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1904 and Aftermath

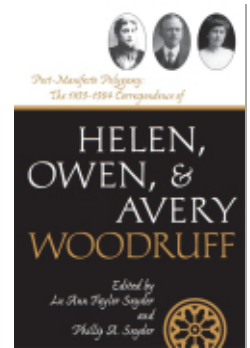
Published by

Snyder, Phillip A. and LuAnn Faylor Snyder.

Post-Manifesto Polygamy: The 1899 to 1904 Correspondence of Helen, Owen and Avery Woodruff.

1 ed. Utah State University Press, 2009.

Project MUSE. <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/9416>.



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1904 and Aftermath

[Letter 64: Owen to Avery]

[no letterhead, typed]

Bethel, Jan Ist. 1904.

Dear Mattie÷

As distance forbids my making you a New Year's call I will write a few lines instead.

We have at last got through (for this time) the important business at our home and the result is another fine black-headed girl which weighed ten pounds when she was born.¹ Helen had quite a hard time but is feeling fine now. We feel very greatfull to the Lord for His goodness and that all is as well as it is with us. Helen says to tell you she has left it for you to have "the boy" which I sincerely hope you will do as the girls are getting to be in the large majority. Our little girl came at twenty minutes to eleven on the evening of Dec. 27th. Mamma got your letter and appreciated it very much. She said she would not be as stingy as I am with my letters so she let me read yours which I enjoyed very much also. I feel most thankful for the feeling of friendliness and sisterly love which you girls have for each other.

Father was down recently and said it might be difficult for him to do what he hoped he could on our house but that he would try to do something. I told him not to worry himself at all about our affairs that we could hoe our own row, which we will do with the help of the Lord though it may cramp us for a year or so. I still feel that the Lord will open up our way and if the worst comes we will borrow enough to complete our home and then furnish it as we can afford to do so. If we can only keep well and contented we can master the minor troubles which may arise.

Mama is feeling fine in spirits and if she did miss her time a month and then go over some I can forgive that now that all is well and safe. M—— [Helen] has found a good place for Mary if she wants to come down and go to school before she joins you. My eyes still bother me some yet they are much better. I am trying it with glasses now when I read or write.

Let me know how the house is progressing and anything about the business connected therewith. Sister Welling is her with M—— [Mary Clark]. Give my love to the dear girls I am so glad you are all together for I know it will more satisfactory to you and I feel happy that the girls have been kind enough to do as they have done.²

Are you going to continue your domestic art class after the holidays? Do you not want some money outside what I send for the house? I do so wish you could spend this evening here or we could spend it there. I have been at home so long I feel now I must get out and rustle for a few months when I hope to take another short vacation.

Well dear may this new year bring to you all that your heart can wish for. May the Lord bless you abundantly as I feel that he has ever done. For my part I do not know how to express my gratitude for the great blessings we all enjoy. I thank you for the beautiful present you girls gave me for Christmass. God bless you both I appreciate it so much more coming from both of you than I would have done had just one of you given it to me. It is certainly a beauty and I will appreciate it very much indeed.³ May this find you in your usual happy, good spirits. Give my love to the girls and wish them a happy and blessed New Year for me.

With love and best wishes for your welfare and prayers for you always I am,

Affectionately,
Ivan.

P.S. Helen sends you love and New Years greetings.

[Letter 65: Owen to Avery]

[no letterhead, typed]

Bethel, Jan. 5th. 1904.

Dear ~~Mattie~~: Avery [*handwritten*]⁴

Just a line tonight to let you know that all is well with us and to send you a check for \$135. which will make the second payment on the house. One hundred of this comes from your father, twenty of it is your own.

If you need some money now for personal use let me know and I will send it to you. My eyes are bothering me quite badly to night so I will not write much. I feel that the Lord is opening up our way and that we will get the money to complete our home alright. This will be so if our faith fails not I am satisfied.

Remember me kindly to the girls and to Prest. Ivins, his family the Bishop Bro. Wilson and all the "folks".

Hoping this will arrive in time for you to make our payment to Prest. Ivins on the 11th. when it is due and that the Lord may continue to bless and preserve you I am with love from Auntie [Helen] and myself,

Affectionately,
Ivan (My father Owen) [*handwritten*]

[Letter 66: Owen to Avery]

[*no letterhead, typed*]

Bethel, Me. Jan. 16th. 1904.

Dear Mattie: — Avery [*handwritten*]

Your welcome letter was received several days ago but as I have been having an extra time with my eyes I have not ventured to write to anyone until today. I have some new glasses now and they promise all kinds of good things for me. While I was out of the City for about a week Sister M—— came down and has started fo school but during the few days I have been home I have not yet seen her. She will come down tomorrow and spend the day and we will have a good visit. My eyes are so much better that I feel most encouraged and do not anticipate much more trouble with them.

You had better send the mail as heretofore and Jimmy [C.] will forward mine to me. It is my intention to go to Chicago, leaving here next Wednesday and may be away from some weeks.

I am so glad you like your Christmass present and hope it will “fit” you soon alright.

You Goose of a girl ofcourse I have always thought of your condition and pray earnestly for your safety in that condition and that all may be well with you.⁵ It will be just fine for you to have —— with you and if I can possibly make it possible will come to see you about March 15th. Do you think that would be too late? I could come earlier possibly but must be back here before the first. Am so glad our means are coming along alright and hope the work is progressing satisfactorily on the house.

Mama and baby [Rhoda] are getting along fine and everybody around the place is alright. Had a long visit with your father and will tell you somethings I cannot write. It made me feel badly dear to know that you cried yourself to sleep and I hope you will not let this occur again but that you will be comforted and cheered with the “prospects” of the future. I trust you wil pardon these excuses for letters as this is the first attempt for some time.

How would it do for me to send the mail to Junius R—— [Romney]? Could you not get it from him easier than any other place?

I will write him a letter if you wish and request him to see that you get it alright and without any bother to you. Are you still doing somethings with the Domestic Art, or have you finished your school work entirely? Am very anxious to hear anything new about our home and would like you to keep me posted.

Do you know of a room or two we could rent until our home is in shape to move into? If M—— [Helen] and I both come down it seems to me we would feel better even if we could get a room or two and move by ourselves before you are sick [childbirth], but if you can be made comfortable why the rest of us can get along. Of course if the house is completed according to contract we ought to be able to beging to move in about March 15th. but it would not be safe for you to move in at that time as the plaster and everything would be damp. We will waite and see how things progress and then act according to the conditions as they come up.

May God bless you my dear and may you feel cheerfull and contented at all times. Give my love to the girls [Roxie and Rhoda Taylor]. Hoping this may find you in good health and spirits and that you may ever enjoy Heavens protection and choicest blessings,

With love and blessings I am,

Affectionately,

Ivan. (Owen) [*handwritten*]

[Letter 67: Owen to Avery]

[*no letterhead, typed*]

Bethel, Me. Jan 22 nd. 1904.

Dear Mattie: —

We are just now enjoying the finest snow-storm of years. The sleighing has been fine for a week or more though I have not been doing very much sleigh-riding. On the evening of the eighteenth (I suppose you will remember the day) I took Mary out to Neff's to a delightfull party. As I could not celebrate this day with you I thought the next would be your sister.⁶

The husband of the Ladies you live with [John W. Taylor] and I expect to leave here in a few days for a trip through western Mont. and when we finish there I will go to Illinois as I, suggested to you in my last letter.

Mary is located in school now and she comes down to see us occasionally. I forgot to tell you in my last that we have named out sweet little daughter "Rhoda" after our friend I met down there [Rhoda Welling Taylor].

I think it would be a good thing to impress upon Mary that you would like her to come down not later than the 15th. of March if you think that will be soon enough. Make it early enough so you will be safe.

We will pack in the trunk just whatever you want. If the folks send the things from the north so that they can go right down without re-packing them why then we can use this trunk for something else, if not we will pack them in your trunk. If I were you I would tell the folks at home not to try to send the deer head. It will be so hard to ship and I would not like to take it from there anyway. I have one here I will try to get down sometime.

It is indeed nice of your Ma to make those necessary things for you. She is one of the best souls on earth anyhow. I asked Mary to try and have the mirror sold and we can buy another across the line and take it in you might mention this to her when you write.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to know you are feeling sufficiently well to go and teach a class but I don't want you to do it for the sake of the money. I would not have you make that a consideration for any thing but if you are more contented by being busy and feel that you can continue it without embarrassing you why it will be alright with me, otherwise I hope you will discontinue. You will no doubt soon be in a condition where you will not care to be seen by many people and I want you to study your own feelings and indulge yourself from now on.

I am very glad to hear that the house is progressing so nicely and with the force you report at work it will surely not take a great while to complete it. My suggestion was to have the dining room done in "Walnut" black and I think some "red" paper will look well with it. It is possible that an "oak" finish would look quite as well and if you prefer it why have it by all means. I think White will be nice for the parlour and front bed-room and either white or "oak" for the hall. H—— [Helen] says she would have some light, clean color for the pantry such as a light "drab". I think the bath-room would be nice done in an imitation of oak or possibly the same color of the pantry. I do not like to see too great a variety in one house. A very dark green will look nice with the white for window sash or a very dark red would go with the white.

Please ask Brother Romney what it will cost to paint the roof with one coat of "red" (such as they used on the Bowman house) oil paint. I would like to have it done if we can afford it.

I think it would be well if you feel like it, to order the paper through the store. The dividend on our investment in the store will have to go for awhile to pay the interest on the investment so we had better not count much on "store pay" but whatever we order we will either pay the money for there or pay the interest here and draw the dividend there.

About the grates I do not think Brother Romney counted on putting them in on the contract price of the house; if he did I would let him order the "radiant" grate such as Brother Taylor bought for his home. If they were not included just let them go until I come down and I will try and bring them in with me. Please talk to Brother Romney about this and write me. The contract says the Contractor shall furnish all hardware but I do not [*illegible*]. He will do right with you in this as in all other matters. See that in finishing up the dining room they do not forget the "chair-railing". Do you think it possible that you can get moved into one or two rooms before you are sick?

I would prefer to order the bath-tub etc. You might however get the prices from the store on such a tub as you think we ought to have, a wash-basin, and closet fixtures. This will give me an idea when looking for these things and will let us know which would be the cheaper to bring them in or order them through the store. If you will see Bishop Bentley he will help you in these matters and may be able to make some valuable suggestions. Have Brother Romney order the sink, put it in and do the plumbing all ready to attach the tub and basin.

In all these things when you do not know what to do ask Bishop Bentley for you can tell him I say he will be a father to you and get anything done for you in a proper way and for the least possible outlay of money. I want you to be suited in paper, paint and all other things. Be sure you are satisfied with a thing before you order or buy it and then all will be right. I don't want my suggestions to influence you from anything you have made up your mind to as being what you want in connection with your home. Will you also find out or get the Bishop to find out for you what a "Miller Monitor" Range will cost ordered through the Store? This is one of the most essential things we have to get and if it comes under \$75. gold I think you had better order one. The small one is what we have here and it is plenty large enough. I think there are two sizes. They may tell you some other range is just as good or better but we want a Miller Monitor. I think Prest. Ivins has one of these and he may be able to tell you what would be the best way to order one. Unless you will be ready to move in before I can see about the bed-steads etc when I come down. I would order the paper at once.

In furnishing the house let us ~~the~~ get the essentials first. What we do have let it be good and then get other things as fast as we can pay for them.

You will have to get the Bishop help you order the window blinds. This should be done soon. I think I like the brown ones better than any other color. Better have them leave a hole large enough to get down through the pantry unless the hole from the outside through the foundation is large enough for a man to get through. I mean to make a little "trap

door". I think this will give you something to study about for some time to come. May God bless and preserve you from every accident and unpleasant thing keeping your thoughts happy with the spirit of the Lord ever to be your companion that you may continue contented and thankful.

With love and blessings in which Helen
joins me,
Affectionately,
Ivan.

[*handwritten across the bottom with sketch off to the side*]

Roof red
Floor "
3 Front rooms white
Dining R. Walnut
Hall White
Pantry drab light
Bath room oak
Red Sash Dark

[Letter 68: Helen to Owen]

[*no letterhead, typed*]

Bethel [Provo], Feb. 4th 1904.

My dear Husband.

I have had three letters come back to me this last week and I am about disgusted with writing to you so I will not write but a few lines for fear this will be returned also. One I sent to Great Falls one to Byron and one to Omaha have all returned and the one I sent to Great Falls was opened at the office "by mistake" of course.

After sending you the telegram to Chicago I wrote and sent it to Omaha and then I thought perhaps you would not be coming that way so you will not get any explanation of why Mary is not going until you reach your destination. I have determined to send all the letters that have been returned to me to Bro. Ivins so I will not have to write all the news over again. The Brother from across the street has been over talking to me for two or three hours. He does not seem to be very much excited. Suppose you will see all the proceedings so I will not send them to you.⁷ I was going to send you all the papers but think you will see them where ever you are. I will send some of your mail that you can answer from there.

I have decided to let Anna take June up to Eden with her for a couple of weeks. I asked both the Grandmas and they thought it was all right to let her go and I think it will do June good to have a change. You know

she can telephone any minute and can get home in three hours time if necessary.

I feel the responsibility of things resting on me considerably but hope I may be equal to the occasion. I do feel so badly about Asahels condition. I do hope it will not be so bad as was thought at first. The folks do not have a suspicion of ti and I can assure you they will not get anything from me. We are all getting along nicely and are well and I feel that this is a very great blessing. I hope you are well and that when you get to the end of your journey you will find rest from your labors for awhile and enjoy a little leisure (which you so seldom have at home. From present indications you will have a prolonged visit. We will have to read between lines I think for it is not safe to tell too much in letters.⁸

I want you to know that you always have my support and co-operation in all things and that I continue to love you the same as always.

I feel more keenly all the time the great responsibility of the children's rearing and am at a loss to know how to deal with them allways. I get discouraged in this every few days. Fearing that I do not do as well as I might. Am going to have M. [Mary Clark] come down and stay with me while Anna is away. Your folks are all well.

With my best love I remain,
Yours, Nell.

[Letter 69: Helen to Owen]

[no letterhead, typed]

Salt Lake City, Feb. 9th. 1904.

My Own Darling Owen: —

Would that I might write a letter that would convey to you the full measure of my love for you. But it seems that words are inadequate for this but were you here to-day I am sure I could make you know my exact feelings. When your letter came to-day, it filled my soul with great happiness. It was so full of words of comfort and love and breathed the same spirit of hopefulness that is ever present with my darling. It is strange, but never the less true, that a letter holds the power of carrying from you to me that "something" that we have talked about, which causes us to thrill with happiness and makes us feel how much we love each other. We know not what it is, but we know its effect. I am so thankful that we are truly mated and that each finds in the other, that "being" who can satisfy that longing for pure love and affection, while some of our fellows go thro life with an unsatisfied longing for companionship. Surely God has been kind to us. I love you more fondly every day of my life and realize

in you my ideal. When I was a school girl I remember Bro. Brimhall⁹ lectured one day to the young ladies of the [Brigham Young] Academy and in speaking of the ideals we should have, said we must have several ideals. We might have one which we might call "perfect," but which would seldom be found in this world; then we should have "the ideal we should like," and thirdly "the ideal we must have" for instance one who was moral, who belonged to the Church etc,

When we were married, my dear, I thought and knew you possessed all the qualities of, "the ideal I must have" and some of the ones of "the one I would like" and to-day I feel that you possess all the factors that make up my "perfect ideal." Now I do not mean to say that you are perfect now because if that were the case you would not be with me, but I believe I will see the time when you will be perfect and my greatest desire is that I may be worthy to be your companion then.

You are a blessed, darling husband and are indeed my strong firm "oak." Not because of your age but because I feel that you are filled with virtues that make you strong to lean upon.

Well my darling, I could go on and on in this strain and never tire of telling of my love for you, but it cannot be, I must hasten and tell you some news for isn't that what you asked of me? You called for news seasoned with affection. While this letter is seasoned with love you need not be surprised if some of them smack of "Ginger," knowing my disposition as well as you do.

Last night Will and Alice gave a little party. There were present The Stake Presidency and their wives¹⁰ all the Mc.Ewan's and Woodruffesses and my friend from the "Valley" [Mary Clark] by special request. We had a very nice time. Had a game and your wife "Helen" took the prize, a nice Hymn book. I told them I cheated and they said they all did, so I concluded that I must have taken it for being the biggest cheater.

To-night Mary and I are going to the Theatre to see "David Harum."¹¹ I wish you were here to go with me. I always wish that, especially when I go to a good love [*underlined later by hand*] play. I wished you were here a dozen times last night and when Joe [Daynes] came into the Kitchen and kissed Blanche, that was about the last "straw" and came nearly breaking my heart, It made me so homesick to see you.

The children are all well and talk about papa all the time and want to know when he is coming home. Rhoda caught cold over in that draughty house last night I am afraid. She is quite cross to-day.

Sister [Elizabeth] Mc.Cune is going to have that party that she put off until I could go and now you are not here to go. It will be Thursday and I wish you were here to go with me and I am sure Sister M. will feel disappointed that you will not be there. The two boards are to be there and no doubt we will have a nice time. Will write you about it.

Last Saturday there was a telegram came from Senator Kearns¹² which I will enclose with this letter. The answer I sent back in written on it. I did not know where to find you or would have had the message forwarded to you. I was reminded quite forcibly too that if we wanted you ever so much we would not know where to get you by wire.

I have so many things to tell you but cannot talk them in a letter. So when you come home I will talk an arm off. Edwin Bennion wished me to thank you for that introduction you gave him at John M's. He may live to regret it, if he does not win the suit.

What would you think if you were to find the pannel out of the stairs door when you come? That's what you may expect to find. And your boy was the cause of it. I dont think you can say much about it when you stop to recall your boyhood days.

Well really my dear, it is impossible for me to write any more this time. The children have all come in and I need not say more to you about that for you can judge from past experiences how it is.

Write often to your "darling" and she will do better. I love you with all my heart and you know it better than I can tell you. Think of me often [*underline added later by hand*] and pray for me always [*underline added later by hand*] as I do for you.

With my heart's best love I am Yours
Affectionately,
Helen.

P.S. Owen sends love and kisses to papa and is here at my elbow while I am writing it. [*added later at the bottom of the page, written by hand*]

Love to all my friends, Bro. and sisters Sessions¹³ and Welch¹⁴ especially —

[Letter 70: Helen to Owen]

[*no letterhead, typed*]

Salt Lake City, Utah, Feb. 12th.1904.

My Dearest Owen: —

Am wondering if you received the letter I sent to Great Falls. If you did not, then you have had but one letter from me and are not feeling very kindly toward me, judging you from my own feelings when your letters do not come often.

Last evening Sister Brixen¹⁵ escorted me to Sister [Elizabeth] Mc.Cune's party.¹⁶ I will not attempt to describe the grandeur of her magnificent home.¹⁷ All the members of the two boards with their escorts

were present except a few who, like yourself, were unavoidably absent. Of the absent ones none were missed more than you and nearly everybody enquired about you. Sister Mc. said she put the party off until I could go and thought you were at home until a day or two ago and then it was to late. I did not enjoy the evening nearly as much as if you, my dear, had been with me. It isn't a bit nice to go alone. The first Presidency¹⁸ was there and of your quorum, Bros Cowley, Clawson,¹⁹ Hyrum [Mack Smith] and Geo.A.²⁰ ^and^ [Joseph W.] McMurrin, Wells²¹ and Kimball²² of the Seventies.

The party went off as nicely as it could with the large number of guests present. I do not think there can be as much real enjoyment at an affair of that size^,^ as when the guests are all in one or two rooms and can be nearer to gether. In fact I think our party was a model, don't you? Wish we could have another.

Bro. Cowley called to see Hattie and Wilma to-day and he and Bro. Frank Y. have found a place for them to go. Sister Wheeler has offered them a room or two at her house and they will move as soon as convenient. Bro. Empey started the ball to rolling. He thought it was an injustice to Heber to have them there. Was afraid some trouble yould come to him and wrote Heber so. I think the fact of the matter is, Gusta is sick and tired of having so many people around her and Ib cannot blame her much. I told her I would have Mary C. come down and stay with me and she did not object but says Ivy²³ is going to stay two weeks longer and Mary might as well stay that length of time and then come to our house. Hattie and Wilma will be away by that time and I can tell you I will be glad for I have felt the responsibility fo their being there all the time. I think it has taught me a lesson and I will not be so fast quick to ask favors in the future. It seems we have to learn all things by experience.

I am afraid that instead of getting broader I am growing more narrow. The circle of friends in whom I have perfect confidence is getting smaller insted of larger. You will have to come home and give me a little of your "sage brush" tea to make me more liberal toward mankind. You and my Mother are about the only ones in whom I have perfect confidence and if you ever deceive me I am afraid I would never afterward place confidence in a living soul. So **BEWARE**. You will say I am turning Pessimist. Well I do feel rather pessimistic to-day. You are my panacea for all my ills.

We are going to have the reunion at your mother's on the First and you must be sure and be here.

Anna is just going up town for the butter so I must stop and send my letter with her.

I love you more dearly every day, you blessed sweet soul. I want to be to you what you would have me be, and wish I might never disappoint you

in anything and finally grow to be your ideal. I wish I could be with you right now, to tell you how much I love you, with the variations you know. Write me sweet letters as you always do, full of love and encouragement, and write often, for I live on the hope of getting one until it comes and then on the pleasure of reading it afterwards. The children are all well. Owen says "send papa love and kisses for me."

With love unbounded and kisses without number I am your,
Helen.

[Letter 71: Helen to Owen]

[no letterhead, typed]

Salt Lake City, Feb. 19th 1904.

My Dear Owen: —

It is nearly time for the mail man to come but I must write a few lines before he comes for it has been a week to-day since I wrote to you. It seems almost impossible for me to write you for whenever I bring the typewriter out some one comes in to talk to me or the children make such a noise that I cannot tell what I am writing. They are all in here now making the greatest racket you ever heard and I suppose you would not mind being here in the mixup for a few minutes at least, would you dear?

I have been staying home for more than a week like a good girl until last evening Prest. [Frank Y.] Taylor telephoned over for me to come over to supper. They had The Bros. and sisters Cannon, Lutie and Gerge, Ray and John, Lennie and Dan and Naomi and I. We had a fine supper and a real sociable time.

Suppose you have read in the papers of the division of the Salt Lake Stake into four. They are going to call the new Stakes the "Ensign," the "Emigration," the "Pioneer" and the "Salt Lake." I think they are so appropriate. They will organize the "Emigration" next week and the others will be organized later so perhaps you will be here at the time.²⁴ I hope you can.

Gusta has been very ill for two or three days. Has had a gathering in her ear and yesterday it broke and we thought she would be better but she had a very bad night and feels very weak this morning. I feel quite worried about her. She has had so many things the matter with her lately and she looks very bad indeed. I hope when she gets over this she will be better permanently.

Ray [Winters] has been up for a few days and is trying to get a job on the Street car. He had to have four men's names to recommend him. He got Bro. Empey, Judge Booth, George J. Cannon for three and I put your

nam down per mine. Is that all right? I believe he will do well on the car as he has had some experience with machinery at the Sugar factory for two years and has run a flour Mill for two years. I hope he gets the job.

The letter from the [Logan] Knitting factory has not come yet so I have not attended to that business yet. They sent for me to sign a note at the bank for [Utah] Sugar²⁵ stock. You did not tell me anything about it but as Prest. Winder²⁶ brought it to the bank I thought it was all right for me to sign it and did so. To-night is the Pacific Islander's entertainment in the Stake House²⁷ and an entertainment in our ward also. Prest. Taylor asked me to go with them to the Stake House but if I go anywhere I think I should go to our ward for I have not been there for so long.

I have told you all the news I could think of in a big hurry thinking every minute I must stop and you will find it a very mixed up affair but must forgive me bare with me.

I thank you darling for your confidence in me and your great faith in my prayers. As soon as I got your letter I knelt down and asked the Lord to bless you and grant the things you so much desired if it might be his pleasure to do so and if it would be for the good of the people and I feel sure it will all be well in the end and what ever is will be for the best.

I will say good bye and God bless you my dearest sweet heart. I love you with all the power of my soul and am so thankful that you love me and my greatest wish is that it may continue so thro out all eternity.

The children all send love and kisses to papa and will be glad to see you again.

With my heart's best love I am as ever yours,
Helen.

[Letter 72: Helen to Owen]

I addressed this to Byron, Big Horn Co, Utah Ha, ha. [*handwritten in pencil in the top margin*]

[*no letterhead, typed*]

Salt Lake City, Feb. 20th. 1904.

My Dearest Owen: —²⁸

When I wrote you yesterday I had no idea of writing again to-day but as I have something especially to tell you, I do so willingly but not cheerfully.

Bro. C. [Cowley] came to Will [McEwan] yesterday and told him to have me say to you that you had better stay away a little longer as there is a possibility (and I might say probability) of your being subpoenaed as

a witness to go to Washington to testify in the Kearns case, which case I believe is intended to prove that Church influence was used in his election.²⁹ Now that I have learned this bit of news I think I understand what the telegram was about and I am inclined to think that perhaps you have had communication with your friend in the East and are probably better informed on the subject, than I am. The day your telegram came, the most important man at the office, you know who thinks that of himself, phoned the message to me. I asked him if he had showed the telegram to Prest. S. [Smith] and he replied, a little sharply and with a tinge of reproof for my question, that he had not, it was nothing to do with Prest. S. but was expressly for you. About a week afterward this same Bro. (G.) [George Gibbs, secretary to the First Presidency] phoned me and, in his accustomed nerveous way, asked me if I had received any further information on the subject and if I should hear anything in the future to let him know immediately, that was provided that, eh, eh, eh — a — Owen was not at home. I determined right there and then that if I did hear anything I would not let him know a word for I think I know about how much confidence you have in him. I think it was his individual curiosity that prompted his inquiry. He may have heard something more though. I heard some few days after the telegram came that Kearns wanted Bro. R. to edit the Tribune and I then supposed that was what he wanted communication with you for. At the time I was prompted to take John M. into confidence as my advisor but then I concluded that it was not of much consequence and thought I would say nothing about it.

I met Bro. C. [Cowley] on the street several days ago and he said he was going to find a conference somewhere right away and then find another right after that and so on and will not be seen around here very much and thought you better do the same. Now I don't like this at all for I want to see you very muchly. Prest S. says if there is any likelihood of any of the brethren being subpoenaed to go East he wants them to keep out of sight.

Bro. (who uses the umbrella) had a letter from our Bro. who writes in parables or I might say (the swearing president) and he was very much concerned over his two boys, Will and Hans. They have changed boarding places now and all is peace and I think all parties concerned are satisfied, I can assure you I feel somewhat easier for I felt quite a responsibility on my shoulders as things were.

Gusta is feeling quite a bit better this morning I am pleased to say. The doctor says she will be all right in a few days.

I went to the entertainment in the Ward with Alice and Will. Your mother, Blanche and Joseph and Naomi went also and we had a fine time. The occasion was a Theological class reunion and they had a banquet at which about two hundred people were present. There were some very fine toasts given by Sister Leone Horne,³⁰ Sister Tingey,³¹ Bros.

Bradford, Thompson and others and they were very good. Oh yes, Miss Florence³² was there, does'nt that make you wish you were there? I am sure you would have enjoyed it there were lots of pretty girls there and (she) looked sweet as ever, but hold your breath while I tell you there was a young man with her.

I will wait now and see if there is a letter for me to-day and if there is I may write some more.

The Postman has just been here and there was no letter so I will just say in conclusion that I love you dearly fondly [*underline added later by hand*] and with all my heart and am getting awfully homesick to see you. Let me know when you think you will be able to come home. You had better learn when the coast is clear from headquarters had'nt you? I will keep you posted on anything I hear.

Owen asked me this morni ng if farmers were baptized. I told him yes if they wanted to be mormons they were. He said well I'll be a farmer then but I won't be a mormon. He is afraid of being baptized it seems. He still asks his thousand and one questions every day but is pretty good for him and I dont expect him to be very good when I think of his mother's failings. Little Rhoda is wearing all the hair off her head am afraid she will not have any left by the time we take her to fast meetin. Helen Mar is getting cuter every day and June can say "Dodo keep still," and we think that is so cute. She has changed the baby from "Rodo" to "Dodo." Well there is no use of me trying to make you understand how cute they all are but you know as well as I that they are the brightest, sweetest children that ever were born. They all send love to papa and Owen says he wants to send you a bushel of kisses and Helen Mar says "and me too." God bless my darling. May he keep you safe and well and return you to us safely in the near future. With fondest love I am as ever,

Yours most affectionately,
Helen.

[Letter 73: Helen to Owen]

This letter was returned from Omaha. [*handwritten in top margin*]

[*no letterhead, typed*]

Salt Lake City, Feb.24th. 1904.

My Dearest Owen: —

Your letter was placed into my hands this morning by a "special delivery boy" and I wasso excited I could scarcely read it. I was relieved when I read the contents and learned nothing was wrong with you. I immediately

took it up to the office and placed it into the hands of the gentleman to whom it was addressed. He was the only person in at the time, every one else being out to lunch. A lucky moment I considered it and was ^made^ to feel so welcome that I immediately felt quite at home. We had a nice little talk and, after reading your letter, he gave me the answer which I wired to you. He told me a few things which, by the way, I already knew, and said he thought things would develop within the next two or three days so that we would know where we were at. And you will see by to-day's paper, a clipping from which I send with this, that things are developing.³³ Said above all others that might be called to go on a mission you would be the one he would not want to go. He thinks that the excessive heat of that particular climate would be very damaging to your health, owing to the attack you had about three years ago. I am ^gr^ateful for the intrest he takes in your well being for I have felt anxious about you myself.

So I cannot expect you home until April Conference, well I do not know as it makes much difference whether you go before or after. You would just be at home a few days if you came now^,^ and that would be an aggrivation. We are getting along nicely and are all well, for which I feel extremely thankful.

Mary says that neither she nor her mother will go to St. George [Juárez] this spring as they think they can not well afford it. They think as far as help is concerned that there will be plenty of efficient help the^re,^ and that all will be well if they do not go now.

M. [Clark] is rather undecided and scarcely knows what course to pursue and I think her school is doing her practically no good, in fact she says so herse^lf.^

She has a friend who does not want her to go until he gets better acquainted with her. He has gone off with the Sheep and expects to be gone three months so things will not develop very rapidly. He wants to take a fishing trip up north next summer and I suppose he will want Prest. T. to go with him as he knows the way. I may have her come atay with me while you are away, then we could get better acquainted. A sister from granger is coming to take her over there for a day or two this week.

It is very late. Anna and Alice's girl have gone to the theater, I went last night. Your mother, Sisters Mc.Cune, Ward, Bro and sister Empey little Bessie Mc.Cune and I made up a box party. We enjoyed the play immensely.³⁴ It was one of the funniest things I ever saw, something after the style of "Floradora"³⁵ and was as funny as the "Burgomaster." It takes something pretty funny to make me laugh nowadays, and I did laugh several times last night, so you may know it was funny.

Sister Elmina Taylor broke her collar bone last week and we are going to fast for her to-morrow, as well as for all other members of the board who are ill. Gusta is still sick but is feeling a little better to-day.

The family and neighbors are all well, and a number of them send love to you. Alice and Blanche both have told me they have found out something about you and are going to — punch your head, they say, when you come home.

Well I will not write more to-night. Know that you always have my truest love from my heart of hearts, and that my prayers are ascending unceasingly for your comfort and blessing.

I am happy to subscribe myself your affectionate wife,
Helen. [*written by hand*]

[*handwritten on the back of the letter*] >over' P.S. The reason I sent the telegram as it was it looked funny to say "Fordie is well" "Rhoda is well," so I thought if I changed it a little you would understand.

The gentleman said if you had time to go South it was all right with him but he is not particular about that part, just so you do not come at present. He will let you know when he desires to meet you. There is a nice letter here from Mr. Wooldridge with some News paper clippings. P.S. Have just heard that Hyrum M. [Smith], Bro Lyman³⁶ and Andrew Johnson have been subpoenaed.

H.

[Letter 74: Helen to Owen]

[*no letterhead, typed*]

Salt Lake City, Mar. 1st. 1904.

My Dear Owen: —

Received your telegram yesterday morning and as your letters had not yet arrived I could scarcely understand it or know what to do but shortly after the letters came and with them one from St. George asking me to get several things to put in the trunk. I immediately went up to see Mary and found her sick in bed at my sisters. She said neither she nor her mamma were going to take the trip which has been talked about so much. They consider it unnessary as far as help is concerned and if it is to be a pleasure they think they cannot afford it at present.

Mary says she has written and written for the things and they have not even packed them up yet. Her Father said he could not see the use of sendin them before the house was finished and Mary thinks herself that there is no use in getting in a hurry, a thing she never does, by the way. She says "you know pa is always so slow, he nevr̄ does anything until the last minut.e" I had a notion to tell her she was a true daughter of her father for really I never saw any one much more deliberate than she is.

You get out of patience with me often for being so slow but I imagine you would be exasperated with her if you had to wait for her to "get ready"³⁷

We talked matters over and have done the best we could with the judgement we have. Mary says the shortest possible time in which we could get the things from valley would be four days. Then we would have to repack and send them to you and how could we check the trunk with no one going. Mary says there is nothing but that will do if it gets there in a month from now so we decided to write to her father and have him bring the things when he comes to conference and then you would be here and could send them by some of the conference folks. I think this will be all right myself.

One of Mary's particular "friends" does not desire her to go away just at present and I think she does not know what she wants to do herself yet. And is waiting to hear from her folks.

The Hundred dollars from Davis county bank was deposite on feb. 23rd. and when I spoke to Bro. Gibbs he said I just put \$500.00 in the bank a few hours ago in accordance with your husband's instructions. I telephoned Eddie Ashton³⁸ regarding the one share of knitting stock and he said he had not sold yet because he could not get more than Ninety for it. I told him to sell immediately for that price if he could get no more. About three hours afterward he phoned that he had sold and placed the money in the bank to your credit. Then Jimmie said he would place the money from the office in the bank to-day. Now dont you think I have russed it in a hurry.

The money from the Logan knitting factory just come saturday night and I paid it on the interest and there yet remains \$38.00 more to be paid, there were two notes ~~more~~ you know. Shall I pay it and if so where shall I get the money? The news sends a bill of \$22.50 and say they will take scrip. I will not write more this time for fear you may not get it. I did not send an answer to your telegram because I thought you had left Chicago before it would reach you. We are just going over to the birthday party. Children are all well and we are trying to get along the best we can. Anna is going to stay with Lena for two weeks and is teasing me to let her take June with her. I have half a notion to let her go. Anna says she would not let her out of her sight one minute while she is away and would take the best of care of her. I do not know how I could get along with out her. What do you think about it?

I have so much to do the next few hours I am nearly beside myself. With the truest love from my heart of hearts, I am as ever yours affectionately, and with constant prayers for your success and happiness, I am yours,

Helen

[Letter 75: Helen to Owen]

[no letterhead, typed]

St. George, Mar. 6th. 19 .

Dearest Owen: —

Your letter written on March 1st. came yesterday and I was very glad to hear from you. I do hope you got my letter sent to Omaha. You would not understand why Mary did not go South unless you did.

We had a great excitement here last night. Donald [Daynes] had a very bad sore throat yesterday and also a fever but Blanche did not think it anything serious until evening she sent for the Dr. and he said he could not tell whether or not it was anything contagious for a while. He grew worse and about midnight He came again and pronounced it diphtheri. You can imagine how frightened I was. I stayed awake all night and to-day I have not had my eye off from the children all day. I will have to watch them every minute for weeks I suppose, for they do not know any better than to go right over there. Joseph [Daynes] is staying at your mother's so he can go to work and Estella [Donald's sister] and Sharp [Donald's brother] have gone to Mc.Farlanes to stay. I do not belie the case is a very bad one although they can not tell for a few days. The Dr. says he can tell by to-morrow just about how it will go. I thought at first I would go to Provo or somewhere but then I thought I would not get frightened and run away as I might get some other disease by going for the whooping cough is raging all over the country, so I decided it would be best for me to stay right here and watch the children carefully and trust in the Lord to keep the children well. Just a week ago Joseph went over to administer to Bro. Bradford's little child and at the time they did not know that it had diphtheria but found it out next day. The Dr. says that is where Donald got it from for it just takes a week for the disease to deveol after one has been exposed. Donald was out playing with all the children the evening before he took sick and in fact he went with his papa and mama down to the stake house the night before. I do not want you to become alarmed though for I think the Lord can prevent us from having it if we will be wise and careful to keep the children away now.

Anna and June went to Eden yesterday morning to stay two weeks and Mary has come down to stay with me. She has just come from Farmington where she has been for a few days. She says the folks are all w well. We are all well and I do not want you to worry about us but just give us your faith and prayers. I will write often to let you know how we all are.

Give my love to M. [Avery] and tell her I got her letter all right and will answer some time in the near future. I love you dear and all ways pray earnestly for your health and blessing and want you to be happy and I

believe you are. My baby [Rhoda] is the sweetest thing you ever saw (You are missing all her sweetness. I would not be surprised if you did not come home for Conference. I have not heard anything but if it takes as long to get through with every witness as it does with Prest. Smith they will not be through with the investigation until conference and then they could get some who are away attending conferences ~~and will~~ if they should come home. When Prest. comes home I will keep you posted all right. He will know what will be done then. I think something will be done, don't you?

Well good night my darling and may you have all your heart desires is the desire of your affectionate,

Nell.

p.s. I have had three letters come back that I have written you and just to prove it I will send them to you. Please answer every one of hem immediately after you receive them.

N

[Letter 76: Helen to Owen]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Salt Lake City.
Mar 8th 1904.

Dear Owen:

Your precious letter written at Omaha was received yesterday and consequently this letter is written with a pen, "Hand painted" so to speak.

Don't blame you for objecting to machine written letters. They are all right for business but not for love. I don't like them at all.³⁹

Donald is better this morning and is getting along nicely. Judging from the noise I heard emanating from his bed room yesterday he will be well soon. He was having a "tantrum." The nurse was at a loss to know what to do. He had been so sick from the first when she came that he was perfectly docile until yesterday and his actions were astonishing to her. Am sending you news paper clippings and "returned" letters that will furnish you (good?) literature for weeks to come. I will not write again for some time, not at least until I give you time to read all this.

When I wrote those letters I understood them perfectly but on rereading them to-day after they are cold I am inclined to think you will experience some difficulty in understanding the parables.

I appreciate dearest, the genuine warmth of your affection and can assure you it is reciprocated.

Life would indeed be an empty dream without your dear love and companionship. Sometimes I get so hungry for you I can scarcely wait to

see you but then I always think there is an other "longing heart," and I must make some sacrifices for her sake. Now I wish I had'nt said that. I do not wish to complain or have you feel I am not satisfied.

I have my precious children and I am wrapped up in them heart and soul. They give me joy and comfort every hour. And I have so much to be thankful for the Lord knows my heart and He knows how grateful I am for all my many blessings although it would seem sometimes to others that I am ungrateful. The one fact, that God knows my every thought, hope and desire, is one of my greatest sources of happiness. I keep nothing from Him, although ~~the~~ my true feelings are sometimes hidden from the eyes of my fellows and it would seem to them from my actions that my motives were not right, there is only One who can judge me, and He is merciful and I feel will be charitable with me. Give my love to M. [Avery], tell her she has my prayers continually and I do hope you can be with her at the time she will need you so much.⁴⁰ Who knows you may be able to stay there for a longer period than you think. I would be glad for her sake if you could stay for a couple of months at least. Experience has taught me many lessons and I know how she needs you, better than she knows now, for she knows no dread, and the dread is about as much ^great^ as the real experience.

May God bless you my dear faithful, truest friend on earth. May every wish of your heart by gratified and may you have your full need of happiness in this life and endless joy in the great eternal life to come. Is the desire and prayer of

Yours Affectionately,
Helen Winters Woodruff.

[Letter 77: Owen to Avery]

[*letterhead, handwritten*]

Department of the Interior,
United States Land Office,

Mar. 8th, 1904

Dear Mattie:-

I wrote you from Boise [El Paso, Texas] and left it to be delivered by Bro.— whom we expected when I was there but whom I now learn has gone in quite another direction.

Am now on my way back to Boise but will have to waite a few days at Diaz for M—— [Helen] and the Children who are coming with me. We expect to arrive at Provo [Colonia Dublán, Mexico] next Thursday and

would like it very much if the Bishop can get Edward Eyring⁴¹ to meet us with his double rig. Leona⁴² will also accompany us. We will have two or three trunks. We are coming with the President. All being well we should be in St. George [Colonia Juárez, Mexico] Thursday night, all being well. Keep that bed stead and get a pair of springs for it at once. Will explain all when I see you. I do hope all is well with you. God bless you dear and keep you from all evil.

With love
Ivan

[Letter 78: Owen to Avery]

[*letterhead, handwritten*]

Isaac W. Pierce
Lumber, Coal and Wood
Madera Aserrada, Carbon y Lena
Telephone 293

Ciudad Juarez Chic., Mex. Mar. 1904

My Dear Mattie ÷

This has been a “fierce” day and assure you we have all been very communicative with each other. We just have a moment here to drop you a line that you may know I remember you and pray the Lord to be good and [*illegible*] to you.

I love you dear and you are a patient, good, girl.

With love and blessings I am

Affectionately
Ivan.

[Letter 79: Helen to Owen]

[*Big Horn Basin Colonization Company letterhead, handwritten*]

March 12, 1904.

Dear Owen:

Just have time to write two or three lines before the “Postem” comes. Donald is almost well they say and it seems strange the Dr. says his disease is highly contagious but still has not put up a flag. Little Sharp took sick day before yesterday and Blanche could not stand it to have him away from her so they brought him and Estella both home. The Dr. is there

now and says he is quite ill. I feel so thankful that we are all well and appreciate the great blessings of health more when I see others afflicted. There are two letters here that I cannot answer so will send them to you. Have written two letters since I received one from you. Got the bill from Chipman's yesterday and will send the check on Monday.

With love to you from all of us and ever praying for your blessings I am yours

Helen.

[Letter 80: Helen to Owen]

[no letterhead, handwritten]

Salt Lake City, Mar.16,1904

Dear Owen:

I am at present in conjoint, general board meeting⁴³ and thot before going home would "drop" you a few lines," although have not heard from you for nearly a week.

Suppose by this time you have received all my letters by that were returned and which I sent you again.

I wish we had a little of your sunshine and dust and you had some of our mud it is simply awful. Just as soon as the mud dries up a little here comes the snow and rain again. I am thoroughly sick of it.

You will perhaps be anxious to know how the children are knowing that Blanche's children have the diphtheria. Little Sharp has been very bad indeed but now they think both the children are out of danger but the nurse has come down with it now and they have her to wait on.

I have been very worried about this but could do nothing but hope and pray. I have kept good watch of them all the time.

Helen Mar was sick yesterday but had just eaten something that upset her stomach and vomited nine times during the day and after fasting all day and night is all right to-day.

Our meeting has just commenced with Bro. Golden Kimball presiding. If I get a good letter from you to morrow will perhaps write again.

Will give you a few minutes of this meeting. The first subject is June Conferences. Well they are too slow I will have to go on with my letter. You know how intensely interesting these meetings usually are.

Have just barely seen Prest. Smith and Prest. Lyman. But have not spoken to them.

Your ma has written to Bro. Dameron telling him he might have the Deseret farm, that is, hers and wants to know what you want to do with yours? You will get a letter from Bro. Seaman so will decide what you want

to do and let him know.

Will ask Prest. Smith when you will be able to come home and suppose he will let you know tho as he knows where you are. Bro. Roberts⁴⁴ has just come in and taken the chair.

Give my love to M [Avery]. How is the house progressing?

I will close now with my heart's best love to you

I am Yours as ever,
Helen.

[Letter 81: Owen to Avery]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Ciudad Juarez
May 7th 04

Dear Avery:-

We arrived here all well last evening, tho we had a very hot, dusty trip. We expect to go on this morning. Both Helen and I did not realize how much anxiety we would have about you all until we got started and then we became aware of the fact that two or three weeks would be a long time for a Mama to leave her little babies.⁴⁵

We hope you will try and write very often and say just how all is going at home.

Please tell Bro. Romney I did not get a chance to see him and make a partial settlement with him but will do so when I return. I wish dear if you hear anything about the \$500.00 which your father spoke to us about you would write to me here c/o Isaac W. Pierce so I can get it on my return for if we do not get this money as expected I will have to make arrangements to borrow it before I can settle with Bro. Romney. If it is so we can use it it should be deposited to my credit in the State Bank the same as the \$200.00 which came from Uncles.

I wish I knew now what our program would be so that if we are to remain long I could get some things to help fix up with while in the City. There may be some word for me here on my return.

I hope you will be carefull and not try to do much work until you get your usual strength back. Be carefull of the babies and keep them from harm. I hope all will be well with little baby Ruth & her Mama and all the babies. God bless and preserve you from all harm.

With love and prayers for you I am,

Affectionately
Ivan

Our address will be: 5a Humboldt No. 50, Mexico D.F.

[Letter 82: Owen to Avery]

[no letterhead, handwritten]

Guernavaca, Mex.
May 18th 1904.

Dear Mattie:

We came down last Saturday and have been in almost a continual string of Conference meetings here ever since. It has been highly interesting to me visit with and labor among this strange people. The country too and it's vegetation is highly interesting to us. We have had a good Conference and are to hold another one next Sunday and Monday at Azunta, will then return to the City of Mexico and after a few days start for home. Helen & baby Rhoda are well. This climate seems to quite agree with them. The rains have started here as I hope they have at the Colonies.

We all remembered and observed the "Special Fast" last Sunday, asking the Lord to send rains to the Colonies.

The elders and all our party are well except Leona [Taylor] who has been quite ill but is better now. It is a great treat to come down here into the tropics where since the rain started it is cooler than it was farther North. I do hope all is well with you and the Children. Take good care of the darlings and give my love to them. If you answer this at Juarez I will get it.

May God bless and be with you to keep you all well and happy. Helen sends love

Affectionately
Ivan

[Letter 83: Owen to Avery]

[no letterhead, typed]

City of Mexico, May 20th. 1904.

Dear Mattie: —

We arrived here from Guernavaca last night and found your two letters, also the ones you forwarded to us. It was a feast for us to hear from you all at home but we are sorry you are not feeling well and I do hope you will take care of yourself and not overwork.

I cannot tell just when we will start home as we hold Conference at Czumba Sunday and I think it will be about Wednesday before we will get started back home. It is more than likely that I will go to the Salt River Valley and attend to the work which the Presidency have instructed me

to attend to before returning to Juarez but of course the folks will come home with Prest. Ivins.

Like you I wish we knew just what our future programme will be so we would know what to do about fixing up and it is more than likely I will know when I return to Ciudad Juarez as I look for a letter from the Presidency at that place.

I was very sorry that the rain spoiled the alabastine and it is too bad Bro. Romney can not fix the roof and chimney satisfactory.

If he has not yet had it painted I wish you would ask him to attend to it and have enough coats of good thick paint put on zafter all the holes are sodered up) to keep it from leaking.

Ask Brother Romney if the smoking of the chimney is not caused by the flue having been filled up with mud when the men were finishing the chimney and it is possible that so much has dropped into the stove that it will not draw until you clean the stove out underneath.

Write me at once to Ciudad Juarez and send whatever mail there is for me. It is quite interesting to labor among these natives for awhile but I fancy it would be most difficult for me to learn to relish their food.

I hope you will have sufficient rain to start the grass and make things fresh and beautifull.

Be carefull of yourself and the children and don t try to do much else. May God bless you and keep you well, with love,

Affectionately,

Ivan

P.S. I hope when I come home I will feel well and natural and not be so cross and disagreeable as I was before. My voice has been good all the time down here and I feel well and natural.

[Letter 84: Avery to Owen]

[*no letterhead, handwritten*]

Colonia Juarez
May 30, 1904.

Dear Ivan ÷

As you requested I write and send your mail. Your letter came to late Saturday to send your mail that day.

The children are well and we talk to them about Papa and Mama.

Why should I keep it longer, I will have to tell you. Who else should know? I am suffering, I have been tried and why? It is all I can stand now, Elder Duffin has been in, he said he knew I was feeling bad and came to talk to me. I thank the Lord that he came.⁴⁶

The last two or three days I have felt stronger and have more nurse for my darling babe.

Well, go and do your duty and visit the stake you mentioned and I pray God to bless you, preserve your health and give you success in that labor.

With Love,
Mattie.

[Letter 85: Avery to Owen]

[no letterhead, handwritten]

Colonia Juarez
June 1, 1904.

Dear Ivan ÷

We just got the dreadful news that you have the small-pox. I am quite ill but will endeavor to write. You will likely all have them wont you are is the whole company exposed? I am so sorry it happened, it will no doubt keep you there a month longer. If there is any possible way let us know how you are often, and we can write to you all the time. Little Rhoda is almost sure to have them after nursing her mother, what a horrible thing.

I have been sick and nervous. The day you say Helen took sick I was my worst and was feeling badly too. Elder Duffin came in and talked to me a long time and accounted for your not writing.

The children are perfectly well and tell Helen not to worry about them one bit. We haven't much to do but take care of ourselves and we ought to do that well I should think. And don't worry about me, I am up and around and am stronger now than when you left.

The stove draws better since we cleaned it out. I sent all your mail to Cuidad Juarez.

May the Lord hear and answer our prayers at this time and heal dear Helen and keep the rest of you from having it. I do hope dear that you don't take sick and little Rhoda.

May God bless you, O may He be mindful of you all in that affliction.

With love to you and Helen
Avery.

P.S. Is it the black small-pox?

[Avery's "Autobiography and Recollections": Excerpt D (pages 52–54)]

After 48 years

May 5 1952 [*in left margin*]

May 5th, 1904 Owen and Helen left for the City of Mexico with Pres. Ivins, his daughter Florence, Leona Taylor, daughter of John W. Taylor, Kate Spillsbury and a group of missionaries. They expected to tour the L.D.S. mission hold conferences and see the sights of this historical city. The missionaries were to enter their field of labor. A few days previous to their departure Pres. Ivins had advised Owen that he and Helen should be vaccinated for black smallpox along with all the others taking the trip. Owen replied: "We are in the hands of the Lord, he will take care of us," So Pres. Ivins did not further press the subject. All went well the first part of their journey and their letters to us were proof enough that they were all having a delightful time at Guaravaca and other beauty spots, until Helen became very ill starting with that dread disease. [Owen and Kate Spillsbury took care of Rhoda *in left margin*] Letters came to us telling of the anguish that filled the days until she passed away June 7th. Little Rhoda, a nursing baby of five months, was brought back to El Paso with a missionary caring for her and Owen met his mother here and gave the baby over to her to take back to Salt Lake.

Owen had been at Helen's side continuously during her illness and death. She was buried in the City of Mexico. Owen had decided to rest a while at the border before returning to Juarez — sent me a telegram from El Paso to that effect. On his second day there however, he took with a severe headache and feared he was starting with the disease. Next morning he ran a temperature and sent word to Pres. Ivins who traveled the 175 miles to be at Owen's service, was able to get him entered into a detention hospital in El Paso. Alonzo Taylor, a missionary, also had the disease and occupied the same room and he told me the details of their illness together, after Owen passed away June 20 and Alonzo got well and returned to Juarez. He brought me a few personal belongings of Owen that had been thoroly sterilized — letters etc. He said that really Owen was recovering from his illness, his temperature leaving and he felt so good he wanted to sit up. He reached for his trousers at the foot of his bed but the strain on his heart was too much — without a word more he was gone. The sorrow that filled my heart can't be described. It seemed I wept buckets of tears in the days that followed. Two wonderful people who left me well and happy never returned and their four children made orphans. My own child fatherless. I was now a widow.

After a few weeks Frank Y. Taylor came to Mexico to get the children and Anna the maid but no it would not do for me to cross the border. I

remained in Mexico almost a year longer. Rented part of my home to a Dr. Farr and her husband and to Wilma and Hattie Robinson. The girls and I cooked and ate our meals together sharing expenses. Each of us had one child. Baby Ruth was my comfort and blessing, and when she was only five months old I took her with me to St. Louis to the world's Fair. Sister Luella Cowley was my traveling companion — and a loyal and true friend. The trip brought me some benefit — helped me to look outward instead of ^{to} my own plight, to some degree.

My sweet mother came to Mexico to comfort me and wanted to take me back with her but was advised it wouldn't do. Surrounded by friends in an all Mormon community I still had much to be thankful for.

Finally, May 1st, 1905 I received word that I might come home in safety. Mayme Bennion & I waved our last goodbye to the Southland — each with a daughter in our arms.

I turned my house and lot over to Pres. Ivins to rent and eventually sell which he did. A Mr. Duthie bought the place for much less than it cost us and it was years before I received the final payment — near the time of the revolution when the colonists were forced to leave their homes. Some of them later returned & got back their houses and I was told the Duthies did so. Before I left Mexico I visited Owen's grave in a beautiful cemetery in [Entered May 5 '52 *in left margin*] El Paso. It was against the law of Mexico to move Helen's remains till after twenty years. It was never done. I've made this long sad story short — just the high spots.

People throughout the church were shocked by the sudden and tragic death of Owen and Helen. Letters and telegrams were sent to the family from missions, stakes of Zion everywhere. Memorial services were held and resolutions of respect — lofty tributes were spoken and read. Helen had served several years on the M.I.A. board, traveled with Owen and without him visiting the many Stakes of the church. Both were widely known and loved.

There were a few people who figured out for themselves just why this young couple had been taken in death while yet so useful, happy and successful. Some such comments came to my attention such as: They died as near to the cause in line of duty, or they gave their lives for the principle meaning polygamy" or they were spared the humiliation of being ex. — they lost their lives for breaking the law of the church and state — the Manifesto.

Equally good people held these various interpretations spoken in my presence some of them to which I generally answered — "let God be the judge," I only know how humble and sincere they were in their conviction that they were doing the right thing in the sight of God. They followed the dictates of those in authority over them at the time and had their blessing. "From the desires of your heart, ye shall be judged"

Also I learned that Pres. Smith's first comment on receiving notice of Owen's and Helen's death was: "This never needed to have happened. Helen came to me for advice regarding a trip to Mexico I told her it was best she not go. A second time she came to me, I told her again to not go, but she didn't follow my counsel, she went."

[Alonzo L. Taylor's Journal]⁴⁷

Alonzo L. Taylor

Thursday, May 26

The doctor came and examined Sister Woodruff and said she had small pox. Apostle Woodruff asked Elders Pomeroy, Henning, and myself to assist him in the caring for his wife, and Katy is to stay and take care of baby.

Friday 27

Elder Pomeroy and I sat up all night with Sister Woodruff. She is broken out all over her body with small pox. All of the folks left the mission house except Elders Pomeroy, Henning, and myself and Katy Spilsbury who stays in an adjoining room and tends Sister Woodruff's baby. We had to keep an oiled silk on our patients face to prevent pitting. It is impossible to get a nurse to come so we Elders do all the waiting on Sister Woodruff and the kitchen work also. Apostle Woodruff of course takes the lead in caring for his wife and we all are doing what we can for her recovery. It is quite a trying experience.

Saturday May 28

Last night we divided the night into 3 sections. I took the first and sat up till one o'clock. Elder Henning sat up till 3 and Elder Pomeroy the balance of the night. Sister Woodruff is getting better slowly but is broken out quite bad and is very weak. Katy left with the baby and is going to stay at a place over on Guerrero street as it was considered safer. Prest. Ivins, Elders Pomeroy and Harris have been hunting another place to live as they do not want to risk this place any more as mission headquarters. It is quite lonesome here now as we are left alone to care for Sister Woodruff

Sunday May 29

As Elder Pomeroy had to tend to so much work on the outside it was thought best for him to stay out of the sick room. Bro. Henning and I watched all night last night. He sat up til 10 o'clock and I took the balance

of the night. Sister Woodruff was quite bad last night is breaking out very badly. At 7:40 p.m. Prest. Ivins wife and 2 daughters Miss Taylor and Eliza Clayson left for home on the Central train. Bro Woodruff is going to try to get Lozado or Juana to come down and assist us then he wants me to do the running for them. The mission headquarters were changed to 23

Monday May 30

This morning Bro Pomeroy procured a trained nurse to wait on Sister Woodruff so Bro Woodruff told me to disinfect well so I could stay on the outside and run errands so I changed clothing all around and took a good bath, saturating all my clothes with carbolic acid. Sister Woodruff has a bad case of smallpox and is very sick.

Tuesday May 31

Bro Woodruff discharged the nurse as she did not understand her business and charged 15.00 a day. So he asked me to return to the sick room and assist but as I got ready to change my clothes we heard that Juana was coming so as I was needed for errands I stayed out.

Wednesday 1st

I put in a hard day to day buying drugs groceries etc. I went up town about 12 times some of the times on foot and some of the times in the car. Sister Woodruff is a little better but still very sick. Juana is a great help in this trouble.

Thursday 2nd

I again spent the day running errands up town was on the go all day long buying medicine and things for Sister Woodruff to eat she is gradually getting better but is very weak and very much discouraged in fact she asked for Bro Woodruff to pray for her to die the eruption is very painful.

Friday 3

As Bro Woodruff was so worn out and needed help as bad, I decided at his suggestion to return to the sick room and help wait on Sister Woodruff. The eruption had developed so much that I was about frightened when I saw her. Great white blisters filled with pus were standing out all over her body and wherever they had broken were sores it was a terrible sight. As Bro Woodruff was so worn out and Bro. Henning not well I watched the patient all night alone except that I called Juana a couple of times to assist me. There was scarcely a minute all night when I wasn't working with her.

Saturday 4

Sister Woodruffs condition remains practically the same only I think she is getting gradually weaker and will have a hard struggle to recover. I again set up all night so Bros Woodruff and Henning could rest.

Sunday 5

Our patient continues very weak and is suffering very much from a dryness of her tongue and throat. I sat up till 3 in the morning.

Monday 6

We are all about worn out caring for our patient, cooking trying to keep this old disease trap of a house in order. Sister Woodruff is apparently no better. Bro Woodruff went to hospital to arrange for her removal tomorrow.

Tuesday 7

Bro Woodruff & I sat up till 10 o'clock last night giving our patient milk and brandy for stimulants. She was delirious all the time. Bro. Henning and Juana took the second watch and at 3:45 a.m. Bro. Henning came rushing up the steps to where Bro. Woodruff and I were sleeping on the roof, and told us to come at once for sister Woodruff was dying and scarcely had we reached her bedside when she passed peacefully away after having suffered since May 23 with a most loathing and virulent form of smallpox. Her suffering has been something fearful and for her, death was surely a relief. Bro Woodruff felt terrible and Bro Henning and I did what we could to console him but of course our efforts were very feeble in so great an affection. I then went out to Santa Maria and notified Bro Pomeroy and Harris of her death and Bro Henning went to Hotel _____ and notified Bishop Johnson and family. I then went and engaged the Layendecker undertaking establishment to take charge of the body and attend to the burial. At 7:30 a.m. I took charge of the washing and laying out of the body and was assisted by 3 men from the undertakers. It was a terrible task as the body was covered with the small pox so bad that we could scarcely touch it without taking off the skin. Later Bros Woodruff and Henning dressed the body with the clothes that Sister Johnson and Harris had prepared. I then went to the undertakers and arranged for a coffin for 60.00 A grave in the American Cemetery Number 85 for \$225.00, Two cars for transporting the corpse and attending brethren and sisters at a cost of \$25.00 and pall bearers, etc. for \$18.00. Making a total cost of \$328.00 At 4 o'clock the body was taken from the House in Humboldt to the car on Guerrero street. The accompanying Brethren and sisters entered the other car and an hour later we were at cemetery. There we all surrounded the grave and sang

“O My Father.” Bishop Johnson then dedicated the grave and we then sang “Rest for the Weary Soul” Bro Harris then offered a closing prayer and the grave was covered while a sorrowing band of brethren and sisters looked on in silence. Those present at the burial were Apostle Woodruff, Bishop Johnson and wife, Lucy and three daughters, Jenny, Lulu and _____. Bro Harris and family, Miss Katy Spilsbury, Sister Woodruff’s baby, Rhoda, Elders T. E. Pomeroy, Paul Henning, P. A. Williams, James Mayhim, Antoine Ivins and myself. Apostle Woodruff and Elder Henning and I then took a room in Hotel Edison and spent a very quiet night in a nice cool clean room which we appreciated after so many nights of watching and worrying. It was a terrible blow to Bro Woodruff but he stood it bravely and manfully and reconciled himself to the ordeal.

[Kate Spilsbury’s Recollections]⁴⁸

The next year, [1904] I taught the second grade in Col Juarez. We held a school in the basement of the church house. Liza Clayson, Lizzie Butler, Ernest Hatch and myself were the faculty there. In the spring of the year, there was an excursion to Mexico City for \$50.00, round trip. Brother Anthony W. Ivins was going with his family — Anna and Florence, and Antonne was already there studying law. Leona Taylor (apostle Taylor’s daughter), Apostle Abram O. Woodruff and wife, Helen Mar, Pres. and sis. Ivins, Liza Clayson and I were in the party to go. We arrived in Mexico City after two days traveling from Colonia Juarez. President Hyrum S. Harris was president of the Mexican Mission at that time, and he made us so welcome at the Mission home. At conference time, all the elders came in, and we enjoyed them so much. We also enjoyed visiting the different branches with the Elders and meeting with the saints.

One Sunday afternoon, after we had visited all day in the little branch of Amecameca, we were coming home on the train, and Sister Woodruff took violently ill with a high fever and headache. We arrived in Mexico City at noon from Amecameca and she was still very sick, and gradually getting worse. They called in the Doctor who diagnosed her sickness as Black Small Pox. This was just like a bomb shell exploding in our midst. Pres. Ivins moved his family out of the mission home immediately, and headquarters were transferred to Toluca. Brother and Sister Harris and all the children went over there also. If the city Health officials had known about Sister Woodruff’s illness, they would surely have taken her to the pest house to die, so they dared not let it be known at all. Elder Alonzo L. Taylor had just been vaccinated for this dread disease, and Elder Heming had had it, so they volunteered their services to Apostle Woodruff to assist him in the illness of his wife. Her baby

was just five months old and they were not able to find a wet nurse to take care of it for them. This left Liza Clayson and I there alone. After much consideration she decided to go home with the Ivins family so I volunteered my services to Apostle Woodruff to help care for the baby. Apostle Woodruff was most grateful and appreciated so much my offer to help, and he gave me a beautiful blessing and promised me in the name of the Lord that if I would stay and help him that I would not contract this dreaded disease. From that time on, I had absolutely no fear of it. He found me a room with a Mrs. Conley, a lady with whom Edmund Richardson had stayed during the time he was studying law in Mexico City. This lady was very kind and good to us and allowed me to do our washing and ironing there. We had a lot of difficulty in finding good that would agree with the baby. Brother Woodruff and Elder A. L. Taylor would take turns coming to see us every other day, and did whatever they could to help us out, certainly they did much in giving me encouragement and moral support.

Sister Woodruff was getting steadily worse. They didn't have a doctor and these two men were taking care of her the best they could. She finally lapsed into a coma, and after two weeks illness, she died [7 June]. Plans were made immediately to return to the U.S. after burying her there. Bishop Derby Johnson and his wife and three daughters were visiting Mexico, and they held a lovely graveside service for her. That night, Brother Woodruff, A. L. Taylor, the baby and I got on the train to return to El Paso. He telegraphed his mother and Brother-in-law to meet him there, which they did. Brother Woodruff was sick with a high fever all the way to El Paso. He was breaking out with small pox, too. After travelling 48 hours, we arrived in Ciudad Juarez and were taken immediately to the home of brother James Mortensen. The next A.M. arrangements were made to smuggle Brother Woodruff across the line and he was put in a pest house in El Paso. Brother Woodruff's mother took the baby, and they took A. L. and me and got us a room in a hotel in Juarez. A. L. was sick all day, he too was coming down with the dreaded disease. Still, I was not afraid of taking it, as I had been promised by an Apostle of the Lord that I would not.

The next morning A. L. was smuggled over to El Paso and put in the pest house there. Sister Woodruff took the baby and went back to Salt Lake, and I took the train and came home. Father met me at the train, and I was taken to the Ranch to stay alone until all danger was past. A. L. and Brother Woodruff was suffering intense pain and such a high fever. He passed away on the [20th] of June 1904.

[Emma Woodruff's Letters to Avery]

[no letterhead]

Salt Lake Temple Aug 19th 1904

My dear Daughter

Avery I have tryed week after week to get an hour to spend writing to you and others but the moment I get home from the Temple there is something crowding upon me all the time I am perfectly ashamed and feel that it is wicked for me to neglect you so but if you could see what I have to do I am sure you would forgive me. It was several weeks after I returned home before I could sit up long enough to write a letter and then what could I write that would be any comfort to you or any one I have been so sorely tried that I could not do or say anything to comfort anyone I am ashamed of the way that I have treated Brother Ivins after all that he has done for us and wish that you would assure him that he has my most sincere gratitude for what he has done for me and mine I do not feel that I shall ever be able to repay him for his kindness and unselfish devotion to my darling son. I think I can realize how Rachel of old felt when she was weeping for her Children and could not be comforted because they were not I feel as if I never could rise above this crushing blow that has been dealt me and if it was not for the hope that we have for the future I do not know how I could ever live But there I must stop this or you will wish that I had not written now Anna and the children got home all right ~~the~~ I was thankful to have them with me they are all very well and now my greatest desire is to have you home so that you can assist me to carry the load of responsibiliti that rests upon us for I feel that it is yours as well as mine Mrs. Grant thinks that the children should be divided up amongst Helens folks or that Mrs. Booth should take them But I could not consent to either arraignment I think the care of the Children rests entirely with you and me and so long as I have a home and am able in any way to care for them they shall never be seperated. My darlings last request to me was to have his children all raised together and I shall be faithful to his wish. My house is their proper home and I shall never consent for them to be scatered around the Country. Now all I want is for the time to come when you can come home and take the responsibility off me so that I can attend to my other duties I am coming to the Temple occasionally so as to hold my place until you come home.

Owen had a shotgun and a rifle belonging to his Father. I do not know whare they are as they are not here if they are there I would like to have them brought home some time. I suppose you have some of your mutual friends with you give my love to them. Give my kind love to Katie Spillsbury and tell her if she ever comes to S.L. to come and make her

home with me. Well I do not know of anything more of interest to write you but will try to write more often if you have to stay there which I do hope will not be for long. The girls all send love to yourself and bay Ruth. Give my love to ____ and tell her kind words of sympathy Asahel and Family are still in Chicago which makes it still more lonely than if they were home. I have one of Nellie's boys with me and Anna is still with me but as there has been no provision made for the Children as yet I do not know how long I will be able to keep some kind of help for the present. Well I hope you will write to to me occasionally and I will try to write whenever I can get time with much love to yourself and dear little Ruth I am as every your loving Mother Emma Woodruff

[no letterhead]

S.L. City March 14th 1907

My dear Daughter Avery I have tryed for months to write to you I receive your very welcome letter a long time ago but I always have so much to do that I cannot do anything that can be put of. I wish that you were here to help me about the children Mrs. Winters and Anna Rosenkilde are determined to take the Children from me and live in Owens house and I think if you were here to assert your rights that it would be a good thing for I dont want to give the Children up but I have talked to President Smith about it and I shall abide by his decision abut if they take the Children I shall not stay here I will rent my house and get me a small place in the City when are you coming north I hope you will at least come and made me a good long visit I will not be tormented with Anna whatever happens for the has been so insolent to me this winter that cannot put up with her any longer only until Mr Grant gets home when we will have this thing settled Well I hope I shall see you before a great while how is dear little Ruth I want to say lots of things to you which I cannot write.

With much love to yourself and Ruthie
I am as ever your
friend and Mother
Emma Woodruff

“I cannot understand why our bright joyous lovely Helen should be called home in the bloom of her life, but we feel that there is a greater work for her in another sphere” Susie Winters Bennion