

Laura
May 5th 1909

The love of God for a greeting.

Dear sister-in-law and brother-in-law,

I received your letter and was very pleased to hear from you. Thanks to God we are quite well, so far. I only have a little colic sometimes. It comes so quickly, that I have to stop work for a while. On the 23rd April we set a headstone for Lydia [his first wife] and little Elsa [2 yr old daughter]. The large plaque is identical to those made for the parents. One was a large stone. I wanted to get the stone put up, a year later, but it took longer than anticipated. We put a verse on the large stone that reads:

“What a true mother’s heart stopped beating in you,
how deep is our grief,
how right is our sorrow,
but our consolation
is that she is with the Lord.” [The German original rhymes!]

Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life
No-one comes to the Father, but by me.”

On Elsa’s stone is another verse:

“The flower of God, how early it was broken by the gardener’s hand:
But he did not break it, but planted it into a better land.”

Emma [Becker – Rita Z] went home for a fortnight after Easter. Then Meta [Saegenschnitter - R. Z.] was home for a while but she has confirmation lessons again.

Everything went well so far but I’m worried about the future. Emma brought me the news that she can not stay after the harvest time. It’s very hard to get a girl to help, for a longer time. A lot of people think I should do the work alone with the children, but I can’t depend on Hulda, she is too childish yet. Meta can get on very well, but I can’t get away because we are too close to the road, and there are too many hoodlums about and I can’t leave the girls alone.

Richard and Bernhardt [his sons - R. Z.] are going to the German school since the beginning of April.

We only had short showers of late and the water is not running well yet. We had good rain today and the first wheat sown is coming up. The price of wheat is now 4 to four and three quarters [pence per buschel?] and I sold mine for four to eight.

We are milking five cows, and are making 21 ponds of butter per week. A pound of butter is one shilling and three pence and eggs are one shilling and four pence.

I want to close now. Heartiest greetings from us all, and from Emma.
I am yours in love, your brother-in-law.

Gustav Saegenschnitter

Write again soon!

English Translation
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