

DIÁRIO

1891-1909

EAN's formal hand —
(or Ida Lundberg Nelson?)

Note stamp
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Through the Graces of God.

January 26 1894

Paris, Brazil

Nerike (county in Sweden, now spelled Närke — includes the farm lane Bittings, near Stora Mellosa, E. of Orebro). We were there for a few years before we came to this Baptist church. B. Nelson.

I was born in Bittings, St. Mellosa
Sweden on the 17 day of Dec 1862
Emigrated to the United States of America
in the Spring of 1869. My dear Father
who followed Farming for Living and
Preached the Gospel for the Pleasure of
serving souls brought from darkness to light
from the Power of Satan to God. Was Pastor
of a Baptist Church founded in the
country near Chautauk Kansas. (where
he also had his Farm.) in the Summer of
1869. Made our herd cattle on the
then Prairie both winter and summer.
till I was 15 years old when I worked on the
Farm and would go to school such days
as I could spare from the work in winter.
Up till March ~~1878~~ 1878 when I was converted
and joined the Church of which my Father was
Pastor. in 1880 I took active part in Sabbath school
work also in young people's work. Up till
about 1885 when through neglect of Prayer and
bad company I was compelled to leave the
Church. My conscience not allowing me
to take part as I judged my self unworthy
of fellowship with Christians. Knowing that
I did not live a consecrated life, and failing
to get power to overcome evil, not through

EAN's Father: Anders Nilsson — helped build (on his farm) Baptist Church in Stora Mellosa, Sweden. Was still standing when he visited ca 1985.

any body's fault but my own as I know
God is willing to help and always does help
those that earnestly seek his face, but
sin had gotten hold on me and I was
a slave under its power and thus turned
my face from my Heavenly Father's House.
Saying goodbye to all that is good
true and noble in the Religion of Jesus
Christ. Seeking the Pleasures of this world,
which ~~did~~ ^{did find} ~~me~~ ^{me} to my utter sorrow and
dispair, is empty as a drum, and cannot
satisfy the cravings of an eternal soul and
leads to temporal and spiritual ruin,
in the early spring of 1886 I left my home
for Southern Kansas, Indian Territory &
Texas where I run Cattle, and spent ^{part of} my
best life among the Cattle ^{men} of the Plains,
Oh that I could thus breathe the fresh
air of the Plains, and look up to the star
bright Heavens, and not thank God for
it, unthankful wretch that I was, soon
then I went to New Mexico then to Colorado
and to North western Kansas, Back to
Denver, Colorado, and up into the mountains
and for one summer run Cattle in the
South Park. Among such beautiful
scenery, still a miserable wandering
child a way from my Father's House.
Enjoying good health and strength,
and endowed with a natural buoyant
spirit, I enjoyed life and worldly pleasures
some thing as other young men do

but there was times when lonely men would
come over and bring out by my self with
no other company for miles around but
the cattle and the noble horses that
served me. I would often sing those
religious old songs: that I had heard
my dear Father and Mother sing from
my cradle, and that I had so often
sang my self when herding cattle on my
father's place, but still no thankfulness
for Gods care of me in this my
competitively dangerous occupation. of Herding
cattle on the Plains riding unbroken almost
wild horses. over rough ground. In
the darkest nights. not knowing when
the next step might lead me to a
stumble in some "Prairie Dog" hole.
or plunge down some deep Precipice and so
be dashed to pieces. or be thrown from
some "bucking Bronco" and lose my life.
as so many do. under all these circumstances
not a thankful thought, or sigh to my Father
not a pang of regret for turning from God. but
a mere restlessness. and undevotedness. into
my future. and still Gods care abounded
and I arrived home at Chanute Kansas
before Christmas 1888. shortly after I bought
my father and myself bought a farm one mile north
of town. on Millers Creek. and I went to work
in real earnest with an apparent intention of
spending the rest of my wicked life on a
farm. up to this time I had not ~~been~~ ^{not been an}

ceded at a better subject

Unfidel. as I had not thought seriously
of my way or another, and my life, and those
around me, had not tended to make any
comparisons with Christians. I had met
with no Christians associated with me,
and there had not been a question raised
in my mind as to the soundness of the Bible,
but when I arrived home, and had a
good chance to look around on in consistencies
and preached every Sabbath "Lords day"
and Christians only as to my spiritual
standing and condition. My evil heart
revolted against God in earnest, and
I commenced as all fools do, to question
the inspiration of the Bible, and the
possibility of any one knowing whether or
not a Christian, a child of God or not.
I turned more and more against religion
as a parent along, and spent all my spare time
in worldly amusements. And literary societies
and debating societies, also helped to
organize what is now (~~that~~ this) party
the Peoples party, in that locality,
and was elected delegate to the County
Assembly, and took active part in
its development, its debates, and duties
connected with it. Shortly after New Year
what we called the week of Prayer
in all Baptist Churches. I went
often to services, and was aroused by
the Spirit of God to marvel that

Scripture, I would lay and read at night
by lamp light, sometimes after midnight
with a determination to know if Romish
whether there was any truth in the Bible, and
I was beginning to seek for truth, not being
satisfied with any own conclusions, and not
able to defend infidelity to my own
satisfaction. I thus read and thought
and argued. Till sometimes in April
when I had arrived halfway through the
book of Joshua, a young lady Amanda
by name, came preaching the Gospel, and I
was convicted of my guilt, and the truth
revealed in the Bible, not so much by
her words as by the words of a Mr. J. L. Anderson
who came to see ~~her~~, I was sitting and
said, of "Get down on your knees and pray
God to forgive your sins, if any man needs
to be forgiven it is you" The Spirit of
God apply'd the words to my heart, and
before I could realize, where I was, I was
down on my knees praying to God to save
my wicked soul. Glory to his name for
thus breaking me down before him and
opening my eyes to see what a sinner I was,
and then day later to see what a savior
he is. Who died that I might live;
suffered that I might inherit eternal
happiness. I am saved like the Prodigal
son nothing in me ~~or~~ on me but filthiness
and rage of my own wicked nature
I am saved By grace, a gift, a gift of God.

Shortly after I found Peace through the
Hood of the Lamb. My heart went out
to my fellow men, and also of Porriels to
make some restitution for my past wicked
life. but how, What should I do, I had no
education not more than a child of ten has
acquired in the States, I could not consent to
go to College, as some Seminary, as I was
Poor, and not accustomed to study.

but I could not let alone, I could not drive
those thoughts away ~~from myself~~ ^{from myself}. Whether
I was at work on the farm or went to Church
or read, or was in bed as long as I was
awake I thought of it, and had no
rest night or day. was not satisfied
with my Present life, although I taught
a Class in Sunday School, and led
the young Peoples Meetings. There was some
thing else wanted. God wanted me to
sacrifice myself and what I had, and
 hoped to be, to his Cause, and would
not let me rest till I made him a
Solemn Promise, to devote the rest of my
life to service and the glorifying of
his Blessed name, to the salvation of souls.
He promised him that if he would help
me that I would not ask help of any
body but himself, would send his Spirit
to teach me how to Preach the Gospel,
and would give me the necessary funds
for my Temporal needs, also for to carry
on the work, I would willingly bear all

and so in this manner, I got the assurance that
I would get all from his Bountyful hand,
and decided to go before I had said a word
even to my dear Father. One day I went up
to him and told him my decision. He said
"May God bless you I shall not say one
word one way or the other. You have God
to deal with in those matters,"
Not willing to leave my Father without
some one in my place to work, I wrote to
my Brother John - then in Colorado - to
come home and take my place and help
father on the Farm. Which he did & was
= exactly. Being the latter part of June,
I staid at home helping to get all in as so
things as possible before leaving. During
this time I wrote to Marion Park & all
to see if there was any possibility of entering
that School for ministers. Being prone
to do so by my Father and Brothers, but
against my own will. I received a negative
answer, on the ground that I was so
recently rescued out of an awful long fall,
and would hardly be able to decide the right
thing under the new trial of doing good.
I then went to Ottawa Kansas but was there
three years could I take, I therefore
went back home and said good bys to
my home, on the 7th of Sept 1890
and went in company with our
Pastor Rev. E. Tornquist, to a Conference at
Concordia Kansas.

Addressed at a Baptist Conference

Arriving there I tried to get advice of
the Brethren as to my future course.

But no. of no use. God had decided
for me to look to him for help. and
thus I was compelled to call on his
Chairs alone for guidance. I decided
to return to Clay Center, which I did
visiting some old acquaintances and while
there was called to come to Leonardville
by Rev. Brington A. Jr. Supposing that he
had some advice to give I went, but not
a word, our way or another. what should
I do, but God knew. John Brington told
me I had better go to Randolph and
he took me there in a buggy. we stopped
at an old Christian lady's house.
Whose name was Mrs. Conkley, and
there I was welcome had services
two weeks in a school house. from
there I went in company with a Miss
Ida Lundberg to Cheburn, and
had services. Several evenings
from there I went to Waterville and
had services two weeks, and God
was with me. I could speak for an
hour with ease. Conscious of that
God was blessing my work. and
that to those ~~who~~ trust in him
he will be all reveal himself in
power. I had now found out by
experience that I could preach
without education, and that God

blended me in it. I returned to Randolph
and held services another week. from
thence I went to Leonardville and
preached a few times. thence to Clay Center
and took care of the Y.M.C.A. rooms
there while after word went out ~~to~~ into
the country north of Clay Center and
was blessed in being ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ service. I
after two weeks I returned to Clay Center
and took part in the conference.

returning to ~~Pepeka~~ I received a
telegram stating that my sister
in law was dead. so took a train
home arriving on the 18th of Dec.
making my first experience as a Preacher
in the Gospel of this months duration.
and determined to devote the rest
of my life to the work ^{which} I was certain
I had put me to.

While at home I concluded to go to
Brazil as a missionary. as it had
been on my mind for two months.
and like my first experience with
such thoughts. I could not get
it off my mind until I resolved to do.
Choosing Para Brazil as my field.
But my friends again advised
us to go to some school. I consequently
went to the Hamilton B.Y. school
a foreign missionary. but then
was told to go to some Seminary. This I
saw first. so I said again, no.

children at a Baptist Sabbath

I was again advised to go to
Dr. Gordon's Training School for Sum-
mers which was only of 9 months
duration, and received an affirmative
answer from the Rev F. A. Chappel of
that school, and concluded to go there
the following October, or October 1881.

During all this correspondence I was
busily helping my father on the Farm
shucking corn &c. &c. and preach-
ing the Gospel in different localities.
Mostly in the Mesquit Valley school
house. Up to this time I had only
preached in the Swedish Language
but here I commenced preaching
in English also. and thus I was
occupied until I started on my second
trip, intending to work and preach all
Summer and arrived at Boston some
time in September. Thus I left Home
the 4th of February for Kansas City. and thus
commenced my Memorandum of my experience
in the blessed work of preaching the Gospel
of Jesus Christ to a fallen world.
Oh how thankful I am that God has
chosen me to be his witness not only to
Americans but to Swedish Norwegian Danish
Germans. Portuguese Spanish English
Jews and Brazilians. and surely those
who look to God for all things shall never
be put to shame. His words are true and
his judgements are righteous. Amen