

Tastad, September 24, 1896

Dear Gustav,

I will now again write a few words to you. I wrote four weeks ago, and then I had written two letters before that. John had written one letter to you, but I wonder if you have not yet received any of them. We are now despairing because it is so long we have heard anything from you. We have now waited 14 days, but have not heard anything. We would wish that there is not something wrong with you. You must by all means write and tell us how you are and find you content. We are all well and healthy now, but I can tell you it went fast with Gustav's Karoline. She improved and become well until the 6th day. Then she became very sick in the evening, but worsened so that they went for the doctor. In the morning by 7 she was dead. Now, Gustav lives with his mother. The child is with Nils. Bellest's child is also dead. This child died from blood poison and was sick only two days. Yes, so soon can it happen to us. We must be prepared and be ready when God calls us. Now, dear Gustav, the time is coming towards confirmation for Louise. We will certainly miss you when we will all be
day, and we expect also

Tastad October 8

Dear Gustav,

Many thanks for your welcome letters I have received from you. Please forgive me for not answering your letters before. It is funny if you don't answer right away it gets easier to put it off. It isn't easy for me to write these days. The summer this year has been cold all the time and dry as well and that makes for a late harvest. The grain stands real green yet.

I see you are well and healthy which makes me happy to hear, and the same I can share with you that all your sibilings are well. I cannot say the same, because I feel pain every day, but I must be glad for every day that I can be up and working and look after everything.

Now I must start to write again. It is three weeks since I have come this far. Now everything has been straightened out in the house. There was Confirmation last Sunday and Samuel has received many beautiful things. I must thank you on his behalf for the money that you gave him and for what you gave your sibilings and to me also. Yes, it has been a beautiful appreciation for us all. You must have thanks dear Gustav. I sit here now and am very sick. I was at the doctor three weeks ago and he examined me and he says it was an old bronchitis that I had and now has come back. Now I have been in bed for two weeks. Now, I am sitting up, but I can't do anything, but I am improving some. But Gustav I want to say to you that what I have thought for a long time that my life is not for long. But you know I do not know, God alone knows that. We must be ready when he comes.

I must tell you I was a bit unlucky this summer. I lost the colt to the Black mare. It was a very pretty colt and a nice color. It got tetanus and it was a hard death. It died when we were almost finished with haying and this summer I bought a binder. I was really in need for it because there was no one to help. Otherwise, all goes on as usual with the old people that you knew before. John Belesen from Dusevig was buried yesterday.

Maria continues with her usual serving.

Now, I must close for this time with a cherry greeting from us all to you. You must not be cross with me, because it has been such a long time since I have written to you.

From your Father

(by Evelyn)

Dear brother Gustav,

Today I will also write a few words to tell you I go to school in second class. Valborg Ledoliv is my teacher. At recess Nels Johan got 4 (unger). The same day he went, one was dead. When it came to there were three living and now she is angry. You must greet Louise friendly greetings from your brother

Laurits

Tastad, October 8, 1896

Dear Son Gustav,:

We received your dear letter yesterday in which we see that you're well and which cheered us much to hear, but at the same time it's sad to hear that you haven't received word from us. I've written four or five and Johan two. I can't imagine what's happened to them since the address is what I have always used to send to Louise, so we can't understand what has happened to them. We were so surprised (now) that it took so long before we got word, that we were sure that something bothered you. Many thanks for the money you sent Louise--you sent more than you could afford and you can believe that Louise thought it was great since tears flowed all day when we talked about you!

We had nasty weather on Sunday so we had no company except Bertel and Berta, and then Berta Volsta and Bertha came in the evening. Louise has received many presents. She received three sylolsa and a scarf she got from Berta Volslsa and many other things.

Altogen's Berget who was also confirmed (and) we dropped in to visit there Monday, and the house was full of company.

Johan returned home Saturday evening, then left again yesterday morning. Hannah too has a place to say--she's at Hellevag's factory, and at 25 kroner a month, and Berta has started at Lorevinde Kunsis.

I can't thinl of anything new to tell, except that we sold the peat, for which we received 56 kroner. We still have the hay barn; we sold one lamb quite some time ago for 10 kroner, but we still have the other one.

You should just see that we got Neber in the field, but it's in such a good place to make feed for anyone who wishes.

We now have everything gathered in except (neberne), and we are looking for a churn every other day--the weather is so bad that we have to churn all this week, so we are still milking so far.

So I'll quit for this time with a dear greeting from father and siblings. Greet Mother and my relations from all here, but most are you greeted from

Father and Mother, Karine Johannesen

PS: Keep one writing to us, then you are so nice.

Peder Johannesen
Tastad Stranger Norge

Tastad, September 24, 1896

Dear Gustav,

I will now again write a few words to you. I wrote four weeks ago, and then I had written two letters before that. John had written one letter to you, but I wonder if you have not yet received any of them. We are now despairing because it is so long we have heard anything from you. We have now waited 14 days, but have not heard anything. We would wish that there is not something wrong with you. You must by all means write and tell us how you are and find you content. We are all well and healthy now, but I can tell you it went fast with Gustav's Karoline. She improved and become well until the 6th day. Then she became very sick in the evening, but worsened so that they went for the doctor. In the morning by 7 she was dead. Now, Gustav lives with his mother. The child is with Nils. Bellest's child is also dead. This child died from blood poison and was sick only two days. Yes, so soon can it happen to us. We must be prepared and be ready when God calls us. Now, dear Gustav, the time is coming towards confirmation for Louise. We will certainly miss you when we will all be together. John will come on Saturday, and we expect also Guri from Skudesnes. Bergit was out here one evening this week. She was in town for a little while, and she had the desire to see us. I can tell you that we soon had everything ready. This year we have some potatoes left and these we had received. But father has gone to work enough so we have it good. Marie and Louise and Petra and Alfred who has had some work, but father should have been home this week because we should have got it changed, but then he had to go to the dairy cut ice for two days and we have had such unpleasant weather that we are not quite caught up yet. Now you should see Martin Smed's house. It stands like a shrine or chapel. Father has helped to build it.

Now, I know not more to tell you for this. You must greet Mother and all my siblings but most of all you are greeted from your parents and siblings. Live well.

Your Mother

Karine Johannesen

(by Evelyn)

Tveds-Landbrugsskole, 24/2/1897

Dear Brother,

Thousand thanks for the letter that I received yesterday. I see you live well, for which I am glad, and the same I do also. Today, I got a letter from home and with it was also your last letter which they had received. They all live well at home, but they have had little misfortune, not so very little either. Monvils Kvigera has been sick for several weeks (den) it was well New Year, but since it has been sick. Now they have had the vetrinarian out and he said it was catching so they had to move it out of the place, but now it is improving. Yes, it was a big harm for them, but what can you do about it.

Today, I have had it good, you can be sure. We got some placards each of us, that we should fill in. It should serve us to get in order statistics and at the same time we should learn. On this placard it asks about all the man's name that used (lived) on the farm, and how big it was, how much he milked the size of the farm and the farms goodness, all possible, but I have it not good because I want to go home on Saturday, then I can get the information there. Then I won't need to work so hard. I will not be long at home, just one day. I go home on Saturday and return here on Monday, I will only go home to see how they are. In chance, I can say Bertha and I, the reason it is over, was because she thought our age difference was wrong and for Marie's sake she thought Marie liked me better and I liked Marie better. Yes, I know not how this will go. She write often to me, and I think I could get her and that can happen it happens to us too. Have you anything against it? I would desire to go to America, but I know not if I can get any use for the school, as I thought I should get something back because I have gone here for two years. I will see when I am finished. It can happen I can think of something also then. You do not know (evage) is dead. It went fast with him, New Year, Mother, Father and I were at Kraagan. The word that they did not understand I can't remember what it should be. Photograph I cannot send yet because when I have my picture taken now in winter, they will not be nice. But it shall not be so long before I will do it. So I better quit for this time, but you probably won't be able to ready the greeting this time, because I have such a headache that I can barely see the lines. Today I was up and read at 5 a.m. It must be why I have it. I often get up at 4-5 a.m. to ready, because then it is quiet here.

In closing, friendly greetings to you brother. Greet all known and relatives in America. Greet Ludvig and Louise.

From your brother John

Write as soon as you have time and so you are kind.

Tastad, August 25, 1897

Dear Son Gustav,

Now I'll answer your dear letter that we received day before yesterday, and for which we really thank you because we hve waited quite a while for a letter, and you likely have experienced that too since it's a long time since I wrote you last.

I'll tell you how we have fared this summer. Father has worked in town (city) all summer. He got a job at a coal lot (Kultomt) for a sailmaker Johan Pedersen and Klausen, where he worked 2-3 weeks, and also he's been at Johan Pedersen and worked on a new marina, and several jobs in the house, but now he's at the Tomten lot again yesterday P.M. and today he's busy hauling coal to Hellevaag. They sold 80 kroner worth and Alfred is to haul that.

In haying, we had a man from Tysver to help us, whom we paid 8 kroner per week and board. He was here four weeks, but for a whole week almost we had rain, so it got quite wet out, so it wasn't so good, but for the rest it hasn't been too bad, but he's been very busy. So for now you must greet mother from us, also greet Lars and Ludvig, and Thea and Louise and families from all us, and so you're greeted from all of us here--siblings and from Father and Mother, Karina Johannesen.

P.S. Many thanks for the money you sent, it came unexpectedly. Louise and Petra are out and earning at Byggen, and now they have started at the harbor (Havner). Marie is at Lye and likely will stay there this winter; October 1st Amtschool will begin in the school house, and then can Lye school (Kasper and Lerevinden, Ole Nadretasta).

(Regarding commencement of the school year.)

(by Len Alm)

Envelope postmark Sept. 7, 10 a.m., 1897, Langford, So. Dak., U.S.A.

To Gustav Tastad,

(continued page 2)

before we got the money you sent us. Berta was out here the day after she had received it and paid us interest again, and she said she didn't want any interest and you were promised, and I said that since you had send interest so it was surely that he wanted to give you interest out she said (says) NO.

She said I must greet you heartily and say to you many thanks, you are a fine boy. She hadn't expected anything yet for a long time, she wanted to write you herself, and Mother shall write you that I think it was a month til Christmas (ell) and at the same she writes that I have sold the () at Kjelsen to Jobras for 270 Kroner per (like our acre) and there likely wan't more than 4 acres, and Mother has written to you about that.

One day I planned to go to Gernerrau's to butcher a pig, and I should also tell you that I have 9 animals with oxen. I bought expensive Dyer Ka eight days before Mother took sick, I'm sure I couldn't have done it since she became so ill. I gave 190 Kroner for it.

Now I must close for this time with a loving greting from all here and how we live for I say it's . Greet Bestemor from me and all the youngsters, and say I'll try to write to her presently. We received four letters from you yesterday, in which I see you've received everything now.

P.S. I'm wondering if you heard that Mother died, and I wanted you

Tastad, December 1st, 1897

Dear Son!

I'm writing a few words to you to tell you how we're living. We are all healthy and lively at this time, which is a great blessing.

Father is jobbing in town yet, but it is slowing down since the ground is frozen. Before we had rain, but now we have snow and frost.

We sure are waiting for letters from you, but something has happened that we didn't get any mail til near Christmas.

We received a letter from Johan yesterday. He is busy with reading now, he doesn't have much more time left, so he disappeared so much for, but now it got really too late to do it again.

I can tell you that Hans and Daniel who were in Smien have arrived home from America. It's 2 or 3 weeks (a few have come by now surely). Thore from has arrived too. He will soon graduate from seminary as a preacher in America.

Otherwise, there's nothing new here at home. I can't write more since Marie also wants to write and send a parcel, so you must have a Merry Christmas, greet all my relatives from us, but most you are greeted from Father and Mother and siblings and family.

Your Mother

Karine Johannesen

Tastad, May 27, 1897

Dear son Gustav,

The dear letter we received about 14 days ago for which I should have answered, but it has been neglected every day. I can first tell you that we are all well and healthy to this time which is the most important. I can also tell you that we are finished the spring's work, we have also let in the cows for a couple days. We are also thinking that we shall begin in the peat bog on Monday. We are not many this year that can help in the bog. I know not how this will go, because neither Marie or Petra are at home, there is only Father and Alfred who has worked with the spring work this year. Alfred is capable, he follows father all the time. I must tell you that Torger's son Sven has come home. He had now been away for the 7th year. He has done well. I must not forget to tell you that Aunt Nille has gone to America again. She left on Saturday and she will be there 2-5 months only on a visit. Uncle stayed at home here.

I can tell you that we have bought some sheep this year also. There was such a fuss with Alfred because he definitely wanted to have a sheep for himself, that we went to Hareska in Aution about 14 days ago and bought 4 lambs, they were quite cheap this year. They were from 10-19 Kroner (crowns) which was not bad after what they have been other years.

I can tell you that Aunt Inger at Skudesnes died about three weeks ago. But she had been sick a long time. We were invited to the funeral, but we could not be there because it was while we were working. Bergit Narnes was with us on the Day of Prayer (Sunday before All Saints' Day). She asked us to greet you and all over there. Bertha on Kraugen was also here on Sunday and she asked also that we should greet you and yesterday Johannes in Bakken was here. He lives at Sonnes now, and is very elegant now. He has a nice horse, and new small open carriage and a nice blanket. He drove as a bigshot.

Now I must stop for this time with a dear greeting to Mother and siblings, but most are you dear Gustav greeted from Father and Mother and from all your siblings.

Live well and wished by

Your Mother
Marie Johannesen

(by Evelyn)

Tastad the 23rd of August 1898

Dear Son,

I will now write a few lines to you and tell you how we are living. We are except me healthy and well to this time. Although I have also been well for quite a while because we have now had very nice warm weather, and that is what I need. Now it is beginning to cool off, and then I do not feel well. The doctor says that I have tuberculosis and thinks I also very good for I have so much pain in my chest and also a bad cough. So I believe not that I will be very old and that can be all right also only that I must be ready when the Lord comes for me. Dear Gustav, we will now send a photograph of us all. We have thought about it for a long time. But now we must be serious about it or it might not be done. I think that you shall be surprised when you see yourself and Sam on it and that we thought it was the nicest for now we are there. Jenny looks little, but you do not likely know her now, but otherwise you will recognize everyone.

Petra is now as big as Marie. She will now be confirmed in five weeks. Louise is at Bertel's and there she will likely be all winter also.

Today Father has begun work at John Belleson and shall make a bridge to drive on for his salary. After that he will build a house Albret in Lyngness. He has bought Ivers' field and so shall the huset stand in our peat bog.

I do not know much news to write about for I let John write about what is new.

You must surely greet Mother from me and all my siblings. I have forgotten to tell you that Ane Tel Master was here on Thursday. She came from Bergen and had been to the display and then came here until Friday. They were all well at Skudesnes. Berget Nornes has started to shop in Koppervig and Gurie was at home.

You must please write as soon as you receive this letter and tell us what you think of it (the picture) and tell how many Mother recognizes of this group.

Be so greeted from your Mother and Father and from all your siblings.

Your Mother

Karine Johanneson

(by Evelyn)

Tastad, 15-8-98

Dear Brother,

We have waited for a letter a long time from you now, but today I will write anyway. If I haven't received an answer on your last letter I will write to you.

I have as you will see had my photograph taken; of which I am sending you one. I am alone on the picture and one that Harvold is with me. But now I hope also to get one of you soon.

On Saturday, I shall write to you also and send you some, but what it is I will not say. I can only say this much that it is something you will be happy for. Now, you can wonder what kind of miraculous thing it is we will send you.

At home we live well. We are well and healthy all of us except Mother. She you know is somewhat short of breath, but she has improved alot so I think she doesn't look as poorly as she did before. If only she was a little careful of herself, she would soon be well, but you know how Mother is, she goes herself rather than ask someone else.

Father wants me to say what we will send you next Saturday. It is actually a photograph of all of us, all 12, some are at home and perhaps you also shall be on it, now you know what it is.

Martin Volstad is actually here today from America. He has been and dug gold and shall now be very rich. He has been in for 9 1/2 years.

Yes, now I must quit for this time with a loving greeting from us all.

From your brother,

John

P.S. I will hope that we soon will hear something from you. Greet all acquaintances and relatives there in America.

Tastad, the 24th August 1898

Dear Brother,

I will today write a few words to you. I will first tell you that we are all well. Olga has started school and father has gone to work a couple weeks. We have cut (runkorne) barley?, the oats is soon (sjer) ready? ripe? so we can cut it also. Louise has finished or (quit) school and it will not be long until her Confirmation now. I can tell you that I have been to Skudesness. I went on Saturday and returned the second Monday, so I was away more than a week. I should have come Wednesday or Friday, but I stayed on until Monday. I had an excellent time on my visit. Almost everyday I was visiting someone. I visited at Uncle Rasmus home on Friday and Sunday for dinner. I have greetings from everyone from Jacob (Gokob) and Bergit and Gurie and all the others. Gurie will be coming to us on Louise' confirmation. I should greet you from Gokob to Hannah. Berget teased Gokob because now Hannah and she can tease her for him, Hans Re. Now I don't know anything else to write about. You must greet Aunt Louise, Thea and Ludvig, Grandmother and everyone in America. Now I must close for this time. A friendly greeting to you and everyone. Live well and write soon.

From Marie Johannessen

(by Evelyn)

Tastad, 2-10-98

Dear brother,

Today we have had Confirmation. Petra has now become an adult. There has been many people and more are coming tomorrow. I shall see if I can count up all who have been here. It may perhaps be fun for you.

Bertha and Gabriel paa Kraagan Farger, Ragna ag Thea, Ommuni, Anna and Berthine, Thomas, Lena and Hendrick, Bartel ag Bertha, Bellest Anderson, Madam Fosse and Agate m fl

Now I am tired, there has actually been so many that I thought it could be enough, with half as many.

I heard in your letter that I received this week that you are doing well and as I can tell you that we also are well and some is of great importance.

You wrote something about coming home. Yes, yes to you I will say nothing, but I know if it had been me, I doubt if I would have gone, in case I liked it in America. Mother is good after the circumstances. She says anyway that she has not been better in many years and she does not look worse either, but you know you do as you want. It will be fun to see you again if you come. I saw also that you wanted to send some money, yes you know it always comes in handy, but do not send money home and afterwards be short yourself. I think you are all too goodnatured Gustav. We have had it good this summer. Father has earned from 18-21 kr every week all summer and so have a milked for 20-24 kr per week. So we have had it good this summer. Fourteen days ago I bought a cow, but it didn't become good milker, it gave only 8 litres per day yet, but I hope it will improve. I have sold oxen this summer for 172 crowns, 1 for 100 kr and a cow for 80 kr. The cow was the old grey one.

Now, Gustav, that which we want for you I think specially was in the photograph of you, you can always do, now we have ours, now we have been this good to you. Was it really not really good?

When you write you must tell us if the others thought yours was good, so maybe you will send one so we can have two at home.

Father works now at Frederik Volates, he has been there three weeks and will not be finished for another week.

Do you know - think - Samual Ledal fell on Under-officer's shoe(?), now he is at home. He did not get to go for one year either.

Peder has done quite well, you know that Peder is engaged to Hanna lans Per on Karlaslzkki and Bertha Nolsta with Basu Knudson, all four of them have rings.

To close, dear greetings from us all. Write soon so you will be good. J. Pederson

P.S. Greet Ludvig and all relatives.

(by Evelyn)

Tastad, November 7, 1898

Dear Gustav,

The dear letter we received for a couple days ago, whereby we can see that you are living well. The same can I also tell you. I have now been very well for a long time, so I am up everyday and go to town when it is good weather. Today we thought that John and I should go to Kraagen, but then we got such heavy rain that we would rather stay at home. Berte on Kraagen has moved to Hans on the farm, and so she has asked father to buy a house for her and now he has looked at one down on Hoemen which Belest has bought to tear down.

Father is mostly out working steady. Now, he has been at Fredrick Volstad for a while and at Emanuel Hoie. Gustav has sold down here to Ananias Legvol and now Marken bought himself a colt which he wants everyone up on (?). He has now started sprinkle in the (firewood?).

Marie is at Tomsepagen, she has been there now for four weeks. The girl Hendrik had became sick and moved and they knew of no one else to get in a hurry. Now I think one comes in the morning and Louise is continuing at Bertel. You say in your letter that we should write and say how you should send money home. But it is not so easy for us to say what method is best. We got it easily when you last sent us money. Any better method we have not any idea of. I see also in your letter that you have become so homesick and that was hard to hear. You must certainly not dear Gustav put it on you that I am sick, because that could do yourself harm. Especially now when I am so well and when I am careful I can be good for a long time. But we would so gladly that you should have your photograph taken and send us one so we could see if you have changed since you went to America. Also ask if Grandmother would do the same and send us one. You can be sure that it would be fun to see her again. Then we will send her one of the same as you got.

To close, greet all of my siblings and my old mother from us, but mostly are you greeted from your siblings and from your Father and Mother.

Karine Johanneson

(by Evelyn)

Tastad, December 39, 1898

Dear Son,

Now I must write a few words to you and first of all beg your forgiveness that it has been neglected so long. It has not been because of any bad meaning. Yes, dear son you can believe I have thought many times about you. I have not written to you before. But now I have had so many chills that I cannot understand how long I must try with little. You know I am poorly, both at writing or compose so I fail in all.

Many thanks for all the letters that we have received from you and I see those you have greeted and they are well, which is a pleasure for us all to hear.

Here at home it is the same. I can tell you again about Mother. She is fairly well now. She is up everyday and takes care of the house, as well we are all healthy at this time.

Last night the four youngest children at the Christmas tree program. Mother, Maria and Petra had enjoyed it very much. Jenni was here. Tonight there will be a Christmas tree program for the young people. Bertel and I had a little fish at Mr. Volstad three days ago. We drank and ate well. Bertha on Kraagen has bought a big house on Holmekajen that I have torn down and will build it up again in Samoiggen on Gulligsen Shykke. They are now digging the ground.

There is much building being done in Stavanger now. Now all property is sold in the whole town. There are some people from Bergen who have bought up and own much in Stavanger. Now, I know no more for this time to tell you. You must give many greetings to Louise and congratulate her at the honor of carrying a child to baptism. It is beginning to be a large group for her now. So you give many greetings to Thea also and say that I should wish to see her again. Then you must greet all over there who know me and you must not forget Grandmother.

John and Louise talk alot about going to America in the spring, but what becomes of it I don't know yet. John will be writing to you very soon.

Now, I must stop for this time with many greetings to you all, but first and foremost you are greeted from all of us.

Thanks for the last letter that I received yesterday. Write soon again, so are you good.

Adjo Live well
Peder Johannesen

Tastad, 28-2 ?/98

Dear Brother,

It will possibly be the last letter I write now before I come and write by talking. In three days is the Feb. 28th and we plan to leave March 10th, that is in 10 days we leave from here if all is well and goes as arranged. Then you must meet us and provide a house for me. Louise and Olaf Nilsen, it is perhaps unexpected, but it is absolutely sure that Olaf is coming and he must follow us because he has no one else to go to.

You must see and get a house for a while for us all. Markus, brother of teacher Lye and a blacksmith boy of Belest Pedersen, will also go on the 19th, but they shall follow "Gunnar Unger". I think that they could follow the same line as we only that is (doori). Then we could follow then follow. But good luck on the trip and when they are just as glad with their group, so are we also.

We live here at home quite well. Nother has not been worse lately, with a bad cold but is now better.

(no name, likely John)

Tastad, August 4,

Dear Son Gustav,

Many thanks for the dear letter that I received eight days ago. I see you were well and healthy, which was good to hear. I can say the same can I say to you. We are all well and I have it fairly good this summer. You can be sure we are busy since it became so dry. We have not had rain for two months. The hay grew without rain and also the peat bog. Now, Alfred and Sam have driven and sold potatoes for three weeks and now they are finished. In the morning we shall begin to cut the grain. It has gone in a great rush. Now I must tell you that Petra has had a trip to Skeedoesnes which she enjoyed very much. Mria has had a trip to Havde and was there for nine days. Here in (pennemsnet) was a poor year especially from field and potatoes. But I must not complain, I have got as much as last fall and then some.

I see in your letter that John has come again and I think that is good. Maybe there was a man there that he could go to. I would have liked that best. Then I see in your letter that you have a desire to come home now. Right away Gustav we would all be glad to see you again. Little Peder is running where he wants to 14 months before he (selteseg) and that he said of hom. Be so (fed)

Loren Ledall's Bertha is ill and on her last. Now, I must quit for this time with a hearty greeting from all of us to you. Petra is sending you a picture. You must greet John and Louise from me. I am waiting for a letter from John. Write soon again.

Your father

Tastad, 6-3-99

Dear Borther!

Two days ago we received your letters.

I shall and want to go to America. Yes, yes, it is not the desire that drives me away. To my own I can I have the desire, but I hold Old Norway in high regard, so that the desire thereby is leasened. But about economical reasons, makes me feel I must go out in the world and find my fortune. To work in America I think there will be

page 2

page 3

page 4

I wrote a piece in "Varden", in connection with a new house that young people shall build together with the innerinusion and foreign missions societies. I was against these the missions should be helping to build the house. I thought the young peoples' society could own their own house. For that reason, I wrote a piece in the "Vardon" that she answered to, and then I took her a proper application. It is too long to tell you what I said, but I shall see if I can recall to say that I shall make it to America.

page 5 & 6

You must please inquire for us a good line, and if it is possible to stay in St. Paul a few hours and if we can escape customs examination in England or more instructions of that I do not know. But I beg you to give me some clarification in that regard.

Gustav Enaksen has sold Lunden that belongs to Annanias Legvold for 4,000.00 kr. Now, he works in "Veden" Hostmarken. He bought a foal for 250 kr. That one I was along and drank "to your health" for then you can believe there went much beer, but that was not the first time. Thorvold and I have gone high time after time. I have earned at least 100 kr this winter, but it goes bit by bit. There will be few high times before I come to America.

Send my ticket so that I get it the first part of May.

I shall greet you thanks from Father and Mother for the money that we received for about four weeks ago. So I close for now. A friendly greeting from us all. Father says he will write soon. Mother is about the same.

John Pederson

(Page 2-3 omitted)

Tastad, Jan 21, 1899

Dear Brother,

Thousand thanks for the letter that I received from you a while ago. Now, to be serious I will write to you after now receiving the ticket for both me and Louise.

We will come towards spring. You will think it is something strange that I will leave for America. But Gustav I will tell you that good times are not here in Norway. There is nothing here to do for one who has no money to speculate with. To go on day's wages or an annual salary it only amounts to that we give time to other.

I went for a time to work in town. I was along to tear down the judges' previous house, that Bertha on Kraage has bought and which Father is chairman for. Yes, yes that was that. I wanted to say that I worked for three weeks and had 2.00 crowns per day, but when I was finished I had only 15.00 kr. and those I naturally spent soon. Yes, yes I had worked there three weeks and I found I was no better off than if I had been at home. But he who has money and can put money in circulation, then there are thousands that make money everyday. One man who buys from Haverfgland earned 20,000 kr in 2-3 days. Olaus Eskeland that had bought in Healandsmarken before you existed has now sold and earned 70,000 kr. Ingal with Tjelsen who bought in Dokken has earned 120,000 kr. That is certainly a big turn out don't you think? But a poor man like me cannot think about that.

But tell me one thing Gustav, can it not be managed something for one as ambitious as me, some kind of job that I can earn more than here? I am good at mathematics. Yes, yes we will have to see when I come. But now you must surely choose a good boat for us, so we need not suffer too much as so you do not let word out before you send it.

Martin Volstad left yesterday . That is a man who has spent money while he was at home.

All is well here at home. Mother is well, but Lauritz has been poorly again. Today we should have started on the fence at Bertha Aadland, but it rained so much this afternoon so we couldn't go. Yes, now must I stop for this time. Also, you must tell us if there should be something we should take with us on the trip.

Write soon. I should greet you from Bertha ag Bertel.

I close with a friendly greeting from your brother John Pederson Tastad. I shall greet you from us all.

(by Evelyn)

Tastad, Dec, 6, 1899

Dear Son!

I will now this evening write a few words and let you know how we are. We have, God be praised, good health up to this time and the same we long to hear from you. It is a long time since we have had a letter from you, but we hope to hear from you soon. We can't but think that you have received several letters from us because I sent one to Thea and another addressed to David, so you must have received thgem, and if you haven't, then there must be something terribly woring with everything. I can tell you that Marie is in town. She works at Bergeland with Uncle Samuel, and Father works at the dairy. He has been there 2-3 weeks. They are working ona new ice house. Louise goes to night school. She goes three evenings a week. They write and calculate and read. There are many that go there. I have told you that Adol Gjostelen is married now with someone from Kristianeaa (Oslo). She is a small fine looking lady. Olaus' Hanna from Besen is also married. She got one from Malde. I must also tell you that Aage from Kraagen is very sicly now. Father and I were south there two Sundays go and last Sunday Father was there again. He doesn't have much tme left. I hear that Bertel from Martin is also married now. The wedding was three weeks ago and he married someone from Hedemarken. You have probably heard it before.

The sheep aren't sold yet, but we are going with them soon. The weather has been so good and they have been outside, and we thought that they would graze. We are also going to butcher the pig for Christmas. They are quite nice now. I have nothing more to write about now tonight, and we are patiently waiting for a letter from you. I shall see if I can think of more to write another time. I can greet you from Berta Volstad. I was in there yesterday. You had said that you wanted to write both to her and Marie, but so far they have heard nothing from you.

So you must greet Mother and all my sibilings and wish them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It will not be the same this Christmas as last year at Tastad. Then we were all together and has a cosy time. I wonder if there will be several Christmases more before we will all be together. So must we get ourselves ready so that we can all gather in Heaven with Jesus, where we will never again be separated. So I send greetings from your Father and sibilings and also from your Mother.

Karine Johanneson

(by Kay Alm)

Tastad, Dec. 11, 1899

Dear Son,

It is now so long since I wrote to you that now I must first say thanks to you for your most welcome letter I received a long time ago. But it has gone away from me one week after the other. But you must not think it is that I am unevilling of me. But you are afraid that I am too sick to write. But dear son you are always in my thoughts about how you are living and how you have it. I have been working out very much. I was five weeks at Fredrik Volstad and also four weeks at Tharre Volstad and there I finished by harvest in the field. Now we have taken on the field work on the field. I bought another house to deliver more fertilizer from town and to plow more in the field and I have had two men who have worked up the plowed land. Now we have come as far as the two big stones that you most likely remember from the piece you and I plowed up.

Yes, Gustav I see it is more pleasant for me now since John is home this winter and you have asked me to work on the field so I will do all I can if I have time. Now we have frost for four days, but we will soon have a change. Now, I must tell you how we are. We are all well and healthy to this time. Mother has been well and healthy for a long time, but last week she was not so well, but is well now. Maria goes to town to sew everyday and earns 6 kr per week and comes home in the evening and leaves in the morning.

And how it will be with the pictures that you sent I do not know yet. There is much talk about it. Louise and Petra have talked much to leave them till spring, but have not decided on a definite time yet. they will be writing to you soon if there is anything new now I don't know to tell you. All goes well with the old. Except Bertha Volstad shall be married three days before Christmas and Rosmus Knudsen, which you probably know.

I should have written before so you could have heard before Christmas. But it will be welcom when it comes. You must receive it with pleasure anyway. I will wish you a Merry Christmas and a good New Year, and good luck in all you are doing in the New Year and thanks for the Old Year.

Many greetings to all siblings, to Mother from m and to Grandmother and wish them a good New Year from me.

Will you be so good to write us back as soon as possible.

Adjo. Live well with God.

Peder Johannesen

Tastad, 25-11-99

Dear Brother,

Christmas is drawing closer and then we all wait for letters, and so it is I suppose with you. What shall I now begin with that becomes a question. We sold the potatoe field and received 115 kr for it. So then we bought a horse (loppe) again, which we gave 120 kr for. It is a pretty brown, will be nine years old, is an especially nice horse. You will now think to yourself now, that we have become dreadfully extravagant to have two horses. Yes, we are maybe that, but we have a good farm, we have started to work in the field and then we need both horses and people you can be sure Bore and Kund Hoce has helped for three weeks now and we have ploughed 400 mal, so there is now soon a large orchard, and then we drive fertilizer from town with two horses. We have a new wagon. This week we have driven six loads, but coming week we shall drive eight loads. Isn't that well done? I did not get the mail I was wishing for, but none (stikker jig fansen) up again, I am talking to (postbefadrigen) between Stavanger, Lunge and Boer.

It is three times a week and the salary is 360 kr per year. It is not much, but I do it for 1/2 day, but you can understand I get mothing new on Tastad. Here it is led by, the only think I can say, by people who drink much. Here are frightfully both young and old without a difference who drink too much.

Yes and so Bertha Volstad and Rasmus Knudsen have their wedding before Christmas. Last night I was in town and I met Marlin Smed. We were going to have a bottle of beer and when we had one than it was as usual more. Marlin became drunk so I had to lead him home. But when we came on Lokkevein, he made (opstos) trouble? so the politikorpo wanted to take him, but I talked them into letter me take him home. When we got farther on, we met two boys and two girls that Merlin pushed himself in with drunk as he was he could nothing accomplish. I had to therefor mix myself into it and use myself well as I could. Luck was with me. I hit that elf absolutely unusable and then I had won, because then I had only one left and him I managed always. That's the way it went yesterday, but that dare I not tell at home.

At home we are all well. Mother very well, she has not been better for many years. She works more than anyone. Maria goes to town and sews. She works for 6.00 krs per week. So I must quit for this time. We wait for letters from you, as you also do. In closing loving greetings from us all.

Johan Pederson

Greet all in America

Tastad, September 9

It is a long time since we heard anything from you. It is I suppose my fault for not having written to you before. But please excuse me this summer because I have had it extremely busy since I started with the cow barn, that you know I have finished it except for to do the masonry work around the walls from our peat bog where I will work at for 14 days. You can be sure it will be a good looking cow barn now. As soon as possible, we can see the new road and the old road and up the hill, so that the sun we will have the whole day. Dear son you should see the land now. I have cultivated a very lovely field also on the piece you were with me plowing up. I have not cut all off yet, but there will be almost 24 bus(?) in all. I have eight cows in all, also I have a beef I am feeding up to fatten. I have had it from the first of May. He is both big and angry. But he is a nice grey of color and I shall have 170 kr a year. I don't think it pays. I must not forget how big the cow barn is. There are six stalls on each side and a feeding passage in the middle and has worked out great.

I would have written to you before now, but since I did not get some money from you and no letter, so I have waited till now. Now Mother and I feel sure there is a letter from you now. Many thanks for the letter, you can be sure they in handy (I think money). Yes, Gustav, you have helped much now. Thanks for everything, but don't give to the point where you are without. Because you will get it again, in any way you want it again. Thanks for your big help that you have been towards me. I wrote today to John and I forgot one thing that he asked me about, and that was how much I got for the milk this summer. For each week this summer I have milked 300 liters. You must be so kind and tell John that.

We are all well and healthy to this time. Mother has been resonably well now for a while. She goes to the door for short times to be in the sunshine. Jennie talks a lot about you.

Now I must stop for this time with a cheery greeting to from us all. Greet to Grandmother from me and Mother and her siblings.

Adjo. Live well.

Peder Johannesen

Berta and Bartel had a daughter yesterday.

(Evelyn)

Tastad, 11-3-1900

Dear brother Gustav!!!

It is Sunday today, and I don't think I'll get around to going out any place. So I think the best way I can use the evening is to write a few lines to you and tell you how we are living in Norway. We received your dear letter yesterday. We see thereby that you are well and healthy. The same can we say about us here except Mother. She was in bed for a while, but now she is up most of the time. But she cannot do much, so it is busy at home, how you three have gone. There is only Petra at home. I go to town to sew yet. I sew at Noren Baade for the Shop. In the spring it will be a year since I started there. I have now 7 kr. 20 ore per week. I don't know anything more to tell you. I don't know much news. Yound Peoples' Club are speculating on building a house. The Ladies Aid is where we do all kinds of work. The boys have a place where they work, they do lots of work. They make bureaus, flower containers, other tables and many small things, a bed they also shall make. For the bed, we will sew bedding. This will all be at the bazaar. There will be many who wishes to have the ged and bedding. The one who wins it they say must get married right away. We will breath softly when it shall be raffled off. I know nothing more to write about. The small ones here at home. Jenny and Josophine are so big now that you would not know them brother if you came home. Jenny is a little wild one, she is so boisterous that it is amiracle she is a friend to everyone. John played much with her all the time when he was in the house. She is lonesome for him now when he is gone. Please greet Louise and John. I shall send greetings from Father and Mother and from all of us. I will close for this time with a friendly greeting to you from all of us. Greet Grandmother, and all Aunts and Uncles.

A friendly greeting to you Gustav. From your sister Marie.

(Evelyn)

Tastad, April 5

Dear Son Gustav,

Thanks for the welcome letter that I received 14 days ago. When I see that you have been sick for a while, I think of how well you have been for a long time. How little we understand while we are well and healthy that maybe it is good to be sick for a while it makes us remember to care for our health. Yes dear son, I am also sick and have been sick since Mother died. I got a bad cold then, and it has not left me yet, and I have a pain in the one side that won't leave me either. But I go to work everyday until now. But I am so weak and tired. It can be that my Lord wants me to move, and I believe he will, when he sees it is timely, otherwise we are all well and healthy now, which we thank God for. Maria goes to town before I have the chores done and Petra takes care of the house, and she is very good. Everything is going well, but quiet. We all think about Mother who is gone away from us. For my sake it gives me much pain when I look at all the little children who don't have their mother. But I will help them as much as I can. I can tell you that little Peder has become quite full of fun now and happy and kind. When we have summer you will see him. Gabriel Ree's John came home three days after his father died. Mandius Levensers will be home tomorrow. I have not had much meat this winter, but I have got (grave en Veide) an 150 (famner) and so have Kornelius taken up 30 (famner) and I am thinking he shall be able to get more up.

that I have had we sold on Monday and got 24 kr for it and my (mell ging) is quite well now. But it have been a little better yet because a cow costs and the other one has been sick. But I dare say it is some better. All the same am milking now almost 60 liters a day.

Now I must close for this time with a friendly greeting to you from me and us all and I will wish you a good improvement in health and greet again. Today is Good Friday and that sad day for God. Oh that we might remember every day as that day.

Write soon again.

Peder Johannesen

(Evelyn)

Tastad, 25-3-1900

Dear Brother and Sister,

I think I will try to write a few words to you. We were all glad when we got a letter and saw that you had such good weather. You were truly a pleasure to hear that you had good weather over the North Sea. But then it would depend on how it was over the Atlantic Ocean. We believe that you are almost reached your destination now. So I want to tell you how we have had it since you left. We have not been in the best humor since you left. Mother has been at the doctor has become much better now. She has not had such a cough as before. But strong she is not. I have not been out any Sunday since you all left. I have been inside and cooked and taken care of the house all day. There is much to do here at home.

Now Petra is busy, and so has Father. You can be sure Jenny thinks she has lots to do. She must dust and (Cale) and talk about everything they try to do. She tattles and (Caler) as you know when you were home. Yes, I will not tell more about this. News I know nothing, all is the same as when you were here. We had a letter from Gustav yesterday. We did not get less than two--that father and Petra got. We saw that he was living well, was well and healthy. It is good when you are healthy. It is really most important. I know not more to write, otherwise we are fairly healthy.

Yes, dear John and Louise, you are greeted from me and Marie. I had better quit for this time with a friendly greeting to you all. Greet Gustav from us all. A friendly greeting from your whole home, your Mother, brothers and sisters.

Marie

(Evelyn)

Tastad, March 15, 1900

Dear Son Gustav,

Many thanks for the loving letter that I got today. Where I see that you are well and healthy at the time we hear.

Now you have John and Louise with you. I must beg you to take care of them because now you are acquainted with the circumstances there, both with this and that. I see by your letter that you are speculating in something else now. That at (Bessutel) Stillehavkjasten - ocean coast. That I think you should not do, but where you and John should take land is a place where you like best and that you and John could be together I think best because I think you could come to know each other better yet. Either to earn as a man as to rent as take a lease and to get knowledge. If God will honor your life and health, so may it not be impossible to earn enough money that you get something for yourselves either to come home to get something here, or be your own man over there where you would like the best.

I asked John that he should ask you for some help for a new barn which I should have for it is both rotten and much too small. Now you speculate on something and can come to be a better earning for you so if it is not anyway for it, you must take care of Louise to get a nice place and not be too far away from each other, so you can see her. Olaf-Neilssen you must keep an eye on and help him find a good place.

Now, I must close for this time. We are all well and healthy now, except Mother is not well. I hope she will be better when summer comes. Otherwise, she is the same as when you left.

Greetings to John and Louise from us all and tell them I will write to them.

Yes, so I must greet to you all from Mother and to her Mother and siblings.

Peder Johannessen

(Evelyn)

Tastad, July 2, 1900

Dear brother Gustav,

Many thanks for the money you sent me. I have bought new clothes, Father added what more was needed. I have been to the museum and to (vaabars) Hill and on redlands Hill and to Nestrland and seen Lanbru School. Now I have said enight about my trips. Now we are going to begin to harvest and that will make enough work here at home. I have moved to third class. We have a little boy who was baptized two weeks ago. His name is Peder. Greet John and Louise and trade (blikmanden).

Greetings from Lauritz (Lorits).

(Evelyn)

Tastad, June 1901

Dear Son Gustav,

Thanks for the welcome letter I received Monday, four weeks ago. When I see you are well and healthy now, I am pleased to hear.

We are all well and healthy, I am pleased to say, and I am not worse. I saw in your letter that you want to come home now soon. That would be a pleasure to see and meet you again. Nils got a letter from Olaf about eight days ago, and he had written that he would be coming home in the fall in October (Maanne). John Ree and Mandius Leversen will go again this summer. Two sons of Erik in Rodoo has come home and go this summer again. Now our spring work peat bog finished and the summer looks lovely. We will soon begin haying. Pentecost Sunday was here with people from town. It was 25th year jubilee for the Mission. Yes, here was much good to hear. Peder books quite good, therefore I have taken so long to write to you, so you must have me excused. The gravestone for Mother I will get on Thursday of this week and it will be nice and is large and lovely and it will be nicely painted with marbelized painting. The inscription shall be done with nice colored letters. You must greet John from me and tell him I got a letter from him and Maria got one yesterday, and there I see you had time off for eight days when you visited relatives and friends and that you enjoyed to be there and to be free for awhile. John says that Louise has become so nice now and looks good. Yes it is fun to hear that you all are healthy and living well. John wants to go to Canada in June. You must greet him from me and tell him I will write soon.

Now I must quit for this time. Greet Grandma and to all that I know and in closing from me and all mine here at home. Write soon.

From your Father

(by Evelyn)

Tastad, February 12, 1901

Dear Son John,

Thanks for your welcome letter that I received. We got five on Friday that Olga brought home as well as little Peder who has been at the clinic for eight days and three days at Aunt Nille. You can be sure we have had it very busy with him, but we are all so glad that we have him at home together with us. He had a sore throat and blood poison, he looked bad. The doctor said he would die. Yes, you can be sure we were worried. Now he is home, and we can all hold him. He is so dear to us. He is a little kind boy, Peder. This will be enough about him now. Ask Gustav if he has heard about Peder. It was Mother I wanted to write a little about. John, Mother is now dead. There are many of us here who are sorrowing for her and then it is you so far away that also sorrow. Yes, dear John we have hope that Mother has gone home to God and she waits to see us all again there. We do not need to be separated and cry and more. You should have heard Mother pray for herself and that God should forgive all her sins and the worst was for Mother was for you three over there. She said she had prayed to God too little for you three, and that I must greet to lovingly to you all and thanks for everything. Yes, she asked me to ask Grandma to pray for you all in her place. I must tell you a little about the funeral. It was big, many people and the Pastor was outside and the psalm that we sang for Mother was 559, that one she liked so much. Here are many who are dead at Tastad now. Gita from Dusevig died five weeks, she had to be in bed for seven months before she died. She was well prepared to face death. I was there two days before she died. She said to me, "I see you are sorrowing and it is heavy on your heart now, but sorrow not, pray to God and keep yourself close to him, then it is only a little while then we shall see each other again, and now I shall soon die and go home to God. Then I shall greet Kaia from you and the children. Maren's Samuel died the day after Gita Targer Skjeveland. The same day as Gabriel Rie.

Yes, our Lord has been in many houses here at Tastad and taken one of our dear one home to himself. Dear John let us not forget that we shall die and let us remember Mother. I have prayed to God many times for you three and the same I hope you three will pray for us here at home. I think there is a letter you have not received. It was, I guess, the last letter Mother wrote to you. You ask about Bertha Volstad had got the ring you sent to her. Yes she got it two days (no more)

(Evelyn)

Tastad, March 23, 1902

Dear Son Gustav,

Thanks for the welcom letter that I received three days ago, and that you have recovered and are well and healthy again, which makes me happy to hear. Except John who has been sick, but is better now. It all makes me happy to hear you are both well.

There has been a lot of illness here for a long time. Little Peder has been sick now again. He has been sick for eight weeks. At first we had him to the doctor, and he said it was pneumonia that he had. The doctor said we had to be careful with him and keep him warm night and day, and watch out for drafts. Since he has (the Dr) been out here to see him and how it is his tonsils that are sore. We have had a struggle with him. We have been up with him all night for five weeks every night. We are all so tired and played out that you would hardly believe it. I have often thought if there should be a time, he should get a time to die, but it doesn't look like that now. He has been improving now for three to four days. You should see him now, he is so very thin. Now we have to start spinning's work and I have not been able to get anything done. I haven't taken one load, either stone or peat in (Ophaget) and now a large (Holveide) on (Rassleshygge) that I must get ready and then I saw in your letter that you and John have two horsea and a wagon and will try to get land, which I think is good. You say that you are sending some money, but that I can't expect now that you are going to try to something for yourselves. But, I must seriously ask you about one thing. Be careful and take God with you wherever you go. Take what comes is what we call the (Sjorder), but you must not say that to anyone that it has come from me.

You must greet Grandmother. We are waiting for a picture. It will be nice to see her again now, and Ludvig and his wife. You must congratulate and wish them good luck from me. Then greet John and say I wait for a letter every-day now from him. I sent a letter to him the same day that I sent to you. Petra got one yesterday from him. Please greet Louise. I got her letter eight days ago. I must close for this time with a friendly greeting from us all here at home. Please greet all whom I know over there. Write soon.

From your Father

(Evelyn)

Tastad, May 31, 1902

Dear Gustav,

Thanks for the letters I have received that which I should have answered a long time ago. But I have put it off because I wanted to see what was to happen to Peder. Dear Bustav, now little Peder is dead, and gone home to his father in heaven, and there found his Mother again. You can be sure there was happiness in heaven, the day that Peder came home, and Mother who could see her smallest child again. Yes, Gustav we must finally think about that one day we shall die and after death live with God. Shall we come to God in heaven, we must confess all our sins to Him and become little as Peder was. Let us not object when God knocks and wants to come into us. That He does everyday. I will tell you a little more about Peder. He became ill shortly after New Year and was sick till easter when we had to sit with him every night and from Easter for four weeks he improved everyday. You cannot believe how much he improved everyday. But then he became ill again, and we took him to the doctor gain and the Dr. was certain that Peder would do well. But he became worse everyday. The Doctor came out at Pentecost evening again and he still had faith that Peder would improve, but on Friday evening 6 p.m. Peder died--two years to the hour since he took sick.

It has been a struggle for us all now in four weeks that we had to sit by him night and day and right during spring's work.

But God be praised that we didn't get tired of Peder, we all loved him dearly. Yes, Gustav, you couldn't believe his understanding. He was always kind and loving to us all.

I didn't have a big funeral. I took (borrowed?) a carriage and put the coffin in the middle and the four youngest children in the middle, and that looked nice. Then Maria, Petra and I behind. Uncle Samual Gabriel had a carriage and there were three others. It made a nice proccession. I must tell you that I have now bought a cemetary plot and Mother shall be moved and will lie beside Peder. He will be on her right side.

I will close with friendly greetings to you from us all. All your siblings are well and healthy, but I am quite sick.

Your Father

(by Evelyn)

Addresses

Johan Manduts Pedersen Tastad born July 12, 1877

Louise Pedersen Tastad April 1882

I was in at Marie Volstad. She asked me to greet also from Thorvold. Bertha and Bertel also.

(Evelyn)

Tastad July 1

Dear Son!

You have no doubt been waiting for a letter from us. I had hoped it wouldn't be so long but the days pass too quickly. First of all, we are all in good health for which we are thankful.

Father is busy building the barn. The one section is now finished enough so we have room for the six cows. The old part has been torn down to make room for hay storage. Now he has begun to build six more stalls on the other side. He has had Olsgaaren help him for 5 days, and Samuel Reinardson also for 5 days. Otherwise he has been doing it alone. Now the building will be delayed as it is haying time. If it hadn't been for last week's rain we would have started sooner, but for more than a week we've had rain almost every day. The weather doesn't look too promising for haying but that can change. The fields and meadow both look good. I was looking at the crop one day and in places it's almost too tall, and if it all matures it will be abundant.

We had a letter from Louise yesterday and she writes that you are in the blacksmith shop in Pierpont. Are you apprenticing or are you now a journeyman? It's great that you have work to do, but it must be hard in all that heat! I note in your letter that Olaf has arrived. He thinks everyone in America is very busy, and the days are long, and the work heavy. This is not surprising, as he was not accustomed to that from home.

Perhaps I haven't told you that we lost the steer we had while John was home. It was very unfortunate as we'd given him such good care and fed him lots of bran and potatoes so he was in excellent shape. But he got "Melbran" (?) and died very suddenly, and we had to bury him. We sold "Jaerbukoen" cow, and got 135 Kr~~as~~ for her to a butcher. Today Father brought home a small black heifer that he paid 107 Kr. for. Cattle have become really expensive.

Greet Louise and John from us all and don't forget Mother. I really wish she would send us a photo. It would mean so much.

In closing, loving greetings.

From Mother,
Karine Johannesen

Tastad May 31, 1902

Dear Gustav,

Thanks for your letters I have received. I should have answered sooner but time goes by, and I waited to see how it would go with Peder. Dear Gustav, little Peder died and has gone to his Father in heaven. Now he is reunited with his mother again. Yes, you can be sure there was joy in heaven the day Peder came home and mother received her youngest child again! Yes, Gustav, we must truly remember that we one day will die, and after that, live with God. Yes, if we are to reach God in heaven we must confess our sins and become as a child, like Peder. May we heed God as He knocks and wants to come in to us. This He does every day.

I want to tell you more about Peder. He became ill after New Year and was sick until Easter. We had to sit with him every night. Four weeks later he began to improve - you can't imagine how much better he seemed. But then he got worse again, but the doctor was still hopeful that he would get better. He didn't, but got steadily worse. On Pentecost Sunday the doctor came again, and still thought he would improve, but on Friday at 6 p.m., Peder died. It was his second birthday, yes, even the same hour. Two years on the hour! You can be sure it has been a hard time for us all. For 4 weeks we were up nights with him, and right during spring's work. But thank God, even then we never tired of caring for Peder because we loved him so dearly. Yes, Gustav, you wouldn't believe how understanding and good natured he was. And he left us being fully aware of us all.

I didn't have a big funeral. I rented a small carriage and set the coffin on it, as well as the four younger children, which was real nice. Then Marie, Petra and I followed in the cart. Uncle Samuel and Gabriel also rented a small carriage, and there were 3 more carts which made a nice little procession. I have bought a plot and mother's grave will be moved, with Peder on her right side.

Now I must close with a sincere greeting to you from us all. Your brothers and sisters are in good health, but I am not so well.

Please let Louise and John
read this letter too.

Your father.