

Chambers June 7-1896

Dear Bro Erick & family

It is now a long time since I received your welcome letter, I should have answered it sooner, but it has been neglected. As I know that Charlie has written you and no doubt told you all about Father leaving us and the particulars I will only add that Father suffered greatly the last two years of his life, but he bore it patiently and up to the last month or two believed he would recover. His last night we all sat up with him as the Doctor said he would not live till midnight about 4 o'clock he was much better and drank some coffee so I went home telling him I would be back

if there was any change in his
Condition, he said for better or worse
showing he had some hope yet
of recovering, he did not want
me to stay there as he said I
had so much work to do, So Nels
and I bid him good night
and went home, at 11 o'clock
he was dead. He slumbered most
of the time the last two days but
he seemed to hear everything going
on around him and recognized
everybody, We done all we could
to keep him with us a few years
longer, but now that he is gone
we are glad his suffering is over

We are having a good prospect for
a good crop. Oats especially is
the best known for years, I have
but little wheat, had to plow up most
of mine, got bad seed,

Many improvements have been made since you left here. We have now levees on both sides of Village Creek to protect the bottom lands, Charute has water works, The farmers have built a Creamery costing \$95,000.00 in Charute and there is much prospecting for oil going on around. Suppose you know a Oil well was drilled on Nels' farm, Oil was struck but it is not known whether in paying quantities or not, as they did not stop to shoot it, but drilled deeper, struck salt water and spoiled the whole thing about two weeks ago we had strong wind here that blowed the derrick down, and no man has been done to it. We have been having many bad

Storms in this country this
year killing hundreds of people
The one at St Louis being the
worst one,

William Anderson is here now
on a short visit. Miller seems
to be doing well, his main hold
is soliciting advertisements, has
made some money at it.

Andrew Heden is at the R.R.
hospital for his eyes, the last
news has it that he is likely to
lose the sight on both eyes
at first only one eye was affected
This is only reports and nothing
certain is known at this
writing

There is absolutely no money in farming now
Prices on farm products was never lower

wheat 50 cts Corn \$0 oats 15.

Hog 25^o per hundred, Egg 6 & butter
 the same, Only those that are
 out of debt can make more than
 a living, those that have money
 to loan are doing well, Interest
 and taxes remains the same
 I am about where I started
 Except the improvement and
 they are not expensive, have to
 work like a nigger to make both
 ends meet, yes more than a
 nigger. They generally take the
 world easy. I would like to
 make a good living without hav-
 -ing^{to} kill myself to do it, would
 infer from what you say in
 your letter that I am only
 striving for worldly goods

but I am not striving half
as hard as you are trying
to become famous.

You say you do not want to raise
an argument neither do I, but
if I did not answer your letter
to some extent you might be
displeas'd with me. Though
I would not answer some of
your statements at first, but
concluded later to do it briefly.

You would not change positions
with me for a thousand worlds!
Do you thank your Creator for
being so fortunate, you surely
believe he has something to do with
it, environments or surroundings
has much to do with our lives,
raised amongst Indians it
is reasonable to believe we would
be much like them, Again,
do you deplore the fact that

You should have a brother
that is so unfortunate, you
dont for a minute believe your
eyes were made brown and
mine gray by our own free will.
If I possessed a thousand worlds
I would not want to tempt a
brother of mine by offering them
to him

Last Christmas, I believe it was,
when we were all home father talked
to us and said that he had tried
during his sickness and in expecting
death to come to some understanding
with God and know something
positively how he stood with his
Maker but utterly failed, and could
only throw himself on ^{His} Mercy.
So when I hear so many
openly boast how positive
they are of their Salvation
I come to the conclusion, that

When it comes to the pinch they
are not so positive

It is mighty hard to change from
what you learned in your youth.
Nothing but Original thinking
and fearless thinking at that will
do it; but I can't make myself
sleep that there is a hell and
with the exception of Baptists
& Catholics, (who must have a
hell to put their mimics in)
few believe it. Father of late
changed out that point considerably
Charlie is greatly changed from
of old and has accepted many
of my views

I dare any one to tell me he loves
his Children more than I do. ^{mine} Yet
I will not get on my knees and pray
#

with them. Children are very acute and soon detect if there is any flaw in their parents lives, I shall endeavor to so deal with them and my transactions with others to be such as to teach them to be honest fearless good Citizens learn them to read and judge, and think for themselves and when old enough they can then choose their own course or belief, I realize that the world is constantly changing in beliefs as well as otherwise, and I don't want to have their judgment warped by giving wrong instruction. Take the Catholic Children as an example, I did not intend to write so much on the subject but

Could not very well make
it shorter and make it
intelligible. Have had no argu-
ments of late on this important
subject but read all I can stand.
Of course I have not the chance
that some have to study and
read, but read enough of papers
and books, Talmage included,
but I fear none of them
nor have ~~the~~ been able to change me

Well I understand you have
another boy at your home, so
have we, the biggest one yet
and the hardest to get, he is a
bouncer, now 3 weeks old, so we
have now four, enough if they
live to do like we did with our
Father, Carry me to my grave
The wheat harvest will commence
in about a week from now.
Had a splendid rain last night

I do not think Yellow fever
would keep me from visiting
Brazil if circumstances were
such that I could afford it
I would like to take a trip ~~to~~ to the
old country via Brazil

The way things are running in this
country of late I would have
no objection to go to another if
I thought it possible to do better
Rail roads, trust- & and combin-
-z nations are gobbling up this country
faster than the average man
are able to understand and they
and they practically do as
they please or get what they
want.

The laborers will some day make
a final stand. And I believe
United States will be the first
place of conflict, intimations of
this kind can be heard all around

not from the ignorant but from
such men as Senators and
others ^{prominent men} who can read the signs
of the times, The latest but
not the least is a flour trust
that proposes to raise the price
on that article 30%

Must now bring my long letter
to a close and hope you are all
in good health and spirit, and
when you get tired of being roasted
alive to come back to what little
there is left of gods country
We can assure you you will be
heartily welcomed

Yours Bro A. G. Nelson



A. G. Nelson, Democratic candidate for Sheriff.

1938

Couple Married Fifty Years Today



Photos by Falk

MR. AND MRS. A. G. NELSON

Although their golden wedding anniversary is today, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Nelson spent Sunday at their farm home, Meadowbrook, two miles north of Chanute on route 5,

with their children and grandchildren in quiet observance. Both came from Sweden, first met at Chanute, and were married in Kansas City, April 18, 1888. Mr. Nelson is a former state senator.