

**RAUCH'S PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH  
HAND-BOOK: A BOOK FOR  
INSTRUCTION. RAUCH'S  
PENNSYLVANIA DEITSH HOND-  
BOOCH. EN BOOCH FOR INSHTRUCTA**

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Rauch's Pennsylvania Dutch Hand-book: A Book for Instruction. Rauch's Pennsylvania Deitsh Hond-Booch. En Booch for Inshtructa by E. H. Rauch

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**HAND-BOOK.**

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A Book for Instruction.

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**HOND-BOOCH.**

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En Booch for Inshtructa.

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By E. H. RAUCH,

(*"Mit Sahwefelbrenner."*)

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E. H. RAUCH, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER.

1879.



## PREFACE.

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About the year 1870, I made up my mind to publish this book, with a view of affording practical and profitable instruction, especially for business men who are located among Pennsylvania Dutch speaking people, and also for the many thousands of native Pennsylvania girls and boys who attend the English public schools, and yet almost exclusively speak the Pennsylvania Dutch language at home and in the community.

I then commenced the work, and had gathered several thousand Pennsylvania Dutch words and arranged them alphabetically with translations. But then I discovered my entire incompetency for such a work, by reason of a lack of sufficient experience to make my spelling of words consistent and uniform. I became discouraged, and for the time abandoned the work.

Since then I have had ample experience, and believe I have very much improved and simplified the spelling, which is strictly according to English rules. The German rule would not be practical, because from eighteen to twenty per

cent. of all the words commonly used in Pennsylvania Dutch are either English or a compound of English and German, and also because all the youth of our State is taught to read English, and comparatively but few receive any sort of German education. The English rule is therefore decidedly the best for this purpose. Any one who can read English, can also read Pennsylvania Dutch as I have it recorded, and give it, in nineteen out of twenty cases, the correct pronunciation. Therefore, I believe this book will be found specially practical and valuable as an instructor.

To read it, no study of orthography is at all necessary, because it is simply English. The *ch* is the only German sound, pronounced as *gh* in *Dougherty* or *Gallogher*.

As quite a number of newspapers devote portions of their space to Pennsylvania Dutch articles—generally humorous—a book of this kind will assure uniformity of spelling Pennsylvania Dutch words.

Whilst many of the writers, doubtless, will contend that the spelling of this or that word is defective, and whilst there will probably be errors and some inconsistencies, I am confident that, as a whole, this work will be pronounced a very good beginning—a healthy plant of a practical Pennsylvania Dutch literature.



It is not necessary to undertake a history of the Pennsylvania Dutch language. Indeed, I would not feel competent even if inclined to state it. Prof. S. S. Haldeman contends that it is the dialect of South Germany transplanted to Pennsylvania. Probably that is nearly correct. I would say it is the natural dialect begotten by the intermixture of English and German speaking people in the same community, and by that I mean all classes of Germans, and not merely those of South Germany. Be this as it may, Pennsylvania Dutch is a language, spoken not only by one-third of all the people of the great State of Pennsylvania, but also by thousands and hundreds of thousands of descendants of Pennsylvanians now located in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, West Virginia, Northern Maryland, Tennessee, Texas and in some other localities. The language came into being as all other languages came, from natural causes.

Flattering myself that to some extent I have succeeded, after a number of years of experience and practice, in making a fair record of the Pennsylvania Dutch language, I respectfully submit my work for approval or rejection by an intelligent public.

E. H. RAUCH.

(TRANSLATION.—ÜBSETZUNG.)

About 'm yohr 1870, hob ich my mind uf gamaucht for 'n booch shreiva un publisha, fun Pennsylvania Deitsch in English un English in Pennsylvania Deitsch, mit der obsicht for practically un prufftliche instructions gevva, abbor-dich for bisness menner os in pletz woona fun Pennsylvania Deitsch shwetzende leit, un aw for de feela daussenda fun Pennsylvania boova un maid os in de Englisha shoola gane un doch sheer nix shwetza derhame un in der nochber-shaft os Pennsylvania Deitsch.

Ich hob sellamohls de arwet aw' g'fonga, un hob a pawr daussend wardta g'sommelt un arranged alphabetically. Awer ich hob aw ous g'foona os ich noch net fit war for so'n job, weil ich net de noatwendich un practical erfawrung g'hot hob for de wardta shpella uf 'n regularer un uniformer wæg. Ich bin mootlose warra, un hob sellamohls de arwet uf gevva.

Sidder sellam hob ich feel erfawrung g'hot, un my shpella is now orrick simple, according-tzu der Englisha rule. De Deitsch rule doots net so goot, weil fun aachtzæ bis tzwansich per cent. fun de wardta os for common g'used wærra in Pennsylvania Deitsch, English sin, odder an mixer fun English un Deitsch, un aw weil all de kin-ner in unserm Shtate larna English laisa, un

yusht 'n klainer dale fun eena krega enniche sort fun Deitshe larning. De English rule, dawrum, is by weitam de besht for des booch. En-nich ebber os English laisa g'larnt hut con aw my Pennsylvania Deitsh laisa, un in ninetzain ous tzwansich fella, recht ous shprecha. Ich glawb os des booch specially goot is ols 'n inshtructor, weil es gor kae neie orthography is, un brauch kae shtudya—for es is im shpella common English. Der *ch* is der ainsicha Deitsh sound, un wærd ous g'shprucha we *gh* im Englisha nawma *Dougherty*.

Weil ordlich feel tzeitunga plotz maucha for Pennsylvanish Deitshe shticker—for common humorish—an booch fun dar awrt wærd useful si, un feel wært, for 'n uniformer waeg tzu shpella fore bringa. Feel fun de shreiver du'n ferleicht contenda os 's shpella fun dem un sellam wardt besser si kent, un es con si os failer g'funna wærra, awer ich bin confident os im gonsa wærd des booch goot g'hasa—an g'soonty plons for 'n practically Pennsylvania Deitshe literature.

Es is net noatwendich os ich unnernem 'n history fun der Pennsylvania Deitch shproach tzu gevva. Ich wær net amohl able sell tzu du wann ich aw wet. Der Prof. S. S. Haldeman bahawpt os de shproach is fun Seed Deitshland in Pennsylvania ei gaplonst. Sell is ferleicht so.