

Crary Dec. 9, 1912

Dear Brother-in-law with family,

It's been a long time since you've heard from here. Therefore, I want to send you a few words to tell you we're still alive. Thank God we're all healthy, except Sedsel who still has some problems with her rheumatism even though she has been a little bit better this summer. She is in the kitchen every day, to help with the cooking.

Concerning the last years crop, it was quite good. The wheat, barley and oats were excellent. On the other hand the linen was bad. All the grain prices are now low compared to what they have been before. Therefore, the outcome this year will be almost the same as last year's, even though the crop was better this year. The summer was cold, with lots of rain and so was the fall, so the threshing started very late and then the winter came 1 month earlier than usual, actually before we finished the threshing. So, there is much linen and wheat left on the fields. The most of the snow is now gone, but still it's impossible to thresh. I have about 90 acre of linen unthreshed and spread all over the fields like small wads. I'm afraid it's all ruined which will be a heavy loss, at least 500 dollars.

When you get this letter Christmas will be close. It would be so wonderful to visit you some day, but I guess that will never happen. Besides, we have been far away for such a long time now. Therefore, nobody would recognize us any more, neither would we be able to know anybody. We would be like strangers or foreigners in our own birthplace. Whether we went to Christiania or New York, it would be the same – all the faces we met would be unknown anyway. The only difference would be that we would hear our native language more in the first mentioned town than in the last mentioned. At this time there are many people on their way to visit the old country. They are going to visit an old mother, father, sister or other relatives which they haven't seen for many years. I'm sure there will many happy reunions.

Please tell Emma thanks for the letter she sent us the last spring. I'm sorry because I haven't responded it yet, but I'll try to do so during this winter.

Otherwise, I've got no more news that may interest you, because you are not well-known here. The winter is a quiet time here on the prairie, especially for those living near town, because they will not spend much time on bringing their wheat into town. The most work will be to raise the cows. If there's not too much snow and the weather is fine, we lead the horses out to the straw hills and let them help themselves, and then it's not too much work for us to do.

Hereby I have to finish for this time.

Lovely greetings for you and your family from me and mine.

Your sister and brother-in-law

C.P. Dahl

Please send us a few words and let us know how you are living

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Greetings to friends and family from us