

Eau Claire September 12th 1880

Dear Grandfather!

Your letter of the 14th of last month I received the 10th of this month, wherein I see that you are well and live as usual, but that Grandmother is in bed and that it is doubtful, I suppose, that she will get up again, when she has had it so long; it all depends upon our Lord what he deigns to do and what is best for her. I have also been well up to now and am living comfortably, for which I have the dear Lord to thank. And I am working at the same saw-mill as before, and I think it will continue until the middle of November if the weather is favorable. I have no news of any consequence that would interest you. Everything here is as usual. As regards the present harvest I can report that around here they are estimating an average year's yield as the newspapers report that in some places it is over and in other places under an average year, but the fruit trees (wild fruit) are giving an extraordinary rich yield. So in spite of the strong rain that fell in the month of June the harvest was larger than expected. In fact, the rain on some farms that lie along the river did great damage in that the water covered their whole property so there was little or no crops. And among these farmers I can name Even J. Fossum, Ole A. Bordal*...

The remainder of the letter is missing, except for the following notation along the margin of the second page. Usually there were four pages to Anders P. Solem's letters.

K. Aspeggen I will greet for you the first I see him. He also wrote you a letter a month ago, but it....

* The wife of Even J. Fossum was Gunnild A. Bordal, sister of Ole A. Bordal - all immigrants from Soknedal. Two of the Fossum's grandchildren, Martin and Peter Fossum were associated with St. Olaf College when this writer was a student there in the early 1940's. Peter was a professor of Chemistry and Martin was the manager of the Book Store. Actually there was a very bad flood in June, with a great deal of damage. According to the local records the Norwegian Church [First Lutheran] and the Courthouse [then located in what is now Wilson Park] plus many homes were full of refugees. The two bridges collapsed, buildings were damaged and some destroyed.

** (the translator, Genevieve Hagen)