

- Author and date of letter not known. Probably written early in 1906?

The piece of a letter:

Your brother-in-law Johannes Zwar didn't spend much time up here. Mr. Kranz brought him from Caltowie to my place and I drove him over to Joppich's. We also wanted to go to the funeral, but because he wanted to go straight over there I went on my own. Then he came with me to the church. The next day he was gone again.

I heard he did not get a very good welcome from his parents-in-law. (They appear to have given him a "Bible Bashing".) They gave him a piece of their mind [the incorrect German doesn't have an exact translation – R. P.] and laid down the Law – the 10 commandments? – to him.

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English Translation

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Background Briefly – K. Z.

In the Barossa Valley Johannes Zwar's wife Minna Roennfeld had died in July 1904 leaving him with 5 living children. The youngest went to live with his mother's sister at Peterborough. Johannes had difficulty finding housekeepers who could stay and care for the children.

The following year it was so desperate that his cousin Anna Joppich went from Appila to help out even though she was engaged to be married and making plans for her own marriage.

At the end of December 1905 Anna Joppich and Johannes Zwar were married. Her parents were shattered! They didn't attend their daughter's marriage – held in the Barossa Valley and not in her home church at Appila. Anna and Johannes would have 10 children.

In her final years a grand daughter asked Anna about her life. Anna said the main lesson she learnt were that "One can't always have what one would like in life." Looking back she said she wished she could have married the man she loved.