

April 30, 1975

Ted & Lynn O'Neill
9 Treworthy Road
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760
U.S.A.

Dear Ted and Lynn,

I am sorry I have been messing about with the letters. I really have no excuse; the whole thing got into a vicious circle, but I wanted to finish the job. Again, I am sorry. Anyway, here they are all translated, except for two which only contain gossip and chatting between women.

It was a rather bigger job than anticipated. First, I had my father go through the letters and rewrite them from the style they used in 1870 to today's Norwegian and he did a good job of it. I enjoyed it very much since he is interested in those kind of things. I have translated from his "translation" as well as I can. There are so many biblical phrases, that I have had some problems. I have therefore included my father's "letters" which can be used as a basis for better translation, should you be interested in that. Things in brackets have been added by me for clarity.

The letters give a good impression of how tough a life it must have been for a sailor in those years. The monotony of the letters shows how monotonous life must have been. The letters are in chronological order and I suggest you read them that way.

Some time ago we saw a British TV-series on sailing ships during the 1870-1880 years; it centered on a shipowner based in Liverpool. K. A. Thorstensen was in Liverpool many times. The TV-series has made it easier to picture life on board in those times since it was quite realistic. It was called "The Oredin Line". Maybe you have seen it here; if not, watch it if and when it comes.

Rigmor has about killed me for the letters.

Again, I am sorry.

Have to break here.

Yours sincerely,

Leif Olaussen
Eriks Vei 18
Asker, Norway