

My 13.09.98.

Dear relatives!

I. Borglind and I really enjoy meeting all of you this Sunday afternoon. Thank you so much for inviting us to this wonderful party and meeting with the family Erickson, or should we say the family Kjelvik in Minnesota. The rest of (his) our family is in old Norway that Tom or Tellei left in 1910.

We have had a wonderful and interesting time these 14 days we have been here in <sup>Northfield</sup> Minneapolis. I just wish to tell you some of

we have been there before Berit og Ingvald! I will tell them that. We have been in several of your homes - I can't mention everybody. Some of you have take us with to restaurants and buffet. We have visited Edits and Tom and Gunnulids graves at the National Cemetery. I have never seen a graveyard like this. Enormous with hundreds of thousands of graves.

Above all I will never forget our trip to Effie. Now I have visited Effie,

5.

When they visited Norway in 1972 together with Margarete and Alfred. We saw the house on the farm, the river, the farms across the river owned by people with Norwegian background. There must have been between the wars a Norwegian community there. And the landscape reminds us of Norway. David Allen thank you for bringing us to Effie and the same to Fran and Allen for all you

of his sisters and brothers, I suppose, that when Tom went down the field, coming down to where the forest begin, he turned round waving the hat with his hand. <sup>He came back for the first time in 40</sup> America was the promised land to many Norwegians at that time. Norway was in fact a poor country. But although there was so many children at Kjelvik, <sup>they did not starve</sup> they do had enough food.

In 1911 Sigrid was born. The only still living ~~the~~

rich experiences we have had. I can't mention all of it in a short speech.

Dorothy and Harvey have taken care of us in a very good way. In the guest-room here we have relaxed between ~~our many~~ <sup>the many</sup> trips we have had to a lot of places.

We have visited Capitol, National historic museum and library and archive, Lutheran Seminary, ~~where~~ <sup>office</sup> David Allen is working. We have been to ~~Ariz~~ <sup>Ariz</sup>-Wisconsin, we have been out shopping at Mall of America. What a shopping or store-center. I am a bit proud of that

seen the little church, grave-stones with norwegian names I could imagine when Gunnild and Tom went to church there. There their kids were baptised and confirmed. We also visited the ~~Swedish~~ church at Effie where Fran and Allen and Edith and Ljal were married. And so the farm. Tom took homestead in 1916. He was in France in World war 1. In 1921 he was married to Gunnild. Gunnild was a real good wife to Tom and a wonderful mother. I met her once

6.  
I. A little about Tom. He left Norway in 1910. A cousin of his - Olav Lind - invited him to come. Kjevelike was a very small farm. They have told me that the last summer he was in Norway, he carried hay on his back, that was no future, <sup>he thought</sup> and he decided to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

They were twelve sisters and brothers at Kjevelike. Tom was the oldest, my father next to the youngest. He

7.  
his mother that the twelve was born, he wrote back to his mother and father: Does it never end? I would never have told him that if I knew his reaction, she then said.

Oh, but Tom was popular in our family. Remind, every year before Christmas he sent letters to his parents, sisters and brothers in Norway. And to some of them I think

9.  
came over to America, lost  
contact with their family  
in Norway. <sup>They finished writing.</sup>

My father told me that  
Tom had decided to sell  
the farm and go back to  
Norway when he came  
home from France, but  
he said: Then I met  
Cunulild! And I am con-  
vinced that Cunulild was  
a gift from God to Tom.  
At Laray and Gamine I saw  
a picture from the old,  
to small house in which

Olefs. And I found much  
interesting material there.  
I have got a lot of books  
so I don't hardly know  
how to get them with  
me back to Norway. Well,  
I think, there will be a  
solution on that problem.

Now we have visited  
you, next time if you have  
visit us in Norway. We  
can't ~~give you~~ <sup>do so much</sup> for you as  
you have done for us. But  
we will do our best!  
You know both Berith and  
Ingvar and Borglild and  
I wish you welcome to

10  
they lived with Edith, Allen,  
Harvey. The kids, together with  
Borghild and Tom standing  
outside the house. What  
an interesting picture!

III I am an archivist and  
historian working at Norwegian  
Lutheran Mission in Oslo.  
In addition to visit you, I  
came over to America to give  
some lectures at two theologi-  
cal seminaries here in  
Minnesota, one at Medicine  
Lake and the other at Fergus  
Falls. I also have done  
some research at St

12  
our country, to Norway and  
to Ege where our <sup>cousins</sup> roots  
are!

On Monday we will  
leave for Fergus Falls. Fran  
and Allen will take us to  
St. Cloud. There Jo Ann, Will-  
more Bundersens wife will  
meet us and we will stay  
at Bundersens for two weeks.  
Borghild and Jo Ann are second  
cousins. And I know Willmore  
pretty good. They speak nor-  
wegian, so that will be good  
for Borghild. But although  
she doesn't speak English she  
has enjoyed the fellowship

13.  
with you. Well, perhaps  
she understands more than  
she will admit. I think  
so.

Finally.

I would like to ~~remind~~ <sup>remind</sup>  
you of a vers from the Bible  
Jesus says: "For God so loved the  
world that he gave his only  
begotten Son, that whoever  
believes in Him should not  
perish but have everlasting  
life."

That is Gospel! Believe  
in Christ. He enriches our lives  
and he gives us eternal life