

Chippewa River, January 9th, 81

Dear Grandfather!

In the last letter I wrote to you awhile ago I said I would write again when I first went back to the woods, which has not occurred until now. The reason I have not written before is this: that I have been to the woods and back this fall. It was specifically the 25th of November that I went up the first time, but I didn't like it very well there, so left again the 4th of Dec. and went to Eau Claire the same day. The work I was supposed to do there was to help the cook just as last winter, and the reason I didn't like it there was that the cook didn't want to do anything more than was necessary. This cook was an Irish woman, and, as I didn't like it I made use of the law and went on my way, for that is the way to do it here in this country; because it is not here as in old Norway that there shall be many weeks notice, but one can give notice and leave the same day. I came, as said, to Eau Claire the 4th of Dec. last year, and was there until after Christmas, and accomplished almost nothing in this period. The next little job I had was to chop a little wood. On the 31st Dec. I went up in the woods again and for the same company as last year, and have the same work also; but not today with the same cook, but I am now with a Norwegian girl and she is definitely a good one too. So I have it good this winter-am well and active all the time which is the greatest good a person can have in this world.

The mill I worked at this summer closed down the 11th November. It would perhaps have gone longer, but then it became so cold that they had to stop. Since then we had good weather up until Christmas, but during Christmas it was quite cold which is still continuing. We have also now enough snow so that people get unusually good fine saw-logs, especially in the woods. I have nothing new to tell you. Everything is the same here as usual. I will have to quit for this time with an affectionate greeting to you and everyone in the house from your devoted grandson,

Andrew P. Solem

I think you can address the letters the same as before, namely to Eau Claire because it isn't worth it to change the address just for a few weeks. Besides, I will have someone down there in town to send them up to me.

So I wish you all good luck in the New Year we have just entered. It is, I suppose, quite difficult to read this letter, but I cannot help it for I have such little time so I must write fast.

*Note that Andrew has now become "Andrew", also that he used his initials in a transition stage, likely out of deference to his family.*