

German Dialect Spoken
in the
Valley of Virginia
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ON THE GERMAN DIALECT SPOKEN IN
THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA

BY

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DIALECT NOTES

Volume III, Part IV, 1908.

ON THE GERMAN DIALECT SPOKEN IN THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA.

The following paper, prepared under the direction of Professor James A. Harrison of the University of Virginia, is designed to give a general idea of the language once in common use throughout the northern part of the Valley of Virginia and which is still spoken to some extent by the older inhabitants. The Germans who settled in the Shenandoah Valley came chiefly through Pennsylvania from Bavaria and Switzerland, at least one hundred and fifty years or more ago. Hence their language is a South German dialect. It has suffered much of late years by the dropping out of German words and the substitution of English words in their stead.

For all of the material of this paper I am indebted to my mother, Mrs. D. Hays, who was born and spent most of her life in the Forestville neighborhood of Shenandoah County. Not only was this dialect her mother tongue, but she continued its use with much frequency for more than thirty years and still speaks it very well.

The paper has been divided into three parts: first, pronunciation; second, inflections; third, a vocabulary of common words. To these has been added a short narrative specimen of the language. As the dialect has no written existence, the question of spelling has been a perplexing one. In general the German spelling has been retained, except when the pronunciation deviates too much to be recognized. In a few cases English equivalents have been given in parenthesis.

PART I.—*Pronunciation.*

Vowels :

a=*a* in calm, as : Band, Bank, Hand.

=*aw* in law, as : Blatt, Grab, sage. In composition the preposition *an* loses *n* and *a* has this sound, as : afang.

- a*=*o* in no, as : brate, da, mal, nach.
 =*u* in but, chiefly in lasse, hast, hat and gebracht.
aa=*a* in calm as : Paar ; or *o* in no, as : Haar.
ä=*a* in fate, as : dät, Mätel.
 =*e* in met, as : Bänk, Blätter, Dächer, hätt.
e=*e* in met, as : Bett, des, eng.
 =*a* in fate, as : bete, Dege, drehe.
 =*e*-final has an obscure *u* sound.
ee=*a* in fate, as : leer, Schnee.
i=*i* in pin, as : bis, bringe, Licht.
o=*o* in no, as ; Bohn, Brod, Floh.
 =*u* in but, as : Bode, Donner, hocke.
 =*oo* in bloom, in wo.
ö=*a* in fate, as : Schö, Öl, Löb.
 =*e* in met, as : könne, Löcher.
u=*oo* in bloom, as : Blum, Bruder.
 =*oo* in foot, as : Blut, Brunne.
ü=*ee* in meet, as : Brück, Brüder, Bücher.
 =*i* in pin, as : dünn, hübsch, über.
 =*u* in but in the diminutive, Bübli.
au=*ou* in house, as : aus, bane, Grant, Gaul.
 =*aw* in law, as : Aug, Baum, Frau.
 =*o* in no, as : blau, gran.
 =*oo* in foot in the preposition auf.
äu=*i* in pine, as : Gäul, Gräuter, Häuser.
 =*a* in fate, in Bäum.
eu=*i* in pine, as : Deufel, deutsch, Fremd.
 =*a* in fate, in Freud and wetter-lenche.
 =*oi* in oil, in Heu.
ei=*i* in pine, as : bleive, Deich, drei, Zeit.
 =*a* in fate, as : Bei, eimol, glei, zwei.
 =*oi* in oil in Ei-Eier, ai has the same sound in Mai.
ie=*ee* in meet, as : biege, Brief, die, fliege.
 =*i* in pin, as : Spigel, Stifel, geblive.

Consonants :

- b*=*b* at beginning of words, as : Band, Buch.
 =*p* at end of words and before consonants, as : bleib, bleibt.
 =*v* between vowels or between a vowel and liquid, as : bleive, have, aver,
 Arvit, Kälver.
d=*d* at beginning of words, as : dach, ding.
 =*t* at end of words or before consonants, as : Brod, Freund, freundlich.
 =a soft *dth* between vowels or between a vowel and liquid, as : Bruder,
 Feder, Felder, oder.
g=*k* or *ch* at the end of words or before consonants, as : *k* in Aug, bringt
ch in Berg, Essig.
 =hard *g* in other positions, as : ganz, Auge.
j=*y* in yet, as : ya, yung, Yohr.
 =French *j* in just.

qu occurs in *quelle*, when it has the sound of *gw*.

r is sometimes trilled, as in *Dreck*. Usually, however, it is lightly pronounced, sometimes obscure, and again entirely lost. Before *r* a vowel changes its sound, as:

a=*o* in *nor*, as: *Bart*, *Garde*.

ä=*ai* in *air*, as: *Bärt*, *Gärde*.

e=*ai* in *air*, as *Berg*; in *Kerl* the *r* is lost.

i=*ai* in *air*, as: *Kirch*.

o=*a* in *hark*, as: *horch*, *Morge*. Generally, however, after *o* the *r* is lost, and *o*=*o* in *not*, as: *dot*, *fot*, *Wot*, *Kon*, *zonig*.

After *ö* the *r* is lost and the vowel has sound of short English *a*, as: *Hörner*.

u=*ai* in *air*, as: *durch*, *kurz*.

ü=*ai* in *air*, as: *für*, *fürch*, *Dür*.

s and *ss* are sharp in all positions, as: *so*, *Hose*, *des*, *esse*, *flesse*.

v=*f*, as: *von*, *vor*, *Vater*, *Vogel*.

w is always English *w*, as: *was*, *wie*.

z=*ts*, as: *Zeit*, *ganz*.

ch is guttural, as: *doch*, *Buch*; palatal, as: *Ich*, u. s. w.

ng=*ng* in *singer*, as: *Ding*, *Finger*.

nk followed by a vowel=nasal *n*+hard *gh*, as: *denke*, *schenke*, *Balke*, *Hünkel*.

st and *sp*=*scht* and *schp* in all positions, as: *bist*, *best*, *Fenster*, *springe*.
s=*sch* in *sogar* and *sonst*. *tz*=*tsch*, as: *letzt*.

There is a tendency to interchange *g* and *k* at the beginning of words, *g* becoming *k* very commonly in the perfect participle and elsewhere, as: *ksehne*, *akfange*, *khat*, *kshwind*. Again *k* becomes *g*, as: *Graut*, *Grebs*, *Grieg*, *Grot*.

Initial *T* is almost always *d*, as: *Dag*, *dapper*, *Deich*, *Dochter*, *Dür*. *p* has a tendency to become *b*, as: *batzig*=*proud*. *pf* becomes *pp* or *p*, as: *Knopp*, *Kopp*, *dapper*, *Appel*. When followed by *t* this combination is scarcely distinguishable from *b*, as: *Planz*, *Plug*. *nd* and *nt* followed by a vowel become *nn*, as: *anne* (*anders*), *binne*, *gebunne*, *nunner* (*hinunter*).

PART II.—*Inflections*.

In Valley Dutch there are regularly but three cases: nominative, dative, and accusative. Only rare traces of a genitive occur, as in the old jingle: *Oder's Müllers rote braune Kuh*. A possessive relation is expressed in three different ways as follows: first, *Der Mann sei Buch*; second, *Dem Mann sei Buch*; third, *am Mann sei Buch*. Sometimes an *s* is attached to one of these forms without the possessive, as: *'n kühler nasser Moi füllt am Bauers Fass*.

Articles—The definite article is indistinctly pronounced and is liable to contraction and elision. It is declined as follows:

| | | | | |
|------|---------|-----|--------|-----------------|
| Nom. | der | die | des-'s | die |
| Dat. | dem-'m | der | dem-'m | Pl. <i>dene</i> |
| Acc. | den-der | die | des-'s | die |

The indefinite article is very indistinctly pronounced. It is often a simple *n* with or without an indistinct preceding vowel-sound. The vowel-sound, which is generally *a* in fate, sometimes appears alone. In the dative the following forms occur: *eim, einer, eim*.

Nouns—The cases of nouns do not vary in form and the plural is formed regularly according to the classes of the strong and weak declensions, save that final *e* is lost in the second class of the strong declension, and final *n* in the weak declension, as:

Bruder—Brüder; Vogel—Vögel; Flügel—Flügel.
 Hand—Händ; Kuh—Küh; Sohn—Söhn; Yohr—Yohr.
 Haus—Häuser—Mann—Männer; Buch—Bücher.
 Blum—Blume; Dür—Düre; Mensch—Mensche

There is a tendency to reduce strong nouns to the weak declensions, as: Deller—Dellere; Tochter—Döchter or Dochtere. Diminutives end in *li* and add *n* in the plural, as: Kätzli—Kätzlin; Bübli—Büblin.

Adjectives—The terminations of adjectives are loosely used. As nearly as could be determined, they are inflected as follows:

Strong declension:

| | | | | |
|------|-------|------|-----|----------|
| Nom. | guter | gute | gut | gute |
| Dat. | guter | gute | gut | Pl. gute |
| Acc. | guter | gute | gut | gute |

Weak declension:

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|------|------|----------|
| Nom. | gut | gut | gut | gute |
| Dat. | gute | gute | gute | Pl. gute |
| Acc. | gute or gut | gut | gut | gute |

Comparison of adjectives:—

| | | |
|-------|---------|---------|
| Schö | schöner | schönst |
| süss | süsser | süsset |
| arm | ärmer | ärmst |
| rot | röter | rötst |
| alt | älter | älst |
| gut | besser | best |
| viel | meh | menst |
| hoch | höcher | höchst |
| gross | grösser | grösst |

Numerals—Cardinals:

| | | |
|----------|---------|----------------|
| eins (a) | elf | ein un zwanzig |
| zwei (a) | zwölf | dreissig |
| drei | dreizeh | vairzig |
| vier | vairzeh | fufzig |
| fünf | fufzeh | sechzig |
| sechs | sechzeh | sivezig |
| sive | sivezeh | achtzig |
| acht | achtzeh | neinzig |
| nein | neinzeh | hunnert |
| zehe | zwanzig | dausend |

Ordinals: erst, zwet, drit, viert, fünft, sechst, sivet, acht, neint, zehet, elft, zwölfst.

Numeral Adverbs: eimol, zweimol, dreimol, viermol, fünfmol.

Pronouns—The use of polite forms is unknown.

Personal:

| | | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----------|
| | Ich | du | er | sie | es | Reflexive |
| Sing. | mir | dir | ihm | ihr | ihm | sich |
| | mich | dich | ihn | sie | es | sich |
| | mir | dir | | sie | | |
| Plural | uns | eich | | ihne | | sich |
| | uns | eich | | sie | | sich |

Possessives: mei=my; dei=your; sei=his or its; ihr=her or their; unser=our; eier=your.

Following is the declension of mei:

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------------|
| Nom. | mei | mei | mei | mei |
| Dat. | meim | meiner | meim | Pl. meine |
| Acc. | mei or mein | mei | mei or mein | mei or meine |

Unser is declined thus:

| | | | | |
|------|--------|---------|--------|------------|
| Nom. | unser | unser | unser | unser |
| Dat. | unserm | unserer | unserm | Pl. unsere |
| Acc. | unser | unser | unser | unser |

Demonstratives: The nearer demonstrative *der* is declined like the definite article, except that it has *dere* in the dative singular feminine, and is distinctly pronounced. The remote demonstrative is *sel*, which is inflected as follows:

| | | | | |
|------|---------------|-------|-------|----------|
| Nom. | seler | sele | sel | sele |
| Dat. | selem | seler | selem | Pl. sele |
| Acc. | seler or seie | sele | sel | sele |

Relatives: The relative adverb *wu* is used for the relative pronoun in all cases. The following examples will illustrate:

| | |
|------|---|
| Nom. | Der Mann, wu bei mir war. Die Männer, wu do sin. |
| Dat. | Die Frau, wu ich's dazu geve hab. Des Kind, wu ich mit war. |
| Acc. | Der Mann, wu mir ksehne hen. Die Mannsleit, wu ich ksehne hab. |
| Gen. | Der Mann, wu sei Kinner do sin. Die Männer, wu ihre Kinner do sin. |

Interrogatives: The interrogative pronoun is declined as follows:

| | | |
|------|-----|-----|
| Nom. | wer | was |
| Dat. | wem | wem |
| Acc. | wer | was |

A possessive relation is expressed as follows: *Wem sei Katz is sel?* The interrogative adjective is *was für 'n* in all relations, as: *was für 'n Mann bist du mitkomme* = What man did you come with?

Verbs—The indicative and imperative moods are freely used, but the subjunctive exists only in fragments, chiefly in the auxiliaries. There are in regular use but two tenses, the present and the perfect, as: *Ich geh* and *Ich bin gange*. The present is used for any present or future relation, the perfect for any perfect or past relation. There is also a progressive form for both present and past time, as: *Ich bin am gehe* and *Ich war am gehe*. A form corresponding to the English emphatic form, but without emphasis, sometimes occurs in the present, as: *Er dut mich lieve*. To avoid ambiguity and for emphasis the modal auxiliary *welle* may be used for the future. The distinction between the auxiliaries *bin* and *hab* is carefully and accurately made. The two most important forms of a verb are the present infinitive and the perfect participle.

Have—khat or khate.

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich hab | mir hen |
| | du hust | dir hent |
| | er hut | sie hen |
| Perfect ind. | Ich hab khat | mir hen khate |
| | du hust khate | dir hent khate |
| | er hut khat | sie hen khate |

| | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Preterite sub. | Ich hätt du hättst er hätt | mir hätte dir hättet sie hätte |
|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

sei—gwese or gwest.

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich bin du bist er is | mir sin dir sint sie sin |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pret. ind. | Ich war du warst er war | mir ware dir waret sie ware |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Perf. ind. Ich bin gwese or gwest u. s. w.

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pret. sub. | Ich wär du wärst er wär | mir wäre dir wäret sie wäre |
|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Imperative: sing. sei; plu. sein.

were—wure=get.

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich wer du werst er wert | mir were dir weret sie were |
|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

Perf. ind. Ich bin wure, u. s. w.

Es is am dunkel were=It is getting dark.

The passive voice is formed with were and the perfect participle, as:

Pres. ind. Ich wer gwippt, u. s. w.=I get whipped, etc.

Perf. ind. Ich bin gwippt wure, u. s. w.=I got whipped, etc.

Weak Verbs:

lieve—geliebt.

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich lieb du liebst er liebt | mir lieve dir lievet sie lieve |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Perf. ind. Ich hab geliebt, u. s. w. Imp. sing., lieb; plu., lievet.

Strong Verbs: No irregular forms are found in the present indicative or imperative.

breche—gebroche.

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Pres. ind. | Ich brech du brechst er brecht | mir breche dir brechet sie breche |
|------------|--------------------------------------|---|

Perf. ind. Ich hab gebroche, u. s. w. Imp. sing., brech; plu. brechet.

falle—kfalle.

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich fall du fallst er fallt | mir falle dir fallet sie falle |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Perf. ind. Ich bin kfalle, u. s. w. Imp. sing., fall; plu., fallet.

Irregular Verbs:

wisse—gwisst=know.

| | | |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich weiss (a) | mir wisse |
| | du weisst (a) | dir wisset |
| | er weisst (a) | sie wisse |

Note: *t* added by analogy in *er weisst*. In this form *st* is not pronounced *scht* as elsewhere.

Perf. ind. Ich hab gwisst, u. s. w.

due—gedu.

| | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich du | mir dune |
| | du dust | dir dunet |
| | er dut | sie dune |

Perf. ind. Ich hab gedu, u. s. w.

| | | |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| Pret. sub. | Ich dät | mir däte |
| | du dätst | dir dätet |
| | er dät | sie däte |

Imperative: sing. du; plu. dunet.

Geh—gange.

| | | |
|------------|----------|------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich geh | mir gehne |
| | du gehst | dir gehnet |
| | er geht | sie gehne |

Perf. ind. Ich bin gange, u. s. w.

Modal Auxiliaries:

welle. A rare form, *gwot*, is perhaps perfect participle of *welle*.

| | | |
|------------|----------|------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich will | mir welle |
| | du wit | dir wellet |
| | er will | sie welle |
| Pret. sub. | Ich wet | mir wette |
| | du wetst | dir wettet |
| | er wet | sie wette |

The preterite subjunctive of *welle* corresponds exactly in meaning to that of *due*, as: *Ich wet geh*=*Ich dät geh*=I would go. A form of the preterite indicative seems to occur in such expressions as: *Ich wot ich hätt zwei Bäuch*, as the old *glutton* said.

könne.

| | | |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich kann | mir könne |
| | du kannst | dir könnet |
| | er kann | sie könne |

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Pret. sub. | Ich könnt du könntst er könnt | mir könnte dir könntet sie könnte |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---|

Ich hätt au geh welle, wann ich hätt geh könne.
müsse.

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich muss du musst er muss | mir müsse dir müsset sie müsse |
|------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Wann du net gange wärst, hätt ich geh müsse.
selle.

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich soll du sollst er soll | mir selle dir sellet sie selle |
|------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pret. sub. | Ich set du setst er set | mir sette dir settet sie sette |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

möge.

| | | |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich mag (aw) du magst (aw) er mag (aw) | mir möge dir möget sie möge |
|------------|--|-----------------------------------|

| | | |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Pret. sub. | Ich möcht du möchst er möcht | mir möchte dir möchtet sie möchte |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|

dürfe.

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Pres. ind. | Ich darf du darfst er darft | mir dürfe dir dürfet sie dürfe |
|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|

Reflexive Verbs:

sich schäme.

| | | |
|------------|---|--|
| Pres. ind. | Ich schäm mich du schämst dich er schämt sich | mir schäme us dir schämet eich sie schäme sich |
|------------|---|--|

Perf. ind. Ich hab mich gschämt, u. s. w.

Separable Verbs:

ufmache—ufgmacht.

| | | |
|------------|--|---|
| Pres. ind. | Ich mach uf du machst uf er macht uf | mir mache uf dir machet uf sie mache uf |
|------------|--|---|

Perf. ind. Ich hab ufgmacht. Imp. sing., mach uf; plu., machet uf.
ufsteh—ufkstanne.

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| Pres. ind. | Ich steh uf du stehst uf er steht uf | mir stehn uf dir stehnet uf sie stehn uf |
|------------|--|--|

Perf. ind. Ich bin ufkstanne. Imp. sing., Steh uf; plu., stehnet uf.

Sel is der Kēl, wu nie net ufsteht. Ich will die Dür net ufmache wu ich zugmacht hab.

Prepositions:

With dative :

aus, as : aus 'm Haus.
 bei, as : bei mir ; beim Weg.
 mit, as : mit mir ; mit ihm.
 neve, as : neve 'm Weg.
 noch, as : noch dem Dag.
 von, as : von ihm.
 wege, as : Ich hab mich kschämt wege ihm.
 zu, as : zu mir ; vom Haus zum Haus.
 zwische, as : zwische 'm Haus un'm Weg.

With accusative :

bis, as : bis den Dag.
 durch, as : durch 's Feld.
 für, as : für mich.
 um, as : um den Disch 'rum.
 über, as : über 's Feld.
 wetter (wider), as : wetter mich.

With dative to express rest, with accusative to express motion :

an, as : an der Mühl ; an die Mühl.
 hinner, as : hinner 'm Ofe ; hinner den Ofe.
 in, as : im Haus ; ins Haus.
 uf, as : ufm Disch ; uf den Disch.
 vor, as : vor dem Haus ; steh vor mich.

Hi and her:—Guck eimol do her. Guck eimol dat hi. When spoken to small children *her* takes the diminutive ending, as: Komm eimol herli. In composition *hi* and *her* become 'n and 'r, as: komm 'ruf-geh 'nuf; komm 'runner-geh'numner; komm'-rei-geh'nei; komm 'raus-geh'naus; u. s. w.

PART III.—*Vocabulary.*

The following vocabulary contains a number of illustrative and peculiar words. The gender of nouns has been indicated by the article, and the plurals have been given, when these were obtainable. In the case of verbs the two principal parts (present infinitive and perfect participle) have been given and the auxiliary (bin or hab) has been indicated. A few expressions and rhymes have been inserted to illustrate the use of words and attention has been called to various points of interest.

- afänge**, Ich hab akfänge=begin, commence.
all=all, each, every. Alle zwei=both.
Antwot, des=answer Note gender agreeing with Wot.
arege, Ich hab aregt=touch.
Arm, der, Ärm=arm.
as=as, than, when, that ; used for als, dass and the general relative was.
 Des is all as er ksat hut. Ovet-rot, morgo früh nix as drocke Brod. u. s. w.
au (aw)=too, also, mir hen au net=we don't have either.
Aug (aw), des, Auge=eye. Augewasser=tears.
Band, des, Bänner=ribbon. Des Bändel=string.
Bäsel, die=aunt. Note gender of diminutive.
Bauer, der=farmer. Die Bauerei=farm. Bowers as surname.
binne, Ich hab gebunne=tie.
Bir, die, Bire=pear. Bauer schickt des Jockli naus, Bire schüttle ;
 Jockli will net Bire schüttle, 'n Bire welle net falle. So begins the Valley
 Dutch version of "the house that Jack built."
bleich (a)=pale. bleiche, gebleicht=bleach.
bleive (bleib), Ich bin geblive=stay.
blöse, es hut geblose=blow.
bös, böser, böst=cross, "mad."
brenne, es hut gebrennt=burn. der Brenner=burner, as proper name
 written Branner.
bringe, Ich hab gebracht=bring.
brote, Ich hab gebrote=fry.
Brüh, die=broth. Fress an Brocke, net just Brüh, as the child told the
 snake in the story. Brüh has passed over into English among the unedu-
 cated in some sections.
brülle, er hut gebrüllt=cry, bawl (of children and animals). Brüll also
 has crept into English.
Bu, der, Bave=boy : diminute des Bübli. Knabe not in use.
Butter, der=butter. Note gender.
dapper (for tapfer)=quick. Spring dapper.
dat (for dort)=there. Guck eimol dat anne=look there once ! Just look
 at that !
daub (aw)=deaf.
Daub, die, Dauve=dove.
Deich, des=hollow, depression between hills.
denke, Ich hab gedenkt=think.
do (for da)=here ; Guck eimol do=look here once !
doch=though, however. Er is doch komme=he did come though.
Dreck, der=mud, dirt. Dreckig=muddy. Schmutzig is used in the
 sense of greasy, soiled.
dreffe, Ich hab gedroffe=hit. adreffe, Ich hab agedroffe=meet.
dreive (drieb), Ich hab gedrive=drive.
drinke, Ich hab gedrunke=drink.
Duch, des, Dücher=cloth.
dummle, gedummelt=hurry. dummel dich=hurry up !

eb or **ev**=before or whether. Ich hab ihn ksehne, ev er gang is. Ich weiss net eb sie fat is oder net. eb occurs before consonants and ev before vowels.

Epper=somebody. Eppas=something.

Ern, die=harvest. ernte, Ich hab gernt=to harvest.

esse, Ich hab gesse=eat. Ess-sache=eatables.

fahre, Ich bin kfahre=drive.

fertig=finished, "done." As proper name written Fatie.

finne, Ich hab gfunne=find.

fat (for fort)=forth, away. Used in composition with many verbs, as : fat-fliege ; der Vogel is fat-kfloge=the bird has flown away.

frem=strange.

fresse, Er hat kfresse=eat (of animals and vulgar). Fress oder verek is a very common expression. Compare, Root, hog, or die.

Fress-grunkhit, die=gluttony.

Friede, der=peace. Ei du lieber Friede noch eimol! is a common exclamation.

froge, Ich hab gfrogt=ask.

früh=early. Des Fröh-yohi=spring.

Funk, die, Funke=spark. Funk is a common family-name.

fürche, Ich hab mich kfürcht=be afraid.

futsch=undone, "done for." Very commonly used in English.

Gang, der, Gäng=hall, passage-way in house.

Gar=done ; gar nix=nothing at all. Gerver=tanner, whence the very common family-name, Garber.

Gaul, der, Gäl=horse. Pferd not in use. As family-name, Geil.

Geist, der, Geister=ghost. die Geister komme zrück in die Welt.

gehl=yellow.

geve (geb), Ich hab geve=give.

giesse, Ich hab die Blume gegosse=sprinkle, water.

glauve (aw), geglaubt=believe.

glei (a), gleiner, gleinst=small. As surname Kline or Cline.

glei (for gleich)=at once.

Gleid (a), des, Gleiter=clothing.

gleiche, Ich hab ihn gegliche=like, be fond of.

Glück, des=luck ; des Unglück=bad luck. As surname Click.

gnunk=enough.

Grab (aw) des, Gräver=grave. Grave (grab), gegrave=dig.

Graut, des, Gräuter=cabbage, herbs, weeds.

Grot, die, Grote=toad. Note unmodified o.

gwinne, Ich hab gwonne=win, gain.

Haver, der=oats. Wickel, wickel Haver-stroh, Wie kschwind bist du do?=incantation to call Jack o'lantern into one's presence.

Hahn (aw), der, Hahne=rooster. As family-name, Haun.

henke, khunke=hang. (nk has ngh sound as always.)

Haut, die, Häut=skin.

heve (heb), khove=hold.

Heimat (a), die=home. Ich geh gern heim=I want to go home.

- heisse** (a), kheisse=call, or tell with Infinitive.
helfe, er hut mir kholfe=help.
Hem, des, Hemmer=shirt. Hem-ärmel=shirt-sleeve.
hocke, khoekt=sit. Hock dich 'nunner=sit down.
Hünkel, des, Hünkel=chicken, hen. des Hünkeli=chick. As proper name written Henkel.
Hutzel, die=dried peach with seed. Also used in English.
Hüvel, der, Hüvele=hill. Note weak plural.
Jagd, die=noise. jage, gejagt=chase.
Käs, der=cheese. Schmier-Käs is a common dish in the Valley.
Katz, die, Katze=cat. des Kätzli=kitten. As proper name Kaetzel.
kaufe (aw), Ich hab gekauft=buy. As proper name Coffman.
ken (for kein)=no.
keime, Ich hab gekennt=know.
Knopp, der, Knöpp=bud, dumpling, button. Schnitz un' Knöpp is a common Valley dish. As family name Knopp or Knupp.
komme, Ich bin komme=come.
Kopp, der, Köpp=head. des Haup=scalp.
Kon, des, Köner=corn, grain of corn. Wälsch-kon=maize.
Ksicht, des, Ksichter=face.
lade (aw), Ich hab glade=load.
Land, des, Lämmer=land. die Landschaft=landscape.
Latweg, die=apple-butter. die Häfe sin all voll Latweg.
Laub (aw), des, Lauve=leaf, foliage.
laufe (aw), Ich bin gluffe=walk; (of water) flow. 's wasser lauft so schö.
Leb or **Leve**, des=life. In sei Leve net or sei Leb Dag net=never.
Leid (a), es dut mir so leid=I feel so bad about it.
leinig (a), also allei (a)=alone.
leite, Ich hab glitte=suffer.
lerne, Ich hab glernt=learn or teach. Du verdammter Narr! bist zu dum to lerne, as the old schoolmaster said to the dull boy.
Leut, die=people. Used as a plural, but a common exclamation; Grosses Leit! would seem to indicate a neuter singular.
link=left. die link Hand. Link is a common family name.
Löb, der, Löve=lion.
lüge, gloge=lie. Der Lügner=liar. Waun der Deifel all die Lügner 'n Heimat geve muss, schmeisst er sich selvert aus der Heimat.
lusse, Ich hab glusse=let.
Mad (aw) die, Mäd=maid. Die Mad holt wei, Herr schenki aus.
Mätel, des, Mäd=girl. Diminutive from Mad and having same plural. A second diminutive, Des Mätli, occurs.
Mann, der, Männer or Mannsleit=man. Diminutive, der Männli used of an old withered man, as in the incantation to cure burns: 's alt Männli springt üver's Land, 's Feier muss net brenne, 's Wasser muss net lösche.
Maul, des, Mäuler=month. The usual word. Mund not in use.
Milch, die=milk. Melke, Ich hab gmolke=to milk.
Middag=noon. Noch-middag=afternoon. Vor-middag=forenoon. Middag-esse=dinner. Morge-esse=breakfast. Nacht-esse=supper.

- Mück**, die, Mücke=fly.
Nagel, der, Nägel=nail; diminutive, des Nägli=clove, pink. Näglistock =pink stalk.
nehme, Ich hab gnomme=take. Nehm Stuhl=take a chair.
nei (a)=no. net=not. noch net=not yet.
Obs, des=fruit. die Frucht=grain.
Ovet, der, Ovete=evening. Sometimes pronounced Avend, especially in Avend-mahl=the Lord's Supper.
Peif, die=pipe. peife, Ich hab gepiffe=whistle.
quelle, es hut gequellt=bubble. 's Wasser quellt 'ruf so schö.
Rad (aw), des, Räder=wheel.
Rege, der=rain. regere, es hut gregert=to rain.
reise, Ich hab grisse or verrisse=tear.
rieche, es hut groche=smell.
Rind, des, Rinner=heifer,
Rock, der, Röck=dress, coat.
Rüb, die, Rüe=turnip.
rutsche, grutscht=slide (of children). Commonly used in English.
saufe, ksaffe=drink (of cattle and vulgar).
Schof, des, Schof=sheep.
schaffe, Ich hab kschafft=work.
schiesse, Ich hab kschosse=shoot. der Schütz, der schiesst un' der Wassermann giesst.
schinne, Ich hab kschunne=skin, flay. Used sometimes in English.
schlofe, Ich hab gschlofe=sleep. Schläfrig=sleepy.
Schloss, des, Schösser=lock, schliesse, Ich hab geschlosse=to lock. der Schlüssel=key.
schneide, Ich hab kschnitte=cut. Schnitz=cut-apples, used commonly in English both as noun and verb.
Schrecklich and unerbärmlich are used to emphasize a quality; sehr is not used; recht is used for mild emphasis. Compare English.
schreive (schreib), Ich hab gschrive=write.
Schreiner, der=carpenter.
schwätze, Ich hab kschwätzt=talk. The usual word; spreche not used except in verspreche, versproche=promise. tz=tsch as usual.
schwimme, Ich bin kschwumme=swim.
sinke, es is ksunke=sink.
sogar, nearly, almost. Sie is sogar dot.
Speck, der=bacon. Speck un' Bohne is a common dish.
Speicher, der=second story of a house. Über-speicher=garret.
spinne, kspunne=spin. die Spinn=spider. Spinn-rad=spinning-wheel.
spot=late; (perhaps for spat rather than for spät.)
springe, Ich bin ksprunge=run. Spring dapper=run quickly.
Stadt, die, Städt=town. des Städtli=village.
Stei (a), der=stone.
steige, Ich bin kstige=climb. Reduplication scarcely audible as often.
sterve (sterb), er is ksturve=die. Compare were, Ich bin wure.

stosse, *kstosse*=hook. die Küh *stosse* mit ihre Hörner. Also of elbow.

Strump, *der*, *Strümp*=stocking. *Strum-bündel*=garter.

Tier, or *Ktier*, *des*=beast.

trage (*aw*), *getrage*=carry.

unnergehe, *die Sonn* is *unnergange*=set, sink, go under.

verfriere, *es* is *verfrore*=freeze. Simple word not in use apparently.

vergehe, *es* is *vergange*=fade, die away.

vergesse, *Ich* hab *vergesse*=forget.

verliere, *Ich* hab *verlore*=lose.

verrote, *Ich* hab *verrote*=betray. Die Diefel *verrot* uns!

versammle, *mir* hen uns *versammelt*=meet, assemble.

verschrecke, *Ich* hab *verschreckt*=scare. *Ich* bin *verschrocke*=be scared.

versuche, *Ich* hab *versucht*=taste.

wachse, *Ich* bin *gwachse*=grow. *des Abwachse*=“under growth.”

wahr=true. die *Wahrit*=truth.

Wald=wood, used by older people. *der Busch* is now in use.

wann=when: both *rel.* and *int.*

weve (*web*), *Ich* hab *gweve* or *gwove*=weave.

weg-gehe, *Ich* bin *weg-gange*=go away. *Geh weg* do! *Pack dich*!

Weg, *der*=road. *e* is long in substantive, short in adverb.

weib, *des* (or *die*), *Weiver*=wife, woman. die *Weibslait*=womankind.

Diminutive, *des Weivli*.

We, *der*=wine. As proper name written *Wine*.

wel, *welle*=which? Compare *Was fur 'n*=what?

wie=how (*int.*), as (*rel.*) *Wiffel Hörner* hut 'er *Bock*?

Wieg, *die*, *Wiege*=candle. *wiege*, *Ich* hab *gwoge*=weigh.

Wis, *die*, *Wise*=meadow.

winke, *Ich* hab *gwunke*=wink, beckon.

Witt-frau (*aw*), *die* (or *des Witt-weib*): *Wittweiver*=widow.

wüst, *ugly*. *hässlich* has literal meaning, hateful.

Zah (*aw*), *der*, *Zäh*=tooth. *Zah-weh*=toothache.

zerspringe, *es* is *zersprunge*=split, fly in pieces.

ziege, *Ich* hab *gezoge*=pull. *Ich* bin *gezoge*=move.

Zirkel, *der*=circle. As family name *Zirkle*.

Züver, *der*=tub.

zunache, *Ich* hab *zugmacht*=shut. *Mach die Dür* zu.

The following story is still told by the elderly women of the Valley. It is the more interesting as it contains a very old and common German legend, which has been immortalized by Bürger in his splendid poem, “Lenore.”

’S war eimol ei Mätel, wu ihr Liebling fat in der Grieg is, un’ is dot gmacht wure. Sie hut sich so arg gedrauert un’ hut ksat: “O wann ich ihn just noch eimol sehne kömit!” Ei Ovet is sie an ’n Partie gange, aver es war ken Freud dat für sie.

Sie hut gwünscht, ihre Liebe war dat au. Wie freundlich sie sei hätt könne! Sie is 'naus in den Garde gange, un' war allei im Monlicht khoekt. Kschwind hut sie 'n Reiter höre komme. 'S war ihre Liebe nfm weisse Gaul. Er hut ken Wat ksat, aver hut sie uf den Gaul hinner sich gnomme, un' is fatgritte. As sie kschwind fatgritte sin, hut er ahalte sage:

Der Mon scheint schö hell,
Un' die Dote reite schnell.

Des is all as er ksat hut un' nix sonst. Am letzt sin sie an 'n Begräbnissplatz komme, un' dat recht vor ihne is sei Grab ufgange. 'S Mätel is in die Kirch-Dür gsprunge, wu uf war. Der Spuk is ihr nochgange, un' wu er die Dür agregt hut, dat hut sich sei Hand gebrennt. 'S Mätel war so verschrocke, as sie net lang glebt hut.

AM ENDE.

H. M. HAYS.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA,
April 24, 1908.

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