

Eau Claire Wis. April 13.1883

Dear Grandfather!

Your esteemed and very welcome letter written the 15th of last month I received today and for which I give you my heartfelt thanks. I see thereby that you are well and living as usual, and the same I can report for us for which I have the dear God to thank, and especially when a person is so far from his distant home as I am. I see further that you point out that you have written 2 letters to me since Grandmother died, which I have received long ago, and respectfully answered the same days on which I received them, but they perhaps have not arrived. The last time I wrote, I sent it from here on Tuesday, the 10th of this month, , therefore only 3 or 4 days ago, so you see I am not neglecting to carry out the same, though simple and poor it does become.

First and most importantly, I want to tell you a little about America's economic situation in recent times, which according to my opinion is expanding in greater and greater measure in regard to railroad construction, building of factories, mills, and home and business buildings. Yes, it is true to say that in the last year there were built many fine houses here in the city of Eau Claire, but this is just a trifle in comparison to the other states and cities in the country. Likewise it is with railroad construction. A person can now easily travel to the woods, namely, ride on the trains many hundred miles which we couldn't have done 3 years ago, and another thing about it - a person can travel as cheaply, yes, even cheaper than he could before. If a person had come to me 3½ years ago and said, specifically the summer that I worked at Meridean sawmill - that in 3 years I would see how the train would come this far, I would not have believed it. But now actually it is over a half year since the train has passed there. And here a person sees examples of how power and money can achieve great things. Likewise with the factories and such, there are many which were constructed this past winter just here in the city. Last winter there was a great deal of snow, yes, so to say, a little too much, and still there is a good deal remaining in many places, and that is perhaps bad for the farmers, for now is about the right time for them to begin with the spring work, yes, preferably a little earlier they usually begin with that here in this country. But you see, a man might just as well wait until Our Lord's time comes. He knows best when the right time comes I suppose, because it says: "He (Our Lord) knows and directs all things for the best."

I don't know any news of importance to tell you. Everything hereabouts is the same as usual. Nothing further for this time than an affectionate greeting to you from your devoted grandson A.P.Solem

You may greet Siri with the most friendly greetings from me. A.P.Solem

This was written quickly so you'll have to read what you can and guess at the rest. Most respectfully A Solem

*\* Grandmother, Lucretia Antedatter died Dec. 24, 1882.  
The letter <sup>had</sup> addressed the same as usual H. Solem  
Wife Eau Claire  
North America*