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Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes
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Respectfully,
J. D. BACCHUS,
Sept. 17, 1904. CHESTERTOWN, MD.

RULED BY THE MOON

ODD BELIEFS BY DUTCH FARMERS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

They Kill Hogs, Plant and Build According to the Tilt of the Moon. How to Keep a Dog and What One Must Do to Make a Good Tree Dog.

The Dutch farmers of Rowan county are among North Carolina's most prosperous and most interesting people. They live well, save money and improve in every way. Thrift is a virtue with them. They are great believers in signs and old sayings. They do things by the moon.

Before building a worm fence the Dutch always watch the moon, says the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer. It must be right or the fence will sink into the ground. The bottom rail must be put down when the little moon is turned up, so that it will not sink into the ground. To prove that this is the right sort of doctrine let a person make an experiment with two bricks. Put down one while the little moon is up and the other while it is down, and it will be noticed that the one laid when the moon was down will go into the ground and that the other will remain as left.

If one would cover his house well he must make the boards when the little moon is turned down. That is easy. The boards will keep their shape if rived then. But, on the other hand, if made while the little moon is turned up the boards will cup up at the ends when exposed to the weather. I have seen many a board turn up at the end, but never knew what did it till now.

The moon must be right when a Dutchman kills his hogs. If the hogs are killed when the little moon is on the decrease the meat will shrink, but if killed when the little moon is on the increase it will swell.

To have good turnips one must plant on Israel's day—that is, in August. If corn is planted when the little moon points up the ears will grow too near the top. The ear gets more nourishment near the ground.

No work is done on Ascension day. It is a day of rest and pleasure. If the first visitor to a home that day is a man all the eggs that are setting will hatch roosters; if a woman, pullets will prevail. Therefore a man is an unwelcome guest early in the morning on Ascension day.

It is not right to carry out the ashes between Christmas and New Year's day. That brings bad luck.

If a farmer puts out manure or fertilizer when the little moon points up it will stay, but if the little moon points down it will leach out.

There are a thousand and one of these signs and sayings if they could be collected. Many of them are met in other than Dutch communities.

Lived there a country boy in Mecklenburg who did not know how to treat his old hound for various shortcomings? If when you get a new dog he will not stay with you cut the hair tip off his tail and bury it under the front steps, and then he will abide with you forever. Nobody can take him from you. If you would have the dog love you better than he could anybody else wear a bit of meat in the heel of your shoe a day and then give it to the dog to eat. It is strange doctrine, but true, for I have tried it. Some folks find it better to measure a dog with a stick and bury it under the steps than to nick the tail. Either way will do.

It so happens now and then that a fine dog refuses to bark at the tree. That sort of hunting is unsatisfactory, for most of the hunter's time is wasted in hunting for the silent dog. That defect, however, is easily got rid of. The hunter goes to the woods and listens for the squeaking noise that is made by the rubbing together of two trees, gathers the bark from the point of friction, makes a soup of it and gives it to the dog. If anything will help him after he is grown that will. But if the puppy is taken in time there will be no silent dog at the tree. As soon as the puppy is large enough to stand the blow the hunter should burst a green gourd over his head. That will make tree dogs—barking dogs. But I cannot refrain from giving a word of warning here. I hit one of my puppies too hard once and broke his head instead of the gourd.

In certain sections of the south there is a saying that if you will rub a teething baby's gums with warm rabbit brains the teeth will come through the skin without difficulty. It was my good fortune once to see the trick tried. One day I was traveling in the lower part of Mecklenburg county when I saw two small boys running, carrying something. The youngsters were red in the face and hot. I could see that they were bent on purpose. The larger of the two, a red topped boy, was in the lead. He held in his hand something that he seemed to be jealous of and was trying to protect.

"What have you there, boy?" I shouted.

"Rabbit brains—hot rabbit brains," was the quick reply.

"What are you going to do with them?"

"We's going to rub sister's gums, so she kin cut teeth."

I followed the boys and watched the operation. It was all right, and I have learned since that teething was made easier by the act. The boys had chased that rabbit and killed him far afield.

But all that trouble could have been avoided had the child been supplied with a bag of moles' feet. If the mother will take the feet of a ground mole, sew them up in a sack and tie them around the baby's neck all will be well. I do not know why this is so, but it is. The baby must chew the rag.

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WHAT AILS YOU

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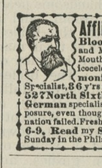


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