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## Anders Lian papers : Mss CC Box 1, Folder 3.

Hagen family; Lian, Anders

[s.l.]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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### Biography of Anders Lian/Andrew Lee

Anders Lian, nephew of Elling Andersen Sende, departed from Trondheim, Norway in April of 1890 on the steamship "Hero". He travelled from Hull, England to Liverpool by rail. On April 25, 1890, Anders travelled from Liverpool to New York, via Chrocton, Ireland, on the ship "Arizona". Upon his arrival on May 6, 1890, he travelled by rail, via Sault Ste. Marie, arriving in Eau Claire on May 9, 1890. He initially lived with his Uncle Elling at 725 Water St. until he went to work in the lumber camps that September. By January of 1891, Anders began referring to himself as Andrew Lee. Besides working in the sawmills and lumber camps, Andrew spent some time, beginning in 1891, working on a farm in North Dakota and for the railroad in Montana. A month before the war ended, in July of 1898, Andrew enlisted in the Spanish-American War, drilling near Minneapolis. By the year's end, Andrew was in Augusta, Georgia for training. By the end of 1899, he had been discharged and was back in Wisconsin, working in the lumber camps.

Translations of Anders Lian/Andrew Lee Letters - letters are from Eau Claire  
unless otherwise noted

Apr 22, 1890 (Liverpool, Eng)  
May 10, 1890  
May 26, 1890  
July 4, 1890  
Sept 20, 1890  
Oct 3, 1890  
Nov 9, 1890  
Dec 7, 1890 (Sawyer County)  
Jan 18, 1891 (Sawyer County)  
Jan 24, 1891 (Hayward, WI)  
Feb 1, 1891  
May 3, 1891  
June 20, 1891  
July 26, 1891  
Aug 31, 1891  
Oct 3, 1891 (typed on the same page as Oct 14, 1892)  
Nov 1, 1891 (Hayward, WI)  
Dec 25, 1891 (Hayward, WI)  
Apr 12, 1892  
June 20, 1892  
Oct 14, 1892  
Feb 14, 1893 (Foxboro)  
Apr 17, 1893  
Sept 17, 1893 (Grafton, ND)  
Oct 22, 1893 (Hayward, WI)  
Dec 3, 1893 (Hayward, WI)  
Feb 19, 1894  
July 1, 1894  
Aug 29, 1894  
Nov 4, 1894 (Hayward, WI)  
Nov 18, 1894 (Hayward, WI)  
Mar 8, 1895  
July 19, 1895  
Jan 26, 1896 (Glen Flora, WI)  
May 25, 1896  
Aug 21, 1896  
late 1896  
Dec 12, 1896 (Drummond, WI)  
June 5, 1898 (Drummond, WI)  
July 12, 1898 (St. Paul, MN)  
July 24, 1898 (Hamline, MN)  
July 29, 1898 (Hamline, MN)  
Aug 12, 1898 (St. Paul, MN)

Translations of Anders Lian/Andrew Lee Letters - letters are from Eau Claire  
unless otherwise noted

Oct 20, 1898 (Minneapolis, MN)  
Dec 2, 1898 (Augusta, GA)  
Dec 27, 1898 (Augusta, GA)  
Jan 18, 1899 (Augusta, GA)  
first half of 1899 (Augusta, GA)  
Dec 13, 1899 (Phillips, WI)

From Anders Lian to his parents in Vaerdalen

Liverpool 22/4/90

I have now seen something you have not seen, and which most likely you will not. I arrived in Trondhjem about 5:00. I went sightseeing a little - visited Kristiansten Fortress which is only ruins; but it still appears to have been a gigantic task to have implemented its building. I also visited the cathedral. That is something to see of course; it is worth traveling just to Trondhjem.

Thursday about noon the steamship "Hero" left Trondhjem; it is just a little, if I can say "cattle boat", the provisions on board were terribly poor. The coffee was undrinkable; the treatment was tolerably good, but so cramped for room, between three and four hundred passengers on board. I was reasonably well the whole way. Saturday was the worst but no crabmeat have I given yet. Many were very sick. England came into view Sunday afternoon, there were many ships to be seen. I was reminded of "By England's shore where the proud ships go..." etc. About 8:00 in the evening the ship docks. We stay on the ship overnight. Monday morning someone comes and hollers "Get off!" We take our bags and bedclothes and go down. The custom official shows up and everyone must open his food box and traveling bags for him. Do you have tobacco? Do you have snus? Do you have cigars? They are the questions. Likewise about hard liquor. A person is allowed to take other things and as much as he wants. Now comes the chest and it undergoes the same inspection. Unbeleiveable mass of people. A boat came from Göteborg, Sweden with 1100 passengers. Suddenly someone comes and calls "Star Line follow this way." Likewise for the other lines, and we follow him first to a refreshment place where we receive a little to eat and then on to a ticket office where we get a railroad ticket from Hull to Liverpool. Extreme crowding, all nationalities. Now we go into the train compartment, eight in every compartment, and now we have amusement such as I have never seen the likes of. In Hull I saw nothing but apple and soda pop venders all over. Yes, now we are having fun. England seems to be like a city overall. It is about six hours from Hull to Liverpool and when we come to Liverpool we get out of the train and stand around a little while. Then the agents come and call for their own. When we hear "Star Line" we go along for a long distance up through the city where there is a hotel. A tremendous mass of people - all nation's jews and mohammedans? Now we get a little food, but not all of us get bed room. We must go yet a long stretch up through the city and get quite a comfortable bed lodging last night until today. Now we have gone back to the hotel again. It is uncertain if everyone will get to come along over the Atlantic Ocean. How unpleasant it must be to stay here for a long time. I have not seen one wooden house since I set foot in England. Just stone houses, for the most part brick houses.

Anders Lian

(From Anders Lian)

Eau Claire 10 mai 90

Dear parents and brother!

I am now standing on America's freeborn earth! but hutetu!\* The trip was long and difficult. I assume you have received my letter from Liverpool.

It did not go as I supposed as when we came to Liverpool the day before we were supposed to leave on the Star Line's ship Britanica, No, that was overfilled; about 400 people had waited eight days in Liverpool, and so of course they had to go first together with some english men who had priority. We then were assigned to stay in Liverpool for eight days. Eight days in this unattractive city. Yes, what could we do? Liverpool is an exceedingly dark town with huge factories all over. You can believe there was much ill will toward the agents. However, we consoled ourselves that as long as we'd be going on the Majestic, it would be allright after all, as it is one of the best ships which goes over the Atlantic Ocean.

Yes, we got to look around in Liverpool, it is a horrid life in the dark narrow streets, the worst is to see all the ragged, half-naked dirty children who roam around in the strets and steal tobacco. They want to have tobacco, you understand. Now it was the twenty-first when we came to Liverpool and were designated to stay there for eight days; we were also hardly satisfied that we would get to go on a good ship.

But what happens: the twenty-fourth of April we hear that we are going to be put on the Guion Line's ship, the Arizona. Now you can believe there was commotion and noise: "I have a ticket with the Star Line and I want to go on the Star Line.!" Many were so angry that they could have torn the agents to pieces; a group of Swedes protested against going on the Arizona and remained in the hotel and waited for the Majestic. The Norwegians went with the Arizona.

On the twenty-fifth we were led on board the Arizona. the greatly embittered agent doesn't dare come on board. On the twenty-sixth at 8:00 we get the tickets. About 2:00 in the afternoon the ship leaves Liverpool and arrives in Chrocston, Ireland about 6:00 a.m. the twenty-seventh of April. A whole mass of Irish people come on board here; many fruit sellers come on board and sell their wares at a high price. About 2:00 a.m. the ship leaves Chrocston and steams out into the Atlantic Ocean. By 8:00 p.m. Ireland disappears from view. I begin to get seasick.

We didn't have it very comfortable on board. The Star Line people were shoved down into a dark room in the foredeck next to Irish, Germans, Polish, Russians, Finns, Jews and yet others. You can believe they were not very clean people. The lice crawled back and forth on them and also other crawling creatures. It was fortunate there were twenty Norwegians together in the same section.

The food was pretty bad. I didn't taste coffee or tea. For breakfast was bread and coffee, for dinner rotten meat, potatoes and meatsoup; evening bread and tea. For my part I would have starved to death if I had not had food with me from home. At the same time I must say that it all went well; I was healthy except for the first two days but it was lonesome; poor drinking water. One day was the same as another until the 5th of May when in the evening we saw land. On the 6th the ship docked and we went on land. Now there was inspection with the chests which were opened and investigated and we were "checked", that is to say, a person fastens a little brass plate on available space on the chest and the owner gets one just like it.

Now we are again quickly put on a row boat and land at Castle Garden. Here you can believe there were regulations and crowding. We walked down steps and steps (carrying our hand suitcases and bedding which a person cannot let go of), and we come to the ticket office; here the tickets are delivered and we get a proof-of-purchase instead. Terrible press. I have to go a long ways through the city (to the main office) and get my railroad ticket; my comrades get theirs in Castle Garden. Now again this predictable monkey business of having a new "check" on our chests. When this is finished we go again in a rowboat and are taken to the railroad station. But what happens here. Yes, my ticket is with another railroad than my comrades. I am taken on another rowboat and assemble with all kinds of unfamiliar people. Now we go with rowboats a long distance past the steamship dock and come to the railroad station. We go into the train compartment and then in a whizzing hurry go through a long tunnel to begin with. We travel the whole night of the 7th of May, and about 9:00 we change trains and go further to Ogdensburg (New York) where we get off. Are quickly put into rowboats over a flooded area (the St. Lawrence River !) and get on the train on the other side. It was then about 3:00 in the afternoon. At 6:00 we changed trains and again and now continue the trip the whole night. The 8th of May we continue until we come to Sault Ste. Marie. Here we must get off and change tickets and continue the trip on the same train.

But here at Sault Ste. Marie I am unfortunate. Next to the ticket office is a store where I go in and buy myself a loaf of bread for twenty cents. I deliver a five dollar and receive the correct change again (four dollars and eighty cents), stick it in my coin purse in my pants pocket, take my baggage and go into the train car. Here I find my coin purse and money are gone. Somebody has, I dare say, had their fingers in my pocket. I can do nothing. I am, and will be, penniless.

Erling said that I was certainly not the first nor the last who had experienced this fate. Luckily I had my ticket and check in my pocketbook. Yes, now we continued the whole night until the morning of the 9th of May where we change trains at Cameron and now it isn't far to Eau Claire. It was not very pretty through Canada. I guess I would have seen more if I had been so lucky as to go by way of Chicago.

Now I come to the station "Eau Claire", but I stand here and don't know where I shall go. Nobody had expected me now when I came on the Guion Line. The agent heard that I was not home.

Now you shall hear: Ten minutes after I got off the train, the train from Chicago came with several of those I was separated from in New York. I stand here quite bewildered.. I meet both Norwegians and Swedes at the station but they don't know where Elling Sende is. However, I meet one who is from Hestegrei i Vaerdalen, who invites me to go with him. I leave all my baggage at the station. We go through the city, up the street and down the street and come to Water St. 725 and I go in. The first one I meet is Guruanna and she tells me that they did not expect me yet. The agent had said I certainly wouldn't be coming before Monday, which would have been correct if I had not gone on the Guion Line.

Karl and Elling are sawmillers. They come home for dinner and I meet them. They have three boarders at the house, one of them is Ole Jermstad.

I will not write any more or judge anything yet. I guess I will have work at the sawmill. This is now a short version of my story since I left home, and you can see I am indeed safe at my destination. It is not very warm here yet. It is good to come a little early as the warm weather gets powerful. It goes without saying that I will write a little more about my stay here when I have gotten more into the activity here and begin to work.

Be now greeted from me.

Anders Lian

\* A common Norwegian declarative phrase meaning something similar to "Oh dear." It comes from the old folk tales and in the original is "Hutte-tutte-tu."



(From Anders Lian)

Eau Claire 26 May 1890

Dear Parents!

I have now toiled for ten days in a sawmill in this city; it was rather heavy and slow-going work to begin with. Now it goes well, although I have some very heavy work to do. It consists in sorting and removing slabs of ends and boardedges from the circle-saws. There are four mills in this neighborhood, as well as about twenty in and around the city. Each mill employs hundreds of workers. There is one mill seven miles outside the city which employs 700 workers. Elling and Karl work at a different mill than I (do). I have room and board with Elling. There are three others besides I who have room and board there, among them Ole Jermstad,\* who works at the same mill as I. It was not that hard to get work either, even if it is difficult for a newcomer. It would have been better if I had been here when the mills started working. I have thirty-six dollars a month, without paying for board and room.

I suppose you would like to know how Elling and Guruanna live here. I can only say there was no exaggeration in what Ole Eskildsen once wrote. In addition to the house which is fine and spacious, there is so much luxury and finery that I won't bother to write about it.

The livestock consists of one cow.

Anna and her husband have bought a house on the other side of the street. Guruanna does not do anything except weave rugs, which she does continually; she has a maid who is from Roa in Vuku to manage the housekeeping.

Gustav had hurt his hand a couple of days before I came here. He had worked in a shingle mill and tangled with a circle-saw and cut off two fingers; he is quite allright now again.

You can greet Anius Aasen and tell him he was right when he told me that I would at least have to explain the situation in Norway to Elling. I can say that I have been continually asked about it. "Oh, it would have been fun to take a trip to Norway", is the expression he uses most when I have given him some information.

He attempts to be a little pompous in his use of the language, but mostly he misses.

As far as I have found out it was true what the rumor said about Mikal Snausen. He was sentenced to life in prison, but hopes to be pardoned. I don't know anything else. Guruanna is supposed to have taken it most to heart, she is quite pale and depressed.

I cannot notice any difference in the climate here from that of Norway, but it will be much warmer later in the summer. The drinking water is just as good here as in Norway. I have heard people say it is so much worse here. Yes, I have even heard some of my travelling companions, who had been here before, say that I could not find good water in America. What rubbish! I find no difference.

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p.2.

[26 May 1890]

I have talked with quite a few Norwegians here; one does not need to go far to meet a Norwegian and still less to meet a Scandinavian. Over half of those working in the mills are Norwegian.

[The last portion of letter is missing.]

(From Anders Lian)

Eau Claire 4th July 1890

I received your letter some time ago which you had written the first of June. By the same I see that you are all well. I hope also that these lines find you in the best health.

Concerning myself everything is going well, the only thing which inconveniences me is the terribly warm weather which these days is almost like a plague. Last week it was so warm that The Farenheit thermometer showed over 100 degrees in the shade. There isn't relief night or day and the desire to eat is completely gone.

Whether a person is in the shade or during the night nothing moves so that the sweat just runs completely over one; you can imagine how it is when a person must work as hard as in America. This week is however somewhat cooler.

Today, the 4th, is the American's Independence Day. For that occasion all work is stopped today, and tomorrow we will also be free at the mill. Celebrations began last evening with burning of fireworks in the streets.

This was a sorrowful house Sunday as Gustav drowned in the river down below on the 30th of June. The accident occurred this way: At the same time that Elling and Guruanna went to church, Karl and Gustav went down to the river to bathe. Beyond one of the mills is a raft of boards and planks which were to be floated down the river. Out on one of these they went and Gustav who was an excellent swimmer jumped repeatedly out from one of these, ducked under but came back again. The fourth time he jumped off he disappeared. They immediately sent word to church to get Elling and many gathered to search for him but there was no luck in find him before Monday evening, not far from the accident scene.

The burial was Tuesday - the day after - an enormous number of people followed him to church and the cemetery. Better than I can write about it, you can imagine how sad it has become here at the house. You are herewith receiving the death notice from Elling and Guruanna and are greeted from them.

I didn't have any trouble with the bells, they lay quietly on the bottom of the chest until I here delivered them to Ole Jermstad. Although the police in both Hull and New York looked at my things they didn't see the bells: besides, I don't think I would have been harassed about them anyway. The silver teaspoons I bought in Trondhjem and paid twelve kroner for one-half dozen. The agent was very helpful in buying them and I got some very nice spoons. I will be anxious to hear if M. Sende has gotten his wheelbarrow wheel.

I will have to quit now with many greetings to you all. Greet everyone who is interested in greetings from me and finally be greeted from your son

Anders Lian

As a little illustration of how well we can be informed here in America I can cite what I heard about three weeks concerning a little story about...I cannot believe it is a lie. Elling cawed good when he heard it. Where we heard this story I shall this time forego reporting.

(From Anders Lian, possibly a postscript to another letter)

About Mikal Snausen I have now heard.

He and about thirty others went in broad daylight to the house of the murdered man's home and after first having deliberated for a while in a barn a little ways from the house, they take him with the wife's approval and hang him outside the door of his own house. First they hoist him up and let him hang for a while. Then they take him down and ask him if he would leave the county. He answers that he has done nothing wrong and there is no reason for him to leave. Then they hang him again and after he has been hanging awhile they take him down again and ask him the same question; If he would leave the country. To this he does not answer but just begs God to have mercy on him and recites verses from the Bible, etc.

Then they let him lie in his helpless position while those who hung him sit in the house with his wife drinking coffee. Now they decide to finish him off and hang him for the third time. Then they all go to their own homes. A rumor was spread that the man had hanged himself. Now the law in America is such that a coronor's jury (inquest) is supposed to examine such suspicious causes of death. Mikal was the chairman of this jury which was to examine the case and which came to the conclusion that the man had hanged himself and finally took an oath thereupon. However, one of the youngest children (the wife and oldest son took part in the hanging) had said that somebody had come to the house and hanged papa. Now there was an uproar. Mikal is arrested, escapes and hangs himself and several had to pay large fines. Mikal was sentenced to life in prison. From what I have heard, he was worth several thousands.\*

The murdered man was not supposed to be such a terrible fellow either. Just that he had a few disagreements with his wife, that was all. With the neighbors he was not supposed to have any large score to settle.

\* Mikal Snausen was a brother to Guruanna. However, this account is quite inaccurate, based as it is on rumors. For an accurate account see Norwegian-American Studies, Vol. 29, published by the Norwegian-American Historical Association, 1983. Mikal Snausen, known as Charles Johnson in the U.S.A., served less than five years of his sentence and then was pardoned by the governor. After several years in his old community of Blair, Wisconsin, he moved his family to Campbell, Minnesota where many other families from the area of Vaerdalen Norway had settled. Charles' and Guruanna's youngest sister, Mette Hanson and her family, left Eau Claire at the same time to settle in Campbell.

(From Anders Lian)

Eau Claire 20 Sept. 90

Dear Parents!

Now to be sure it is more than I can understand. I have been waiting and waiting for a letter, but in vain.

I promised that I would write, and that promise I have reasonably tried to keep but then I hoped that you would also write to me.

Everything here is as customarily. I am healthy and doing well.

It is beginning to be quite cold here, during the night it freezes and the dirt freezes in the streets; it becomes dark about 6:00 and is not light before 6:00 in the morning. Day and night are now equally long. Lights are made use of in the mills during the morning.

From what I hear the mills will be in operation until the end of October and that's good.

There is such a demand for working people now that it has been a long time no about since there were so few looking for work.

A stranger barely comes near the mill before the boss is after him and asks if he wants to work. It has been different here before, says the man.

I am sending these lines so that you can see that I am living and have my health.

Greet the old acquaintances from me and lastly be greeted from your son

Anders Lian

No doubt the moose-hunt has now begun and I only wish I could have been home one day so I could also be out after the moose. That would have been fun.

When you write you must give me information about the moose which were taken in the area.

[From Anders Lian)

Eau Claire 3/10 -90

I received your letter a couple days ago, written in September, and am glad to see that you are in good health and for that matter everything is well. Though it is not long ago since I wrote you I am writting again. I remember of course how many admonitions I received about writing and I doubt that I will be hearing complaints about having forgotten, until now anyway?

I am also living, and content as of this date. This summer has gone terribly fast for me. It doesn't seem like many weeks since I came here, and yet, even if it isn't very long, it is, I suppose, a while. I am beginning to be fed up with the mill. Moreover, it is quite monotonous to be a millworker also. The same work day after day and week after week to stand in the same spot; huf! how bored I am! At a little after 5:00 each morning it is to get up and dress, eat and at 6:00 be ready at the mill, at 9:00, ten minutes rest, then work again until 12:00. Now one hour's rest which allows us to go home and eat and then work from 1:00 until 5:00 with ten minutes rest at half past three. Yet i don't think I would like any other work any better.

We have it good here you must believe. A man avoids being troubled too much with graut (cream porridge), sild, (herring), suppe (soup), and such. No, nourishing food it must be. Meat is used for every meal. Flatbread is not made use of, but on the other hand coffee is used instead of soup and milk. No less than two cups coffee for every single meal. For board and room (without laundry) the usual cost here in the city is thirteen dollars per month. At other places they pay much more, fifteen to sixteen dollars.

You say that I must find some other work and not go to the woods, something I would just as soon do if I was willing to work just for my food. If I go to the woods I can at least have one day free (per week ?) and perhaps a little more also. It is my intention to hire myself out for the woods for the same boss for whom I worked at the mill as I have a good reputation with him and therefore will get a little better pay in the woods with him than with any other. Besides, I am acquainted with many now so I don't worry about going. However, you will get better information later.

When you write you must report to me all the news you know.

With this comes many greetings from Elling and his family and finally from me

Andrew Lee  
Pron: Endru Lie

Anders Lian  
725 Vater St.  
Eau Claire  
Wis.  
U.S.A.

Eau Claire 9/11 - 90

Dear Brother!

Yes, now the mill is "skjotta op", that is the way it sounds here, that is to say, that the work at the mill is ended, and I am happy; because so bored I became of the work at the mill that I cannot talk about it and nothing to be wondered at either when it is the same work to carry on for six months. It probably won't be any better in the woods either; but a change must help the appetite here in America also. Well, I at least hope so. Here it is beginning to be quite cold now and a little snow is falling also, otherwise the weather is nice. Eau Claire is a place where a person is quite free from storms and bad weather because it lies so low.

Your letter of 19/10 I have just received; it pleases me to see that you have indeed returned from the war, but that you should have gotten the America fever surprises me. But I hope that you will stay home at least a year for I can tell you that it<sup>is</sup> no sweet milk to be a workingman here.

However, if you really want to come here, your ticket will surely be arranged for. It certainly would not be brotherly of me not to do so, but then you must be prepared to travel about the middle of March and then I would presume that there would be the possibility for work when you arrive. It is my hope that you would stay at home. For my part I say "I am not going to stay in America very long." Moreover, maybe you should consult O. Eskildsen who is coming to Norway on a Christmas visit.

Today I hired myself out for the woods. Either it will be the twenty-fourth or the twenty-sixth of this month depending on the work I will do. It will be for the same boss whom I worked for at the mill, and several people I know will also be along.

I do not have any news, but when you write to me you'll have to scrape together some love stories or engagement reports which would interest me to a high degree. Best wishes and with greetings from your brother

Anders Lian  
725 Vater St.  
Eau Claire  
Visconsin

I shall write home when I have been in the woods for eight days. I am sending some money of which you shall have your share. You must excuse me for not having sent anything before as I had not received my accumulated money until the mill closed.

I assume you have not been in such a bad squeeze either. Money is money nevertheless.

Likewise I am sending with Anna Landfald a photograph of the house here where you will find me and the others who have stayed here this summer.

(From Anders Lian)

Empire Lbr. Co. Camp 2 7 December 90

(Apparently written to his parents but not addressed)

I received your letter a couple days ago and see that you live and have your health.

I am also living and have my health to this point and under the circumstances find myself tolerably well though I certainly will not be praising the state of affairs and life up here in the woods.

You can imagine how it is when 70-80 men of all nationalities are together in one place so that not all comfort conveniences are carefully observed.

Here there is not much difference between Sunday and Monday even though Sunday is not used for work, for then we have to patch and wash, etc.

What I actually will be working at this winter I do not know. Up until now I have been working on the roads, but that will only be as long as it lasts.

We have until now had unusually good weather, just enough snow so that it is white and no more.

I have not had a letter from Eau Claire but I have heard that Elling went to the woods a week and a half ago, likewise Jørgen Hagen.

Concerning money for the Nordenfjelske Tidene I can not say how they were sent as it was Elling who arranged to have them sent but presumeably the money arrived at the newspaper.

I likely will not be writing more letters which will arrive before Christmas, so I will herewith wish you a merry Christmas and a good New Year. For me there will probably not be more to the festive Christmas time than not working on Christmas Day.

I will have to quit then for this time with a greeting to you all and all other acquaintances in the old country.

Best wishes and merry Christmas

Anders Lian

Hubbard p.o.

Empire Lbr. Co.

Sawyer co.

Camp 2

Wisc



[From Anders Lian/Andrew Lee]

Empire Lbr. Co. Camp 2. 18/1 - 91

Dear parents!

For well over a week ago I received a letter from you from which I see that everything is still going well there at home. I can send you the same information back again.

I like it well up here in the woods. Now that is probably mostly due to the unusually good weather we are having up here. No snow and no cold.

Yes, there is too little snow and perhaps because of that we will soon have to go down. I have had quite good and light work this winter. It would be too bad if it didn't last longer.

From what I have heard from Eau Claire the town is crowded with people who have come down from the woods on account of the lack of snow. Well then, I will have to hope for the best.

From your letter I see that you have not understood about my address up here which is:

Hubbard p.o.

Sawyer Co.

Visc. [sic]

Empire Lbr. Co. Camp 2

But then, you really have no need for the address as I get my letters just as well if you address them to Eau Claire, and after this you better not send them to any other address as it is uncertain how much longer I will be a woodsman.

When you write again you will have to try to tell me some news as it would interest me much in my loneliness up here.

Best wishes, and be greeted from me

Andrew Lee  
725 Vater str.  
Eau Claire  
Wisc.

[From Anders Lian/Andrew Lee]

Empire Lbr. Co. Camp 2. 24/1 -91

Dear brother!

Just this week I received a letter from you whereby I am glad to see that up to the present everything is well with you.

Even though I have little to write about I will nevertheless send you some lines so you there at home can see that I up to the present have been living well and have my health.

As you can understand, we who live up here are beyond the boundaries of society for half the year, so sometimes the time is long also, but then we have to take it a day at a time.

You ask me what kind of work I am doing, but that is almost more than I can tell, because the work here in the woods is so different from what it was in Norway. Enough to say that it is hard work with long days. We eat in the morning about 5:00 and go out at 5:30, eat dinner at 12:00 and work again until about 5:30; and as the days become longer until 6:00 and later. That becomes a long day as you can understand.

I am wondering if you cannot soon write my name Andrew Lee on the letters to me as I otherwise have trouble getting the letters as no one knows me here as Anders Lian. I hope you will correct that next time.

Herewith I must quit with a friendly greeting to you and all there at home.

Andrew Lee  
Hayward  
Wis. Empire Lbr Co Camp 2

You can address the letters here to the camp if you send some before the 15th of March.

[From Anders Lian/Andrew Lee]

E. Lbr. Camp 1/2 - 91

Dear brother!

After having waited quite long I finally received a letter from you some days ago. To receive letters is the only diversion a person has up here in the woods; the one day goes exactly as the others. So I see that everything is going well there at home ~~for~~ which is the happiest thing for me to learn. I can bring the same information back to you. I am well most of the time.

From your letter I see that you have decided not to go to America this year. First of all, I will say that I almost thank you, not because I finally can say that it would be really disadvantageous for you to come here, but because I think it would be terrible if we both should leave father and mother. Moreover, I will say that I am not going to remain in America long either. There will always be time for you to come here after I have returned, if we live then, we should note.

Now then, I ought to tell you how it looks here in "the Camp" as people call it.

There is first a rather large long building with bunks to lie in on two levels on both sides [of the room] and in between a large stove in the middle. There we stay mostly during the evenings and Sundays.

Then there is a large "cook shanty", as it is called, where the food is prepared and where we eat. A horn is blown for every time that we are to come in and eat.

In addition there is an office where the boss is, a smith, and many buildings in which to keep the horses, oxen and pigs.

Concerning oxen there must be 50-60 strong and 14-16 horses besides those which bring food and fodder up here from the station. Four horses are used for every load, but then you must believe that they make huge loads!

With this I will quit for this time with many greetings from me, your brother

Best wishes!

Andrew Lee  
725 Vater str.  
Eau Claire  
Wisc

As I do not know how long I will be up here you'd better address my letters to Eau Claire.

[From Anders Lian/Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 3/5 [1891 ?]

Dear brother!

It's over two weeks ago since I received your letter and see by it that you are well and in good health. The same information I can send back to you. As you well know I came down from the woods the last of March, so then I just laid around and didn't find make any arrangements for about a month. Now I have been working a week at the sawmill. I have quite nice and easy work this winter and this summer, and like it quite well besides. But the work hours are too long, because to work 11 whole hours a day with one hour's rest (for dinner) that is too demanding. Well, I think probably it will go allright this summer anyway as long as I got light work, but it was just a bit of good luck that I got that also.

Then you write that you don't think you want to come to America. Though I can say that I like it better here than I had imagined while I was in Norway, I do not want to advise you to come here because people meet up with so many different situations. Some thrive, some not, others become sick and others are harmed in different ways. I have been lucky to not have been exposed to any of this, but it can happen to anyone.

Wages are not so bad, especially during the winter - one dollar a day is usual and more, up to \$30.00 and \$32.00 a month (one month is 26 working days) and more for good and experienced workers. During the summer it is almost worse, for the usual common-laborer at the mills gets an average of \$36.00 a month (26 working days but then when he has to pay \$13.00 [for board and room] and also for laundry up to \$1.00 a month, the wages aren't so great. This is for general common millworkers here in the city. Moreover, a person could earn better at other work, such as on the railroad and different other [kinds of] work.

So you will have to consider exactly as you will. If you come, then I will help you as best I can, but I would rather that you didn't come.

We are having good weather. The fields and trees are beginning to green, but I suppose the hot weather will soon plague us.

I'd better quit now with many greetings to you. Greet the old friends and lastly you are greeted from me.

Andrew Lee

Write back right away.

[From Anders Lian/Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 20/6 - 91

[Apparently meant to be addressed to his parents]

You will have to excuse me; it is now quite a long time since I wrote. Besides, it is boring to write when one has nothing to write about. But then I'd better send a few lines so that you can see that I am living and have health.

It is the same harping at the mill this summer as last year, though I have quite light and good work, so I could not have better work, but so boring. For me the wages are the same as last year - \$36.00 per month.

If I have not written about it before which I do not remember so exactly, I have received the [knitted] stockings and gloves which Anna Landfald brought along for which I convey you my thanks. Anna has started to hold school again. One of the girls who came with her from Moen works here at Elling's and she is getting along quite well.

I had a letter from John Fikse this week. He works for a Norwegian painting contractor in Duluth. Otherwise he says nothing further, neither good nor bad about America. He complains about all the changes a person must put up with here in this country. One must say he is learning to speak, to clothe oneself, to eat, etc. Yes, he is not even able to keep his name. He has to call himself John Johnson because "fikse" is a word one uses here instead of, for example, "to repair" and so he wouldn't always want to be along.

I have nothing further to write about for this time.

Herewith a greeting from me.

Andrew Lee

[From Anders Lian/Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 26/7 - 91

Dear brother!

In the belief that you are home again from Sweden in order to drill [militarily] , I am sending you a few lines.

I can draw your attention to the fact that I have not received an answer to a letter which I wrote to you early this summer.

It is as usual with me, drudgery from morning to night, sweating and lonesomeness. This is something you can take into consideration when you consider coming to America.

Here in town the times are quite bad. \$36.00 a month is usual hire for common work, and I will say that either I am going back to Norway soon, or find myself a better place than Eau Claire.

When you write to me may it be that you tell me about soon having put ideas about coming here out of your head.

The weather has not been as warm this summer as last summer.

According to all indications, the farmers will have a good year because of ample rains at the right time.

Many people are now going to Dacota and Minnesota where there is plenty of work to get with the harvesting, which begins at this time with the grain. I will stay where I am; I have such little desire for farmwork.

I have had a letter from John Fikse. He doesn't sound too bad.

The Fourth - of July, which is the American's independence day (as the 17th of May in Norway) is celebrated here in a very magnificent way. All work is suspended for the day; some friends and I took a trip to Chippewa Falls which lies 13 English miles from here.

You may greet Beret Marta Moen from me and ask her if she would be so kind as to write to me. I wrote to her immediately after I came down from the woods without yet having received an answer.

With that, greetings from me.

Good-bye!

Andrew Lee

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 31 Aug. 1891

Dear parents!

It is quite a long time now since I last wrote to you, but it is longer since I received a letter from you. Hope that you excuse me. Nevertheless, it appears to me rather strange that I have not heard anything from you lately, either you have not written to me or else I have not received the letters; one or the other. Now I will send you some lines so you can see that I live and have my health. There is nothing new here. Everything is about the same as before.

I wonder if Jakob has completely forgotten me, as I do not hear anything from him either.

Herewith I end with many greetings to you all.

Good-bye!

Andrew Lee

[From Andrew Lee]

1/11 - 91

Dear parents!

After I again fortunately have come up into the "blessed" woods, I am going to send you some lines so that you see I find myself up to now amongst the living. I have now been up here one week and I cannot other than to say that I so far find myself well; although in the beginning it is a little hard to accustom oneself to this "pig's life" which a person could call it up here compared to what one has in town.

Nevertheless I hope there will come a day of declaration.

Anyway times were good for lumber camp workers this fall as it was difficult to find people. The hiring varied from \$28.00 - \$40.00 per month for common work and that a person cannot call the worst.

I am in the same camp this winter as formerly, but the address is a little different.

As I have nothing else to write about now I will finish with a greeting to you and my acquaintances.

Good-by!  
Andrew Lee  
Hayward  
Sawyer co. Vis.  
Empire Lbr. co., Camp 2



[From Andrew Lee]

25/12 - 91

[From Andrew Lee]

25/12 - 91

Dear parents!

I must today send a few lines again so that you can know that I am living at this time and have my health. It is quite a long time since I have had any letters from you. I have not received any letters in over two months.

Although it is now Christmas, here there is no difference between Christmas and any other day other than we are not working. I have no news to tell. In a letter I had from Eau Claire I heard that Elling had gone to the woods three weeks ago.

Well, I better now finish with the wish that you have a happy Christmas and that you must have a good new year.

Greet the old acquaintances from me and finally you yourselves are sent the best greetings from me

Andrew Lee  
Hayward  
Wis.

Empire Lbr. co. Camp 2

[From Anders Lian/Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 12. April [presumably 1892]

Dear parents!

Now I am again in Eau Claire since two-three days ago when I came down from the woods.

I will likely be working at the sawmill again this summer if I get work. Many are maintaining that we have better times awaiting us and that of course is needed.

I had perhaps better come home and be a railroad bum now that the railroad is going to be built north of the Dovre mountains. How far is it going to go? Through Lexdalen or Røran? [towns on opposite sides of the large Lexdalen Lake near Andrew's home town of Vaerdal.] When are they going to start working?

[The remainder of the letter is missing.]

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 20 june 92

Dear parents!

I must ask your pardon; it is undoubtedly quite a long time since I wrote to you, but now it shall come to pass.

Moreover, for the sake of news, I could certainly let it wait a while yet, but so that you can see that I am living and have my health I am sending some lines. Yes, as said, everything is going well, but it is now beginning to be rather warm - up to 100 degrees F. in the shade. For a working man this is quite warm, as you can understand.

For that matter, it has rained much this summer also - yes, maybe too much. In certain places there has been terrible flooding which alone has caused terrible ruin of properties (the damage has been estimated into hundreds of millions) which has also caused hundreds of peoples' lives. It is particularly the Mississippi River which has caused the damage here in the city and frightened men concerning a flood also, but it passed this time with ~~terror~~ fright.

Anyway, there is hope of it being a good year as it depends upon being enough rain.

A great many "newcommers" have come this spring, more than usual.

Martha Snausen and another from Bjørgan, or where she has been lately I do not know, have come here to the city. They are both in the best of circumstances.

This is about all this time, hereby finally a friendly greeetig from me. You are greeted likewise from Elling and his family.

Andrew Lee  
725 Vater str  
Eau Claire  
Wis

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire Oct. 3rd. 91

Dear Brother

Yes, it cannot be denied that I have waited for a letter from you for a longer time. It is a long time since I wrote, but longer since I've received any letters.

Now I must tell you a little about how I have managed it this summer.

First this summer I worked at the mill until the first of August when it shut down for the summer. Then I went to N. Dakota <sup>U.S.</sup> where I worked about two months.

I shall try to give you a little insight into how people are treated out there on one of N. Dakota's large farms, Dalrymples for example.

[ Remainder of letter is missing.]

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 14-10 - 92

Dear parents!

I must beg your pardon in that it has been quite long since I wrote to you, but I have valid reasons; just yesterday I came home from N. Dakota where I have been for a couple month's time, and so I have not had the opportunity to write or rather to have sent letters in the mail.

On account of a strike amongst the sawmill workers the mills stopped in the middle of the summer and so I went to Dakota. I worked around a little town which is called Grafton, (N. Dakota).

On the way home I stopped a couple days in Minneapolis, Minn. and did some sight-seeing, but didn't meet anyone I know there. In Dakota I worked for one who had a threshing machine and liked it. In a week or so I will be going to the woods again. Concerning news I have nothing worthy mentioning. Everything goes its usual way here also.

The second portrait which I sent you can give to whomever you want if no one wants to have it.

This is all I have to write about now. Greet all my acquaintances and be yourselves greeted from me

Andrew Lee

Today I am sending you some money. You will excuse me for not having sent it before - but better late than never. You better not write before you get my address from the woods.

From Andrew Lee]

Foxboro Vis Feb. 14th [1893]

Dear parents and brother!

I received your letter a week ago and happily see by it that you are living and in good health. I can report the same. I live as usual and at all times

Here it has been an unusual winter with almost no snow, a few logs and just a few cold days. Spring is already beginning to show itself, the sun is already high in the sky during midday.

How long I will be up here I cannot say - perhaps a month or so.

I do not have any news as you can well understand. We live as in a prison and know nothing.

Hereby a greeting.

Andrew Lee

It is best that you send my letters to my old address.

725 Vater st.  
Eau Claire  
Visconsin

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire, Wis., 17 April 1893

Dear parents!

I had better send a few lines so that you can see that I am living and healthy at the present. It is now two weeks since I came down from the woods, but I have not yet begun with any work. Whether I will be working here in town this summer I do not really know yet.

I have no news to give you. Everything is as before. Weather and wind as usual, although quite cold for this season.

With this I must end with a greeting from me.

Greet all my acquaintances.

Andrew Lee  
725 Water str.  
Eau Claire  
Wis

[From Anders Lian]

Grafton N.D. 17 Septem [1893]

Dear Brother!

Now I do not remember exactly when I last wrote to you or when I last received a letter from you. That will have to be as it is, but I'd best tell you what I have been doing lately.

I worked for a time on the railroad in Montana, about 1000 miles west of Minneapolis. Later I traveled back to N. Dakota where I have been working on a Farm not far from Grand Forks. Now I have nothing and will go back to Wisconsin. We are experiencing extremely bad times here in America this year. 1000 working people are unemployed and there is nothing to work at or live from.

Even Dacota [sic] is so crammed that barely half have work. I do not know what kind of work I will be able to get this winter. It will even be bad in the woods also. Anyway the farmers have had a good harvest which possibly will help to straighten out the times.

This is all for this time. I will write as soon as I get to Eau Claire.

Andrew Lee

[From Andrew Lewé]

J. E. Camp 22 October 1893

Dear brother!

Now I am up again in the endless Wisconsin pine woods and struggling - I almost said - for nothing. Here in this promised America the times are now so bad that a man must work almost just for food and still be glad to have something to do. Unfortunately there are a great many who have neither money nor work.

I have been up here now soon three weeks; yesterday evening I had letters from Eau Claire. They say the town is full of people and almost no one is hiring. What shall people do then? I work for the same [company ?] as I have worked for before, but the pay I am not saying anything about.

There are masses of people who are going back to the old country, and not just Norwegians and Scandinavians, but from all of Europe. I saw in a newspaper lately that from New York alone, 70,00 had returned. That certainly is evidence that the times here are bad.

I see constantly in the newspapers about the destructiveness in Vaerdalen and other places.\* Here in America people are contributing money voluntarily to "the destitute" and not quite a little money is coming in.

I have no news which are worth writing down, although I will finally ask you to write back soon. Many times it is so lonesome here, the long winter evenings seem so long. Therefore write back soon. Then there is a little diversion.

Herewith a greeting to you father and mother and others who will accept a greeting from me.

Andrew Lee

Hayward

Vis.

John Englands Camp nr. 2.

\* Reference to a terrible mudslide, including loss of lives, with the greatest damage having been done on Guruanna's ancestral home.

[From Andrew Lee]

John Englands Camp, Hayward Vis. 3 Dec. 93

Dear parents!

I suppose it's been a couple weeks since I had a letter from you and see with joy that you are living and in good health. The same information I am able to return to you. I have my health and am living relatively well. Winter has arrived with all its fury. Here there is comparatively little snow, just 3 - 4 inches, but so cold that a person can harmfully freeze himself. It is therefore, not particularly uplifting to think about 3 - 4 months up here in the cold and snow.

Not so long ago I had letters from Eau Claire. Everything was well there.

Elling is at home and apparently is going to remain at home this winter. Karl on the other hand is up in Minnesota some place. That is about all the news.

I am sending herewith a greeting to you all.

Andrew Lee  
Hayward  
Visconsin

John Englands Camp nr. 1

I must point out that the camp is no. 1.



[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire, Wis., 19 February 1894

Dear Brother!

Now I am again in Eau Claire. I came down from the woods 2 - 3 days ago, somewhat earlier than usual.

I have been healthy all the time and feel good besides. Now it will be a long time of unemployment as I will be unable to get any work before the mills begin [their summer seasonal work].

Moreover, we have hard times here which affect the workingman more than any others. The farmers believe it will be better this summer, others, worse, than it has been. It is not easy to know.

It is still pretty cold; it is almost impossible to get out in the street [referring to wind undoubtedly, to which he was unaccustomed]. Otherwise we have good weather.

Ellings has worked in town this winter and Karl is up in Minnesota in the woods.

That is all the news I find worthwhile putting in a letter.

Finally a greeting to you all.

Your brother  
Andrew Lee  
727 Water str  
Eau Claire  
Wis

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 1 July 1894

Dear parents!

I guess it is now a long time since I wrote to you and I apologize much for my neglect. Now finally on my birthday I will write a few lines and send them in the hope that they find you in the best of health.

I for my part have it as usual, almost no change. The one day is exactly as the others. Besides I have nothing to complain about. I have quite nice work and not the worst wage either.

Overall times are very bad here. Thousands and thousands of workers are unemployed in the country. People say, and that with correctness I suppose, that noone can remember such times and conditions.

There are strikes and conditions here which cost the country millions of dollars. Last week a railroad strike broke out [presumably referring to the Pullman Company in Chicago] and hundreds of the the railroad trains are also standing still.

If you take a trip to Levanger some time will you inquire at Norden Fjells Tidendes office as to why the newspaper is not coming here any longer even though we have paid for it. It stopped coming early this winter.

Well, herewith a greeting to all of you.

Andrew Lee

Write back soon and give me some enlightenment about everything which has happend lately.

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[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 29 August 1894

Dear parents!

After a long wait I received a letter from you last week and with gladness see by it that you are living and have your health. Well, I can return the same information. I am living as usual and have my health, but one day and week go along exactly as the others.

We are having a terribly dry and warm summer. There has been almost no rain in the last 2½ months and when we earlier had an almost southland's warmth, then you can almost imagine how it is - everything is drying up.

The times are still poor and depressing. Thousands of men are without jobs and many suffer from need, even though people are expecting a change for the better. How soon that will come is not good to say.

You ask if I am thinking about coming home soon. Well, I do not know what I should say. If I get a chance for the woods this winter I'd better endure the existence over here yet for a while.

I would like to stay and see if the times will change, and so I cannot say anything about whether I will be coming home soon or later.

As to news, things are as usual. I do not know of anything which would be of interest to you to write about, so I will have to finish with a friendly greeting to you all.

Best wishes.

Andrew Lee  
725 Water str.  
Eau Claire  
Vis

Last time I wrote I asked you to inquire - if you should go to Levanger - why Norden Fjells Tidenes was not being sent here even though we had paid for the paper. As I presumed you had forgotten to mention it when you wrote the last time, you must not forget next time.

[From Andrew Lee]

J. E. Camp 4-11 - [1894]

Dear brother!

Now I find myself again up in North Wisconsin's expansive pine forest. I am not far from the place where I was last winter, only a couple miles from there. But much is different since then on account of a fire which has gone over almost every place up here whereby the woods and old camps are destroyed. Anyway, I am living as usual - have my health and tolerably good appetite.

Here it is raining nearly every day so concerning the weather it is not very pleasant; but we will have to hope that with time it will be better. The first snow came last week. I believe it was the last of October, but today the fields are bare again.

Before I left Eau Claire I met Julius Sende. He came down there to hire out for the woods but he didn't get a chance yet, so he was in Eau Claire when I left there.

He told so many fibs and stories that I had to laugh more at him in an evening than I usually do in months. Likewise I met someone from Dillan who was there for the same reason. He went to the woods in Hayward the same day that I left.

You have my many thanks for the photograph which you sent me. I almost didn't recognize you. If I am living and healthy next summer, I will take a photograph of me and send one to you so that you can have the opportunity to judge which of us has the longer mustache. Mine is quite long now, you can believe.

Finally, you must not forget to write and that immediately. It is so exciting every time a letter arrives.

You must hereby be greeted from me. And greet all the acquaintances from me.

Good-by!

Andrew Lee  
Hayward  
Vis

John Englands Camp nr. 2

[From Andrew Lee]

John Englands camp 18 november 94

Dear parents!

Just last week I received your letter and see to my joy that nearly everyone is living and you have your health. The same....

Winter is already here in full force - taking turns with snow and cold.

As it is not very long since I wrote to Jacob, I have almost nothing to write about now.

I have had letters from Eau Claire. Everything is the same as usual down there. Elling apparently is not going to the woods this winter. Karl works not so far from where I am, only 6-7 miles.

When you write you must tell me a little more about Andreas Snausen, if it is true that he was murdered and how it was.

Herewith a friendly greeting to you all.

Andrew Lee  
Hayward  
Vis

c/o John Englands camp 2

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 8 March [1895]

Dear Brother!

You must indeed excuse me for not having answered your letter before. I just came down from the woods last week.

On account of the warm weather the last week in March many camps quit working for the winter and I with several others got a month's work too little. [He undoubtedly meant February based on the date of the letter, and also because the season usually lasted through March.]

Well then, therefore no disagreeable memories. So you ask then: Why don't you make a trip home?

Because I want to wait until I see if there won't be better times.

Yes, you must not believe that a working man can earn much money here in America at the present time. Whether you believe me or not, what I earn is barely enough to live on.

If I am not wrong, the indications are that I will be working at the sawmill this summer also.

Karl came down from the woods this week. He had broken his one leg between the hip and the knee, so he will be unable to work for several months.

I have nothing further to write about this time.

A friendly greeting

Andrew Lee  
725 Vater str  
Eau Claire  
Vis

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 19 July 1895

Dear brother!

I will now again write you some lines even though I do not exactly remember when I last received a letter from you. So now then, I hope you will bear me in mind with some lines when you have time.

It [the summer] is so far along that the 4th of July or America's independence day is over as across the entire country the celebration is on quite a magnificent scale.

I, Elling, Karl, and Jørgen Hagen traveled down to Purce [sic] county and made a big visit. As you know, Elling Moan, O. Eskildsen, the Reitan people, Wangstad and many others live there, also Jakob Olsen. We went by way of Red Wing [sic], Minnesota which is quite a fine city, where in the last year they built a bridge over the Mississippi River at a cost of \$70,000 and which is so high that the steamboats can easily go under it.

Elling Moan met us there in Red Wing with transport. They live about ten miles from town. Here is the finest and best farming land I have yet seen and the growth is so good that I have hardly seen it better.

Elling and Ole's farms lie next to each other whereas Reitans and Wangstads lie about 3-4 miles from there. They all appear to be doing well.

Here in Eau Claire everything goes its usual way. The sawmills clatter and groan every single day.

Moreover, times are gradually becoming a little better now. Over the whole country the year's forecast appears to be promising.

Now finally I want to give you an exhortation. Write immediately when you receive this letter and tell me some news.

With that a greeting from me.

Andrew Lee  
725 Water str  
Eau Claire  
Vis

Coles Camp Glen Flora Wis 26 January 1896

Dear parents and brother.

I greatly apologize that it has been so long since I wrote to you again, but as the saying goes "better late than never" so I am writing now. As I do not remember having written since I came up here then I must tell you that this winter I am in the woods and have already been here two months. Time goes so terribly fast here in America. It seems like not more than two weeks since I came up here.

I am at quite a different place this winter than I have been before. It is in Chippewa co - about 100 miles (english) from Eau Claire.

It was difficult to get a chance of getting to the woods last fall and then I did get to go up for the company which I usually work for during the summer. If that had not been the case, I probably would have been loafing around town.

We have had good weather this winter, not very cold and only 9-10 inches of snow so no one can complain on that account. Besides we have it good with food and drink and a good camp ... [indecipherable] hale and hearty at all times.

I don't know of any news this time. We are somewhat a little north of the sun and west of the moon\* to know about anything.

Finally with this a greeting to you all. Write back immediately.

Andrew Lee  
Glen Flora Chippewa co Wis  
N. Coles camp

\* A play on words - contrasted to the idyllic location "south of the sun and east of the moon" as found in the old Norse folk tales.



[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 25 May 96

Dear Brother!

This time I am addressing my letter to you and see if I shouldn't get some lines from you also.

I received a letter from home last week and see to my joy that everything is well. And that I can say in return - that I am living like a hen in a bushel of grain.

I am working at the mill now again, but am so terribly tired of the whole place that I believe I am going to leave here this summer again. Also, we will soon be getting nothing for it either as the day wages have been reduced three years in a row.

Elling has become a farmer now. He bought himself a farm about seven miles from here and four miles from Elk Mound. Karl is also out there. I stay now at Anna's.

And then we have the presidential election this summer or more correctly, in the fall, but preparations are now almost in place.

There are four parties in the field: Republican, Democratic, Peoples or the folk party, Prohibition or abstinence party. All of them promote presidential candidates and others, for example, for Congressmen and Governor, etc.

The Prohibition Party held its State Convention here in Eau Claire a couple weeks ago. I had the opportunity to hear St. John, the ex-governor of Kansas give a speech. Also Mrs. Gangar from Indiana. She is the best speaker I have ever heard. A farmer there said, "That was a terrific woman" and I agree with him in that. She spoke for 2½ hours on the theme: "Give us work or bread." Over 3,000 listened to her speech.

I have no real news which I can put in print.

When you write back, which I hope you will do soon, you must tell me about this moose shooting contest over in Leksdaalen.

Herewith a greeting.

Andrew Lee  
725 Water Str  
Eau Claire  
Vis

[From Andrew Lee]

Eau Claire 21 August 1896

Dear parents.

Well, now I must surely write. It is a long time since I wrote so I'd better ask your pardon.

It is now a long time since I stopped working - about three weeks - and now it definitely looks as if there shall not be anything more to do either.

The mills and factories are closing and people are becoming unemployed every day.

You probably know that there is a presidential election this fall and the campaign is now underway.

There are about six candidates up for president this fall, but actually the battle is between the Republican's candidate, McKinley, and the Democrat's Wm. J. Bryan. Bryan represents silver and McKinley gold.

There are endless speakers here. Knut Nelson from Minnesota spoke here last week. He is a man of whom we Norwegians over here can be proud.

Bryan, the Democrat's candidate is one of the country's best speakers. A speech that he gave at the Nation Convention resulted in his being nominated.

I was on a trip to Minneapolis for an exhibition which was held there. Amongst the people I met there I can name Julius Sende, Lina and Hans Svedjan. They were all in the best of health.

At the moment I don't remember anything more that I could write about.

With greetings.

Andrew Lee  
725 Vater str  
Eau Claire  
Vis

[From Andrew Lee, with first portion missing, probably written in late 1896.]

Tomorrow I am going to the woods for a man for whom I have worked before. Times are a little better now for lumberjacks who are paid from \$20.00-\$26.00 per month.

Now I hope you will write quite soon and then I will do the same.

Andrew Lee  
725 Vater st.  
Eau Claire

[We do not have any letters for 1897 as the relative in Norway who sent the others was of the opinion that there was nothing of consequence in them.]

[From Andrew Lee]

Brown camp 12 December 1896

[Apparently written to his parents]

I received your letter yesterday evening and see....

This winter I am working in the woods for a large company in Drummond, about 150 miles from Eau Claire.

The wages in the woods are not much more than half of what they were before.

If the times do not become better, I'd better see if I can't scrape together enough money to get myself over the Atlantic ocean. Here in America it will soon not be possible to live any longer. In every little town around here are hundreds of men who cannot find work.

You must excuse me for writing with a pencil as I do not have pen and ink on hand.

You can send my letters to Eau Claire as it is uncertain how long I will remain here.

As this letter very probably will not arrive before Christmas, I am sending you a Christmas greeting anyway.

Andrew Lee  
Drummond  
Vis  
Brown Camp

[From Andrew Lee]

Drummond Wis 5 June [1898]

Dear brother

It is now quite a long time since I received your letter which I have not yet answered but I hope you forgive me, too late is I suppose better than never. I am still managing up here in Drummond but I dislike the place so much that it is my determination not to be here longer than at the most the 4th of July and maybe I will leave here immediately for all that.

It rains up here almost incessantly so the prospects for a good harvest this year are good.

The war is still going on, but we don't feel any of its effects this far north. The only thing is that hard liquor and tobacco have become more expensive, say the people who use such things. The cost of the war amounts to three million dollars a day.

I will not be concerned with news this time. In a letter from Elling I see that they have their new house ready and have moved in. As you know, he is a farmer now.

With that a greeting, but don't forget to write immediately and tell me some news.

Are there some who die and some who are getting married?

Good-bye.

Andrew Lee

My address remains 725 Water St. as George Hagen sends my letters.

[From Andrew Lee]

Camp Ramsey 12 July [1898]

Dear parents and Brother

I am no longer in Drummond. On the first of July I quit there and went to Minneapolis Minnesota where I enlisted in the United States army as a volunteer.

We drill not so far from Minneapolis, or about midway between Minneapolis and St. Paul. I belong to the Minneapolis 15th Regiment Company A. Each Regiment consists of twelve companies and each company includes 106 [men] including officers.

Whether we will get to see any of the war is quite uncertain as Spain is soon defeated already.

How long we will be drilling here I can not with accuracy say, some say a week, others something else.

We have nothing other than a tent to sleep in, four men to each tent and we eat on the bare hill.

We drill about five hours daily.

You will have to forgive me for writing with a pencil this time. I have nothing else on hand.

With that a greeting

Andrew Lee  
Camp Ramsey  
St Paul Minn  
Co A 15th Reg

It would be best for you to send my letters to my old address

725 Vater st  
Eau Claire  
Vis

[From Andrew Lee]

Camp Ramsey Hamline, Minn. July 24 1898

Dear brother

As it is convenient for me to write I will send you a few lines so you can see that I am living and in good health.

A soldier's life is both good and bad. Here it is quite warm and we train about six hours daily. Today we had the first bataillion drill; a bataillion consists of four companies and next week we will have a regemental drill.

How long we will be here at this place I cannot really say. Everyone hopes that in the near future we will have Havana [sic] and Blanco in sight.

I have no news that is enough to write about.

Write back as soon as you have time.

Your brother  
Andrew Lee

[From Andrew Lee]

Camp Ramsey Hamline, Minn., July 29 1898

Dear parents!

I just received your letter yesterday and see to my joy  
.....

I'm very sorry that I was not home to help with [?].  
Maybe next year if I will be free from Uncle Sam's military  
service.

Here there are many who maintain that the war is soon  
over and then we will soon be discharged.

I like it quite well and am well. In fact, I can say,  
I am fit as a fiddle.

We train quite hard during the days. The other day we  
were in St. Paul and took part in a celebration in  
connection with the laying of the cornerstone to a new state  
building for the state of Minnesota.

During the days it is quite warm here to stand in the  
sun for hours on end, but no complaints. Military laws must  
be respected.

Herewith a greeting.

Andrew Lee

Co a 15th Regt. Camp Ramsey Minn.

Send my letters to my former address

725 Vater st  
Eau Claire  
Vis



[From Andrew Lee]

Camp Ramsey St. Paul, Minn. July [August] 12 1898\*

Dear brother

Then I will send you a few lines so you can see that I am still living and in health. Just this morning we received the first information that the war between America and Spain is ended. Everyone seems to be displeased because they will not get into the action.

What they will do with the volunteer soldiers I cannot say yet. A whole lot of them will be discharged in the near future. There is a great deal of sickness amongst the soldieres here which is not to be wondered at when nearly 1400 men are packed together in a small place.

I for my part am healthy at all times.

With that a greeting.

Your brother  
Andrew Lee

\* The peace terms were signed by Spain on August 12, and based on chronology of previous letters we know this one had to have been written in August rather than July. It was just a slip of the pen.]

[From Andrew Lee]

Minneapolis Minn. 20 Oct [1898]

Dear parents and brother.

Even though I have not yet received any answer to my last letter I sent you, I will now, inasmuch as there is a reason, send you some lines so you can see that I am living and in good health.

On account of the fact that the regiment to which I belong is going to Augusta Georgia, I have received a month's furlough so then will go to Eau Claire and visit everyone. So for this time you must excuse that my letter will be short. I have no news.

Yes, I almost forgot to tell you that I met Julius Sende. That was almost two years ago since I met him. He is the same wag as he was in Norway, and he likes himself best when he tells about how good he was as a marksman. I met Line also. She is a dressmaker.

Herewith a greeting.

Andrew Lee

[From Andrew Lee]

Camp at Augusta Georgia 2 Dec. [1898]

Dear parents!

I received your letter yesterday evening and see to my joy that all is well. I for my part cannot complain as I am with health at all times.

We have an unusual climate down here. No snow yet (moreover, it rarely snows down here) and at the same time as the weather in Minnesota and Wisconsin is snow and biting cold at this season. Down here we have almost not seen frost or ice, and we run around in short-sleeve shirts during the day just as if it were midsummer. Augusta lies about 200 english miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Here there is a huge training area [parade ground ?]. In comparison Rindenlearet would be a little brook as against a large river. We had a brigade parade yesterday and today we were to have a division parade but it rained and so it had to be postponed until later.

We sleep in a tent and have a stove and floor in every tent. Next week Minnesota's Governor (Clough) will be visiting us and then there will be a parade and celebration.

I had a letter from Eau Claire yesterday and everything is fine down there. Cold and deep snow.

As this is the last letter I can send which will arrive before Christmas (possibly if I have time I can send another) so I will hereby wish you a merry Christmas. And be sure not to forget when you write to tell me what is going on and report to me all the news which you can think of.

Best wishes.

Andrew Lee

My old address to Eau Claire

Concerning the portrait which you say that I can send, I am very sorry that I cannot send any now as I have given away all which I had, so you'll have to wait until I take another.

[From Andrew Lee written on stationery provided by the Young Men's Christian Association to the Army and Navy Department, but with no specific addressee.]

Camp Mackenzie Ga. Dec. 27 1898

Well, Christmas has come and gone without very special ceremonies. We had a little extra for dinner and supper. That was all, and then a service in a huge tent. That was all.

With something which I have not experienced before, Christmas was without snow and cold. The weather down here is quite comfortable and I have not seen a snowflake here yet and the ground is as pleasant as in midsummer.

We had a visit last week from President McKinley and half of his cabinet and other high officials such as General Shafter, he who led the American troops in the battle with Santiago; and Joseph Wheeler, one of the southern states' best generals during the Civil War. It was he who led the cavalry in the battle with Santiago. He is known as the Hero of Santiago. He also has a Congressional seat and was born here in Augusta. Also Lieutenant Hobson who sank the Merrimac in the ocean by Santiago.

So we were in Augusta and paraded in the streets, but from the reception we received down there I can understand that the people down here do not like bluecoats - as the soldiers are appropriately called.

We are going to exchange our old Springfield rifles for new Krag Jorgensen rifles next week and possibly we will go to Cuba for guard duty for a while. This is what they say but the future will tell whether it is true or not.

I had a letter from Eau Claire several days ago. Everything is going well there. Herewith I wish you a good New Year.

Andrew Lee

My old address to Eau Claire

[From Andrew Lee]

Camp MacKenzie Ga. Jan. 18 1899

Dear parents!

I received your letter last week, and see to my joy that you are living well and with health. I also am quite well at all times and I cannot complain about Uncle Sam's rations. Winter without snow sounds a little miraculous, but it is so, and some days are so warm that it is more comfortable to be in the shade.

We have now acquired new Krag-Jorgensen rifles of the newest model directly from the factory in Springfield and about 50,000 sharp cartridges, so we are getting a little improvement in marksmanship.

The new rifles are quite a nuisance to keep clean. It takes a long time every day for polishing.

I have nothing else to write about this time  
With that a greeting.

Andrew Lee

[From Andrew Lee, but the first portion of the letter is missing. It was apparently written from Augusta Georgia, most likely in the first half of 1899. We have a copy of the portrait to which he refers.]

....  
I took some photographs in uniform but it is perhaps best that I do not send any if you for a while deem it best not to tell Mother that I am a soldier.

This is all I have in mind this time. Send my letters to my old address in Eau Claire.

I had a letter from Carl [Karl] Andersen a while ago . They live as usual down there.

With that a greeting.

Andrew Lee

[From Andrew Lee]

Phillips Wis Dec.13 1899

Dear parents.

I received your letter about a week ago. That letter had laid in Eau Claire for a long time - three months or so, and the reason for that was that I did not have a definite place to get my letters sent to from Eau Claire.

In my letter to Jacob I told about my letters from you and of my discharge from the army so I need not write more about that.

There are no news items from up here which would be worth writing about.

From Eau Claire I have had two letters now from Anna Hagen. Everything is allright down there. Carl is in the woods. Likewise Jørgen Hagen.

It is unusually nice weather. We have not had any snow yet.

Wages are decent in the woods this year, better than they have been in 6-7 years.

Andrew Lee

When you write then tell me about everything which happens and has happened in the last year.

My address to Eau Claire

Excuse my careless writing for this time.