

Ranch, Dec. 11. 1908

Dear Ethan

I will write you a few words, but I almost don't know what I should write. Alfred have had tooth ache for about a week. Dolph says he will be up all Christmas eve and when Santa comes he will take everything he has. Do you think he will catch him, Ethan? Well, Selma can also talk. Do you know what she says? Da da da ba ba ba aaa and she can scream and laugh at the same time and when Dad comes in she wants him to crawl on the floor with her but she has neither hair or teeth yet. She looks like an old crone (*kjerring in Norwegian means old woman, google translate says it is "crone"*).

Alfred is kind to look after Selma and play with her. Well, Ethan, Dad has taken the calves from the cows and you can imagine it is noisy. You know he did it last year when you were here and they are coming around the house and "bols" (*don't know what that means*) so we can hardly sleep because of them. Well, Ethan, did you get the boots I sent you and how do you like them? You have to write us and tell us everything that happens. Well, Ethan, Dad is coming home from Vadruff and he brought Alfred and Dolph some candy.

Jesse was out and killed a coyote yesterday and brought it home and will give it to the chickens. We have chickens now 16 of them but they do not lay (*eggs*) yet because it is too cold. They will lay (*eggs*) when spring comes. Well, Jesse is waiting for the letter so I will stop for now with a loving greeting from us all

Your Mom xxxxxxxx(kisses)