

TO

Helge Helgesen Elingbö
Vang i Valdres
Christiania Norway
Europe

48

The 5th of November I received the letter

Two Rivers, the 2nd of October, 1854

Unforgettable dear brother and friends and relatives in Norway. Your welcome letter of the 13th of April was received by me on the 6th of August. It made me very happy to hear that you are all healthy and are living well, and the same you shall hear from us. My family and I are, God be thanked, all healthy and well contented with our condition and position. I cannot thank God enough for the change I made with regard to my voyage to America. I must first tell you about my year's crop. I got 20 bushels of potatoes and some corn and beans. For livestock I have two cows. A cow costs 30 to 40 dollars and a barrel of flour 10 dollars. When we came here we bought a barrel of flour for 4 dollars, but how expensive times are becoming due to the European War! Several million barrels a year are sent out, so it is no wonder that it is so expensive here.

I see in your letter that Randi Helges Datter and Randi Ols Datter want to come over here next summer, and I think that they will not regret it when they come. As far as the clothing they should bring, they should not make clothes, but bring material so that they can make them in the style that is worn here. And if Helge Olsen and Tolev Helgesen would like to come here too, they can see for themselves by the wages here that they can receive more for a month than they can for a year over there. When they come, they should land in Two Rivers. They should write to me from New York or Quebec, wherever they land, so I will know when I can expect them, and they should address the letter to Two Rivers P.O. Manitowoc C.O. Wisconsin. I should not forget to thank you for the dollars you sent me. You say that it must have been a misunderstanding of mine or forgetfulness that I paid the servant girl those dollars in wages, but it was not so; I gave the money to her brother Gulik when he was there with tar, and I shall willingly swear by the same. But, in case there is so much remaining after me, I ask you to settle it for me.

Now I must close my humble and short letter with many greetings from me to all of you, first to you my dear brother and your wife and children; and then may I wish you Helge, my brother's son, happiness with your new wife; and then to all relatives in the family, it would be too long to list them all; you Endre, my father's brother, may you be first and last to receive greetings from me and my family.

I should tell you that my daughters are working 13 miles from here at Norke [?].

Christofor Helgesen

[to:] Helge Helgesen

I Tosten Trondsen wish to send greetings to my parents-in-law and to say that I and my wife and children are healthy and are living well and have bought ourselves 80 acres of land which should be paid for over 5 years. We moved in on it in the spring and in the autumn harvested 4 barrels of potatoes and some oats and some beets. We have bought ourselves a cow and a calf, for which we paid 32 dollars, and we have 15 hens and we have built a cabin and a barn and a storage house and we have cleared 6 acres which I will sow in the spring. My son Trond has begun to read and the other two sons grow and thrive, and if you Even have the thought to come, it is best to do it at this time, for the chance will never come again.

I should tell you that my month's rent is 25 dollars and I support expenses that you could not over there. The friendliest greetings from me and wife and children.

T. Trondsen

[to:] Tosten Evensen

Everyone is sent word in friendliness from G. Gulbransen Berge and his son that his wife passed away in death the 14th of September after 8 days of illness and he bade me ask if you would tell A. Vang that he shouldn't be impatient because he did not answer his 3 letters for funds he didn't receive from the exchange note whereas he should have received 40 shillings [?] which were sent through H. Heland in Bergen, but the exchange note may have disappeared; he said that in case he did not get some result, then he should write to him.

Paid to Christiania in case this letter costs more than 8 [?] you should take a postal receipt and send it to me so that I can get the postal charges back.

Christofer Helgesen Ellinbóe

Note: The English version of the letter was translated by James Ellingboe, using professor Semmingsen's typewritten transcript and the original letter.