

Laura Feb 18, 1902

God Greet You!

Dear Sister!

It's certainly getting to be time that I write to you. I would have written earlier, but I wanted Emma Roocke's (and John Keller's) wedding to be over so I could write you a bit about it.

I was there too, I and Bertha Joppich were waitresses. There were about 50 adults there. There were 10 young couples, counting the bridal couple. The first couple: Bertha Roocke and Ernst Keller; the second Louise Keller and Gotthold Roocke; the third: Bertha Keller and Hermann Roocke; the fourth: Hulda Keller and Carl Roocke; the fifth: Auguste Keller and Friedrich Scholz; the sixth: Pauline Heusler and Gotthold Wurst; the seventh: Pauline Roocke and Ernst Scholz; the eighth; Lydia Scholz and Julius Keller; the ninth: Elizabeth Deckert and Albert Keller. The first coachman was Johannes Knauerhase; the second; Carl Hettner; the third: Willie Scholz and the fourth: Ted Klemm.

Mrs Winneke was the cook; her cooking was excellent. The Roockes did the baking themselves. It was rather a big wedding; I liked it very well. The bride was in cream poplin and her attendants all in white.

The wedding ceremony was on (Thursday) the 6th February. I went there on Wednesday and came back again on Monday. On Friday we drove out to the (Wirrabara) Forest and on Sunday most of the young folk were there (at the bride's home) again for dinner; then we all went to the Christian (Youth) study. It (the Wedding day) was very pleasant but by Sunday it was again rather warm.

There were 20 tinkettlers; two of them dressed as women. No one got tipsy; they were well behaved. We were wishing they'd come again on the second evening, but they didn't.

She received very good presents. There were 4 Victorians: 2 Kellers – Julius and Auguste – and Elizabeth Deckert with Mr. Deckert. They departed on Monday 17th.

Tomorrow Traugott Joppich's 3 daughters will be 'down' for a visit so they will also be visiting you. No doubt they will tell you about everything. Don't tell them anything that I've written you. Just ask them what partners I had and the next time you write let me know whom they thought of. In the forest I had a sensible old bloke, Charly Hettner, but the Joppichs did not go along that day.

On January 28th I received a very nice letter of enquiry which was really worth reading. It was half in German and half in English, with a 2nd stamp enclosed for me to send a reply. I have never yet talked to him; he writes that he saw me in the Appila church. His name is John Zilm of Booleroo Centre; I don't know whether you know him or not. I was tickled pink, but he'll be waiting a long while for an answer. When I see you again I'll give you the letter to read. The brothers know of it but not Anna, Lydia and Mama. So don't say anything about it; so it doesn't become general knowledge..

(Today and tomorrow I don't want none otherwise I'd already have someone.)

I have now been at

Alfred's since the middle of January. I did stay with Lydia for a week to do some sewing. So far I haven't sewn anything for friends but I am to make a dress for Lydia Maywald before Easter.

Next week I have to go home again for a week. Lydia Maywald is leaving, so they have to see where they can get another one from. If Richard were there alone he would no doubt get someone. But as things are it will probably be difficult, because she (M.) is too well known.

Mama is now yet markedly better. She is able to get around again. This week I'm housekeeping here on my own. Matilda is with her mother. Last week she received a postcard that her brother Adolph is lying in Burra Hospital, sick with typhus. So she went over there right away on Sunday. Otherwise she would have put a few lines for you in this.

Harry Hearde was down here too last week to get Kocky-chaff; he'll be gone again on Monday. Ida Jaeschke is also down with Miss Keller to learn dressmaking. Ady Krüger hasn't written me yet. So I'll close with many greetings from myself and Alf and Math.

Your Edel.

PS. What is little Gerhard doing? Is he well again? Gothold now has his bicycle from America. He's well pleased with it; cost him only £5.

Willie was in Yarrowie for 3 days; it all went off well. The Yarrowie Show will be on the 26th. Write me an answer soon; don't let me wait for a long time.

English Translation

© Rufus Pech