

Laura

24<sup>th</sup> August 1902

Grace and peace as a greeting!

Dear Siblings.

I really must write to you at long last. I wanted to write to you long ago, but time was lacking and laziness was also there. Therefore don't think ill of me; I will amend my ways.

I has always looked very dry around here since the rains were always light. The wheat has come up but there is no green pick for the stock; everything had to be fed and that makes a lot of work. At best the wheat has germinated around here, but at Appila it is not up yet. No doubt it can come up now for there was a nice rain last week and everything has recovered nicely. It has never yet been so dry up here; not even a shimmer of green to be seen in August.

I have a serving girl again, a 14 year old English one from Laura; her mother died two years ago. It was too much for me alone since I have to drive the children to school twice a week. On Monday I drive them to Mama's and on Friday I bring them home again. Hulda and Meta are going to school. We have a really neat teacher. The children like going to school and also learn well. Meta has been going since the end of April. By now she can already read the words if they are not too long and already knows the 10 commandments off by heart. She is a good learner.

Hulda only started going later because she was too sick. For over a year she has been suffering from herpes on her head. It was always just a small area on the head until just before Easter, when it suddenly worsened and spread over her whole head and even on the eyelids. So I had to take her to the doctor; there she lost all of her head hair. Now she has improved to the point that only the eyes and ears don't want to get really better. Learning is very hard for her; it is just as if she had no memory.

I'm milking seven cows now, but they don't give much milk this year because of the lack of green feed. Butter is 1 shilling and 3 pence a pound and eggs are 1½ pence.. This year we butchered 5 pigs, reared 16 piglets, and sold 9 of them for 8 shillings each.

There's a lot of sickness at the Winter's again. The children all had the measles and seem to have caught colds as well. In Gustav's case it settled on the lungs and he developed severe pneumonia. And most of the children also developed another ailment said to be even worse than pneumonia so that the doctor visited them daily. Henry also had such an infected hand that he couldn't sleep for 6 nights. It's been a hard time for Anna.

You may have already heard that Alfred has taken in a little 4 year old lad [Edwin Hennig.] He's a good looking little lad.

Mama is quite well and sends you many greetings. She would also have written to you, but she can't write well because her hands are too shakey.

As I know no other news I'll close now in the hope that these lines reach you in as good a health as they leave us all.

So far this year I haven't any sign of my rheumatism. So we remain in love and with many heartfelt greetings,

Your siblings

Lydia and Gustav Saegenschmitter.

If nothing untoward happens Gustav may attend the Convention / Synod in 3 weeks time.

Also greet your dear parents from us.

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English Translation

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