



Ursinus College

Digital Commons @ Ursinus College

Alfred L. Shoemaker Folk Cultural Documents Alfred L. Shoemaker Pennsylvania German Folk Cultural Files

11-17-1948

Letter From Helen D. Witmer to Alfred L. Shoemaker, November 17, 1948

Helen D. Witmer

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/shoemaker_documents



Part of the American Material Culture Commons, Cultural History Commons, Folklore Commons, Linguistic Anthropology Commons, Social History Commons, and the United States History Commons
[Click here to let us know how access to this document benefits you.](#)

Recommended Citation

Witmer, Helen D., "Letter From Helen D. Witmer to Alfred L. Shoemaker, November 17, 1948" (1948). *Alfred L. Shoemaker Folk Cultural Documents*. 32.
https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/shoemaker_documents/32

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Alfred L. Shoemaker Pennsylvania German Folk Cultural Files at Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. It has been accepted for inclusion in Alfred L. Shoemaker Folk Cultural Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Ursinus College. For more information, please contact aprock@ursinus.edu.

95-1

November 17, 1948

Dr. Alfred L. Shoemaker
c/o Lancaster New Era
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Dear Sir:

This is my favorite "all" story, and it really happened:

We were driving on a back road near Columbia. We stopped to ask a country man directions to another town. He said: "You go up this road till the road gets all, and then you turn to the left."

We enjoy your column in the Lancaster New Era, although we do not know any Pennsylvania German.

My parents and I were born in Lancaster, and we moved to Virginia when I was only seven. My uncle and aunt, who were also born here, had moved to Virginia before we did. We all had some amusing experiences connected with the use of a few Pennsylvania Dutch expressions that we sometimes find more expressive than English. My great-grandparents spoke Pennsylvania German, as well as English, but my grand-parents knew very little of it. My one great-grandfather became quite "rusty" in his High German, through the use of Pennsylvania German, although he was a well educated man, and came to Lancaster when he was a young man.

In Virginia, we puzzled many of our friends by using some of the local expressions. When my aunt told a friend that her peaches were "all," the friend did not know what she meant. I still think "spritz" is a most expressive word, and I think "shussle" comes in the same class.

I might suggest that you write about the use of "wonderful" by people in Lancaster County. I mean using it in ~~is~~ place of quite a few other adjectives or adverbs. "It wonders me" is an expression that even a well-educated Lancastrian may let slip occasionally.

We hope your column continues to appear in the New Era.

Very truly yours,

Helen D. Witmer
(Mrs. Charles L. Witmer)

48 South Duke St.
Lancaster, Pa.