Appila, Dec 4th (Postmarked 1909)

Dear sister-in-law and brother,

I will now answer your letter, but the question as to what caused the death of your parents, I cannot solve. You should ask your father-in-law [homeopathic Dr Johann Zwar – K. Z.], he treated both of them. The doctor that wants to know should find out what your ailment is and not just say you may have the same illness as your father and mother.

About coming down, dear Bertha, during the harvest and the cows to attend to , I could not leave it all to Sophie. I wouldn't come for less than a fortnight, it wouldn't pay unless it was a case of necessity. It's not much use your seeing a doctor, he would only tell you to have more rest. You should go over to Victoria to Paul's sister, it might do you good to go away for four weeks.

Alfred started reaping today, it is still rather green in places. The feed is all dry but there is enough.

The relatives as far as we know are all well. So I will close with hearty greetings to you all from us all.

Remaining Your loving sister-in-law M. Becker

Dear Bertha.

We asked Richard and Edel if they knew a better answer to your question, but they say too the father-in-law could give the best answer. The dear Lord must have willed it to be so, otherwise he would not have let it happen. He knows what is the best for us, may He bless and keep you all.

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