the people the way and teach them the laws and commandments of God, bidding them yield obedience to the same and pointing out to them the Lords' promise of eternal life unto all who fulfill the requirements.

I got a "bold streak" on me the other day and went down and faced the camera and am sending you a few copies of the result so you can see what a "Mormon Priest" looks like away up in "Norway". Give Father & Mother one of the pictures, one to you father, one to Bertha, one to Andrew, one to Ed, send of if you go up give one to Annie, give one to Chris & Laura if they care for it and keep one yourself or do with it whatever you like. You may think this is a poor photo but the object which make the impression on the machine or plate wasn't any better looking hence the impression, even now the grey gairs doesn't show, but they are there just the same.

Well my sweet heart I hope you are still enjoying the same good health and that you will continue doing so as that is certainly one of the greatest blessings we can enjoy. You did not say where you are staying or making your home, or are you staying a little all over.

Tell the folks I am feeling fine and getting along all right and give them my love and accept a whole heartful of the same yourself.

Give my kindest regards to Chris & Laura, Mead and Jael and all enquiring friends.

With love and best wishes and prayers for your welfare I remain as ever

Your affectionate husband
Mathias

Tell Father & Mother that I'll write them one of these days when I can find time and should like to her a few words from them if they can find time to write.

Andrew wrote once and wanted to know how I looked in a Ministerial Frok so I had the photoes taken as that was as near as I could come to it.

Moreland Idaho

Feb. 4-08

Dear Hubby:-

Your letter of Jan. 18 yesterday and was so very glad to hear from you again. You poor dear boy, don't you know you should love those that hate you. You had a very strange way of showing you love for that poor woman with a wicked tongue. But before now, I suppose all is well for a while now.

Say my dear, have you yet to learn that I am interrested in anything conserning you. You have often said "Of course this may not interest you" but I am interested nevertheless. Ha! Ha! I am very glad you are taking a course in housekeeping. Either learn the receipts well or write them down so they will be handy for future use. Tell you Bachelor Bro. for me. Just to put you next.

We are having very changeable weather at present so cold it would all most freeze anything one night and the next eather rain or snow. Last night it snowed. N.l.s & Lucy, Laura, Eva, Mrs. Wray, Laura Bird and myself went up to Blackfoot last night to a Recital. Miss Nelke a dramatic reader. It was very good but nothing as good as the Hamel's you and I heard. Miss Bird is a great talker. I think I enjoyed the recital going to Blackfoot just as well as the one after we got there. Tonight I am so sleepy I can hardly see that is why--

C. J. has his house nearly ready to plaster. Mrs. Rose Werring has gone to live with Bob last week. I hope they mak a hit this time. Mathias every body enquire about you and send regards.

Louise Robins said I could read the letter he got from you for a dollar. He has been ill for the past week, just a cold.

Meads kidlets are getting along just fine with their hooping cough. I am just feeling fine and dandy. Hi- ho. Sweet dreams. Aervior

With love I remain
Your wife

M J Dear bro this isent any answer to the letter I got a yer ago. I feel prety darn guilty but then it just like me. Your wife has just finished writing you an she asked me if I wanted to Hello and I did. So Hello to you. A Happy new year and a prospers one as well. Judging from the letters leaving here you have all the news that I am in posesion of so I wont give it again. I myself have had a successfull year in the past one. I have been able to meet most of my obligations and still have a little to chew. Spiritule I hav been dragging along as usule. My faith is good but my will failes me at times. Still I must try to keepe in tune a little. Well Dear bro. time is going very fast it will now soon be two year since you leaft

here. And yet it seems only yesterday unless one stops to think and count the time.

We as a ward have not gone a head as we should have done we haven't made any improvements as I can notice. We have been trying to clear up the Indebtness of the ward but it is up hill woork. We now have a call to furnish the missinary who is qualified and has the mon. We are at see:Shore. Well be good, may the Lord Bless you with all of the good things. Have a good time, return soone. Accept Kind regards and best wishes from you bro in Christ.

CJC

Moreland Idaho
Feb. 19-08

My Dear Husband:-

The only real excuse I can offer for not answering your last letter, is lazyness. All I can do is eat and sleep. And I put in a good portion of my time in just that way.

We are having fine weather now, thawing in the day and a little frost at night. I suppose spring is nearly here. There was a meadowlark singing out on the fence yesterday morning. I have been told that was a sure sign.

I wish you could of been one with us last friday evening. The releif Socity got up a basket ball, For you poor missionarys. We had a very good time, the best dance I've been to since I came home. I never learned what was cleared but I suppose you will when you get your share. Most every one that went took a basket. Frank drew mine. Your Ma put one in and Earl Furnice drew it and your Pa drew Bertha Furnice. I fool Frank, instead of putting anything to eat in the basket I filled it with papper. But I took a lunch on the side and after he got over feeling so foolish we ate it. Lorena Benson, Billie Robinson & a Gushwa boy play for the dances. But Robinson's are all moveing to Canada. Ralph and Roda have gone and the others have packed up ready to go. Isabel was married yesterday to a Jenson. C. J. believes that Roda and Ralph have gone to Canada for that perpous. Next we'll be a new Supt. for S.S., W.R. Lindsay and family are going to move back to Moreland in a short time.

Well sweetheart I must close for Laura, Lucy & Aunt Ruth and I are going down to visit Mrs Anderson and Mother. I am well and hope you or the same. With love and best wishes I remain your loving wife

Shelley Idaho
Feb. 28- 08

My Dear husband:-

You will know doubt think me slow in writing. Cheer up because I am on the move. I received your card of Feb 8 last night. I hope your back in Trondhjem again safe and sound and was not sea sick going. Does it make one sudder to see such high storms. Well I imagon it would. Don't get to brave and run into danger. I am pleased to know you are well as I am the same at present.

I went down to the mill the other night and was weighed, only went 155 lbs. so I still belong to the light weights.

Maby you would like to know as to my where abouts. I came up here to stay with Chas. Stoddard's (cousin) wife for a time. She is expecting a new comer and is very sick most of the time. We are living by the flour mill. Chas. is working nights and of course he sleeps day time so we are not bothered but very little with the man.

Oh dear I must not forget to tell you Jennie sends love to you through a letter I received yesterday. There has been several weddings in Hooper lately and boy Jennie went out with, so she sayes, "I am trying with a great effort to comfort myself and in doing so live on and on untill at last when you or down and out, win the true affections of Mathias".

Aunt Jane has gone right into bussiness. her letter hedding run some- thing like this, only in print.

Ind Phone 2969	Office Hours
Bell Phone 3666x	10 to 11:30 A.M.
	2 to 3:30 P.M.
Dr. Jane W. Skolfield	
Salt Lake City	190

She is working at the L.D.S. Hospital. Big Bugs.

We are have lovely weather quite warm and a little rain that is a very good sign of spring.

I am going up to Annie, Aunt Violet and to see Vere.

I am well and enjoying myself as well as I can under surrounding surconstances.

Goodnight sweetheart. Write me at Blackfoot as usuall.

With love I remain
Margaret B.

Narvik Norway
Feb. 29-1908

Dear Wife:-

Your letter of the 4th inst reached me yesterday and as is always the case I was pleased to hear from you once more and to know that you are getting along all right.

I suppose you will be surprised to hear from me from away up here but you see a missionary is never certain just where he will be as he must go where duty calls and that is my condition.

The boys up here had a problem which they themselves did not feel qualified of solving so it became necessary that I come up and investigate matters and if possible effect an adjustment, which I believe I have succeeded in doing.

I left Trondhjem on Friday the 21st at 2 A.M. and got to Bodo at 6 A.M. Saturday morning. Stayed there and helped the boys hold a meeting on Sunday and left there on Monday morning at 8 A.M. arriving here about 2:30 A.M. Tuesday, have been here since and had a good time considering the circumstances that brought me here. Was also very fortunate in striking good weather on the water so escaped being sea sick, though in crossing a portion called "Vestfjord" I kept the deck of the vessel hot as I was afraid to go down below for fear I would get sick as the ocean is always riled at that place. Don't know but what I would have got sea sick but the waves had been breaking over the side of the ship making the deck wet and while pacing up and down the same an unusual heavy sea struck the ship making it roll quite suddenly so that my feet went faster than the balance of my body or else the deck came up, I can hardly tell which as I did not realize a thing until I found myself sitting flat on the deck looking around to see if anyone had observed my acrobatic stunts. Of course I followed the usual performance in such cases, got up and looked at the place where I had sat down,- I presume to see if I had damaged the deck any- then continued my walk feeling grateful that neither the deck nor the seat of my pants had received any visible injury.

We held one meeting here last Thursday night and have another one advertised for next Sunday and of-course I have to do my share of the preaching so am getting considerable practice in that line.

I heard yesterday that the Methodist Minister together with the Lutheran Priest and one of the town officials were going to try and either get us run out of town or have us stopped from holding meetings, but don't know how true it is as we can hear most anything. I guess if they try to do anything of the kind they'll let us know about it. As a whole the people in this place treat us very kindly and with more respect than we are treated in any other town in the North, so it has been one of the best towns in the Conference so far and we have about the brightest prospects here of any place.

You say you are having very changeable weather, well we did have but for some time now we've had a fine winter with just cold enough to make it good and bracing.

I expect to leave here Monday or Tuesday for Tromso which is still farther North so am finding out what a winter in the arctic regions is like although this section partakes more of the nature of the Temperate than the Arctic Zone.

Tell Father & Mother that I have received their letters and also the money and that I'll write as soon as I can find time. Give them my love.

Kindly remember me to everybody that may care to remember me. Tell them I am feeling fine. Tell C.J.C. hello and thanks for his letter.

Be good to yourself and may the Lord bless and protect you is the prayer and wish of your loving husband

Mathias

Shelley Idaho
Mar. 11-08

My Dear Husband:-

I started to write to you last thursday afternoon and Nola took sick so I had to quit than and haven't had time since. Nola has been very sick but is getting along nicely enough now. She is one of these kind that gets home sick and discouraged very easy. Of course, that makes it hard on her and every body around her. One is kepted buisy trying to show her the bright side of life. She has a very nice boy and was a little dissappointed, because a girl was wanted. Nola is a Kentuckey girl and all her folkes live back there.

Do you remember reading about an "Eder Wm Cutler dieing in the Southern States some six years ago? Well I met his wife, she is a trained nurse and waited on Nola, is about as nice a woman as I have seen for some time.

I received your loveing and welcome letter on the 4 inst. and the photoes on the 5. How good I feel to even see the photo of your dear self once more. It is an all right picture. You look as though you would go along with the light weights as well as my self. T'is a very good thing the gray hairs do not show and what is more I do not want them to. It would be sad for a man of your standing to be looking old before he has a weeks experience in married life. Now my dear don't you think so?

We are haveing very warm weather quite a lot of rain and wind. Nola and Chas. sends best regards to you. So do May Oleson, she said because any

one that was a friend of mine was a friend of hers, also her ma sent me some poppy seeds for a start.

I have not been any where so haven't any news for you unless I would say like Nola did to Charles "Now that I've gone through this, do you love me any better than you use to?"

With love I remain
Yours as ever
Margaret B.

Baby asks for help, and is squilling gullar (galore).

Namsos Norway
March 14- 1908

My dear wife:-

I arrived hare last night and found your letter of Feb. 19 awaiting my arrival. Was pleased to note that all was well with you which I can state is also the case with me.

I believe the last time I wrote you I was at Narvik and since that time I have been up to Tromso and have now got back this far on my homeward trip, expect to get back to Tr'hjem some time next week. That I have had a fine time visiting the different places and conversing with Elders, Saints, and friends goes without saying. As a whole the trip has also been very nice although it has been blowing quite hard coming back with the result that my stomach has on a couple of occasions risen in rebellion and ejected its contents, but believe I am getting a little more used to the rocking and rolling sensation so am able to stand it a little better. Last Wednesday evening as we were coming down the coast we were seated at the supper table trying to satisfy the ravenous appertite that a person develops on the ocean if he doesn't get sea sick, when a heavy side wind struck the ship with the result that food dishes and all went sailing down the line and all piled up at one end of the table. It did not take long for me to get satisfied and I soon excused myself and sought the upper deck and as the storm soon subsided a little I managed to keep down what I had eaten. The weather still remains fine but oh how cold; went out for a walk this morning and I had to hold my ears and nose to keep them from freezing. Now however the sun is shining in through the window and we have a good warm fire in the stove so feel very comfortable.

This town, - Namos- is a very pretty little place, situated on the mouth of the Nams river where that streams flows into the fjord. This river and its valley stretches out on the North east while on the south lays the fjord and on the west and Northwest are high cliffs making the place look very cozy as it nestles at their feet.

I have now visited nearly every town of any size in Northern Norway so am

getting pretty well acquainted with the country but would hate to have to find my way around through the fjords and channels between the Islands for as Elder Andersen who is travelling with me says they are more crooked and numerous than the streets of New York. It would surprise you to see some of the places they sail through and how in the world they ever manage to find their way in the winter time when it is dark and sometimes stormy is more than I can tell, but they seem to do it just the same and have very few accidents too. I have about concluded though that I would rather take chances on the land than to lead a life on the ocean.

I was somewhat surprised to hear of the people getting the Canada fever; if a few more of them move out of Moreland there certainly can't be much left of the town unless someone else moves in. Well, perhaps Canada is all right, one of our Elders out here is from the Taylor Stake in Canada and he certainly thinks it is all right which it must be if he pictures it out right; I hope though that you won't get the Canada fever and want to move up as I believe some one ought to stay and help build up the country all ready started.

Say my dear what are you doing along the line of Church work. You have never told me whether or not they have put you to work since you came back home and you know I am very much interested in knowing what you are doing in that line. I realize that there is nothing that will develop a person so much as work, and work along a spiritual line will develop the spiritual characteristics of a person just as work along physical lines will develop a person physically or along intellectual lines intellectually. The most useful persons have a well balanced development along all these lines and as the church affords an excellent opportunity of developing the intellectual and spiritual why I think the more we work in her interests the greater benefit we derive ourselves. As for physical development our daily work provides sufficient of that. So my dear I hope you are a good and active worker.

I don't know whether you will be able to make this out as I have a poor pen and wiggly table to write on.

Trusting this will find you feeling well and praying the Lord to bless you with health and strength and protect you from all evil, accident, and sickness and to lead you by the power of his spirit I remain your loving husband

Mathias

Give my love to Father and Mother; and remember me to all friends.

Shelley Idaho
Mar. 18- 08

My Dear Hubby:-

I received your welcome letter of Feb. 29 to night. Had a few moments to spare so thought I would answer at an early hour. I was so glad to hear from you sweet heart and I am pleased to learn you traveling around. I think it will do you good. Maby a change of cooking tastes good for a while. A missionary is never certain as to where he'll be. That is just what I think about some of there wives.

You did not say what the problem was that took you up there.

Very sad indeed to think you are all ways, I should say every now and than you are making such sudden stops. You say it did not injure the deck nor the pants but how did your head stand the jar? Be careful my dear, try and keep your feet down.

How about the northern lights do you see much of them this winter?

I done a washing yesterday and I wish you could have seen me try to hang out the things. The wind was blowing at the rate of ninty miles an hour. Well I quite trying and hung them out after dark.

I have been any where since I came here so I don't know what is going on. Nola is doing fine so is babie. Chas. is working nights and we have to be quiet as mice all day. I tell you t'is hard work.

I see by the papper Liddie Manning, Uncle Harry's sec. girl is married to Wm McDonald. Also Grandma's brother John Hooper has died. Grandma is the only one of the family left.

Well Sweetheart Aervior With love

Margaret B. Benson

Trondhjem Norway
April 11- 1908

My Dear Wife:-

It is now a week ago since I received your letter of March 18th so you may think me slow in answering but do not judge me to harshly as I have so many duties resting on my shoulders that it makes me appear negligent in some things though it is not my desire to be so. You will know without me telling you that I was glad to receive your letter and especially to know that you were still enjoying the blessings of health; am in the same condition myself at present writing.

I think spring will soon be here now, the snow and Ice is nearly all gone and the days are beautiful and spring like; some of the birds are returning from the south where they have been spending the winter and there is a general hustle and bustle both among them and the people in preparing their homes for summer; this together with the springy scent in the air makes a person feel that that season is coming near.

I was reading in my Bible this morning while the "Cook" was preparing breakfast and came across the following passage in Proverbs 18:22 "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing and obtaineth favour of the Lord." I thought this was a good passage for me to learn to-day as I remembered that tomorrow is "Our Wedding day." It will then be two years since I received my "favour of the Lord" and it makes my heart beat with joy and thankfulness when I call to my mind that day spent in the House of God there receiving the blessings he has prepared for his faithful children. I sometimes wonder, was I or am I really worthy of those blessings the results of which will reach the eternities. Was I then fit and have I since made myself worthy of the Endowments received and of having a wife sealed to me for time and all eternity by the Holy Spirit of promise. I tell you these thoughts makes a person feel serious especially when he realizes the sacredness of these ordinances, His faults and shortcomings all stand out before him vividly and makes him feel his own smallness. But at the same time the conviction that all these blessings are his if he only proves himself worthy spurs him on to greater efforts and he feels that the prize he is striving for is greater than anything pertaining to this life or even life itself. So I hope I shall be able, yes that we may both be able to keep the Covenants we then made and then I know there will be nothing that can take away the Glories in store for us as nothing but our own sinfulness can separate us from them. Then the trials and tribulations of this probation will seem to us as molehills, though they may appear as mountains now. Two years since we were married and out of those two years only four short days spent together. I find after that period of separation my love as strong or if anything stronger than it ever was and secretly wonder if the same is the case with my wife or if she is sometimes inclined to regret the fatal step she took that day but somehow feel that her heart like my own is unchanged save for the affection being stronger, and so I rejoice in this feeling and say with Solomon "A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, but she that maketh ashamed is a rottenness in his house." (Proverbs 12:4) I think before another year rolls by we shall again enjoy each others society and so let us struggle on rejoicing in each others love knowing that the present separation is through complying with the will of the Lord and then we will feel an unexplainable joy and satisfaction when we shall have done our duty.

Kindly remember me to all friends and acquaintances.

Praying the Lord to bless you with health and strength, protect you from evil and give you his holy spirit at all times. I remain your loving husband *Mathias*

Moreland Idaho

April 17- 08

My Dear Husband:-

At last I will attempt to write you. I have started three different letters but failed in the attempt.

I came home day before yesterday. I went up to see Vere. She showed me a good time while I was in Rexberg. Poor kid she feels quite lonely. I was at Annies four or five days, they are all well but the judge. He was breaking a bronk, the horse ran up on the straw and threw Fred and John out and hurt Fred's good leg so he will be laid up for about a week. He has his land nearly all ready to plant.

He! Ha! two years today since I gazed on the face I most admired.

I started to write a letter to you at Rexburg on our wedding day, on your birthday, but a crowd of young folks came and I had to quit. Maby it was a good thing because I mite of wrote you a love letter?!?! Well sweetheart I wish you many happy returns on your birthday. I can tell you all the rest when you come home. I do wish I knew when that will be, so I can answer the many questions that are put to me every day.

Laura and Chris have moved into their new house and are quite cozy. I am feeling just fine. You ask me where I was staying. I should think you could guess that I was staying with Laura, and as for working I had not been here three days untill they were after me in the Sunday S. teacher in the First inter. Alta England is working in the store.

All the folks or well and glad they or living. Mr. & Mrs. Holland in Shelley wished to be remembered to you and Mrs Holland said "tell him I would like to kick him". Isn't she jolley? Aunt Violet and Uncle Rob sends regards. Vere sends regards and love. I must close. Aervoir sweetheart I remain with love.

Your wife, M.

Moreland Idaho

April 26- 08

My Dear Husband:-

I received your letter saterday evening dated April 11 and how happy it made me feel to know that as the months and years go by you love me more and more. To know this, life seems less a burden, time go faster and there seem to be such a bright future ahead that I am rejoicing instead of regreting the steps I took on April 12-1906. I loved you than and do yet so I have nothing to regret. Absense make the heart grow stronger, fonder. Do not

doubt and wonder wheather or not I regret my steps on that fatal day. I hope I never will.

I am proud to know I am loved by such a man as you, who will love and protect me, and who will except my love in return. How strange such things come about.

The wind is blowing very hard but I'm glad to be in Moreland just the same because I feel like Moreland is home and I am so tired of wandering.

The wind has blown the top part off the south end of the hall. Bishop and others have braces all around it to keep it from all going over. Chris just came in and said "the main building on his place has gone over???? I don't remember the wind blowing as hard as has last fri. and to day. The whole house shakes.

Most people have their grain in also their gardens.

Hyrum Christiansen was up here last week. Talk about being a wreck. Poor fellow looks like an old old man.

Martha Iverson, Vern Wray, Docia Baldwin and I are going to give our S. S. class a party on fri. Step in and have some ice cream with. I'm sure it will be good.

Bro Sedwick and family have returned to Moreland. Wilford graduated with high honors, and the lad feels quite incouraged.

Father and Co. have an other incubator as large again as the one they had they have both of them set and are doing a rushing buissness. My Step Mother gave me twelve chickens and she is going to keep them untill I have a place to put them.

I just wrote to Vere. She feels terrable for her sister just died and she seems to feel so lonely. I told Chris she and I were going to get a house and take in washing and sewing, give music lessons and rais chickens. He objects, sayes I must stay here and take what I can get and be satisfied and Vere can do the same. Don't you think he will have his hands full if he undertakes to take care of the grass widdows? Never mind he knows you will home soon. Then it will be your turn.

Well, sweetheart, May the Lord bless you with health and strength, protect you from evil and give you his holy spirit at all times

Aervior
With love I remain
Margaret B.

Trondhjem Norway

May 1st 1908

My Dear Wife:-

I suppose you think I am getting somewhat negligent in writing as it is some time since I wrote you last and really I had not intended that it should be so long but it seems that circumstances has kept me from it so hope you'll forgive me. You see we've just been having Conference and that is about the busiest time I have as there is so much to be attended to and looked after. Our Conference was a most successful one and we all enjoyed it very much and now that it is over feel to go to work with a greater determination. Pres. Rasmussen gave us some good advice and instructions which if we carry them out will make us better missionaries. All our meetings were well attended and especially the one we held last Sunday evening when the hall- which is quite a large one- was entirely filled. This makes us feel good and makes one feel like putting forth greater efforts and working more energetically. These Conferences are regular spiritual feasts to the Elders; after having been separated for six or seven months then I can assure you we appreciate one another when we do get together; and to partake of the spirit that prevails in the meetings makes one feel good all over. Although it has not been very warm yet we've had fine weather for a long time now and the grass is beginning to get green and I see the "Pussy Willows" are out. Today it is trying to snow a little but don't think it will amount to much.

Have just received your letter of April 17th and can assure you I was glad to get it as it is some time since I had one from you. Am glad to note you had a good time on your visit and that you are feeling so good and sincerely hope you will continue in the same line. I am also feeling fine both in body and in Spirit so have no complaints to make, but am determined to keep pegging away and do what little good I can.

I believe I told you in one of my last letters that there was a slight possibility of me being transferred to Denmark at Conference, well, the possible didn't happen and I am still in Trondhjem but Pres. Rasmussen told me he intended to transfer me the latter part of this month so I will probably be leaving for Copenhagen somewhere about June 1st. I think you had better address your letters to Korsgade 11. Copenhagen Denmark after you receive this as then if I am still up here when they come why they will forward them to me and if I am down there why it is no use of the letters coming up here which would make it about six days longer before I would receive them. You say that you wish you knew when I would be coming home. Well, my dear I can't tell you as I don't know myself but if present indications are any evidences it will not be before the first part of August and there are a great many chances that it will not be till sometime later but not before August. When I find out myself why I'll tell you so as to set your mind at rest but you know that is entirely in the hands of others and my desire is to stay until I have filled my mission be that time long or short. Even those who preside can't always tell as they have to be governed by circumstances and by the material they have on hand to take the place of the ones who are released and also by the number of Elders coming into

the field. So be patient my sweet heart and when it is the Lords good will that I shall return why I can assure you I'll not be slow coming but until such time comes let us find consolation in the fact that it is his services we are in. And I don't think it will be many months now before that happy time will come.

Give my kindest regards to everybody and may the Lord bless and comfort you that you may feel happy and contented and ever be in possession of the cheering influence of his holy spirit is the earnest prayer and wish of your loving husband

Mathias

Add. Korsgade 11 Copenhagen N. Denmark, Europe. Just now it is snowing flakes as big as your hand.

Trondhjem Norway
May 15-1908

My Dear wife:-

I received your letter of April 26th, day before yesterday, from which I see you are back to Moreland again and still feeling fine. I am certainly thankful that your health as well as mine remains good and I think we cannot be too thankful for the same. It did me good to read your letter and to feel and know that although we have been separated for so long your heart still remains the same and I feel that it will do and that the future will be bright and happy, so cheer up there are better times comming.

Well my dear I have been transfered to Denmark and will leave here one week from to-day viz; Friday May 22nd so am now busier than a Cranberry merchant as there are so many things to do before I can get away so when you write again address your letters as I told you in my last letter.

The weather is beautiful up here at present and I am almost suffering from Spring fever.

Say I am glad you are getting some property as I know I am not getting any and a dozen chickens is quite a start especially when you can get some one to raise them for you. Glad to know that Wilford has Graduated and hope he will continue on and not think he has learned all there is to learn, tell him he must continue to study and advance as he has now got a good start. I suppose this will be the last letter I'll write you from Trondhjem this time and you'll have to excuse it's being short as my time is so limited but will write more when I write you again and tell you all about my trip from here to Denmark.

Give my kindest regards to all friends. Tell Chris & Laura hello and also remember me to your father.

Praying the Lord to bless you and protect you I remain your loving husband

Mathias

MoreLand Idaho
May 20-1908

Louise Robins wants to know
if you have plenty of money
?!?!?!?!?!
If you haven't he'll send
you some.....

My Dear Husband:-

Instead of having snow we or having rain but the drops or not as large as the snow flaks were over there on May 1st. T'is very cold to day. We have had some frost but I don't think the fruit is hurt. I hope not anyway. Your trees or in blossom that is most of them are. The folks have planted some barley in the lot. The lot looks fine all but the trees and would be all right if they were trimmed. Your Ma sayes to tell you she is quite stuck up now and you will have to take your shoes of just outside the door when you come home. The old log room has taken a change for the better. Looks so different t'is covered with oil cloth, the ceiling is a light blue and the walls or still lighter with dark blue lines runing through to form little squars and in the corner of the squars are dots. Than there is a fancy border. The wood work is painted red and the floor is covered with a peice of new linoleum. They or going to have the new front room pappered soon and than won't the old home be swell?

The primary had an entertainment Mon. evening sold Coffee sandwiches, ice cream and cake. There was a large crowd and we had a nice time.

A week ago last Saturday and Sun. coneference was held in Shelley. I did not go. Lucy was sick so I stayed with her. Erick Roebury's little girl died this morning about one oclock and Waldamer Jenson's baby was buried yesterday. Mrs. Rose Wearing is very low and I would not be surprised to hear she was dead any time. She sent for Hans Mon. and he came but returned home this morning "poor object of pity". He both uses licquar and tobacco. He did not remember me and I did not care. But he ask about you. He came in to Neils place yesterday. I was over there cleaning house, of course he had a faint recollection of a small girl of Oliver Belnaps, after Lucy interduced us.

Father is working in Shelley for a short time then he is going out to the mines again. His little girls have hooping cough. The rest are well. Eliza Iveson is quite sick and has been for some time. Dr. says t'is appendicitis. I never remember see a person that had more faith than she has. She is in my S. S. class and I'm proud of her.

Say did I tell you Ralph and Roda Robinson were married. Parley Fornsworth married Alice Higgins of Thomas a short time ago.

Sweetheart I hope you enjoy your labours while you or in Denmark and that your successful in finding genealogy. With love I remain

your wife M.B.

Stockholm Sweden
May 23- 1908

My dear wife:-

Just a few lines to let you know I am still all right and - as you will see by the heading of this- on the move. Another one of the Elders who has also been transfered to Copenhagen left Trondhjem yesterday at 8:50 A.M. and arrived in this city this morning about 9:35 and took a cab for "Svartensgaten 3" where I am writing this. It being headquarters of the Swedish mission. We were received very kindly by the President of the Swedish mission Bro. Sundval as also by the Elders here and made to feel right at home and the Secretary here has promised that he will take us out and "show us around" this afternoon so we anticipate a good time, as yet I have seen nothing of the place so am unable to tell you anything but will do so in my next letter. We had a very nice trip from Trondhjem over and saw some beautiful country and some that was not so attractive. Yesterday afternoon we traveled through a mountaineous country where the snow still lays deep on the ground and I confess it looked a little dismal after being where the grass was green and the flowers starting to bloom but then I am thankful that I was permitted to pass through and didn't have to stop. Down here the grass is green and the trees are coming out in leaf so this looks all right.

The last week I spent in Trondhjem I certainly had a fine time; the people didn't seem to think they could do enough for me. As there were three of us leaving at the same time they had a farewell party for us last Tuesday evening and certainly did all they could for to make us feel good. The Branch also gave me a present to remember them by and when you see it you will say it is Grand. Quite a number in fact as many as could get away came down to the station to bid us goodbye and when I shook hands with them to bid them a last Goodbye and saw tears trickling down some of their cheeks it certainly made me feel peculiar being a feeling of both joy and sorrow. Joy at the prospect of soon returning home and sorrow at parting with such friends but such is life.

Well my dear be good to yourself and may God bless and protect you is the earnest prayer and wish of you loving husband

Mathias

Moreland Ida.
June 3-08.

My Dear Husband:-

I received your letter of May 15, Monday. Am pleased to note you or still enjoying good health. Well you or in Denmark by this time and enjoying yourself among your own people know doubt. Success.

We have had more rain this last month than I ever did see in Idaho at one time before, and tis still cloudy, cold enough to freeze. Well My dear, we had one of the best times out in the larva, you cannot imagin. Laura, Lucy & family, Eva and I. Neils was teamster. We sure had a good time, and came back loaded with firns.

The good people of Moreland have partly cleaned the graveyard. Every grave was decorated last Sat. and everything looked fine.

Little Eliza Iverson has gone to Logan to under go a operation. She is about the nicest one of that family. She is in my Sunday School class and I think lots of her. I went over to see her just before she left and she wanted to know if she could write to me when she was in Logan.

Aunt Rose is on the improve but she had a very bad spell yesterday morning. Annie and I were alone with her. I had been there all night.

Henry came home last week and sends his best regards to you. He left mon. morning for American Falls.

We have got to wash to day rain or shine. Laura is ready now. Chris sayes Hello.

He has been trying to get me to write you a modle letter. Just put "I am well. God bless you. Goodby

I remain your wife with a poor pen

Margaret

Ronne Bornholm Denmark
June 5-1908

My Dear Wife:-

I received your letter of May 20 day before yesterday and I suppose a few words from me letting you know of my whereabouts will not be objected to and if you are half as pleased to hear from me as I am to hear from you then I know they will be welcomed.

I believe the last time I wrote you was from Stockholm, well I stayed there

from Saturday morning til the following Tuesday and saw a little of the town visiting among other things the Kings Palace part of which we had the privilege of going through and seeing where, if not so much how, Royalty lives. There were certainly some elegant furniture and ornaments but I don't think they are any happier in those surroundings than a good many in humble cottages are. From Stockholm we took the Steamer to Goteborg also in Sweden. It took us two days longer to go with the boat than it would have done by rail but as my companion wanted to make the trip I went with him and it was certainly an interesting little piece of traveling. The route laying through rivers, lakes, and canals and passing through some 75 locks on the way in order to get up and down and around the falls. It was certainly a novel experience to sail through meadows, mountains and forests, where one could sit on the deck of the ship and enjoy the scent of flowers, grass and trees and listen to the singing of the birds while you watch the landscape pass like a huge panorama before your eyes. I wish you could have been with me so we could have enjoyed the sights to-gether. We spent one day in Goteborg and took in some of the most interesting places. The President of the Goteborg Conference- whom I got acquainted with in Christiania last summer- took us around and certainly showed us a good time. From there we took the train for Copenhagen arriving at the latter place Saturday morning.

I'll tell you more about the places I saw when I get home and I suppose I'll have enough to tell to last a long time. I have six cousins living in Copenhagen at present and I hunted them all up and had a fine time with them and though I hadn't seen some of them for twenty two years they certainly treated me fine. I made my home with one of them who is a tailor and has a very nice home and did all they could to make me feel at home and comfortable. Last night at 9:15 I left Copenhagen on the Steamer and got in here at 6:15 this morning and am writing this Aunt Augustas home. I gave her one of our photoes this morning and she said she thought you looked "just sweet"! well I told her I thought so too but that I wouldn't tell you for fear it would make you conceited.

Well, my sweet heart if all goes well I think I will be with you again in two months from now as Pres. Rasmussen volunteered me the information that I could go home with the Emmigration sailing from Liverpool July 18th if I can get ready and that ought to bring me home during the forepart of August. I have been practically released from Missionary work and have my time at my own disposal to visit among my Relatives and friends and gather up Genealogy and I am going to make good use of the time because if I go with the Emmigration sailing July 18th I'll have to leave Copenhagen July 13th so that gives me only a little over a month. Unless I tell you different in one of my other letters I don't think it will be any use of you writing to me after July 1st as I'll not be likely to get your letters unless you send them to 295 Edge Lane, Liverpool, England.

Aunt Augusta says to give you her love she is a fine woman but can't see the Beauties of the Gosple.

Now my love be patient and the future will be bright. Praying the Lord to

bless and protect you I remain

With love your husband
Mathias

P.S. Remember me to Chris & Laura and everybody that may care to remember me. Give my kindest regards to your Father and the rest of the family.

Moreland Idaho
June 12- 08

Dear Husband:-

I received your letter of May 23 yesterday. I am pleased to learn you are enjoying yourself on your trip. I hope you will continue and have all the real pleasure you can get out it. I know you will because the great wish or desire of your heart is now being granted. I wish you Gods speed.

That is a very pretty postcard you sent me. It shows to me some of the beauties of the world I never expect to see. But I am resting contented and waiting to hear all explained by the loving lips of a true husband.

The weather is very changeable but things look fine so people are in good cheer.

I was honored by a call from your Father and mother yesterday evening. The first, and I was surprised as well as pleased. They said they were going to write to you so I suppose they have told you all the news. I went over to your Ma's last fri. and made five quarts of pie plant jelly. I am going to pick all of Father's fruit on shares.

Aervior, Swetheart, Keep buissy. I remain your loving wife.

Margaret B.

Roone Denmark
June 21-1908

My Dear Wife:-

I received your card a few days ago and your letter of the 3rd inst. yesterday. Have been out around in the country visiting some of my relatives and of course had a good time though I must confess I have made mighty little progress in getting them to take any interest in the Gosple but hope and pray that they will wake up to a realization of their position some day before it is too late. They have all made me welcom however and treated me very kindly so I have no room for complaint on that score only I wish I could get them to investigate and search for the "Truth" for their own sake. It makes my heart ache when I see them following their old

traditions and allowing themselves to be blindly led by blind leaders. This condition of-course detracts just that much from the pleasure I would otherwise have had among them. But I must not complain so long as they are friendly and treat me nice and respectably as that is more than a good many do.

I have now been here two weeks and it will take me another two weeks to finish the work I have planned so I will be here that length of time and that will give me just about time I want in Copenhagen to visit and look around in before starting on the journey for home.

Yesterday I was out and visited the "old home" and I tell you it caused me to have peculiar feelings on seeing the scenes that were so familiar to me in my Childhood, feeling; in fact that i can't describe. The old straw thatched cottage called forth many childhood reccollections and the people very kindly took me in and let me see what changes they had made and what remained the same as when we lived there. I picked these lttle flowers on the old home, where I used to run and play. But I'll tell you more about this when I get home which will not be very long now.

Well, my dear I am still enjoying good health and am pleased to note by your letter that you are the same and hope and pray that the Lord will continue to grant us these blessings. Tell Chris & Laura Hello and give my kindest regards to your father and all the folks and remember me to all enquiring friends.

Praying the Lord to bless and protect you I remain as ever your loving husband

Mathias

Aunt says to give you her love.

Moreland Idaho
June 22- 08

My Dear Husband:-

I was standing in the dinning room saterday morning when I saw Paul coming with the mail, and I told Laura he was bringing me untold happiness. I went and there was a letter from you dated June 5 telling me of your home coming. My joy knew no bounds. I felt like jumping for joy but Burton sat here and I hated to make such a fool of my self.

Oh: Sweetheart I can not tell you how glad I am. It is a grand thing to know you are visiting among your relatives and to know they would receive a "Mormon" into their homes. Give my love to Aunt Augusta in return for hers. It is a good thing your Aunt does not know me or she would change her mind I am afraid.

Bro. Wray said he didn't think you realized you were enjoying the happiest moments of your life. So mabe you will change your mind when you have been home a short time?????

Laura's old turkey hatched out five little turks last week and two of them died and she is feeding the others up so they will be fat when you come home. There is only one song I can sing and that is "The harvest moon is shining on the river and the merry harvest tune again we hear. Than as sweethearts we will rome down the path that leads to home, When the harvest moon is shining Molley Dear."

We are still having cloudy, rainie, cold weather. I was ashamed of Moreland yesterday. We went to Blackfoot to Union meeting and 9 out of 12 were late and they called out Moreland and we had to stand. I felt like ten cts.

Della Moyes came out from town with us. Stayed with me all night and just up to Bertha's. She is a sweet girl. We had a very good meeting last night. Frank took up half the time in telling Conference news.

I haven't any news to write or I can't collect my thoughts. Seems more like a long dream than a reality so will say Aerovior With love I remain Your wife

Laura and Christian said Hello.

We are going to have a swell time on the 4th of July. I know I will because I am doomed to stand behind the refreshment stand.

Moreland Idaho
June 29- 08

My Dear Husband:-

I thought once, I would not write any more letters to you. Than I thought how long it would be before you could get any word so I changed my mind.

I haven't got any news to write I saving it all to tell you when you get home. Don't you know.

Christian J. and Laura are out to Lost River fishing about now. J. V. and his wife went along the men went to preach on Sunday at Howe and the women went for a time, will be home to morrow. We are going to have Ward conference next Sunday.

We are going to wash to day so I must get busy.

I am feeling fine and dandy. Well Aerrior untill we meet. And then-----

I hope you are not sea sick. My earnest prayer is that you arrive in peace and safty and I allmost know you will

With love. I remain your wife. M.B.

Correspondence Explanations

To the extent possible spelling, punctuation and grammar has not been changed.

Some unusual words are defined as follows:

Inst.	"instant " - refers to a current date
D & R G	Denver & Rio Grand Western Rail Road
Jrs	Juniors
B Y Monument	Brigham Young Monument in Salt Lake City
Two Waists	Two blouses
Christiana	Now Oslo, Norway
La Gripe	The flu
Or	Sometimes meaning "and"
plat & ink well	Writing tablet and bottle of ink
Y L & YMIA	Young Ladies & Young Men's Improvement Association
Thraches	The crew that goes from farm to farm to thrash the grain. Made up of mostly local farmers.
Basket Ball	Girls and women bring baskets of food to the ball. Baskets are sold to the highest bidder men & boys). They then sit together and eat. Proceeds go to whatever the ball was sponsoring.

Some relationships:

Hazel	Margaret's sister
Wilford	Margaret's brother
Andrew	Mathias's brother
Ida	Andrew's wife
Henry	Margaret's brother
Lester	Margaret's brother
Mead	Margaret's brother
Jael	Mead's wife
Bertha	Mathias's sister

Oct. 21 and hope you have a pleasant
trip. I will be returned again later.
I received your card of
Nov. 5, 1907
I received your card of
Nov. 5, 1907
I received your card of
Nov. 5, 1907

Hooper Utah

Nov. 5, 1907

My Dear Hattie

I received your letter
of Oct. 17 yesterday was
indeed pleased to hear from
you. Well Lester went to
Salt Lake City this morning
to be set a part, and to-morrow
he goes to his mission.

Wend is here will go home
to-morrow or next day.
She had more nerve than
I had. neither here nor
Lester broke down until
after he had gone. then —
The reception was a success
Dear heart now I wish

②

②

you could of been with us. Well I will tell you about it. In the first place we did not have a very large crowd because the house was not large enough. The table was decorated with sammon colored chrysanthias and the wedding cake was trimmed with "English ivy". Lester and Vere sat in mine and Jennie's high chairs. Lester ate with the carving set and mustard spoon. Vere with a ~~soop~~ laddel, an extra large fork and little peeling knife. Both

found Margaret suffering with a sick headache. However she ate a light supper and went to bed seemingly feeling a little better. As Leone and Thelma both had colds and were restless at night she had the baby and Thelma with her while I lay down with Leone in an adjoining room. About 2 o'clock in the morning I got up and gave her a drink and she said her head was aching awful but as she always claimed that you could nothing for it only let it look off I went and lay down again and went to sleep and the next thing I realized I heard her get up and come out to the stove and was coughing. I immediately got up and my first thought was to make up a fire as the room was getting somewhat cold but she said "oh hold my head a minute its just spitting" I started to stroke her forehead but she said "oh press on my temples" which were

the last words she spoke. I stepped back of the chair and placed my hands over hers which she was already pressing to her temples. I stood there just for a moment when without a warning or sign of any kind she slipped from my hands and fell face downward on the floor. Of course I picked her up as quick as I could and dashed back of a glass of water which was sitting on the table in her face thinking she had fainted but she just gasped a few times and it was all over.

This was about 4 o'clock in the morning. The doctor is of the opinion that death was caused by the rupture of a blood vessel in the brain but whatever the cause she certainly was snatched from me without an opportunity of securing aid of any kind and though I cannot understand why she

Selections from "Maggie's Cook Book"

PRESERVING CHILDREN

Take one large grassy field, one half dozen children, all sizes, three small dogs, one long narrow strip of brook, pebbly if possible. Mix the children with the dogs and empty them into the field, stirring continually, sprinkle with field flowers, pour brook gently over pebbles; cover all with deep blue sky and bake in a hot sun. When the children are well browned they may be removed. Will be found right and ready for setting away to cool in the bath tub.

ICE CREAM

One qt milk place on stove, when boiled stir one desert spoon corn starch mixed with milk, beat four eggs whites separate, beat one qt cream, add sugar and flavoring to taste. Mix together freez and eat to health and happyness.

MINCE MEAT

3 pounds of boiled beef, 1 pound of suet, 3 pounds of brown sugar, 1/2 peck of apples, 2 pounds of raisen, 1 1/2 pounds of currants, 1 pound citron, 1 nutmeg, grated alsprice and cinnamon to suit the taste, mace 5 cls. Chop the meat, suet & apples then put together with the seasoning. Pour on sweet sider to make thick batter of it. Heat through on stove.

PICCALLILI

One peck of green tomatoes, 12 large onions chop fine with cup of salt. Let stand over night. Get up in the morning dressed or undressed and drain off the liquor. Take 2 qts of water and one of vinegar. Boil all together twenty minutes. Drain all through a colander. Put it back in the kettle again. Turn over it one qt of vinigar, 1 pound of sugar, 1/2 pound white mustard seed, 2 tablespoons ground pepper, 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon, 1 tablespoon ground cloves, 2 tablespoons ground ginger, 1 tablespoon ground allspice, 1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne. Boil all together fifteen minutes ave until tender - stir it often to prevent scorching.

Line of Priesthood Authority

MATHIAS J. BENSON was ordained a High Priest 23 October 1928 by

ROBERT LEE BYBEE, Patriarch of Blackfoot Stake, 17 August 1884 by

GEORGE TEASDALE, who was ordained an Apostle 16 October 1882 by

JOHN TAYLOR, who was ordained an Apostle 19 December 1838 by

BRIGHAM YOUNG and **HEBER C. KIMBALL**, who were ordained Apostles 14 February 1835 under the hands of the Three Witnesses of the Book of Mormon

OLIVER COWDERY, **DAVID WHITMER** and **MARTIN HARRIS**, and the ordination was confirmed at the same time by the First Presidency of the Church.

OLIVER COWDERY, **DAVID WHITMER** and **MARTIN HARRIS** were called by revelation to choose the Twelve Apostles, and were *blessed* 14 February 1835 to ordain the Twelve Apostles, by

JOSEPH SMITH, JR., and his counselors in the First Presidency, **SIDNEY RIGDON** and **FREDERICK G. WILLIAMS**. (See Comprehensive History of the Church, Century I, Vol. I, Chapter 30, and footnotes.) (Also see History of the Church, Vol. 1, Chapter V., and footnotes on page 40.)

JOSEPH SMITH was conferred the Melchizedek Priesthood in 1829, and was ordained an Apostle in June 1829 under the hands of

PETER, **JAMES**, and **JOHN**, who were ordained by the

LORD JESUS CHRIST

15 November 1958, I wrote for the aforementioned information to:

Office of Presiding Bishop
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
80 North Main St.
Salt Lake City, Utah

Helen T. Dalton
Route 2
Parma, Idaho

Notes From Newspapers

The Idaho Republican December 30, 1904
"Moreland Jottings"

The Moreland Thespians are again to be heard from; they will present "A Womans Honor" a four act drama with a splendid cast of characters Dec. 31. Manager MJ Benson is drilling his assistants up to the top notch. An assurance will be given, that a fine time will be given to all who attend.

The Idaho Republican January 6, 1905

The Moreland Dramatic company performed to a large and appreciative audience the 31st. Moreland should be proud of some of the talent shown by the performance. The play was well rendered and well received.

The Idaho Republican March 17, 1905
Under Bryon (Moreland)

The school closes this week and principal Mathias Benson will lay off his scholastic garb and give his attention to agriculture.

The Idaho Republican June 30, 1905

The 4th of July, 1905 will be celebrated at Moreland with the following program

Hoist flag at sunrise
Grand parade 9 AM
Meeting 10 AM
.
Stump Speech MJ Benson
.

The Idaho Republican April 13, 1906
Moreland Musings

MJ Benson and Margaret Belnap were married in the Salt Lake Temple on Wednesday 11th.
Lewis Robbins and MJ Benson leave for Europe April 18 to fill missions

The Idaho Republican April 27, 1906
Moreland Musings

Word comes from MJ Benson and Lewis Robbins that they enjoyed their trip across the continent. They sailed from Boston for Liverpool yesterday.

The Idaho Republican April 27, 1906

Word comes from MJ Benson that he landed at Copenhagen on the 6th of May and of having a pleasant voyage. His field of labor will be in Trondhjem, Norway, the land of the midnight sun.

The School Teacher

Summary of Idaho Teachers Certificates County of Bingham, State of Idaho

It is hereby certified that Mathias J Benson has passed a stisfactory examination upon all points required by law for a (third)(second) grade certificate and he is licensed to teach in Bingham County, State of Idaho

The following is his standing in the several branches, upon the scale of 100;

	Third Grade	Second Grade				
	MAR 1 1901	SEP 1 1901	AUG 27 1904	AUG 29 1908	MAY 26 1911	
ORTHOGRAPHY	60	90	80	90	75	
READING	63	89	83	100	94	
SCHOOL LAW	80	80	85	72	75	
STATE CONSTITUTION	85	75	85	72		
THEORY & ART	63	84	85	99	95	
CIVIL GOVERNMENT	66	81	90	99	99	
GEOGRAPHY	67	91	87	96	81	
HISTORY	70	86			98	
ARITHMETIC	79	72	85	98	100	
PHYSIOLOGY	69	74	80	94	96	
GRAMMER	61	76	70	93	82	
PENMANSHIP			80	90		
U.S. HISTORY			65	96		
ALGEBRA					95	
LICENSED TO TEACH FROM ABOVE DATES						
	One Year	Three Years				

Minutes of Moreland Ward

Moreland Ward Conference Feb. 7, 1904

Margaret Belnap reported the Primary Association.

Moreland Ward Fast Meeting April 1, 19??

MJ Benson bore testimony - said it was not his purpose in going out into the world to tear down any religion that men might have, but if he could he would show a better faith and religion to them; he would take pleasure in doing so.

Moreland Ward Sacrament Meeting May 17, 1908

Certificate of membership of Margaret Benson read and accepted by Saints.

Letters from Ezra Taft Benson

OFFICE OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

EZRA TAFT BENSON

August 9, 1948

Mathias J. Benson Family
c/o Jesse J. McQueen
808 E. State
Boise, Idaho

Dear Marvin and Sisters:

This is Monday morning. Because of important obligations here last night and this evening it was impossible for me to come to Boise to attend the funeral except by plane. After making every effort to secure reservations, I wired Bishop Ricks last night as follows: TRIED IN VAIN FOR PLANE RESERVATIONS TO PERMIT FUNERAL ATTENDANCE. PLEASE EXPRESS REGRETS, LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO FAMILY.

You, of course, know how much I loved your father and how much I wanted to attend the funeral service. I was honored to be asked to speak at the funeral of one of the greatest souls I have ever known. No words of mine would serve as an adequate expression of my love and appreciation for your father with whom I have worked intimately through many years of Church service. He was a man without guile. As I have thought of him during the last two or three weeks there has kept coming to my mind as a best expression of my feeling toward him, the poem of Edgar A. Guest which I quote below as my tribute to your father.

A REAL MAN

Men are of two kinds, and he
Was of the kind I'd like to be.
Some preach their virtues, and a few
Express their lives by what they do.
That sort was he. No flowery phrase
Or glibly spoken words of praise
Won friends for him. He wasn't cheap
Or shallow, but his course ran deep,
And it was pure. You know the kind.
Not many in a life you find
Whose deeds outrun their words so far
With more than what they seem they are.

There are two kinds of lies as well:
The kind you live, the ones you tell.
Back through his years from age to youth
He never acted one untruth.
Out in the open light he fought
And didn't care what others thought
Nor what they said about his fight
If he believed that he was right.
The only deeds he ever hid
Were acts of kindness that he did.

What speech he had was plain and blunt.
His was an unattractive front.
Yet children loved him; babe and boy
Played with the strength he could employ,
Without one fear, and they are fleet
To sense injustice and deceit.
No backdoor gossip linked his name
With any shady tale of shame.
He did not have to compromise
With evil-doers, shrewd and wise,
And let them ply their vicious trade
Because of some past escapade.

Men are of two kinds, and he
Was of the kind I'd like to be.
No door at which he ever knocked
Against his manly form was locked.
If ever man on earth was free
And independant, it was he.
No broken pledge lost him respect,
He met all men with head erect,
And when he passed I think there went
A soul to yonder firmament
So white, so splendid and so fine
It came almost to God's design.

You realize the great debt you owe your father. He has left you a rich heritage. His has been a perfect example of everything for which the Church stands. There is only one way to adequately pay the debt, you must live as he lived and as he would want you to live. Without the help of the Lord you cannot succeed; with His help and your unswerving devotion, you cannot fail.

Please accept my love and sympathy and the assurance of my desire to be helpful at any time in the future.

May the favors of Heaven continue with you all throughout the years to come, that your reunion with your worthy parents may be the happiest and most soul satisfying possible.

Faithfully and affectionately your friend
and brother

Ezra Taft Benson

ETB:N

Letters from Ezra Taft Benson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE
47 E. South Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

May 3, 1974

James R. Smith
422 N. Main
Orem, Utah 84057

Dear Brother Smith:

Responding to your letter of April 28, I am happy to give you a paragraph regarding my good friend and associate, Mathias J. Benson. I wish time permitted me to do more.

President Mathias J. Benson, who served as my counselor in the stake presidency in the Boise Stake, and was later ordained a patriarch and gave me a patriarchal blessing, was a man without guile, as I knew him. He was a true Latter-day Saint, devoted to the Lord and His purposes. He understood those purposes and lived in keeping with them from day to day. He was a friend of man and a faithful witness of the divine mission of Jesus Christ and the prophet Joseph Smith. Humble in spirit, jovial in disposition, obedient to every assignment, he always carried a spirit of optimism with him. He loved to teach the gospel, which he understood and loved. He was truly a great soul. I am a better man because of my association with him, for which association I am deeply grateful.

Congratulations to you, as his grandson. May his posterity increase and may they emulate the example of their worthy sire.

Sincerely,

E.T. Benson

Ezra Taft Benson
President

ETB/bsm

Margaret's Patriarchal Blessing

Moreland Idaho. March 21, 1902.

A blessing given by A. G. Jensen, Patriarch upon the head of Sister Margaret Belna daughter of Oliver Belnap and Margaret Manning. Born Nov. 26, 1885. Hooper, Utah.

Sister Margaret Belnap in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by virtue and authority of the holy priesthood and the office that I hold I place my hands upon your head and give unto you a fathers and Patriarchal blessing and I conferr upon you all the blessings that is promised to the daughters of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob with all the gifts and graces of the new and everlasting covenant, with the blessings of health and strength in body and mind that you may increase in the knowledge of God that you may be able to keep your self unspotted from the sins of this wicked generation that you may be able to serve the Lord in righteousness all the days of your life. And in as much as you have been born under the new and everlasting covenant you are heir to all the blessings that is promised to the faithfull daughters in Zion and in as much as you will listen to the still small voice of the holy spirt it will lead and guide you through the slipery paths of youth and it will enlighten your mind that you may increase in faith and the knowledge of God and the Lord will enable you to do a noble work in the midst of Israel and bless you with exceeding great wisdom and you shall have the privilege of going through the holy temple of the Lord and receive your washings, sealings, and annointings that you may be qualified from every position that you may be called to and become a shining light in the midst of the daughters of Zion and to become a leader among women. And you shall raise a numerous posterity and become a mother in Israel to administer peace and comfort to the poor and sick in the midst of Israel and you shall have the privelege of assisting your father in the redemption of your ancestors and stand as a Savior upon Mount Zion and through your faithfullness you shall have the privilege of going back to Jackson County and to assist in the building of the center Stake of Zion and to live to behold the Savior and to become a queen unto the most high God and if you will be faithfull in keeping the commandments of the Lord these blessings are yours. And I conferr them upon you and seal you up unto eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection, to enjoy the society of the just and I seal them upon you by virtue and authority of the holy priesthood. And in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mathias's 1st Patriarchal Blessing

Salt Lake City, April 17th, 1906

A blessing given by John Smith, Patriarch upon the head of Mathias Julius Benson son of Andrew P & Matildia C. Benson born in Nylars Bornholm Sogn Denmark April 12th 1877.

Brother Mathias Julius Benson. Thou art of the house of Israel one of those who were chosen at their birth to be messengers of life & salvation. Therefore I say unto thee reflect often upon the past & present & thou shalt realize that the hand of the Lord has been over thee & that thy life has been preserved for a purpose. Thou art also chosen of the Father to labor at home among the youth in Zion & there are many who look to thee for counsel by example as well as by precept & as thou art now called to leave thy home to cross the waters of the mighty deep, a messenger of life & salvation, thou shalt go in peace. Fill thy mission & return in safety, be prudent & thou shalt find kindred & friends of thy youth thos shalt have joy in thy labors. Thou shalt lay hands upon the sick & they shall recover & the name of the Lord therein shall be glorified. Thou art of Ephraim & entitled to the blessings of Abraham, Isaac & Jacob with the gifts & the privileges promised unto the Fathers in Israel. Among whom thou salt be numbered. Therefore look forward to the future with a prayerfull heart & an enquiring mind & thou shalt rise in counsel, valient in the defence of truth, virtue & righteousness, it is necessary that you learn to listen to the whisperings of that still small voice for through this source they guardian angel will converse with thee, raise up friends among strangers & give thee power over thine enemies & enable thee to rebuke the destroyer & to cast out evil spirits. Therefore remember that there is a God in Israel, in whom we should trust & that he will reward according to merit & it shall be well with thee & they name shall be handed down with thy posterity in honorable remembrance. I seal upon thee in the name of Jesus Christ & I seal thee up unto eternal life to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection even so amen.

Mathias's 2nd Patriarchal Blessing

Moreland Idaho, December 31, '??

A blessing given by Andrew P. Benson, Patriarch upon the head of Mathias J. Benson son of Andrew P. Benson and Matilda C. Aaberg born April 12, 1877 at Nylars Bornholm Denmark Europe.

Mathias, my son and brother in the Gospel. In the name of Jesus Christ and by virtue and authority of Priesthood I hold I place my hands on your head and give you a fathers and a Patriarchal blessing; even the blessing of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, with every blessing hope and promise there was extended to the faithful children of Israel, for you are one of them. You are one of the sons of Ephraim and you was chosen before the foundation of the earth to come forth in this dispensation and help prepare the way for the second coming of our Lord and Savior to this earth. And I bless you with health and with strength and power to overcome evil and you shall be an instrument in the hands of God to roll on this work and prepare to receive the Savior. You shall receive all the blessings and promises in the holy Temples and with your companion whom the Lord will give you in his own due time you shall raise good and noble children who will follow in your footsteps. You shall help to build up Zion even the new Jerusalem and you shall live to see the Savior on this earth. You shall be blest in all your undertakings. You shall be blest in your family and in your fields; in your flocks and in your gardens. You shall be blest with the spirit of discernment so you can choose between good and evil. The Lord will protect you from harm and accident. And I seal you up to eternal life and you shall become a King and Priest to the most high God. And I seal these blessings upon you in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; Amen.

Form with sections: HUSBAND, WIFE, CHILDREN, BAPTIZED, ENDOWED, and NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS. Includes names, dates, and locations for Benson, Mathias Julius and his family.

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of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Inc.

FAMILY
GROUP
RECORD

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER.
DATES: 14 Apr 1794
PLACES: Watson, John Henry

NAME: WATSON, John Henry
PLACES: Watson, John Henry
To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the family participating in this study.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

HUSBAND	Birth/Chr	:Benson Family records, GS F 300.761 Nylarsker Parish
	Marriage	:MJB Journal, SL m Bk 3 p. 21, m Lic 2041
	Death/Bur	: <u>Death Cert. 1557, bur Moreland, Id cem. Lot 37 Blk 37</u>
	LDS Bapt	: <u>Plain City, Ut Film #026388 p. 296 by Peter C. Green</u> <u>confirmed by William England</u>
	Endowment	: <u>MJB Journal</u>
WIFE	Birth/Chr	: <u>Hooper, Ut 1st Ward p.127 Letter to Margaret f/father</u>
	Death/Bur	: <u>Family letters, Deseret News 13 Dec 1922 p.6 Death cert</u> <u>Idaho File No. 40284</u>
	LDS Bapt	: <u>Ogden 1st Ward p.9, Letter to maragaret from father 1907</u>
	Endowment	: <u>MJB Journal, SL End for living BC p. 73</u>
CEILDREN		:For all children records in possession of each child

In Conclusion

And so we conclude this brief document about the lives of our parents. They lived their lives in harmony with the revealed Gospel - and they were happy in this life. Their devotion to this Truth is evidenced by their children's activities:

As of November 22, 1985 each of this couple's four children have served honorable missions for the Church of Jesus Chrsit of Latter Day Saints. Marvin to Norway, Thelma to California, Leone and husband to Florida, and Ruth with her husband to Missouri.

All of the children were married in the Temples of the Most High for time and all eternity.

It is our hope that a knowledge of their lives by their descendants will result in a greater resolve to live the Gospel, as they lived the Gospel. Then all of us can once again be united - eternally bonded as a family - if we so do.

