

The Origin of the Pennsylvania German Dialect

By CYRUS H. ESHLEMAN

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I am glad that the Pennsylfawnisch Deitsch Eck has been started. All my people in Pennsylvania and Maryland were of this element. I have given much attention to our family histories and to the dialect. I knew the dialect as a child, but neglected it thereafter for about twenty years. However, in the past twenty years or so I have again studied and read it extensively. I have given special study to its origin in the native land. My investigations have led me to conclude that it is not a fusion of Palatine, Bavarian, and Swiss dialects, as Kuhns and other writers have stated, but that it is almost purely Palatine in origin. It is true that most of the Lancaster

County settlers came from Switzerland but their language is far different from that in Switzerland. There are a number of Swiss survivals or characteristics, but even these are in nearly all cases found also in the Palatinate. I have read specimens of dialect from all sections of German Switzerland and from all the southwest German sections and have found our dialect almost identical with that of the Palatinate, which may be designated for the average reader as the section in and around Mannheim, Kaiserslautern, Speyer, Landau, and adjoining areas. The likeness may be localized even more closely. My impression is that our dialect most closely resembles that of the area just southwest of Mannheim, at Mutterstadt and vicinity. I have been in communication with Dr.

Christman, of Kaiserslautern, who has made a very thorough study of the peculiarities of all the localities of the Palatinate. The results of his investigations should in some way be made known to all students of the Pennsylvania dialect! I have a large collection of literature and data on all phases of the subject and prepared an article giving the results of my own studies, which I should like to present to your readers. I am also willing to lend my material to any serious and competent students of the subject who desire to cooperate in further investigations or who desire to follow lines of independent study. Herewith is my article on the subject,

which may be used in part or whole, if thought advisable. There are enclosed also several dialect stories by Dr. Emil Freudenberger, of Mutterstadt, where, as above stated, the dialect seems in most respects most like our own, allowing of course, for changes that have occurred during the nearly two centuries both there and in Pennsylvania, since our ancestors emigrated Very truly yours,

CYRUS H. ESHLEMAN

The editor regrets that it has not been possible to publish Mr. Eshleman's work in its entirety, nor to reproduce all the various charts illustrating his material. He hopes, however, that the subject will present a challenge to other students of the dialect. It would, for instance, be most valuable to learn why the dialect forms of the Vorderpfalz, or Eastern Palatinate, have been the determining factors in our Pennsylvania German dialect, when a larger number of our ancestors came from the Westrich, or Western Palatinate. J

EARLY all the writers who have dealt with the Pennsylvania German dialect have felt some interest in its place of origin, but the opinion they have given as to the exact locality have differed decidedly. Professor Oscar Kuhns, in his invaluable work,

yder, "German and Swiss Settlements of Pennsylvania," says, page 118, "Since the Pennsylvania lent example, containing within a few lines German element came from the Palatinate, nearly all the characteristic Swabian forms of Wuerttemberg, and Switzerland, their dialect Mrs. has as a basis certain characteristics derived from all these dialects," but "these characterislbert tics have been modified and harmonized, many of the original differences having in the course of time been so transformed that today the dialect is in general homogeneous."

Professor Edwin M. Fogel, a leading authority on the subject, holds that the dialect came almost entirely from the Palatinate and Switzerland, and in scarcely any degree from Swabia or Wuerttemberg. There are two distinct varieties of dialect, he holds, in Pennsylvania—the Franconian or Palatinate among the descendents in Lehigh and nearby counties, and the Alemannic or Swiss among the Swiss descendents in Lancaster and other southern counties. He maintains, moreover, that in a general way the Pennsylvania dialects have greatly changed since the settlers have lived here, so that the language has distinct characteristics of its own. This view is was advanced by Professor Fogel in the introduction to his "Pennsylvania German Proverbs," and elsewhere in his writings.

ly at- | "Pennsylvania German Dictionary," regards the ucted differences in the two sections of Pennsylvania Grace as of minor importance and holds that the century this former association appears to have language is mainly homogeneous. He is of the opinion it resembles most closely the dialect of and loyalty for the smaller area entirely west the Westrich, or western section of the Palatin-Valter ate—that is, the area containing the cities of Kaiserlautern, Zweibruecken, and St. Ingbert. Dr. Harry Hess Reichard, in his "Pennsyl-

vania-German Dialect Dritings," page 25, says orays, "the Pennsylvania settlers used in their homes Bond the dialects of their native districts, the Lower Franconian and Alemannic dialects, and out of the two basic forms there developed in Pennsylvania an almost homogeneous dialect, in which, however, the former predominated."

valuable A. R. Horne, in his exceedingly "Pennsylvania German Manual," says the Pennsylvania dialect came from the Palatinate, and he gives, page 218, an extract from a dialect book by Franz von Kobell, published at Munich. This sample is much like the Pennsylvania dialect, but presents differences that Mr. Horne did not see the importance of and which characterize it as Bavarian almost as much as Palatine.

The ancestors of the present writer settled in t, Mr. | Lancaster County and came from Switzerland. Mrs. From reading the various opinions above given, and he was led to think the dialect which the Mr. descendents use should be very much like the dialects of Switzerland. At least he supposed the

r and differences would not be at all radical. In order s. A. to procure samples. a newspaper of the Emtman, mental, in Canton Bern, whence my ancestors and came, was carefully read. Material was obtained Fern also from other sources. Somewhat to my surslum- | prise I found I was unable to read the Bernese dialect. Several months of such leisure time as I could command were spent in the endeavor to decinher it, and success was achieved only through the assistance of several recent immigrants from that section of Switzerland, who

resided near me. Let me offer to the reader a few specimens of the Swiss dialect, which I have selected from

numerous clippings, containing nearly all the

espect | characteristic Bernese forms of words. from Mys liebe Schwyzerland Du chasch gwuesz luege, wo de witt, Es schoeners Laendli git's halt nit Als uesers Schwyzerland. Vom Gaenfersee zum blaue Rhy,

Gaeht alles still und fruendli dry, Grad wie im Sunntigsgwand.

Uf hoehe Baerge glaenzt der Schnee, Tief im Tal lacht maenge See Im haelle Sunnestrahl. Bim heimelige Herdegluet, Da hei mir gwuesz nie laengi Zyt U Freude ohni Zahl,

U ha my Stolz am Sennegwand, We's no so eifach isch. U si mir oeppe mal chy z'raesz, Dr Anke chunnt u uese Chaes Uf maenge Herretisch. Or this first stanza from the poem "Bhueet Gott

Drum lob i mir mys Schwyzerland

my Alp, mys Huettli my": D'Sunne im Weste vergoht,

O, wie si d'Gletscher so rot, Bald choeme d'Staerne de voere, Lysli, mi cha se nit ghoere: Bhueet is, allmaechtiger Gott Bhueet is vor Chummer und Not! Let us now consider a specimen of dialect

from the Canton Zurich, farther north in Switzerland. It is in prose—a form that is more helpful, since the expression is more natural. The selection gives the first paragraph of a clipping from the "Zuericher Post," kindly sent me by the U.S. consul of that city: De Dokter Laue stosst allipot en Huelfsschrei

i d'Waelt use: "Aessed Schwyzerobst, understuetzed d'Landwirtschaft, sie isch eminaent wichtig fuer euses Schwyzerland. So und sovill Millione wirft euses Schwyzervolch fuer uslaendischi Suedfruecht nach em Usland und eusi Buure choened ihres Obst nued verchauffe."-I han letscht hie au so en patriotische Afall uebercho, ha welle fuer in Zug inne en Oepfel chauffe am Bahnhofbueffeh. D'Holzwulle, wos drin glaege sind, haet ja schoen usgseh und der Oepfel saelber au. Aber wonf um de Pries gfroeget han, hani mi grad mueese amene Rolli hebe, susch hetts mi under de Zug grueehrt. Vierzig Rappe fuer ein Oepfel. Zersch hani zwar gseit, i well d'Holzwulle noed, er sell sie nu bhalte, 's Chistli choenn er au bhalte, und daenn welli blos ein Oepfel. Aber es haet nued ghulfe, vierzig Rappe 's Stuck."

Even those readers familiar with literary German, and the Pennsylvania German dialect, whether rendered with German sounding letters or the English, will in most cases be unable to make much sense of these Swiss selections. Before proceeding farther, therefore, it may be well to give some explanations.

First, it may be said the letters ch are very commonly used where in ordinary German k is used, and have the same sound. The vowel y is much used and is pronounced much like "i" in English "it," but slightly longer. A striking feature is the omission of final

consonants. Ich becomes i; und or un is simply u; mir or mich is mi; von becomes vo; en is e. The form for "ist" is not iss as in Pennsylvania German, but "isch." The verb "lueg" is used where the Pennsylvania Germans say "guck" for look. The f sound is heard in such words as "Apfel" and "Pfund." The Pennsylvania pronunciation silences the f. The nd, nt, and b sounds are heard in Switzerland in such words as aber, unter, and ander, whereas in Pennsylvania they change to n or v (German w).

The reading of the selections is made more difficult by the practice of combining words. This is seen especially in the selection from Zurich. For instance, hani-hanni-habe ich.

Let us now examine a speciment of the Swabian dialect from the vicinity of Stuttgart, in Wuerttemberg, a considerable distance northward, in Germany, and not far south of the Palatinate. It is from the "Neues Tageblatt," a newspaper of Stuttgart, and is really an excelthat vicinity:

"Liebe Maedle! Liebe Buebe! Gruess Gott mitnander! So, heute schwaetzet mer zur Feier des Tags amol wieder, wie ons dr Schnabel gwachse isch, gell?

Fenf Johr isch se also alt, onser Kenderbeilag! Ond i moin manchmol, se sei scho so alt, wie's ganze Tagblatt! Wenne so drueber noch denk no muess e me aellemol selber froge: Ka's denn sei? Aber's isch so. Ond heut abend, do hanne beim Betglockelaute aelle meine Kinder Beilege durchguckt, von der erste a bis heut." The system of spelling here is more like ordin-

ary German, but the word forms remain much like the Swiss. However, one notices the word "guck" instead of the Swiss "lueg." A Bavarian characteristic is seen in the broad sound oi in moin.

Let us now proceed to the Palatinate. As understood today, the Palatinate comprises a comparatively small area, entirely on the west side of the Rhine River, as shown on our chart. Some writers disregard the east side of the Rhine entirely, while some include the city of Mannheim and its vicinity. In the 18th century, when our Professor Marcus B. Lambert, compiler of the ancestors emigrated, a considerable area to the eastward, including Heidelberg and thereabouts, made up the Palatinate. But during the past been largely forgotten, and a distinct local pride of the river, have developed. The Palatinate, or Pfalz, is now understood as meaning this latter section. A rather large mass of dialect literature has

been produced in this section. Strange to say, and unfortunate also, its beginnings do not go back very far. The earliest dialect writers, Schandein, Nadler and others, wrote only in the first half of the 19th century, not much earlier than Harbaugh in Pennsylvania. How illuminating if we could have the dialect as it was spoken when our ancestors lived there and moved away! The deplorable fact is, however, that while the language was spoken for centuries, it was neither written nor printed. Deplorable also is the fact that in the Palatinate, as in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in this country, the use of the dialect is declining in recent years. An excellent collection of the dialect writings

of representative writers in the different portions of the Palatinate has been published in two small volumes entitled "Paelzer Ausles." The compiler is Ludwig Hartmann, himself a leading writer in this field, and the publisher Julius Waldkirk & Cie., Ludwigshafen. Of all these writers the one whose dialect im-

pressed me as being nearest like that of Pennsylvania is Dr. Emil Freudenberger, whose native town is Mutterstadt. about 8 miles southwest from the city of Mannheim. Here are a few paragraphs from a story entitled "'S Dachfenschterle." I am making a few changes in his spelling in such words as "aber" and a few others, because from personal correspondence I am told by him that the dialect as actually spoken gives the "v". German "w" sound. "Dass die Preisse (Prussians) un die Bayere

ehrn Streit vun anno 66 noch net vergesse henn

un dass se wege jedere Bagedell glei hinnernanner kummen, das hab ich in mein letschte Urlaab wieder mol g'sehne. 'S war in ere Jugendherberg in de Alpe, noch eme gewitterige Dag. Middags am viere hot des

Sauwetter ag'fange, dass mer gemeent hot, die Welt geht unner. Kenner hot nunner gekennt ins Dal. Die ganz Herberg war vollg'stoppt mit Leit. Mer Junge henn ganz owwenous un die

DER NOVEMBER

Der NOVEMBER bringt der Inschesummer,

Macht uns loos vum saure Joch un Kummer. Alte Weiwer geh'n un schmunzle,

Aus de lange diefe Runz'le-Schleiche meileweit herbei-Liewe Muetter!-Kummt juscht rei! -ELI KELLER

November-sin die Hawse frei, Piff—puff—baff! Do kumme all die Yaeger bei; Heer yuscht mol die Hunde blaffe, Un wie dann die Flinde grache, Piff—puff—baff!

Heer mol's Badderieselche! Sawgt-"Hab-weit"! Des hot flinke Fiesselche-Baff!-Uff eemol gracht die Flind; Ei, was sin die Fliegel g'schwind! Grawd-noch-Zeit!

Ei, was greische doch die Sei Driwwe uff de Bauerei; Do werd g'schlacht! Henkt die Sau am Heesseholz

Was is der Bauer doch so schtolz; Dann gebt's gute Waerscht far brode; Pannhaws, der is gut gerode; Schunkefleesch un Seideschpeck; Gute Sache darricheweck:

Alles vun de Sau gemacht, Wann der Bauer schlacht.

Gulle, gulle!—Des dut mich gemahne, Gulle, gulle!—Mer hen 'n Welschhawne, So dick un so rund,

So herzhaftich, g'sund; Ich glawb er wiegt achtzeh bis zwanzich Pund. Ich will aw vergesse

Wie viel as er g'fresse, Un wann ich en mol amme Schenkel verwisch,

Dann is er schun marye bei uns uff'm Disch. -JOHN BIRMELIN

VUM WACKRIG LIEGE

Ebmols kann mer net schlofe Un die Nacht scheint arrig lang; Die Uhr schlagt iver un iver, Un es werd em angscht un bang.

Mer haert die Ratte lawfe, Die Mice nawge hinnner der Wand; Un es scheint 's is Allles lewendig Im Haus un uff em Land.

Mer haert die Nochbere schnarche. Un schnaufe Katz un Hund; Mer zaehlt about sechzig Yohre, Schtatt Minute, in yeder Schtund.

Wie sie rawse uff der Schtross; Es scheint as wann der Deiwel Waer gans lewendig loss. Mer haert die Micke graddele

Iver em Fenschter Glaws: Mer haert die Bletter falle Un rassele uff em Graws.

Mer haert die Automobils.

Mer winscht es waer der Marye, Un die Nacht die waer verbei: Un wann er kummt, verhaftig, Dann schloft mer immer ei!

-LOUISE A. WEITZEL Courtesy. The Record Printing Co., Lititz, Pa.

gerennt hab, dass er mer die ganz Nacht gebrummt hot." The above are the first few paragraphs. Here

is a paragraph farther along in the story in which the writer tells a joke on the Prussians reflecting upon their big mouths, or, in other words, their disposition to talk excessively. "E Preiss (Prussian) hot emol sei Mitt-

agschlaefel (midday nap) in de Sunn gemacht. Do kummt e aldi Mueck her un setzt sich in de Schatte vun seiner Nas for auszuruhge. Kaum hot se sichs gemuetlich gemacht, do kummt e jungi Mueck doher, wu a in de Schatte will. Nadierlich henn se Streit kriegt minanner wegem Platz, un um den Streit zu schlichte, hot de Alt en Wettlaaf (race) vorg'schlage vun eem Mundwinkel zum annere. Wer 's erst dort is hot gewunne. Na, sie treten alle zwee am linke Mundwinkel an un 's geht los. Die Jung mit ehre flinke Bee legt lost un feggert was se kann. Wie se awwer ans Ziel kummt, sieht se. dass die Alt schun dort sitzt un verschnauft. "Na" secht die Jung "wie kummt des, dass du schun do bischt?" "Des is ganz eefach," secht die Alt, "ich bin hinnerum geloffe, do wars naeher"." Another writer whose dialect is nearly like

that of Pennsylvania is Karl Raeder, a native of Bad Duerkheim, about ten miles west of Mannheim. I quote from a little poem entitled "Allee im Wald." Oft geh ich in mein Paelzerwald

Ganz mudderseel allee, Mach uff 'me hooche Gibbel halt, Unn hock mich uff en Stee.

Unn drunne leiht, als wie e Kaart, Mei Paelzer Wald unn Gai, Leiht 's Rewemeer vunn unsre Haardt, Unn 's Land naus bis bum Rhei.

Also a few stanzas from another of his short poems, "Wie Reich is a Armi Mudder."

Ich kenn e armi Witfraa, Steht ganz allee uf de Welt. Hot siwe lewendige Kinner,

Doch ke Hab, ke Gut un ke Geld. De Witfraa geht waesche un butze Un schafft bei de reiche Leit.

Ehr Kinner muessen uft hungre In der selige Weihnachtszeit. Bei quellte Grumbeer' un Kaffee

Do sitzen se blass un bleech-Sie kann jo nix ann'res kaafe, Noch nit mol Sunndags gibts Fleesch.

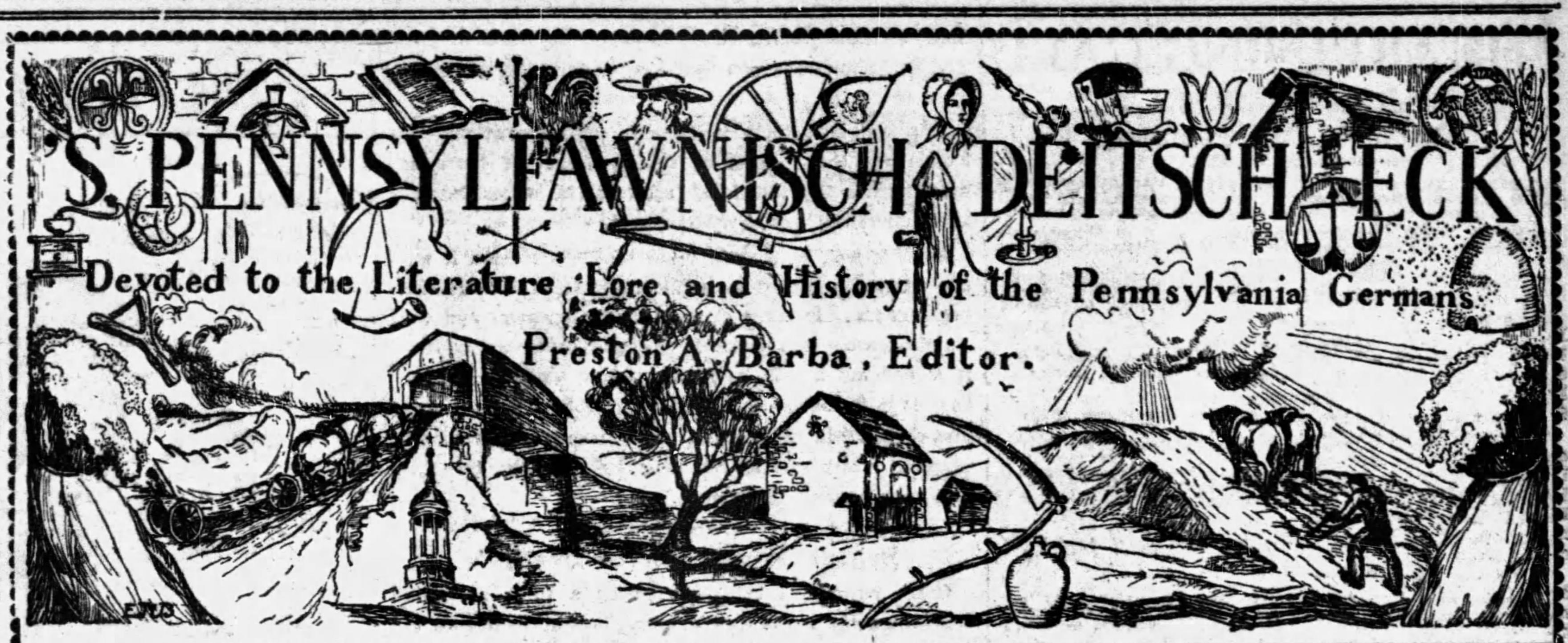
Der hot weder Dochter noch Sohn. Der woolt'r ehr Juengschtes abkaafe-Do ruft se "Nit for a Milljon!" Wie reich is e armi Mudder!

Schaetzt Kinner Milljone Hot siwe lewendige Kinner: Is siwe Millione reich! TO BE CONTINUED

En reicher Herr hot's erfahre,

Speicher gemuesst. S'erscht war, dass ich mer

de Kopp im Duschbere an eme Sparre wedder- i



The Origin of the Penna. German Dialect

By CYRUS H. ESHLEMAN

(Continued)

We now present a few verses from Lina Sommer, who hails from Speyer, and is perhaps the most popular and most delightful of all the Palatine writers. She has written many poems and sketches recalling the experiences of her childhood. Many of them are similar to those we ourselves lived through in our own long past childhood in Pennsylvania and vicinity. These lines are from a little poem "Vor lauter

Die Julche hot aen aenz'ge Sohn-Was dhut der Bu mir leid! Die Mudder losst 'm gar kae Ruh

Vor lauter Aengschtlichkeit. "Lieb Schorschele, was fehlt d'r dann? Sag, dhut d'r ebbes weh?

Ach Gott, du bischt emol so blass!

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O Jesses, sin dei Haend so kalt! Du frierscht-ich seh's d'r a (n). Schlupp in de Salvendappe nei, Zieh 's wolle Halsduch a (n)!

Kumm, trink emol den Tee.

Here are a few lines from W. Palatinus, a pseudonym for Wilhelm Platz, a native of near Landau, farther south. The lines are from his poem "Der alt Birebaam." Hinner unsrer Garteheck

Uff dem Baenkche in der Eck, Zwische Straeuch un Planke Sitz ich stundelang allee, Un loss so spaziere geh Allerlee Gedanke. 'S scheint so warm die Fruehjohrs Sunn,

Un voll rote Bluete schun Stehn die Aprilkose. Uewer Nacht kriegt wie im Traam Gar der alte Birebaam Bluete, weiss wie Schloosse.

O, wie oft schun, seit mer's denkt, Isch der Baam voll Bluette g'haengt Un dernooch voll Bire. Manchmol aach e kalte Nacht Hot sei Blaetter welke g'macht, Un die Bluet verfriere.

Note the form isch for is; and the aach (also) instead of the aa as in the writings of the and authors farther north and west.

and It would be interesting to quote from the eph | writers in the Westrich section, that is, the area lle, containing the cities of Kaiserslautern, Zweien- bruecken and others. The style is in many tel- respects like those already quoted, but there are les some marked differences. The forms ich hann irs. or ich hunn, also sie hann or hunn are used F. instead of ich hab or sie henn. Moreover, the irs. sound of the letter g is absolutely silent in such In- words as froge, schlage, wage, rege, fliege, etc. her | These distinctions are important, as will be seen

Readers of this article will see that the writer, obe after reading the writings from various sections, has come to the conclusion that the writings of the Vorderpfalz, that is, the eastern section of id- the Palatinate, with the cities of Ludwigshafen, Duerkheim, Neustadt, Speyer and Landau, are most nearly like that of the Pennsylvania German dialect.

The writer goes farther and contends that the dialect of Freudenberger and Karl Raeder,

schlaage, waage, saage, and frooge, the sound being silenced in the Westrich, i.g. saa'e, froo'e, whereas to the eastward the German strong ch sound remains though somewhat weakened. Another important distinction is in certain forms of the verb have. In the Westrich they say ich hann or sie hann, whereas in the Vorderpfalz the forms are ich hab and sie henn.

We continue to study the dialect charts for the purpose of indicating that the Pennsylvania German dialect ist most like the dialect of the northern part of the Vorderpfalz.

Chart II is an actual copy of one of Dr. Christmann's, with the dividing lines he has drawn. Beginning in the extreme south, the wavy line

No. 1 is the Pund-Pfund, Perd-Pferd, Peif-Pfeif line. To the southward the f sound is heard in such words, while northward it is silent. Only a slight distance northward is line No. 2, with alternate dots and dashes, which relates to words life Apfel, having the f in medial position. Southward this f sound is retained and to the northward silenced, as in Pund and similar words. This line turns northward and follows the Rhine to the city of Speyer and thence turns eastward. It marks, according to Dr. Christmann, the division between the Alemannic dialect to the southward and the Franconian dialect in the north.

According to this distinction the Palatinate lies almost entirely north of the Alemannic territory. The silencing of the f, it is also seen, is regarded as the main difference. Some distance north is line No. 3, running from the Rhine just south of Speyer in a southwesterly and then southerly direction. To the north and west of this line the f sound is silenced in such words as Kumpf and Strumpf, where it occurs at the end of the word. These three lines concerning the f sound we regard in a general way as marking off the Alemannic features, which reach into the southeast corner of the Palatinate but do not obtain in the main area. We now approach some of the distinctions

within the Palatinate proper. Highly important is ine No. 4, beginning just south of Ludwigs-hafen and running southwest to the southern border. This may be termed the morje-morche, staie-staiche line. To the south and east the German guttural ch sound remains in such words. To the north and west the German ch sound changes to German j sound, English y, in words where it follows r and l, as in morje; and the g sound weakens and is almost or entirely silenced after the palatal, or front, vocals ie, ei, ai, e, etc. Fliege, for instance becomes flie'e, or almost flieje. Rege becomes rehe, or reje.

Beginning farther north, beyond Mannheim, extending south-southwest to the southern border, marked by dashes, is line No. 5, in some respects the most important of all. East of this line throughout the Vorderpfalz, the German ch sound, or soft g sound, is retained in medial positions following the so-called "dark" vocals, a, o, u, and au. West of this line the g sound disappears entirely except in words ending with gel, as, for example Waage (wagon), with the German ch, or soft g sound to the eastward, but Waa'e to the westward, g silenced entirely, and not changed to the j sound as some writers on the dialect have maintained. On this point Dr. Christmann is very explicit. Another line, No. 6, traverses the northern

section and is marked by small circles. North of this line words like Nagel, ending with el after g, silence the g, giving the pronunciation Nahl. Fliegel, Spiegel, are other examples. That is to say, with northwestward progress across the Palatinate medial g first weakens or is transformed after the front vocals and r and l. Then it is silenced after the back vocals, except in words ending in el. Finally in the north the g sound vanishes even in these words ending in (To Be Continued)

Die Hausbutzgichtra

Deel Weibsleit sin doch viel gegweelt Mit Schmaerze gross un glee. Sie wisse oftmols net wu's fehlt, Doch dutt ne ebbes weh.

So zwee mol's Yohr do kummt en Pescht, Mer wees net grawd wann's gnallt; Des is net bal en haerrlich Fescht, Es wart oft khoused as's schallt.

As alle Fraw sie grickt. Mer denkt gewiss 's waer schdaerablich, Un der Patient verrickt. Ja, s'is karyos un wie verschiede,

Die Grankheet is so aerablich

Die hesslich Pein sie greift. Deel mache sich so leicht zufriede, Deel schdarme as es peift. So sittsam sawgt die Tschane zum Tschon:

"Wotscht mier der Kaerpet gloppe?" Noh schlackt er druff in lauder Fun; Ihn kennt yo niemond schtoppe. En anner Liedel singt die Hett,

Du heerscht's an ihre Schdimm. Vun maryets frieh bis Zeit fars Bett. Yohlt sie far ihre Tschim. "Mach dich mol haer, du fauler Lump,

Un dhu mol Hand awschlawge.

Un hol en Karb voll Grutze."

Du hockscht yuscht uff deim Wagge. "Far in der Schtore geh do im Schtettel Bischt du tzu faul tzu lawfe. Ich geb dir bal dei Ausbietzettel,

Ich schaff mich alt un grumm un schtumm,

No kannscht dei Esse kawfe. "So grick mol Eifer, mach dich draw, Un dhu mei Kaerpet butze. Wesch ab die Porch, die Fenschtre aw,

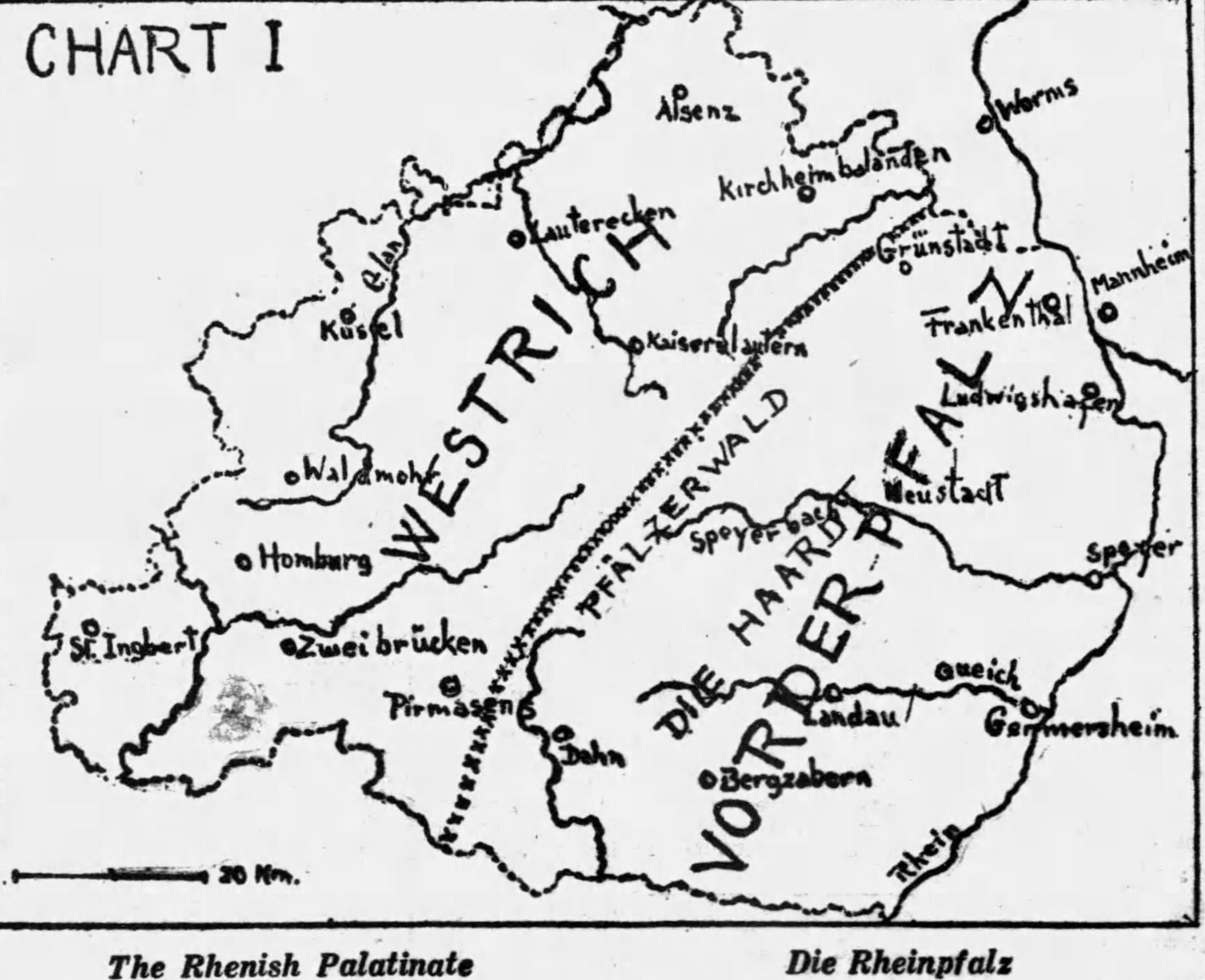
Sehnscht du en Mann zu dere Zeit. Ums Haus rum geh un schichtre. Dann weescht du schun as sei Weibsleit,

Sin grank mit Hausbutzgichtre. -LLOYD A. MOLL

DISCOVERED AGAIN

Attention is called to an article in the magazine "Travel" for November under the title "Domain of Abundance," in which the author Raymond Tifft Fuller, after considerable reading about the "Pennsylvania Dutch," learns that he was not even remotely prepared for what he was to discover when he once actually came and sojourned among them and found "a bit of foreign land sequestered in the heart of my own nation." The author deals mainly with Lancaster County and its Mennonites and Amish, but reviews in such hasty kaleidoscopic fashion so much of the general history of the Germans in Pennsylvania that the picture becomes rather distorted. Mr. Fuller finds the German dialect degenerated into an atrocious argot which a Rhine dweller could scarcely understand. On the other hand citizens of the Rhenish Palatinate are amazed to find how persistently the dialect has maintained itself in America after two centuries of separation and declare that they can understand it quite well. The author writes that the prevailing language in so many homes, stores, shops and factories is a polyglot Plattdeutsch. This is of course a gross error, which a number of other writers have made. The Pennsylvania German dialect is a High German dialect with its roots in southern Germany and has nothing in common with the Platt or Low German of the North, One of the outstanding impressions the author carried away from his visit among us is the spirit of permanence in these changing United States. Is this trait of permanence among the "Pennsylvania Dutch" that "un-American difference," with which unfortunate phrase Mr. Fuller concludes his article? If so, then we are rather sure many good Americans will want more of it! With the aid of some interesting photographs of

Amish and Mennonite patriarchs, of a Conestoga wagon, Lancaster in 1840, and of the Pennsylvania German rooms in the Pennsylvania Museum of Art, Mr. Fuller has succeeded in making a sellable article.



natives of the northern part of the Vorderpfalz, and in the locality of Mannheim and Duerkheim, is more nearly identical with the Pennsylvania dialect than that farther south. It is true that there are some differences, and some readers might not agree with this opinion. During my investigations I learned that a

rles scientific study of the dialect of the Palatinate being made by Dr. Ernst Christmann of Kaiserslautern. He has examined in great detail the dialects of hundre is of localities and has published a number of articles, together with and charts showing the various word forms and spellings and the areas where they obtain. The writer submitted samples of the Pennsylvania dialect to Dr. Christmann, and he con-

curs in the opinion that it is almost exclusively Palatinate. In a letter dated October 13, 1928 he writes: "Ich darf Sie versichern, dasz Ihre Sprache echt pfaelzisch ist und nur ein paar aged wenige Woerter aus der schwaebische-elsaessischen Mundart aufgenommen hat." However, he does not follow me in regarding son the Pennsylvania dialect as being most like that

rwin of the northern Vorderpfalz. But the writer will give the readers an opportunity to examine Dr. Christmann's charts and

to judge for themselves. Chart I is a map of the Palatinate as it is today. The principal cities are shown. Along the

east is the Rhine River. Running from northment northeast to south-southwest, is the line which 935. Dr. Christmann regards as the dialect boundary, not a political boundary, between the so-called Vorderpfalz in the East and what is termed the onth Westrich, or western Pfalz, to the westward. neral Between the two are the Haardt highlands just nner west of Duerkheim. Neustadt and Landau, and the Pfaelzerwald. There are a number of rather marked dialect distinctions between the two sections, as will be seen by the charts. They relate principally to the sound of medical g after the back vowels a, o, u and au, in words like



The Rhenish Palatinate

Die Rheinpfalz



The Origin of the Penna. German Dialect AUS UNSERM By CYRUS H. ESHLEMAN

LAKEWOOD, OHIO

(sagt), which are common near and east of the

(Conclusion)

Chart III has been drawn somewhat arbitrarily. A few lines that appear interesting and important have been selected from several charts, but the lines follow the courses given by Dr. Christmann. Line No. 1, marked by alternate dashes and dots, shows the hann-hab, hunn-hab. In the Vorderpfalz, as already stated, the form ich hab is used, while to the westward it is ich hann in the south and ich hunn in the north. But sie hann or hunn is also used in the west, and sie henn to the eastward. Following almost the same course is line No. 2, marking the komm -komme, kumm-kumme distinction. Eastward they say for instance sie sinn kumme, to the westward they say komm or kumm.

No. 3 divides the ich hunn area from the ich hann to the southward. Nearby is line No. 4, north of which words like nee (no) in the south have the naa sound to the northward. In a fourth chart, relating only to the Vorder-

Two important lines cross the north. Line

pfalz, and not produced in this article, Dr. Christmann draws a line midway between a Ludwigshafen and Speyer, west and then southn west, north of which they say er is, and south of it er isch. A second line, starting from the Rhine farther south and going first northwest and then west, marks a distinction in words having ai or ei, such as Mai and Reihe. To the north the pronunciation is Moi and roi (English oi). There is another line, to the north and east of which gesotze is used, and to the south ss gesesse, for the part participle of sit. North of s- still another line the past participle of sehen (to see) is g'seh, while to the south it is g'sehne. In the eastern part of the North Vorderpfalz spaue is used, but to the west spautze for expectorate.

the Pennsylvania German dialect to that of the Palatinate as indicated by these charts and by the specimens of writings from the various 3 dialect writers. Several years ago I sent a questionnaire to

Let us now inquire about the relationship of

about fifteen points in Lancaster County and to a few localities farther north. A few traces of the Alemannic f sound in such words as Apfel, Pfund, Strumpf, and Pflug, apparently remain, according to the replies, but in general they have become extinct. In at least ten cases to one respondents say the f sound is not heard. The b, nt, and nd sounds in such words as aber. unter, ander, are also almost entirely gone, the German ww, and nn sounds, such as are used in nd the Paltinate being employed. Dr. Christmann, as so far as I can find, does not deal with these tt- latter distinctions. And yet one finds these High German sounds, b, nd, and nt in all the Swiss and Swabian dialects, and changed to www and nn in the Palatinate. Thus we are justified in saying that the Pennsylvania dialect, even in Lancaster County, where the settlers in large part came from Switzerland, has the basic Franconian, rather than the Alemannic (Swiss) characteristics. Applying the tests farther north in the Pala-

tinate, we consider first the morje-morche, saie-staiche line. The pronunciation morje, or something like marye, is almost universal in Pennsylvania. Very few say morche or morge. ies | Nirgends becomes naeryets and folge is folye in n, most sections. The g sound in words like steige is weakened and in some words like rege (rain) almost becomes reye, at least in some localities. There is some variation of usage, the replies indicate. We are safe in saying that in the main the Pennsylvania descendants render g as j (English y), after r and l, and that the g sound after the front vowels is somewhat weakened. The test thus puts the resemblance a considerable distance northward in the Vorderpfalz. Next let us consider the silencing of the

sound in medial positions after the back vocals a, o, u, and au, which occurs west of line No. 5 (Chart II). The g is certainly heard after such vocals among the Pennsylvania Germans gennd, erally. The g sound is distinctly audible in all les such words as schlaage, frooge, waage, saage. But it is the soft German g sound and has no equivalent in English. By this test our dialect belongs unmistakably to the Vorderpfalz. In his dictionary Professor Lambert made, in the writer's opinion, a serious error in rendering all medial g's as j (English y). Only the few words with g after r or l have the j sound for g; and eld a few in which g follows the front vocals, as in .30 Rege, and these latter scarcely have the j sound in most localities, but rather the weak g. It is seen from our tests thus far presented

that our dialect belongs to the middle or north Vorderpfalz, and that most of them favor the northern part. It is not the theory of the writer that the Pennsylvania descendants deliberately adopted

the exact dialect that was used by immigrants from the north Vorderpfalz. Rather, I am disposed to maintain that as the varities of dialect mingled in Pennsylvania a general form of expression developed that resembles that of the ate north Vorderpfalz more than any other section. The harsh, difficult Swiss forms were dropped, me as were also such sounds as ch in auch and sacht

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Rhine. But while the Pennsylvania forms closely re-

semble those of the north Vorderpfalz, there are a number of noticeable differences. In comparing this dialect with that of Pennsylvania one of course expects to find a good many literary or modern High German words pertaining in most cases to modern developments, just as in Pennsylvania there are numerous English words for terms of recent origin. One also realizes that changes even in the fundamental forms have occurred in the two centuries since the ancestors emigrated. At least a few such changes are indicated in a letter from Dr. Freudenberger, who states that the words alsfort and juscht for immer and nur respectively, are used more commonly in his locality by the older people, whereas their use is becoming rarer among the later generations. In a general way some of the fundamental

differences between the Palatinate and Pennsylvania dialects are these: The form wenn seems to be the prevailing one

in the Palatinate for wollen. They say mir wenn geh, instead of mir wella geh, as is done in Pennsylvania, meaning "we want to go." The word grein is used rather than the Penn-

sylvania heil, for crying, though one occasionally sees the latter. The word schwetz, so common in Pennsylvania, is rare over there, and red or plauder is more common. Dr. Christmann says schwetz is Swabian in origin. The word nau, meaning "now," is used only in the northwestern Palatinate, while elsewhere nun is used. Whether this word was adopted from the northwest Palatinate immigrants by the Pennsylvania element, or the word now has been incorporated from the English, is a question I can not answer. The word eb for "before," common in Pennsylvania, is rare over there, and ehe obtains, though one occasionally meets with eb, and there are indications that its use was more common a century ago. The d sound in such words as Stund and Schand, heard in some sections in Pennsylvania, is absent in the north Vorderpfalz, but is heard in portions of the southern pfalz. In the writing of Dr. Freudenberger from

Mutterstadt, eight miles southwest of Mannheim, where the dialect in general has seemed to me most like our own, there are a few marked differences. The form sescht is used for sagt, as in er sescht, for example. The German a sound occurs in a few pronouns instead of ei, as san for sein, and in a few other words. This a sound is probably a north Palatinate influence that has crept southward, being closely related to naa for nee and the like. The word halt in the sense of eben, meaning

"indeed," "to be sure," is one of the most puzzling words in the whole dialect. It is very commonly used throughout the Palatinate and in Switzerland, yet no traces of it are found in Pennsylvania. Professor Lambert informs me that he likewise has been unable to find any traces in Pennsylvania and is unable to say why it was not brought over. In view of the many facts above given it seems

needless to argue further that the Pennsylvania dialect was almost entirely Palatinate in origin, and only in very slight degree Alemannic. The Alemannic forms, if they were ever brought over, and some of them were, have been almost completely dropped. Some of the traces remaining, that appear Swiss, are south Palatinate rather than Alemannic. There are a few survivals, however, that should

be mentioned. The diminutive "li" so common in Switzerland, is still used for a good many words in Lancaster County, for which the ending che or el is used in Lehigh and other strictly Palatinate counties, maedeli, for maedche, for example. The word dihr for second person plural, instead of ehr, which is common in Lancaster County and used frequently also farther north, is apparently from Switzerland, where the dialects use it extensively. In the Palatinate this usage is unknown, and ehr is used. They say for instance, Ehr sinn g'sunt, meaning "You (plural) are well," not dihr sinn gsund as would be done in Switzerland and commonly in Lancaster County. Here it may be said parenthetically the words alsfert or alfert is generally used in Lancaster county for "always," whereas at Allentown and that region immer prevails. Both are Palatinate. Wella. in expression like Mir wella geh, is another Swiss form apparently, for it is common there and infrequent in the Palatinate. In this paper the writer has dealt almost ex-

clusively with the problem of the origins of the dialect in Germany and Switzerland. Many changes, mostly slight but in some instances important, have developed in Pennsylvania, modifying the characteristics that were brought over by the immigrants. These changes we have not undertaken to set forth. The word (morgen), for example, has attained a pronunciation in Pennsylvania probably slightly different from any employed in the Palatinate. If this paper serves no other purpose it will

have accomplished something worth while if it stimulates interest in the work of Dr. Christmann. who has so ably studied the Palatinate dialect and is engaged in the stupendous task of compiling a dictionary of that section. We herewith express our obligations to him for the use of his articles and charts. ERRATUM: The line of small circles numbered 4 on Chart II. going westward from near Grun-

stadt to south of Husel, should read number 6.

Homburg on Landon oBergzabera

The Rhenish Palatinate

Die Rheinpfalz

BRIEFKASCHTE

Stanford University California

Dear Dr. Barba:

My dear Dr. Barba:

I have read the article which you sent me with a great deal of interest, and I wish to thank you not only for sending it to me but for your many kind expressions.

Yours faithfully, HERBERT HOOVER

The Morning Call had sent Mr. Hoover copies of the ECK for October 12, containing an article about the Palatinate ancestry of the former President.

Chicago, Illinois

erolf of Philadelphia, sent me a clipping presenting "S Pennsylfawnisch Deitsch Eck." Until I received that I did not know that anyone was still writing in the dialect except the Mr. Good who writes for the "Record" of Kitchener, Ontario. In it someone spoke of the ballad of "Susanna

Recently my friend, Professor Martin D. Feth-

Cox." And that reminded me that I had never sent a copy of this ballad to Dean Reed Smith of the University of South Carolina. Dr. Smith's pet hobby is collecting American ballads. Today I received a letter from Dean Smith

asking me whether the ballad had ever been sung, and if so, whether copies of the music were available.

Can you or any of your correspondents answer the worthy Dean? I shall be happy to convey any news that anyone can give to Dean Smith, or he himself will be glad to acknowledge the giver of the information. All that he learns about ballads written or even used on the soil of the United States will be properly recorded amongst his voluminous "ana," and will be kept for the use of students of American literature, let us hope, forever. Sincerely yours,

ELMER C. STAUFFER

P. S.—Our authors' club held their 1935 autumn meeting on October 6. Since that was the two-hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of our coming to America I read a paper on "Us Dutch." The club liked it so well that they urged me to publish it. The National Geographic will attend to that in an early issue.

The after-luncheon program of the forty-fifth annual meeting of the Pennsylvania German Society held in Allentown. Pa., on October 18, consisted of "Portrayals of Pennsylvania German Folk Life." under the direction of William S. Troxell, the "Pumpernickle Bill" of the Allentown Morning Call. One of the numbers was the ballad of "Susanna Cox" sung by the aged Mrs. Jane Masonheimer, of Egypt, Pa.—Dean Smith will be interested to know that Mr. Troxell and Mr. Paul Wieand, of Guth's Station, Pa., are making a collection of Pennsylvania German ballads, which they plan to publish.

Dear Sir:

Seattle, Washington

My highest commendation to you on your wonderful biography of Dr. Henry Detwiller, which you published in five different issues of the Allentown Morning Call. A copy of it has been mailed me from Ohio with the notation "Read and Return." I have a heart-felt interest in this unusual and complete biography as I am the granddaughter of John Detwiller, Dr. Henry's brother, who settled along the Scioto River in Delaware County, Ohio. Although we have somewhat of a genealogy that dates back to the 16th century, in your excellent and most interesting articles information is contained that will be of real value.

It might interest you to know that we have in our possession a large gold-nugget watch chain that Bader brought back from California and cave to my grandfather. The finding of gold and Sutter's experience in California, also their troubles with the Indians, was recently dramatized over the radio. (Pacific Coast network). I wish to preserve a complete copy of this

wonderful work and am asking to have copies MRS. MARY A. NYLAND

P. S.-Mu grandmother's birthplace is Lancaster. Penna. Mu regret is that I cannot read and speak Pennsylvania Dutch.



1.—Miehlschtee bis Hammergawrn

2.—Sauerkaersche bis Kohlefeier 3.—Grundkeller bis Gnopploch Increasing numbers of our readers are getting

pleasure in forming the word chains as suggested in the ECK from time to time. Those who responded correctly to the WARDE KETTE RAETZEL of October 26

are: Floyd J. Kutz, Allentown; Collins Trittenbach, Easton, R. D. 5; Benjamin W. Clauser, Breinigsville; James A. Koch, Emaus; Harvey L. Boyer, Palmerton; Albert S. Hermany, Emans; Mrs. Elias J.

Grim, Mickleys; James M. Fetherolf, Kempton; and Rev. F. D. Slifer, Allentown, The replies varied, but the chains accurring most frequently were the following:

WARMFENS - FENSECK - ECKSCHTEE SCHTEEBRUCH DOKTERBUCH — BUCHWEEZE — WEEZEFELD

- FELDMAUS - MAUSLOCH WEEZEFELD - FELDWELSCHKORN - KORN-

MEHL - MEHLSACK Please send answers to 'S PENNSYLFAWNISCH

DEITSCH ECK, Allentown Morning Call, Allentown, Pa.

Four and Iwenty Tailors

Die fier un zwanzich Schneider. Sie finne mol en Schneck:

En yeder hot sich gfaerricht, En yeder halt sich wek; Dann schtreckt die Schneck die Haerner, So wie en gleeni Kuh;

Nau schpringe, Schneider, schpringe! Sie will eich ebbes duh.

Hark, Hark, the Dogs Do Bark

Es blaffe die Hund, Do wees mer schund,

Die Bettelleit sin in de Schtadt; Sie kumme in Zottle,

Mit Brandewei Boddle. Un deel imme seidene Frack.

Aus'm John Birmelin seim "Mammi Gans Buch."