

**BOONASTIEL: A VOLUME  
OF LEGEND,  
STORY AND SONG IN  
"PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH"**

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Boonastiel: a volume of legend, story and song in "Pennsylvania Dutch" by T. H. Harter

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**T. H. HARTER**

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# BOONASTIEL

A VOLUME OF LEGEND, STORY AND SONG

IN

## “Pennsylvania Dutch”

BY

T. H. HARTER

Editor and Proprietor of

“*THE KEYSTONE GAZETTE*”

BELLEFONTE, PA.

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1904

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## PREFACE

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THE articles contained in this volume were published from time to time, in the Middleburgh (Pa.) Post, of which I was editor until 1894, and since then in the KEYSTONE GAZETTE, Bellefonte, Pa., under the heading of "Brief Fun Hawsa Barrick," addressed to myself as "Liever Kernel Harder" and signed "Gottlieb Boonastiel." At first they were written for personal amusement, and appeared only occasionally, but I soon found them so essential to the prosperity of my paper that, in order to keep up its circulation, I was compelled to write every week, and now have a great number of letters on file, out of which I have selected the substance that composes this volume.

Although there are several volumes of poetry in this language, I believe this to be the first one in prose of this people, whose language, customs, and traditions are peculiar to themselves, and who are rapidly passing away. Although this blood, as one writer has conceded, is the best strength of nearly three million Pennsylvanians, and of something like a million more in other States, there remain but a few thousand families of the old unchanged stock. The rest, through inter-marriage and long association with the dominant race, have lost their peculiarities, and are indistinguishable from them, unless it be by reason of their greater patience, confidence and steadfastness of purpose.



That this volume may assist in perpetuating the memory of the Pennsylvania Germans, and by its combination of fun and philosophy, peculiar to the language, correct the wrong and strengthen the right, to the end that it may stimulate noble thoughts and actions and lead to honor, success and happiness, is the earnest wish and prayer of the author.

T. H. HARTER.

BELLEFONTE, Penn'a.

## Choice Selections Fum Boonastiel

### MY LÆVA'S LAWF.

"Ein bissel unsin don und won  
Is onganame by yadem mon."



*Liever Kernel Harder:*

Kensht du mich? Ich bin der Boonastiel! Dale leit sawga ich ware net gons recht g'scheit. Ferleicht bin ich aw net. Ich bin evva so gabora un cons net helfa, awer 'sis en oldt shprich-wardt os "de kinner un de norra sawga de woreheit." Fiel leit hen shunt long gawunered ware ich

bin un ich hob mere fore-ganumma dos ich se nimmy lenger im dunkela holdta will un ich bin nuff tzu'm picktermaucher un hob mich ob-nemmas lussa. My glæder sin net was se si setta, awver my dawdy hut als 'gsawt: "Besser en shtickly brote im sock dos we en fetterly uff em hute." My shtiffel blicka de tsæe, awver de Polly sawgt es ware g'sunter im house won ich se ols ob nemma do ovets so long os my tzæ luft hen dorrich der dawg. My hussa sin dorrich der greek gemaucht warre. De grose-mutter hut se ous flox gemaucht un hut de brech-ogela net oll rous ganumma, un won du in dime lava warickena hussa gawora husht don waisht du we dihenkers os se grotsa doona. My ruck is uff de oldt General Jackson shtyle und is en negel-rupper. My hute wore amohl en shtitsa hute, awver sidder os de Betz Hullerheck sich druff g'hucked hut on der schnitzing gooked are we en tzomma gadoublede accordeon. Es hut mich base gemaucht un ich hob era g'sawt se het wissa kenna os der hoot se net fit on sellem end.

Dail leit hen aw shunt g'frogt woo ich woon un woo ich hare shtom. Ich bin en soo fun Grishtuffel Boonastiel. Are wore en grosser mon in sinera tzeit—wore en melitz officer om badolia, un wore dri mohl en jury-mon hinnernonner-noach. Are hut on ma greitz-wake gawooned os se eme noach g'hæsa hen. Der greitz-wake is nuch dart. Ich wore gabora we ich gons yung wore un bin so uff gawoxa mit em onera fee. We ich uff eld wore bin ich uff my agner hook gonga un hob rinna fun barrick g'schlaifed mitera uxa fuhr. Der drit dawg is es mere ferlaid, de uxa sin mer shtridich warra un ich hob nimmy g'wist we se hame greega. Endlich hov ich en patent-recht invent far de uxa gæ maucha. Ich hob mere en grosser dishtla-shtuck greeked un bin uff der soddle-ux gagroddled. Derno hov ich mich tzrick galawnd uff eme, hob si schwontz uff g'hova un hob dare shtuck shæ drunner galaiged. Ich con dere nix feel wider fartzæla. Ich wase os mere der barrick numner sin os we en gwidder-shtrawl. De hecka un de greena donna hen my glæder in shliverra un fetza fun mere garissa un