

Appila

Feb 16th

Dear sister-in-law and cousin,

I will let you hear from us again, we are all fairly well, thank God. Mrs Joppich told me today you were all well when she left.

Lydia has improved slightly. She has been laid up the whole week with a bad head. We had to take it in turns to watch her. The doctor said not to allow any visitors to see her. When she is strong enough she must go into hospital. From today Mrs John can stay until Lydia can go. The doctor feared brain fever if she wasn't kept quiet. She has had trouble with her head before, and the doctor told her she should have glasses, which she has, but they made no difference, she still has pain in the back of her neck and now this bad turn. If only she becomes stronger. Edel's little Herbert is also improving slowly. I suppose you heard that he was very ill. He got very thin.

Alfred intends going to Adelaide beginning of March.. I don't know if he will be coming out to see you, it's too much trouble, you have your hands full, so don't be offended. He is going mostly on business. Edel may go with him.

In the garden we have cucumbers and ripe tomatoes. The flowers are blooming well since we had a few showers of rain.

Tuesday fortnight Bertha Roocke is marrying one of Knauerhase's sons. *

Now I will close for this time and hope to God your dear children are well and that all the sick will soon recover. I remain with sincere regards to you all from us all,

Your loving Aunt and Sister-in-law

M. Becker.

* Mostyn Roocke supplied the following information so we know the above letter was written in 1908!

Augusta **Bertha** Roocke, born 14/11/1880 at Wirrabara, married

Carl (Charlie) Heinrich Wilhelm Knauerhase, born 28/04/1879 at Arwakurra

They were married on 3rd March 1908 in the Appila Lutheran Church by Pastor Ortenburger. My Grandfather (Carl Heinrich Roocke)- her brother, was one of the witnesses. The wedding party of 10 included Pauline (Polly) and Martha Roocke and Carl and Wil Roocke. The reception was for 68 guests. They had a farm at Wepowie for about 50 years.

They had two children Adela (who married Wilhelm (Bill) Koch – the parents of Basil, Dean, Errol, Fay etc) and Oscar Knauerhase who married a Margaret Kiek by her father, who was principal of Parkin, at Stowe Memorial church. Oscar taught at Immanuel in 1934 to 36, then at the Ad Tech high school (School of Mines) for 38 yrs in English & Maths & she wrote books and Poetry.

English Translation

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