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A COMPARATIVE STUDY
OF
UPPER AND LOWER
SOUTHERN FOLK SPEECH

by

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ABSTRACT.

The work being done in Southern dialect is fairly negligible. Except for the studies of a dozen or so members of the American Dialect Society, whose findings appear in Dialect Notes, nothing seems to exist on dialect, except the phrasings of novelists and short-story writers, who have utilized their local material in dialectical fiction. The most notable of these writers have been Mary Noilles Murfree, in her Tennessee mountain stories; Joel Chandler Harris, in his Uncle Remus tales; Thomas Nelson Page, in his tales of the tidewater negro; Opie Read, in his stories of Tennessee poor white trash; and the writings of Bret Harte and Mark Twain, both of whom employ dialectical characters at times, yet do not write what, in their essence, appear to be dialectic stories.

As a matter of fact, the explanation of the meager dialectic fiction is easy. Dialect writings are not popular with editors generally. Hence, the writer best able to translate his thought into dialect is forced to avoid, by the very pressure of the economic demand, the medium.

The result is that the tongue of dialect districts is a closed book which may never be opened. Scientific research among the fragments of the people who speak the primitive tongue appears impossible, and the tongue itself is rapidly disappearing. No one knows this better than the one who has loved dialect, written it, studied it, and can

see, even within the space of fifteen years, the inroads made upon the folk speech by the agencies of modernity-- the flivver and mail-order-house catalogue.

The purpose of this study is, then, multifold:

1. To preserve such specimens of dialect as the writer knows from first-hand acquaintance.
2. To compare the vernacular of several dialect districts in the upper and lower South, and to note differences and similarities.
3. To arrive at the laws of the vernacular, and to classify the speech somewhat along the lines of these laws.
4. To arrange the whole into a dictionary form, after the method of the American Dialect Society.

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

All the specimens included in this study have been heard by the writer, and usually noted immediately. The technique has been simple--a notebook and a surreptitious manner of entering the note. That is all. Wherever an immediate note seemed inexpedient, the writer has carefully committed the expression, in its original context, to memory by a careful repetition of its exact form, and transcribed it into permanent form immediately the opportunity opened.

In this manner, an aggregate of approximately a thousand expressions, consisting of words, phrases, and entire metaphorical sentences, proverbs, and so forth, have been collected.

The dialect fields included in this study are as follows: Lower Alabama, including the counties of Washington, Mobile, Clarke, and Marengo; Southern Mississippi, largely Harrison county; Northwestern Mississippi, largely Coahoma county; Tennessee, Dyer and Davidson counties; and Kentucky, Warren County.

Supplementary to the study, although in no wise included in it, has been a wide and careful reading of most, if not all, of the works of the chief dialectical Southern writers, and a study of the available material collected by other dialect students.

- Accidents** Probability, likelihood. "Without an accident it will rain tonight." "If you go down to the log camps without an accident you will see him." The expression has been noted in Washington County Alabama, and Warren County, Kentucky. Though confined to people with only practical learning, it cannot be classed as an illiterate form.
- Again (ag'in)** Equivalent of the phrase, by the time. "He didn't git but \$60 a month, and ag'in he had paid his board he didn't have none left." Noted in Kentucky. "Ag'in the time he got home the cows had et up all his corn." Noted in both upper and lower South.
- Ag'in** Variant of again. Common in all dialect districts.
- Aint** Variant of aunt. Note cain't for can't, a more or less well-established tendency in most back-land districts.
- Air** Variant of are. Common. Noted in nearly all dialect districts, and general in dialect writings. Confined to remote peoples, but not necessarily illiterates. Noted in the singular as well as plural: "He air here."
- ambeer** Tobacco juice. Derived probably from the color, amber.
- Ar'** Arrow. Illustrative of elision of syllables. The tendency toward language simplification is general. There is an opposite tendency to add

syllables to words unsanctioned by the conventional practice; as attacked for attacked; but this probably is an outgrowth of language consciousness induced by the school teacher, the speaker not having sufficient learning to be sure of his ground, but the form nevertheless becoming current.

Around here

Special talent, virility, independence. "Now hain't she around here when hit comes to working out her 'rim'itick lessons?" Common.

Attacked

Variant of attacked.

All right

Scornful acquiescence. A common rejoinder in an argument when the opponent has the better of the combat. "You are nothing but a slew-footed peckerwood!" "That will be all right about that!"

All denned up

Denned. "I found the skunks all denned up." Illustrative of the tendency of rural people to change a word from one part of speech to another. Note wagon, truck, etc. "They wagoned over the mountains." "We trucked the stuff to town."

Animule

Whimsical, conscious variant of animal. "There ain't no such animule." The word is probably derived from a combination of animal and mule. Humorous, following the primitive language law of waggish metaphor. Lower South.

Apparently

Variant of apparently. Prevalent among illiterates, or those with but slight education. Noted in both upper and lower South.

Arh

Variant of iron. General among illiterates, but by no means confined to such. The word has been noted among high school pupils, although from familiarity far out in the back country.

- Back'ards. Elision of backwards. Approaches an illiteracy.
- Backlander. A backwoodsman. Note outlander. Outlandish. A pure idiom. Noted in Kentucky speaker who is a M.A. of Indiana University;
- Back water To retract or take back. "When he jumped on you, I would not have backed water a bit." Idiomatic. Noted in Clarke County, Alabama. In use generally there, but not noted elsewhere.
- Balled up. Confused. See messed up. Also wool-gathered. "I got balled up in that problem and never could work it." (Lower South.)
- Bam. Archaic. Primitive variant of balm. Also note pam for palm, ps'am for psalm. General among older people, but rarely heard now.
- Banjoing Banjoed. To drum with two straws on the violin strings. Washington County, Alabama. Heard only in the piney woods.
- Barking up the wrong tree To make a mistake. "Say, hain't you barking up the wrong tree?" Metaphor, derived from hunting. (Lower South, common.)
- Bat out of hell. "He went by here like a bat out of hell." Extravagant metaphor. Lower South. General, but not regarded as entirely polite.
- Batch Quantity as applied to people. As, "There was a pretty good batch of folks at church, Sunday. Lower South, General.

Bay Rum.

Coca-cola. Kentucky. A waggish metaphor perhaps an individualism. Modern, Literate.

Beats my time.

Baffled, outwit, to oust a rival in love. "It beats my time how he does it." Also, "Jim beat Bill's time with the girl." General. Lower South, but heard in most dialect districts.

Bear.

Chagrin, defeat. "He put the bear to me." "I fixed me up a scheme that will put the bear to him when I see him." (Washington County, Alabama.) Use unrestricted.

Bear cat.

Extravagant metaphor. A strong person. "He's a bear cat when it comes to punching bulls." Noted in an Alabama log camp.

Because why.

An expression introducing an explanation. Equivalent to "I'll tell you for why." Heard in South Alabama.

Bedding up.

To form into ridges, as cotton land. Bedding up new ground. Confined to the cotton belt where it is general.

Begun.

Solecism. "He begun to cuss." Prevalent in upper and lower South.

Behint.

Behind. See "In back of." "I am behint with my rent." Approaches on illiteracy. Lower South.

- Belly-acher. A kicker. A fault finder. "He was the durndest bellyacher ever I see." General.
- Belly full. Sufficient. "I got a belly full." "Hop^s John'll get his belly full of going to help other people." Alabama.
- Belly-wash. Drink. Usually a soft drink. "Let's go around here and take a belly-wash. Alabama.
- Belongs. Ought to be, or should be. "He belongs to be here now." Noted in Alabama among the more pronounced dialectical but not an expression of illiteracy.
- Biddies Diminutive of chickens. Lower South.
- Bile. Archaic. Primitive of boil. Rare now even in remotest districts. Noted twenty years ago in Alabama. Not heard recently.
- Bimeby. Variant of by and by. Illustration of the eliding of syllables. Pushing together of words. General, Literate.
- Blocks. Support, foundation, praise. "He knocked the blocks from under me." "He put the skids to me." Idiomatic, metaphorical. General and not restricted to locality or learning of speaker.
- Bodaciously. Bodily. "I am bodaciously wore out." Petebed out, burnt out, frazzled out, ~~tu~~sker ed out, white-eyed, are synonymous expressions heard at Woodburn, Kentucky. Noted

- Bones. Open and above board. Confession. "He made no bones of his troubles." "I Made no bones of the matter." General.
- Bookk. Variant of bulk. Primitive but not illiterate. Heard generally, both upper and lower South.
- Bound. Obligated, certain, determinative. "I'm bound to go."
- Branch. A small stream. Fork of stream. Common.
- Br'ar/. Briar. Belongs to category of arn for iron. The primitive whang. General in far back regions, but not necessarily due to illiteracy.
- Brash. Rash, quick-tempered, easily broken. "John was terribly brash in his talk." "Ash and box elder air mighty brash wood," haint fitten for much but stove wood." General in Alabama.
- Brickle. Variant of brittle. "She made brickle candy." Alabama.
- Britch
Britching
Britches
Britchey Variants of breech. Britch-strap in harness. Britching-rump, portion of harness. Britches for trousers. Britchy, a fence-jumping farm animal.
- Broom-stick To marry. "They jumped the broomstick." Piney woods.
- Brum. Primitive of broom.
- Buck-ager. Chills and fever. Alabama swamps.
- Bull-pen. The eating place in the lumber and logging camps of the piney woods of Alabama and

Mississippi.

Burnt-out. White-eyed. General.

Bushite. One who lives in the bushes--backwoods-
man. Tennessee.

Bust. Variant of burst. Also to fall in love.
"He got busted on Sally." Both literate
and illiterate. People with some pretense
at language propriety frequently say
"Bursted" as, "The bomb bursted." General.

By gravy. A waggish euphonic by-word to supplant
offensive profanity. There are many
forms as, by heck, by gums, by grabs.
Lower South.

By words. A list of mild expressions in common
use in dialect districts. By heck, by
grabs, by gumps, by gum 'I gad, dad
blame, ding bust, dad sling, consarn,
plague take, dadfetch, doggone, dadburn,
confound, consound, fetchtake.

Calf lick or
cowlick. Hair that tends to grow awry.

Cameera Variant of camera. Alabama backlands .

Can Permission. May. "Can I go" "may"
is almost never used in the idiomatic
speech of common people of the southern
dialect regions.

Cane cutter. Immense hares that may be found in wild
regions, large canebrakes, of Alabama
and Mississippi.

Can't cut hot
butter. Simile. "This knife is so dull you
couldn't cut hot butter with it.

- Carry** Meaning take, lead or escort.
See tote. "I'm going to carry
my girl to a show." "Carry the
horses to water."
General.
- Catawampus** Crosswise.
- Catti-cornered** Common in lower South. See:
catawampus.
- Cattle** Low people. See:Whickerbill,-
peckerwood, redneck. Common.
- Caught** Caught up. Through, finished,
satisfied. Also ketched. "I'm
Chance-prospect, satisfied. Also ketched. "I'm
quantity. "We've caught up with my crops now."
got a good chance "I'm caught up on my courting
of roasting ears for a while." (Said by a young
this year." man when his girl jilted him.)
General.
- Chaps** Children. General.
- Characters** Archaic pronunciation of Char-
acters. Illustrative of recessive
accent.
- Chaw** To repeat. "Don't chaw my ter-
backer but once."

Chaw

Ch~~ea~~p-Best, wise
also chagrin. "The
cheapest thing you
kin ~~to~~ is tell the
whole story." "He
shore felt cheap after
I got through with him."

Cheer

Chewing the rag.

Chewsd~~ay~~

Chicking

Chil~~d~~ring

Chimbley

Choose

Choosed

Ch~~an~~k

Chagrin. See:Hack. "It
certainly chawed ~~Bill~~."

See:Salivated. "That sal-
ivated him for all time."

Variant of chair.

Arguing.

Corruption of Tuesday.

Alabama.

Variant of chicken. Note:
"Mounting" for mountain, in
Miss Murfree highland dia-
lect. Heard, however, in
flat land region of Alabama.

Variant of children.

Variant of chimney.

Accept, prefer, care for. "Would
you choose any of the butter?"
"No I wouldn't choose none."

Variant of chose.

To throw. "I chunked the cows

out of the field." Largely localized in piney woods where the chief extemporized weapon is the pine knot. Alabama.

- Clabberhead Hard-head, bone-head, sore-head.
Same thing as hard-head. "He called me a clabberhead." Kentucky.
- Clapboard Shingles used as roofing, usually long and crudely manufactured and distinguished from true shingles in size and cheapness. General.
- Clearwater Variant of clearwater.
- Clever In the sense of neighborly and kind, accommodating. Archism.
- Clodhopper-an uncouth fellow. A small, one-horse farmer. In Tennessee, it was a derisive term to distinguish from the planter.
- Clod-melter- heavy rain See Gulley-wahher.
- Closter Variant of Closer.
- Clumb Variant of clambered.
- Come by. To acquire or possess. "He comes by his meanness honest." General. Literate.

- Comin through To accept religion. To fall
under religious conviction.
Tennessee.
- Contra'y Contrary. "All she does is
contra'y me in my work." Ala-
bama. Literate.
- Cook-room Kitchen. See:Shed-room. Low-
~~er~~ South.
- Coon a log Walk a log. Heard in lower South.
- Corcus Variant of carcass.
- Corn fed An uncouth person.
- Could "I used to could sleep on the
floor." "I might could do it."
Alabama.
- Couldn't hardly Scarcely. Double negative. "I
couldn't hardly stay." "He couldn't
hardly walk." Common but restricted
by education.
- Crack of fence "He lookd like his head grew in the
crack of a fence." An expression of
extreme contempt. See:Knot on a rail.
"He looke like a knot on a rail."
- Crazy fool Foolish person.

Crittter

"A hoss critter." Creeter.

Confined almost wholly to illiterates in localities noted, but once was general. Lower South.

Crow to pick

To register complaint. "I've got a crow to pick with you." General. Idiomatic. Literate.

Crupper

To bust his crupper. To be so eager that he trips himself up. "I thought he'd bust his crupper." Lower South. Pretty close to the soil.

Cut a shine

To create a row or raise a fuss. Alabama.

Cut up

Troubled, worried, boisterous. "He was all cut up about the loss." Also to be boisterous. "The boys cut up terrible last night." To be in heat, as an animal. General.

Dad-burned thing

Any object whose name may not be known or whose function is not clearly understood. See: ~~Dp~~-dad. A form in common use in backland districts, both upper and lower dialect regions.

Dander

To get one's dander up comes from the Dutch dander-tinder, Where in Dutch it means to fly into a rage. Old, before 1812. Tenchen, The American language, page 54. To be found yet in dialect regions.

Day

Finished, concluded. Completed task. "We'll knock off now and call it a day." I have noted this expression in practically every dialect district I have studied. It is almost never, probably never, caught among urban dwellers--office workers etc.- unless introduced there by some rural worker who has drifted to town and left the imprint of his idiom upon those with whom he worked. This is particularly true when the expression occurs in the context as noted above.

Day and time

Era, epoch. Applied particularly to a past age, such as youth, boyhood. "Fetching up", "Raising up", "Bringing up", "When I was growing up," "In my daddy's day and time." The expression always consists of the compound ex-

pression. It seems to please the backlander's craving after compounds for emphasis. "Without let or hindrance". "Here and yon."

Dead as four
o'clock

Dead as Hector. A simile where exact derivation is doubtful. Heard in both Alabama and Kentucky.

Dead as
Hector

See: "Dead as four o'clock."

Dead head

A lazy fellow, discarded ox. "He's a dead head in his studies." "They sold off all the dead head steers." In general use in the pine woods of Alabama, but rarely heard in other localities, and never in sense of the useless infirm beast.

Deadwood

See: Dead to rights. "I have the dead wood on him." "I backed up against the stump, and then I had the dead wood on him." The expression means precisely to have the evidence on a culprit, you have him in a corner that he can't get of. Lower South.

Declar'

Variant of declare.

Devil's

Devil's walking stick, Devil's darning needle, Devil's rider horse. Applied to an unsightly insect to be found generally in the South.

Dido

See: Connoption fit. "He cut a dido." Throw a fit. Cut a shine. Had a duck fit. "He had a double-barrelled duck fit".

Did-jar

Did you, contraction. Somewhat common among careless speakers and illiterates. A Southern "whang".

Differ

Different. To take issue with or dissent from. "I differ with you on that point". Different used with to: "Mine is different to yours". Speaking of hat. Of no consequence: "It don't differ none with me". Lower South-frequently. Upper South- infrequently.

Diked

Dressed, adorned. "He's all diked up in his Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes." The word is restricted to the lower South, and it seems to have no clear rational derivation. Many dialectical forms have their origin in a

general similitude. This form, however, does not.

Dinkus

Do-dad, jigger, thing-a-ma-bob, contraption. The backlander has a distinct aversion to an increase in vocabulary. He always manifests a distrust in words unfamiliar to him, particularly when of technical nature or polysyllabic. He is far more intolerant of the strange word than is the urban dweller, who, at least, has his morning paper and its tendency to use the word of the moment. When the necessity arises, therefore to characterize a strange device, the backwoodsman resorts to his own inventive genius.

Directly

In a short while. "I'll be there directly." D'irectly, Torectly.
General.

Dirt

The turning of soil to the roots of cotton after the plants are thinned. He is dirting the cotton. General in the cotton belt, but so far as I know not used in connection with other crops.

Disremember

Forget. Noted in Alabama but probably no longer in use except among older settlers. I have not heard the expression for fifteen years. The new generation does not employ it.

Do.

Task, assignment, race. "He done his do." Current in lower South and sometimes heard in other regions.

Dock.

To reduce a price because of low quality. Take his money before it is given to him by his employers. "I docked him .20 an hour because he was late every morning." Common.

Do-dad.

A machine whose exact nature is likely not to be known, or whose name is not easily recalled. See: "do-la-ma-fetch-it."

Do-la-ma-fetch-it.

See: Do-dad and dad-burned thing. A meaningless series of syllables of fancied complexity to characterize an object with a strange and formidable technical name. A substitution for a real name which cannot be recalled.

Done.

Did. "I done it." General. Lines not strictly drawn between illiterates and near illiterates.

- Dog gone General. No particular lines.
- Doperenous. Drink. Corruption of popular "dope."
Alabama.
- Doste Dose. "He taken a doste of quinine."
- Dosties--plural
of doste. Adding "t" to a word ending in "e."
The genius of the backlander's tongue includes a nice regard for added syllables when not needed, and an easy disregard of the same syllable when sanctioned by convention. See: closte for close.
- Double negative "I wouldn't take nothing for it." Although the double negative has been warred on by generations of school teachers, it still persists all over the rural South and is by no means restricted to illiterates. Indeed, even the most educated of people unconsciously employ it. Though, of course, the use of the form gradually becomes more restricted to rural localities.
- Dram. Drink of whiskey. "I wisht I had a dram right now." The word will probably die along with drinking.
- Draw. To photograph. "Draw my picture." See: "Strike my picture." Heard only in Alabama and Mississippi twelve years and more ago.

Dreen.

Variant of drain. "It taken us a half a day to dreen off the water in the hole." The use of the form in general may be heard in the upper and lower South. Its use is restricted now to unlettered people, not necessarily illiterates, but those of little or no formal education. Earlier the word was more common.

Drop.

To call. "Thought I'd drop in." "Drop around." Drop among the illiterates. Rare. General in South.

Drowided.

Variant of drown. See: Attackted, wilst, whilst, busted, etc. A language sense seems to teach primitive people to place an ending to words already in the past tense. While many such persons are illiterates, not all are. The forms are common in remote districts of Alabama, and Mississippi.

Drug.

Variant of drag. A form that may be heard from both educated and uneducated. That it is a basic idiom is evident from the ease with which it may be spoken. When dialect is not concerned with adding extra syllables to root words, it tends to shorten the forms in use to their essentials.

Dry.

To render, as land. Also to hush one up. "I dried down my lard." "I dried him right up as soon as he started." At one

the expression was common; but of late years it has not been noted. It is clearly passing out. Its use in the sense of hush has always been restricted to the harsh vernacular of the backlanders.

Dry in the shuck

Mature, wise. Condition of discretion, Two persons, a young man and an old one, were arguing in a Kentucky village. The elder did not subscribe to the ideas of the younger. He concluded the argument by saying, "I know what I am talking about, for I am drier in the shuck than you!"

Ducks

"The ducks got it." The expression means that the year's labor has amounted to nothing. While the idiom probably had its inception among the plantation blacks of the lower South, it has drifted over into the common tongue of all of the tenant classes. It grew out of an incident when a planter settled in the fall of the year. The landlord deducted so much for rent, so much for advances, so much for interest, etc., with the result that the tenant received no balance at the close of the season. "He says, "The ducks fot it."

Due

Should be or ought to be. "He's due to be there whether he is or not." Confined largely to south Alabama. "Is this seat due to stay right here?" Heard from a

young teacher on Peabody campus.

Eat To taste. "How does it eat?" "This fish eats tol'able well, don't it?" Tennessee.

Eat To ruin, injure financially. "Eat me out of house and home." "That cow eats her head off." General.

Elbow grease. Muscular. "I got the elbow grease to whip you."

Elisions Nat-that. 'at-that. an 'is--and this

Endearment Terms of endearment: honey babe, sugar babe, sug, sugar pie, my lasse, 'lasses candy-o. The sentimental backlander has a genius for honeyed terms of endearment, and frequently employs them without reference to those about him.

Et. "Again he had got hom the cows had et up the corn." (truck driver for the consolidated school, at Woodlawn, Kentucky.)

Et. Primitive form of eat, ate (Chaucer.) "He et his dinner." "He has done et it all up." The word is in constant use among all of the elder generation, whether illiterate or literate, in the piney woods. Lower South, noted in upper South.

Every "Every time he opened his mouth he put his feet in." Extreme awkwardness.

Examineate.
Exambulate. Variants of examine. Examine, noted in Alabama among illiterate speakers. The illiterate has a tendency to labor toward exactitude in language forms. The negro illustrates this in

his craving for big words. The illiterate white has the same striving toward artificial culture and assumption at learning. The result is all sorts of corruptions, some of which gain currency in the neighborhood, frequently in a sense of mimicry.

- Fade-- To overcome, defeat. "I sure was faded by what he said to me. Alabama.
- Fair off Fair up. Clearing of the weather. General.
- Fared Variant of fired, Far-fire. General. Not confined to total illiterates.
- Fault To blame. To find fault. "I hain't faultin' my elders." This is an expression often noted in Miss Murfree's Tales of the Tennessee Mountains." Clearly then it is in the idiom of the highlands. Personally, I have heard it but once and then in Kentucky; a man from out of the hills in the county adjoining Warren County, located in the blue-grass region, employed the sentence above, when saying that his parents had not sent him to school, in consequence of which, he remained illiterate. The word is little used in the lowlands.
- Fed. Fed up. To have enough. "I'm allfed up on that kind of talk." Also: "I have a bellyful." General.

Fiesty (Fisty)

To be a trifle wild, when applied to young girls. A work usually of ill repute, although not necessarily so. Corresponds to the street vulgate of "Hot mama!" Lower South, although the word probably is current in most dialect districts.

Fi'ms

That backland speech should tend to make the I silent in words such as this is a natural language law--the tendency of people, little bound by the conventions of tongue, to make the vocal route of least resistance.

Firewood

Wood to be burnt in fireplace. See: cookwood, housewood. General.

Fit

Participle of fight. See:Fout.

Fit

Any sudden or violent mental or physical state without reference to the pathology of the situation.

Commiption fit. See:Dido. In urban vulgate one hears to throw a fit. In rural regions one simply has a fit, a dam fit, commiption fit, a duck fit, double barrelled duck fit. Widely noted in the various forms. The

expression is typical of the free and easy informality of backland vernacular--its colorful whang.

Fitten

"That's all he is fitten for--to make trouble". "Taint fitten fur nothing no more". A surviving strong verb form that has drifted over into a participial adjective. It has been noted in Alabama particularly, although the expression is current in all Southern states studied. Though those who use it cannot be classed as illiterates they do not include such, and many who, though literate, cannot be called educated. A backland dialect form.

Fizzle

To spend, die out. "His store-keeping project fizzled out". General.

Flog

To punish severely. Punish with whipping. "Flog 'em out good." the word seems almost to have passed out of common speech in urban districts. One hears now on the streets, "Beat 'em up". But in the backlands one hears the more archaic form, "Flogs em out".

Noted in Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky. The word is by no means an illiterate expression.

Flustered

Also flusterated. Unnecessarily excited. An expression in current use in backland districts. It has been widely noted, and employed by dialect writers.

Fork hand road

The hand you use your fork in. A traveler was passing through the piney woods of Clarke County, Alabama, and stopped at a house where a woman was hoeing in the garden to inquire his way to a certain house. She told him to keep going until he came to the forks of the road, where he should take the fork-hand. He asked what she meant by fork-hand. She replied impatiently that it could be nothing but the hand in which he held his fork.

Foozle

Bum-foozle to confuse. "I was never so bum-foozled in all my time".

Alabama.

Fotch

Variant of fetch. This expression has been noted among total illiterates, near illiterates, negroes, and often among educated people of rural antecedents who consciously and humorously drop back into the decayed vernacular of their childhood and youth.

Foul

To get into trouble, to get into the power of, or in the clutches of. "Jim has done got a foul of the law again." General.

Fout

Variant of fought. Fit is also in the past tense and past participle of fight. The word has been noted rather generally among backland people though by no means illiterates. Opie Read in his stories of Tennessee "Hicks" employs it as a regular verb form in the mouths of his characters I have heard it in Alabama and Mississippi.

Fracus

Fight. See: rucas. General.

Frazzle

Worn out. "I am completely frazzled out with this washing". General.

Frog-sticker

Large knife. Any long bladed instrument. General.

From hell to
breakfast.

An expression denoting great length, or completeness, or duration. "I'll stick to this business from hell to breakfast". Note also: "Till the cows come home". The expression conforms to the vernacular ease of coining untrammelled phrases. Noted in

Alabama, although it appears to be much more general than in locality noted.

Frolic

Party dance, or gathering of young folks of almost any sort. In the Alabama piney woods the word dance is in ill repute. In earlier days when whiskey was sold generally, roughnecks broke up dances while drunk and lawless. Besides, rural theology does not generally sanction the dance. As a euphonism the word frolic came into use, although the character of the entertainment remained the same. The word "play" is likewise used in the same sense, and for the same purpose--to paint over the spots of the leopard. The words have been noted nowhere else than Alabama piney woods, particularly in Washington and Clarks counties.

Fry

Fried meat. There is a very definite tendency of rural folk to shorten phrases into single words. Thus fried meat and the accompanying gravy becomes simply fry. Note also: "vegetable" as a comprehensive term for any vegetable dish, whether tur-

nips, cabbage or whatnot.

Fur

Variant of far. See: funder for further. This form is confined almost wholly to dialect regions where a practical state of illiteracy still exists, where the "whang" is spoken, and among old folks. It has been noted in almost every Southern state studied.

Furder

Variant of further or farther. General among unlettered people. Heard frequently among total illiterates.

Futures

Corruption of features. For a number of years I tramped the pine woods of Alabama, making photographs. My best customers usually were "pore" folks. I heard futures used among this class almost universally in places of features. An old man told me emphatically after his sitting. Now, if you don't smoke my futures plain on them thar pi'tchers, you needn't look for no money out of me." I therefore "smoked" his futures with care.

Gallery

Porch. Of porch or veranda. Upper South.

- Get to go "I didn't get to go". Common.
- Ghosties Variant of ghosts. Lower. See: posties
- Gimp To break the spirit, discourage,
"take the starch out of me". See:
starch. "When I got through with that
business I didn't have no gimp left".
Alabama. Somewhat general.
- Give up to be Concede. "He was given up to be the
best school teacher that ever come
down the line". General in lower South.
- Going and coming "He knocked 'em down going and coming
General both upper and lower South, and
confined to no particular intellectual
caste.
- Galimpper Large Mosquito.
- Coober Peanut. See: pinder, ground-pea, etc.
See: gumbo. Lower South. Elsewhere the
peanut is known by one name, peanut.
- Goobar-grabber ~~A~~ Backlander. Derisive epithets ap-
plied to poor people always take their
form from some phase of their occupation
or a similitude growing out of their
poverty, and lowly calling. Confined to
the peanut belt. See: Peckerwood, Whick-
er-bill.

Goggle-eyed perch

A large fish inhabiting the streams of the lower South. Because of its curious wide-eyed expression, with a hint of the human in it. The word is sometimes applied to an owlsh vacant eyed youngster. "Look at Jim, he's goggle-eyed". Lower South.

Goozle

The throat or windpipe, indiscriminately. To swallow one's goozle, to strangle, to choke. "He swallowed hi goozle and had to leave the table". Lower South.

Gopher

Terrapin, Alabama.

Got

For "have" or "must". "I got to go". "Have you got any money?" General.

Gouging

To get money by force. "He is one of the gougingest fellows I ever saw. The form in ing, superlative degree, offers no difficulties to the backlander. He promptly takes the syllabic hurdle at a flying leap and goes over the top. Noted generally.

Gov'ment and
goven'mint

Variant of government.

Grabble

To dig, as potatoes. "Go out and

grabble a mess of 'taters". The word is probably derived from gravel, to dig in sand or buckshot. General both upper and lower South. Confined to no particular class.

Granny

A midwife. General.

Greens

Boiled turnip tops or other vegetables. See: salit.

Ground puppy

Lizard. Alabama.

Growed together

Extreme hunger. As "I'm 'bout growed together"! Upper Kentucky.

Guess

"I don't guess". "I don't reckon". Common.

Gully-washer

Heavy, swift rain-cloud burst. See: trash-mover.

Gumbo

Soup with okra in it. Also a type of black sticky soil found in the Alabama and Mississippi black belts. Negro slaves brought in gumbo, goober, hoodoo, and probably helped to corrupt break down. Menchen American Language. Page 56.

Gumption

Courage, nerve. "Jim ain't got

no gumption a-tall." The Scotch influence in the South is marked, and gumption is a dialectical form that is prevalent also in Scotland. (Information derived from a young Scotch woman from Glasgow.) But in this country the word has acquired a different shade of meaning, and now has the force in the vernacular of "back bone".

Cyarden

Variant of garden. General but confined to old settlers. See: cyar, etc.

Hack

Chagrin. "It hacked him mightily". See: Chaw. General.

Had

With ought. "He hadn't ought to do it". Upper. Never heard in lower.

Half-raised

Hill bred. In a region where one encounters little of the culture of urban civilization, one may still find a vivid vocabulary condemning ill manners, and poor rearing. Fetched-up snatched up by the hair of the head, are others of the same nature.

Noted in Alabama.

Hammer-tailed coat

The ministerial garment still worn by a few in the backwoods. Alabama.

- Hanted Variant of haunted. General.
- Har Variant of hair. General in dialect districts.
- Hard ankle A clod hopper, Kentucky.
- Hard headed Dull, contrary. Difficulty to teach. "You are the hardest headed feller ever I see". Lower South. In many regions the word denotes sagacity, clear thinking.
- Hardshellism Reactionaryism. See:hard head. "The state legislatures are bound up in hardshellism". Noted on Peabody campus from the mouth of an Alabama graduate student. The simile is derived from the fact that the hard shell Baptist church clings to primitive doctrines and refuses to be brought up to date. Hence the term denotes ignorance, refusal to take on progressive ideas.
- Hared Variant of hired. General.
- Har' red Variant of harrowed. The use of a as in far, in such words as fire, hire, mire, etc., is prevalent in all backland dialect regions. It may be heard even among high school graduates, it has been noted among literates and

- Heap rather Greatly, preference. Prefer. "I'd a heap rather do that than stay here at home". Common in the piney woods of Alabama.
- Heerd Variant of heard. Illiterate or very backlandish.
- Heighth Variant of height.
- Heir "He heired a lot of money from his daddy". General.
- Hep "I got enough to hep you along". General but heard oftener in lower South. Variant of help. The silent e is prevalent in dialect regions.
- Her'n Possessive contraction of her own. This form, together with your'n, their'n, we'uns and you'uns, and so forth, constitute a division of pronoun inflections that are probably survivals of early tendencies in the language-- a feel after the inflected form in isolated places, while the languages in the outer world marched on, became solidified, and permanent. These forms are heard among illiterate in urban regions, but cannot be so classed in backland localities, where they are more or less in the idiom.

High pockets

A tall person. Moon fixer, high-waterlegs. Illustrative of the grotesque metaphor of the backlander. All noted in Alabama.

High ball

To pass at full speed. "We high-balled the whole gang". "We gave them the high ball". General.

His'n

Contraction of his'un.

Hit

Archaic form of it. One of the most venerable of the Chaucerian forms still obtaining in the language. Although from the nature of the spelling it might seem as if the word were pronounced harshly, such in fact is not the case. The actual sound varies from a bare breath of the h sound to the hardest and most pronounced "whang". It is not confined wholly to illiterate people, but may be heard at times in the mouths of graduate students. On the whole, however, the word may be classed as a language error, and is practically gone.

His'un

Contraction of his own. To be heard now only among remote people or illiterates.

"oe-cake

Bread made of corn meal and water and baked in hot ashes. More lately, baked in any fashion. The American pioneer was a bold and grotesque inventor of language. He also had an extravagant humor. He invented a lot of words and phrases.

Hog down

To clean off a crop by turning hogs into it. The farmer hogs down corn, peanuts, pumpkins, etc., This word is illustrative of the language tendency of converting one part of speech into another. It is a custom that often gives rise to controversy-- a general condemnation by people reluctant to admit flexibility in language.

Hog-wallow(wallow)

A hole of mud and water for the convenience of the farm shoats. Applied also to any mean hovel of a home, or insanitary place.

Holler

Haloo. To call. Also a valley.

Hoodoo

A spell. See:gumbo.

Hoosier
H

Uncouth, belonging to the backwoods, cloddish. This word, so far as I know is used in this sense only in Alabama piney woods. How it drifted

down from its obvious source to become a derisive epithet among a people essentially "hoosier" themselves is one of the mysteries of language.

Hope-holp

Variant of to be encouraged. "I hoped him to it". "I feel mighty hoped up over this". The word is also heard although less frequently, as as holp-ed-l sounded. Miss Murfree notes it frequently in her characters. It is still to be heard from old people in the backwoods of Alabama. But it is one of the forms that will last little longer.

House

Living room. "Let's all go into the house now". So we followed the host from the kitchen into the sitting room. The expression likely had its origin in the custom of pioneers to build two houses--one for the living room, the other, usually detached, for the kitchen and dining room. Hence, when the pole cabins had fallen and the new home was constructed along a more modern line, the language describing the different parts of the dwelling remained unchanged. So does architecture progress, while language

- remains static.
- How** Way, manner. "I couldn't see the how of it". Lower South.
- How come** "How come you here". General in both upper and lower South. Belongs to that class known as careless speakers, although not necessarily to illiterates. Common.
- Huckleberry** A small berry growing in the swamps of Alabama and much prized for making pies. See: Hoe-cake. The whortleberry. General.
- Huh** Variant of her. General in the South.
- Hump** To go quickly. "Get a hump on you". Lower South.
- Hump** Anger, peevishness. "He's on his hump about smething."
- Huz** Variant of hers. Dropped r general.
- Inspar** Inspire (Variant)
- Intensive me** I'm not doing that, me. Opie Read, in the Kentucky Colonel, has a mountain character who uses this form of the personal pronoun. It has been noted

in a study of Snake County dialect (Missouri). But I have heard it once only, and from a hillswoman living at the time in Harrison County, Mississippi. This form is becoming increasingly rare.

Jackleg

Poor workman. "He was a jackleg painter". The word is common, and may be heard not alone in dialect regions, but is an integral part of common vernacular.

Jerk-water

Usually applied to poor winding rail roads, but has come to be used with about the same force as jackleg. "He was a jerk-water school teacher for about ten years". In this connection the expression is one of contempt, derision. Lower South. Not general. Mencken: The American Language. Page 100

Jimson weed

From Jamestown weed. A plant growing generally in the barnlots and old fields of the South. See: Hoe-cake.

John Brownd

By word used as euphonic synonym of dad-burned, dog-goned, etc. "Well I'll be John Brownd". In common usage in various parts of the South,

and noted in practically every dialect district studied.

Johnny cake

A synonym for hoe-cake.

Jug-head

A person difficult to teach. See: hard-headed, dunderhead, muggle head, muttonhead, etc., Noted in the Alabama piney woods.

Juice harp

Variant of Jew's harp. Noted in remote regions of Alabama.

June bug

A beetle common in the South. See: hoe-cake.

Jerked up

Ill bred. "He was jerked up out here in the tall woods". A person without culture or rearing. Lower South.

Kam

Variant of calm. Note: Pam for palm, sam for psalm etc. Confined almost wholly to illiterates or old people.

Kazip

To be off one's kazip. "To be off one's kazip" is not to know what one is talking about, or to be greatly mistaken in one's statements. The backlander has a grotesque sense of language. The sancy "whang" of kazip intrigues him, and by accenting the second syllable with a snap, he con-

- veys his meaning with a completeness approaching genius. Noted only in Alabama.
- Keered Variant of cared. See:kam.
- Kerentry Variant of country. See:kam.
- Ketch Variant of catch. See:kam.
- Ketch on Understand. See:ketch, also kam.
"I didn't ketch on very well to what the y were saying."
- Kick To find fault with. To reject, as a suitor. Chagrin, as I could kick myself for that. (Complication of kicking derived from Latin pudit: Fay: Etymology and Slang. Phil Vol 21, 1900, 197) "He's a chronic kicker". "Sal kicked him and he went off and got another gal". General in all senses.
- Kinry Kin, kinspeople, kinsfolk. For kin or kindred. Alabama.
- Knock-down
Drag out Wild, confusing, as a knock-down-drag fight. General.
- Knock off Quit or stop. "We'll knock off now".
See:saw off. General.
- Knocking around Bumming about, knocking around loose,

fiddling around or about, killing time, fiddling, messing around, and twiddling my thumbs. The backwoodsman is essentially a gentleman of leisure after crops are laid by, sometime in July. After that he idles his time, fishes, visits. Naturally he has need for a varied vocabulary of idleness, and these expressions are those that do the severest service.

Knowed

Variant of knew. "I knowed he used to, even if he don't now". Illiterate or practically so.

Kraut

Beans, collards, and cabbages preserved in brine. Alabama.

Lar

Variant of liar.

Law

"He lawed me about a cow". Illustrative of the rural tendency to convert one part of speech into another. The quaintness or absurdity does not strike the ear until a noun becomes a verb. In most cases we are startled. But the backwoodsman's fee for language is sure, for the modern literacy is toward expressive verbs, derived from whatever source.

Lay by	Stopping cultivation. "Lay by the crops". General.
Learned	Taught. "He learned me my lessons". Common or Careless. Illiterate.
Led	Variant of lid, also laid. Although almost no dialectical term may be said to belong strictly to illiterates and no others. The fact remains that certain forms are in common usage only among uneducated people. They may be total illiterate or near illiterates. Some may have the ability to read. Many of them using this word are literate in the complete sense of the word. But they are people who have lived in dialect regions all of their lives, and speak the vernacular.
Lent	Loaned, also leaned.
Lessen	Variant of unless. Common.
Liberry	Variant of library. Common.
Lick and promise	Poor work. "He gave his crop a lick and a promise". General.
Lickety-split	Reckless. See: hoe-cake. General.
Like	As, "Do like I do". As if, "It seems

- like I heard that". "I never saw the like". "She liked to have messed me up".
- Likely Personable, promising. "Sal's a likely gal, if I do say it myself". "That's a likely looking corn crop you have". Piney woods.
- Liked Variant of lacked. "We liked to get killed". General.
- Live Variant of lief. "I'd just as live go with you as not". Remote. Kentucky.
- Loan Lend. To loan is an archaic form. It was used by Henry VIII (Kroll-Our Southern Folk Speech-Peabody Journal of Education-Nov.-Dec., 1924.) One almost never hears Lend among people speaking the vernacular. "Loan me your knife". "I want you to loan me your mule to plow my crops". General, both upper and lower South.
- Log roll To pile logs. See: hoe-cake. General.
- Lousy Abundance, plenty. "He was lousy with money". A grotesque metaphor heard in Alabama.
- Lowrate To give a low rating to. See: throw-off on. "He lowrated me right there before everybody". To convert a phrase

into a compound word is no strain on the Backlander's language muscles. If it suits his purpose and fills a need, he immediately invents, combines, presses into service. This example is an excellent one of this tendency.

Mar

Variant of mire.

Mass

Mast, as pine or beech mast. "There hain't no mass this year fur the shoats to fatten on".

Massacreed

Mispronunciation of massacred. Common among illiterates or near illiterates. Noted in Alabama on numerous occasions.

Mater'al

Variant of material. Noted. General.

Me

Nominative after is, was, etc. "It's me". General. The grammatical form is rarely heard except among school teachers. Then it's so startling that one always stops.

Medicine

An extravagant metaphor indicative of unusual qualities or expressing approval. "Sal's the medicine when it comes to baking biscuits. See: stuff, pea-likker juice, etc. Alabama.

- Mess To confuse, rout, chagrin. "That goat sho messed me up". " I got messed up in my business and lost all I had". Heard in Alabama and Kentucky. General.
- Might could Probably. "He might could go". This form of the double potential is more or less general, and seems confined to no particular class. It is heard from the mouths of illiterates and graduate students in college.
- Mighty See powerful.
- Mint Variant of meant. "I mint to go but didn't". Common in dialect regions.
- Minute Exceedingly small. "She ain't no bigger than a minute". So said a woman when speaking of a very slender young girl (Alabama). The term has little connection with duration of time but is from minute, small, with reference to space. Heard rarely, and only in remote regions. Not noted in upper South.
- Mitten Mitten fever. Corruption of intermittent. Tennessee.

Mixtry

Variant of mixture. Duke's mixtry, smoking tobacco. The variant has been noted widely. That it belongs essentially to illiterates and near illiterates may be laid down as a rule. One man who used the word regularly at Dixon's Mills, Alabama, however, is a literate, although barely so. Like many other variants, it is used by all classes when in local vernacularly.

Mout

Variant of might. Opie Read employs it regularly in the mouths of his back country characters. Miss Murfree seems to note it among the mountaineers much less. I have heard it in Alabama and Mississippi, but among people who closely, if not entirely, approach illiterates. In the hill and backland districtsm the word at one time was general. It is now disappearing.

Mouth

To talk, grumble, growl. "He mouthed back at me and I hit him". Mouthing: A word belonging to the type of eye, etc. "He eyed me all through the talk". "He nosed in everything". See: Lounsbury, Linguistic Causes of Americans.

Mouth stuck out

Anger. "He's got his mouth stuck out

so's you could knock it off with
a stäck". South Alabama.

Mud stopper

Variant of dirt-dauber.

Mulled

To ponder, muse upon, to have thought.
"I mulled over that thing all night".
General.

Mullygrubs

The blues. South Alabama.

Musicianer

Musician, fiddler at a dance. The
complexities of the tongue present
real difficulties to the backland
mind. That this form is an effort to
make musician regular with practition-
er seems likely. Physicianer has been
noted in Georgia. Noted in Alabama
but among illiterates.

Mux

To make a confusion of. "He makes a
mux of everything he tries". Alabama.

Name

To mention casually. "I'll name it to
you". "I just thought I'd name it to
you". General.

Nary

Variant of none. Rare now except among
remote backlanders and illiterates.

Ngbate

To publish or promulgate. This word was

first noted in the **backwoods** of Alabama. Then it was heard from the mouth of an educated speaker from Mobile. This was ten years ago. In 1924 the word was heard in Woodburn, Kentucky, from a woman of excellent learning. That it is a corruption of notoriety seems possible, but no amount of investigation has aided in bringing its actual derivation to light. The woman referred to above said it was used by her grandfather. In the piney woods it seems to have been doing service for generations. In between these localities I have not heard it.

Nuther

Variant of neither. Rare.

Of

"The dog is a-running of the hogs".
 "He's a doing of it". Confined now to old settlers, was once quite general. Alabama. Noted in nearly all dialect writers of the South.

Offer

Variant of off-of. "He fell offer it". Alabama.

Onct

Variant of once. Also twict for twice, etc. Common.

- One hoss farmer Small farmer. Alabama and Mississippi.
Somewhat common.
- Oodles Lots of. "She had oodles of money".
Though in common usage in Alabama, one
hears it elsewhere rarely.
- Ort Variant of ought. Orter-ought to, or-
ter, had orter, ort upper South; had
ort or had ought upper South. More
or less general.
- Our'n Variant of ours. Rarely, usually illit-
erates. See his'n.
- Outten Out of. "He fell outten the window".
Common in dialect regions. No longer
heard among people with some assumption
at learning.
- Out of sight Wonderful, and extravagant characteriza-
tion of anything, from a piece of pie
to a costly dress. "This grub is simply
out of sight". "You looked out of sight
today". General in both upper and lower
South.
- Over-het Over heated. See: over-rid.
- Over-rid Over ride. Also rid for ride or rode.
Confined to remote regions.

- Pack To carry (upper)South Tote lower.
In Kentucky one "packs the baby". Go down into Alabama and Mississippi "one totes it". Tote, however, is far from being universal. It is confined largely to people who either make no pretense at learning or are careless of their speech. The word has come to be regarded as a negroism, hence is shunned more or less by white people, although the history of the word does not appear to indicate such racial derivation.
- Paint the town red Create lots of excitement, as a new person coming to town on a visit. "They'll paint the town red". General
- Painter Panther, rare. Mentioned often, however, in Miss Murfree's stories of the Tennessee highland. Alabama.
- Pa-rarie Variant of prarie.
- Palin's Palings--pickets rived directly from the tree without manufactured finish. A paling fence. General.
- Pallet An improvised bed, usually for children

of quilts laid on the floor. Lower South. "Shake-down is the term used by Opie Read in his Tennessee stories. In other regions the descriptive term, "floor bed" is used for the same thing.

Pam

Variant of palm.

Pass the time
of day

To stop for a short while to talk, or to greet. "I just passed the time of day with him and didn't stop".
Common.

Pass words

To quarrel. "They passed a few words, then the fust thing I knowed they war a-scratching each other's eyes out".
Common.

Patteroll

Negro variant of patrol. The term grew out of reconstruction in the South and is largely confined to folk tales of the negro's cowardice at night when the K.K.K. took the management of affairs over.

Pearboil
P'rbile

Variant of parboil. Lower South

Pea-likker(liquor)
juice

An extravagant metaphor applied to one who has demonstrated unusual ability or ingenuity. "Buck shore is the

pealikker juice when it comes to standing in with the gals". Confined to the lower South and derived from the use of cow-peas as a staple article of diet.

Pea-patcher

Small white farmer. Alabama. Small farmer, makeshift class. Red neck, hill billy, rosen chawer, hoosier, bark eater, whickerbill, clodhopper, peckerwood, leather neck, scissor bill.

See:Peckerwood. Lower.

Peert

Animated, lively, health. "She was puny yesterday, but she's feeling mighty peert today". "She's eighty-odd, but she's peert as a young gal". General.

Pepper salts

Variant of pepper sauce. Alabama.

Pester
Pestercate

Annoy. "Those dern mosquitoes pester hell out of me". Common.

Picter

Variant of picture. Also pich-ter. "I want my pic-ter struck". Common in Alabama backwoods.

Pieded

Spotted. "She's a pieded cow". Common.

- Pill** A mortifying situation or task.
"It's a terrible pill to have to go see that feller". Alabama.
- Pinder** Peanut. See: ground pea, goober, and goober pea.
- Plague** To worry, annoy. "I never was so plagued in all my day".
- Play** To dance. "They played 'till way late". See: Frolic.
- Play the wild** To make a grave error, mistake. "You played the wild that time". Play hell- a more violent synonym; play the devil- somewhat milder; play the dickens- still milder; play it- milder yet; play thunder; play Ned; play heck, are all variants of the same expression.
- Plum** Plumb. Entirely. "I was plumb scandalized at him". Common.
- Poke** Sack or paper bag. Alabama. Rare.
- Poke** To loiter. Poke along. The expression is frequently accompanied with the preposition along. Poke easy or slow poke- a lazy shiftless person or an

- adult not hampered with ambition.
An easy going type of person. Noted particularly in lower South, but used more or less in most dialect regions.
- Pone Corn bread made up with salt and water and baked in a slow oven. Pone braid.
- Pore Variant of poor.
- Porely Or(Po'ly) ill, ailing. "I'm powful po'ly today". General among illiterates, both upper and lower South.
- Posties Variant of posts. See:Ghosties.
There is a distinct tendency of the backland speech to change the plurals of such words as ghost, post, boast, etc., from the straight s-sound to the ending in ies. The reason probably lies in the fact that the s-sound is difficult to enunciate.
- Pot likker(or liquor) The fluid portion after cabbage or beans have been boiled with bacon or lard. General in lower South. Not noted, however, in upper localities.
- Powerful An extravagant adverbial substitute for very. See:mighty. "I'm powerful sick man". Alabama. Noted in many dialect regions.

Practice

Work, business. "Did you get much practice on your trip this time"? Heard only in one dialect region-- Marengo County, Alabama, among old people, who originally came from North Carolina. The same term survives in the practice of medicine or law. With these people any profession was "practice" even to taking pictures. Lower South.

Presidint

Variant of president. Miss Murfree uses often the term, settlemant, curiously enough, it is not heard often in Alabama, where settlement is a common word; but the above term is noted with some frequency particularly among illiterates or near illiterates.

Primp

To dress one's self. Also to pucker the mouth up to cry as a child. "Is you going to primp in thar all day, Sally?" "Sister primped up her mouth and bellered". Alabama.

Prize

To pry. A. and v. "Let's get a prize pole". "We tried to prize it loose, but we couldn't".

- Projeking Idling. " I was just projeking about." Similar expressions connoting lazy, aimless wandering: knocking around loose, fiddling around, liddling, messing around killing time. Common in most dialect regions.
- Proud "I was proud for you in your success". Not proud of you. General in lower South.
- Psa'm See: "sam".
- Puke A scoundrel. Alabama.
- Purty looking thing Of sight. To present a ridiculous appearance. "Now ain't he a purty looking thing in that hat"?
- Put off To hatch. "She put off a hundred chickens". Lower South. Common.
- Pulled out Depart, remove. "He pulled out for Texas". To pull stakes. Alabama.
- Pulley bone Wish bone of a fowl. The superstition that the one breaking the short end of the pulley bone will marry first is universal in all dialect regions.
- Puny Weak, small, sickly. "He's always been a puny baby". "I'm sorter puny

today". General, both upper and lower South.

Put out

To inconvenience. "I hope I didn't put you out when I couldn't get there on time". Alabama.

Put it in your pipe and smoke it.

That is, take it with you and ponder on it and accept it. See: "Put one's pride", etc. Noted generally.

Put one's pride

"He put his pride in his pocket and walked away". Whether the alliteration of the p-sound in this expression has anything to do with its general use in the piney woods is a matter for speculation. At any rate, there appears to be some connection between the alliterative quality of an idiom and its prevalence. Note: "Now put that in your pipe and smoke it".

Put your name in the pot

To make preparation for a guest by cooking more food. "I'm coming to see you Sunday, so be sure and put my name in the pot".

Quaar

Pronunciation of queer.

Quairy

Qu'ry. Variants of Quarry. (Tennessee)

- Qua'll Pronunciation of quarrel.
- Quar Pronunciation of quire.
- Quashy Soft, as mud.
- Rabbit tobacco Life Everlasting! A plant used to adulterate "homemade". Alabama.
- Rail "The bottom rail shall be the top rail and the top rail shall be the bottom rail". This expression has become ingrained in the South where the negro lived as a slave and suffered the indignities of the under dog, real or fancied. It has become the hope of the under dog for emancipation. Not confined to any particular group although heard most frequently among "under dogs".
- Railly Variant of really.
- Rail Variant of real.
- Ramps Where logs are loaded on a log train. In Mississippi, lateral supporting arms of the levee.
- Ramrod The boss or one in authority. Tennessee.
- Ramstageous Unruly, headstrong. "He's the ram-stagest feller ever you see". Alabama.

Somewhat common in that region but not definitely noted elsewhere.

Rambunctious.

Rangy

Long-legged, as a rangy horse.

Rar

Variant of rare.

Rared

Variant of reared.

Raised

Used as rear~~ed~~. General among those who use the vernacular, but among careful speakers, or those who make a pretense at care along certain directions, it is usually avoided, with the more artificial and correct form "reared" substituted for it.

Rat

Variant pronunciation of right.

Rat smartly.

Rations

The advances made by merchants to a renter. "We go down every Saturday night to get out rations at the plantation store". Cotton belt.

Razorback

Piney wood rooster.

Recruit

"My cold recruited up on me". Noted from an old settler in Alabama and current in the Etheredge neighborhood, Marengo County, Alabama. I have not noted it elsewhere consciously, although

I have an impression that it is somewhat current in this sense in most counties of lower Alabama.

- Red To clear away. "We redde^d up the table".
- Redbug The chigger. Alabama.
- Red neck Backlander. Mississippi.
- Requar Variant of require.
- Resk Variant of risk.
- Ribbon cane Sugar cane. Also the syrup made from this plant, in contradistinction to that made from surghum. Alabama.
- Ri-cheer Variant of right here.
- Rick Pile of wood, carefully corded and containing usually 64 cubic feet. Rick-rank-stack, synonyms. General in all rural regions where cord wood is a commodity.
- Riccollect
Ricolleck Variants of recollect.
- Rid Past tense and past participle of ride.
- Ride a bug-hunting A merry chase. "She shore rode me a bug-hunting". Alabama piney woods.

Right

Very. "I am getting along right well".

Rightly

Certainly. "I can't rightly say".

- (1) ~~Right~~ smart
 (2) Right smartly

"He was right smart cut up". "I was right smartly bothered about the matter". Almost generally one hears right. But in Kentucky, Warren County, "right smartly" is in universal use. One upper South; two, lower South.

Right up to
 the catalogue.
 Right up to
 the snuff.

Up to date. First expression heard in Tennessee. Second noted generally in lower South.

Rile.

Roil. "That shore riled me good".

Rint.

Variant of rent.

Rip-snort

To swear, curse, any violent protest. "He rip-snorted all over the place when he found I'd got his money". General.

Rise

Freshet. "June rise of the Mississippi."

Risin

A boil, abscess. "I get a risin on my arm."

Riz

Arose. "I riz right up on my hind legs".

Rogue

An animal that jumps fences. Adj. Roguish. "She's a turrible roguish animal."

Roint

Variant of ruined.

Roos

Near.

Rosum
 Rosim-chawer

Resin
 A backwoodsman. Alabama piney woods.

- Rot-gut. Whiskey. Synonyms: white mule, white lightning, stump water, red eye, and shinney.
- Roughness. Roughage.
- Row. A task. "He has a hard row to hoe." The expression is illustrative of the idiom of backlanders which goes to the soil for its metaphor.
- Row. Fight.
- Ruction. Fight.
- Rucus. Fight. The terms to express personal combat seem almost endless. Ruction, scrag, row, are the more common. They may be heard generally over dialect districts comprehended in this study.
- Run. Variant of room.
- Run. A series. As run of lumber, that is, as it is sawed, without further grading.
- Rusty. Soiled, dirty. "He shore was a rusty sight."
- Salet. Sometimes selit. Greens. Upper South. Tennessee.
- Salivate. Chagrin, cure. "That thing salivated him." "That thing shore salivated him before he got through with it." General.
- Sam. Variant of psalm.
- Sam Hill. Substitute for a more violent term, as "Why in Sam Hill didn't you get here in time?" Alabama.
- Sand. Courage. "If you had any sand you wouldn't let him run over you that way?" Common.
- Sand. Spunk. "He had no sand in his draw."

- Sappy Callow. "These darn sappy gals pester me mightily." Alabama.
- Sap-sucker A mild epithet. "When I see that sap-suckeer, I'm going to tell him a few, myself." Common.
- Sar Variant of Sire.
- Sat'd'y Corruption of Saturday.
- Saw-off To stop. Also to interrupt, silence.
 "When we get this done, we'll saw off for the day." Noted in Tennessee but nowhere else.
 The expression likely is derived from the sense of completion that comes to sawyers when the cut drops from the log they are working on.
 Heard in the woods, among timber workers. "I sawed him off with an answer that he won't forget for some time." General.
- Say-so Authority, responsibility. "You've got the say-so, go ahead and have it done your way." Common.
- Scare up. Produce, create, get hold of. "We've got to scare up some money somewhere." "I couldn't scare up an idea to save my gizzard." General.
- Scou'nel Pronunciation of scoundrel. Sc'ornal also.
- Screech owl Small owl that frequents buildings and said to be a harbinger of bad luck and death.
 Scrooch owl, squinch owl, squeech owl, shivering owl.
- Scrunch. A raucous noise, to crunch, crowd or mash.
 "Scrunch over this way by me." "He scrunched his chair all over the gallery." Alabama.
- Scuppenong Species of grape. An Indian dialect word. Col

- onies took over Indian place names and a number of words to designate Indian relations and artificial objects in Indian use. Alabama.
- Seed. Variant of saw. Illiterate. Rarely heard now, even in remote dialect districts.
- Seedling. A tree grown from seed. Fruit trees grown from seed.
- Seen Variant of saw. Seed. These terms are confined mainly to illiterates.
- Se'f Self. Selves--selves.
- Sent for and couldn't go "He looks like he was sent for and couldn't go."
- Set Used for sit.
- Set the river on fire To achieve something noteworthy. Usually in the sense of opposite. "You think you set the river on fire, don't you?" Alabama.
- Set her cap for To try to fascinate. "She set her cap for him." Common.
- Set one's finger To make one's self at home. "Set on your finger and lean back on your thumb." Alabama.
- Settlement road
Settlement trail A private roadway leading off the main highway. Alabama piney woods.
- Set up to
Set cap To court. To seek to win. (Second)
"He set up to her till she married him."
- Sevs Variant of selves.
- Shade Slight degree, edge. "I had a shade the better of the scrap." Common.
- Shake A chill. Not very common but heard at times.

- Shaking Chance, opportunity. See stirring.
 "Ain't a thing shaking." That is,
 "Ain't nothing doing, of words to that
 effect.
- Shakedown A pallet. See pallet.
- Sharp Belonging to a smart-Alec. "He's so sharp
 he can stick in the mud." Nothing "gets
 a rise" out of a backwoodsman as an as-
 sumption of superiority. None so quick
 as he to award genuine merit, there never
 has been a critic so keen to scorn mere
 pretention, as the backlander. Common in
 Alabama.
- Shed To get rid of. Also shut and shet. "I
 finally got shet of him." General.
- Shed room Lean to. See, cockroom. Miss Murfree
 notes the term, roof-room, in her stories
 of Tennessee mountains. But roof-room is
 not noted in the flatlands embraced in
 this study.
- Sheer Variant of share. Sheer-crapper-share
 cropper.
- Shindig Dance. See frolic.
- Shine A spasm or fit. To cut a shine. Same as
 to cut a dido.
- Shinney Whiskey.

Shiverree	Serenade. In sections of Alabama and Mississippi when a couple marry and settle in their new home, usually after an interval of a week, all the young folks of the community, and many of the older ones, form into a band and visit the newlyweds in a wild revel of noise. The chief instruments are cowbells, old circle saws, musical instruments, tin pans, anything that will make a noise. The more raucous the better.
Shore	Variant of sure. Sho'; sho'nuff. General with slight modifications of sound.
Shot at and hit	"He looks like he was shot at and hit."
Shot to pieces	Nervous, frightened. "I was all shot to pieces when I heard the news." General
Shout	To voice the truth. Now you are shouting. Lower.
Shower of rain	"He ain't got enough sense to come out of a shower of rain." A simile of contempt. General.
Shuck	Variant of shock.
Sich	Variant of such.
Sight	Usually appearance. "She's a sight." General.
Sight unseen	Without examination. To trade sight unseen.
Sile	Variant of soil.

Since Heck was a pup	Long time. "I ain't seen you since Heck was a pup." General.
Sint	Variant of sent.
Skeer	Variant of scare.
Skeerce	Variant of scarce. Also skace.
Skide	To put skids under him. Get rid of him. Also put the blocks to him, to put the bear to him. Lower.
Skip	To omit. "I skipped over that." General.
Skimption	Small quantity. Margin. "That's a small skimption." "We missed turning over by a mighty small skimption." Common, especially in lower South. Confined to no particular group, although people who are more careful of their speech usually avoid it.
Skin	Cheat, or to be stingy. "Skin a flea for its hide and tallow." General.
Slew-foot	One whose feet tend to extend to both right and left, instead of to the front. A mark of derision without reference to one's feet. "He's a slew-fotted fool."

- Slicker A rain coat.
- Slip up To make an error in one's calculations.
"He slipped up in that land deal."
Slip-one's foot; a mistake; slip--an undergarment. These words are in common use in most parts of the South.
- Slop Swill and refuse generally. "Slop the hogs."
- Slough Number, crowd. "There was a whole slough of folks there." See slug.
- Slow fever Typhoid
- Slug Quantity, number, crowd. "We found a slug of nuts under that tree." "There were a slug of folks at the barbecue."
- Smidgeon Infinitesimal quantity. "Durned little smidgeon you gimme of that stuff." Common.
- Smoke out To drive out, or to compel to a definite stand, as a politician. "We smoked Bill out of his hole on this evolution business." "The boys smoked the skunks out of their holes."
- Smoke To produce an image, as a photograph. In the days of the old tintyper, the metal picture was dried over the flame of an oil lamp. The ignorant customer got the impression the image was smoked on. Hence, the term, still in current usage in backland Alabama.

- Snatch Violent disapproval, threat of punishment. "I'll snatch you as bald headed as a by-George." Alabama.
- Snide Cheap, hollow. "That was a snide trick." Alabama.
- Snub To sob, spent sobbing.
- Snuck- Sneaked. "I snuck off through the woods." Common.
- Sock To push in. "I socked the peg right in the hole." To take advantage of an opening. "I got him in a corner and socked it to him." To cheat. "He shore socked it to me on that horse trade."
- So'ghams Variant of sorgham. The plural form is heard only in the piney woods.
- Some odds Indicates an uneven number. "I split forty some odd rails this morning." General.
- Soonst Variant of soon. This term was noted in Kentucky, but nowhere else. Yet whilst for while is common elsewhere. See wellst. "I'd as soonst go as not."
- Sore head Disgruntled person. "Bill's got to be a regular sore head here of late." Common.
- Sorry Poor, lacking in ability. "He's a sorry farmer." General.
- Sorter Variant of sort of. General.
- Sot Settled. "He is sot in his ways." Lower.

Soup bunch	Bundle of vegetables.
Sow belly	Salt bacon. General.
Spar	Variant of spire.
Sparal	Variant of spiral.
Spare-made Spare-built	A small person.
Spiles	Piles, long poles.
Spit	Replica. "He's the very spit image of his daddy." Alabama.
Split silk	Fine as. Descriptive of extreme refinement or high quality, or superior flavor. "This pie's as fine as split silk." Common.
Squar	Variant of square.
Squinch	To squint the eyes in brilliant light. Squinch owl. The backlander delights in modifying and changing words already in current usage. The word scrinch, scrunch, squinch, sewunch, screunch, etc.
Stamping ground	Haunts. "That was my old stamping ground out there." Alabama.
Stand in	Have favor with. "He's always trying to stand in with the gals." General.
Starch	Courage, backbone. See gimp. "That job took all the starch out of me." The expression is without question derived from the fact of starch melting in the presence of perspira-

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tion. Noted generally, both upper and lower South.

Stick-in-the-mud Derisive word when name cannot be called. "What's that fellers name you know who I'm talking about, that old stick-in-the-mud."

Stick to the ribs Food that digests slowly and is strong, as corn bread and fat meat. Lower.

Sticks Backwoods. "I have got to go back to the sticks." General.

Stiff neck Bigoted. The most common expression of contempt for bigotry is big-head. Others are uppity, uppishness, upish, high and mighty (rare in South), bigotry. (See note on peckerwood). In the provincial vulgate there are two distinct vocabularies of scorn one for those who assume a superiority over rural folks, and those who do not measure up to their standard of excellence. The backlander scorns alike those above and those below him.

Stir To play the gallant. "I'm going to stir around amongst them." Lower.

Stirring Chance, opportunity. "Ain't nothing stirring." Also, "Ain't nothing shaking." Rural substitute for nothing doing.

Stob A post, or stake. "We drove a stob in the bank and tied the boat to that." Common.

Stop by To visit.

Straight row to how An exacting task or requirement. Common.

- Strike To take, as a photograph. "What do you charge to strike a feller's picture?" Alabama.
- Struck Infatuated. "He was sure struck on her." Also stuck. The words are used. General
- Stuck out. "He's got his mouth stuck out so far you could knock it off with a stick."
- Study To attend, to give heed to. "Git away from here, I ain't studying nothing about you." General in lower south
- Stuff-buddie An extravagant metaphor corresponding to Stuff, medicine, pea likker juice, and the like. The backlander has a hearty method of approval of unusual ability which takes the form of the many and divers verbal inventions. This and its shorter form, stuff are representative of this tendency. The forms are general, the more extravagant being the coinage of the more remote people.
- Stump water Whiskey.
- Stumped Perplexed. "I stumped him with that problem about the sheep and goats."
- Sull To refuse to act or talk. "She's been sullin' all day." Common.
- Sunday-go-to-meeting-clothes One's best. Alabama
- Sung Sang. The participle is frequently used

- Suspicion Suspect. "I suspicioned that I'd find her there." The use of suspicion as a verb is very general among most backland people studied. It even gets into more dignified society at times, being employed by educated people.
- Swaller his goozle To strangle. Noun, the throat. See goozle.
- Swig Drink noisily.
- Tacks Brass tacks. The base of things, or bottom. "Let's get down to brass tacks now." Common.
- Take out. Unhitch, stop work for the day. "Well sposer we take out for the day." Tuck out, past tense. "The dog tuck up here." Or "The dog taken up here."
- Taken Variant of took. Takened another variant of took. "They takened the mules to the pasture." Both forms are heard, taken more frequently than took. Both belong to the illiterates or near illiterated. General all over the South.
- Talk about. To talk about a person has a bad connotation. General.
- Tarnations. Vexations. "This is the most tarnationous thing I ever seen in my born days." General.
- Tarred. Variant of tired.
- Taters Variant of potatoes. Small taters.

Ain't no taters. These expressions are attached to persons of small importance, poor white trash. "Ain't no taters is equivalent to "Aint nothing doing", or "Nothing doing", or the rural term "nothing stirring", or "Nothing shaking." Somewhat common.

Teached For taught. "He teached school for us,"

Tech Variant of touch.

Teched in the head Insane, foolish. "He&s a little teched in the head."

That Variant of there.

That there or that

thar. Also them thar. See: These here.

The-ayter Pronunciation of theater. Long a accent on ay. This word, with discipline, which may still be heard pronounced de-sip-lime illustrates the law of recessive accent in operation at the present time. Both pronunciations are heard now only among rural people.

Theirn Theirs. Note also her'n for hers, his'n for his. The use of the n form ending may be explained that the backlander was striving at some time in his language history to arrive at a uniform system, as mine has come to be the complement form of my.

- Them Equivalent of those. "Gimme them apples."
Common.
- Thereckly Variant of directly.
- These here Used for these. The addition of here and there demonstratives is quite common. These here, them ehere, them thae, may be noted frequently in the backland vulgate. The people who use them are not necessarily illiterates. Custom in dialect districts sanctions them; hence they come into literate usage as well as illiterate.
- They Their or there. "Gimme they clothes and lemme put them on them." Common. Usually illiterate.
- Think a sight of. Love, esteem. "He shore thought 'a sight of her." Common.
- Through Dose or series of doses. "I gave him a through of medicine." Also course of medicine. Alabama.
- Throw-off on. To disparage, bring into ill repute. "He threw off on me when he said I didn't know enough to come in out of a shower of rain."
Lower south.
- Tight. Stingy, also drunk. "Tight as Dick's hat band." An expression intended to show by simile something very tight."

- Tight Drunk, stingy, to be in trouble. "That shinny made me tight." "He's turrible tight with his money." "I tell you, I shore got in a turrible tight when that feller got on me." Common.
- Timothy "Timothy is like frog hair, pretty fine." Noted in Kentucky. An example of idiom growing out of an imaginative similitude.
- Tired Disgusted. "He sure made me tired talking about himself."
- To (instead of with) with talk. Talk to me, not with me. Common.
- Toad frog Frog. Note: Tooth dentist.
- Toady around after To follow, usually in a scornful sense. "All he does is toady around after that girl." Note: Run after, tote after, toot after.
- To-do Disturbance. "We raised a hell of a to-do over that mule, and we got him back, to." Common.
- To give out Decide one is not coming. "Well sir, we'd just about give you out." The expression is general in the lower south, but has not been noted so frequently in Tennessee or Kentucky.
- Tole Variant of told. "He tole on me."

- Toll To take toll. "He tolled the grist."
- Toll To lead. "All she done was toll him on till she ketched him." General.
- To-mar Tomorrow.
- Tom-walkers. Stilts. "We been walking on Tom-walkers to-day." Tom Walker----a mild expletive. "What the Tom Walker air you doing around here at this time of day, Buck?" Note: "What the dickens," "What the Sam Hill," etc.
- Toot To curry favor, be humble. "All he done was toot around after that gal. Hit made me so mad I could-a kicked him." Alabama. Tote around after is used in the same sense.
- Tooth dentist Variant of dentist. In the Alabama piney woods one never heard simply dentist. The word is always tooth dentist.
- Tote To carry. In the lower south one hears *tôte* more frequently, in the upper south, the equivalent is pack.
- Touchous Irritable. "Don't be so darn touchous." Techous - Variant of touchous. Note tech for touch. Common
- Track To follow, to trail. "We tracked the mule." to make tracks, to run precipitately.

- Track To bring in. "You tracked mud all over my clean floor." Common.
- Trader and Trafficker One who engages in small swapping for a living. "Bill traded and trafficked around with that thar Ford car till now he's on foot." Common.
- Trap Contraption. See: do-dad
- Trash Poor people. Poor white trash. The belief that the negro uses this term to designate poor whites is scarcely supported by study. The form is in far more common usage among white people than among blacks. There are various degrees of white trash. About the trashiest people I ever knew referred to their neighbors as "trash".
- Trash-mover A heavy downpour of rain. "We had a trash mover out our way to-day." General.
- Tree To run up a tree. "The dog treed the squirrel." Tree bark- the bay of a dog when it has located game.
- Trick A clever person, small, graceful, petite. "He's a trick at that sort of thing." "She's a purty little trick." General
- Trompled Variant of trampled
- Truck To haul in a truck. Trucked-past tense, and past participle. "We trucked the sheep out of the community to the railroad." See: wagon.

- Turn A load. "I took a turn of corn to the mill." Alabama.
- Turn row The stopping place. The end of his rope. He finally reached the turn row. The point of achievement. "He who reaches the turn row first is the one who makes every lick count." Alabama.
- Tush Tusk. "Look how long that hog's tushes is." Alabama.
- Two heads. Wisdom, caution. "Two head's better than one even if one is a mutton head." General
- Upp To rise, make a sudden start. "He upped and cleared (cla'ed) out." "I upped and belted him over the head."
- Upperhand
Underhand Methods. Common. Characteristic or rural idiom. In pioneer days wrestling was one of the chief sports. The upperhand holds, and lower hand holds represented different degrees of advantage. The words apparently had their origin there.
- Uppish Uppishness, bigotry. "Sal shore ain't got nothing to be uppish about. She used to be as pore as me." Alabama.
- Uppity Scornful. "You don't need to try none of your uppity ways around here." Common.
- Use Frequent. "I see tracks around here where skunks have been using." "The cattle use up and down the river." Alabama.

- Used to could . Used to. "I can't do it with the joy I use to could." Notice also: might could. Both these forms are in rather common usage. They are in no sense illiteracies. Rather they belong to the same category of the Northern hadn' ought, or had ought.
- Wade in Attack. "I waded right in and whupped him." Common
- Wag To go about aimlessly. "There goes that feller wagging around here again."Alabama.
- Wagon To drive or transport in a wagon. "We wagoned down out of the mountains." "We used to wagon over to the Alabama river for our provisions."
- Wagoner The driver of a wagon. How prevalent this form once was may be appreciated by the family name of Wagoner, which is encountered in Tennessee, and in Alabama.
- Wagoneer The driver of a wagon.
- Wait on Court. "When I used to wait on my wife, he was an old man then."
- Wall To glare. "To wall the eyes."
- Wampus or cat-a-wampus. Also: Whampus- the panther. A mythical animal used as a bogie to frighten children.
Ala.

Went
Went on.

Off. "I went on "Upper. Kentucky. Not noted in lower south.

Wa'n't

Weren't. An archaic form still doing service in the backwoods. Opie Read employs it in his stories of Tennessee, Miss Murfree appears to use it somewhat less, while many dialect writers do not put it in the mouths of their characters. It is seldom heard nowadays. See:war.

War

Was. "He warn't no child for play." This form is used without discrimination for number. It will be found connected with both the singular and plural subject. One of the more common dialect forms, it has been widely noted in the dialect literature of the south. Though in use by many illiterates, in its essence, along with air, thar, and similar words, it is not an illiterate term within itself.

"ar

Variant of wire.

Waisties

Variant of wastes. See: posties, etc.

Water-Jack

Water-carrier. "Water-Jack ought to be there and halfway back." Heard in saw mill Camps, section gangs, etc.

Water logged

Literal sence, a log in the water so long it will not float. Figuratively, a person who is so steeped in his own ignorance or contrariness that nothing can be done with

	him.
Watermelon	Hospitality. "Come by and we will cut a watermelon." Alabama.
Wax	Chewing gum. Tennessee.
Weepon	Weapon.
Wellst	Variant of well. "We might as wellst go." Kentucky.
Went	Became. "What went with my shoes?" Alabama
We'uns	Variant of we. Note: You'ens. General in dialect localities.
Whang	Dialect. "Don't he talk with a turrible whang." It is an interesting fact that when a backwoodsman hears a variant from his own vernacular, he notes it with ill-concealed intolerance, and refers to the strange tongue as "whang."
Whar	Variant of where.
What- you.	Contractions. Also what-ja-mean, wha-cha-want, and wha-cha-doing. Common.
Wheel horse.	The leader, an unusual person. "He's a wheel horse." Kentucky.
Whenst	Variant of when.
Where	Corruptions of where are: what, when, whar, [®] and whare.
Which	Meaning: "What did you say." Also how. Alabama.
Whicker bill	A rustic, servant, poor white trash. Miss. [®]
Whicker whacker	The movement of the water mill. Alabama.

Whilst	Variant of while. See: wellst.
White corn	Whiskey. Not heard in lower south to any extent.
White-eye.	To give out, become exhausted. "I was pretty well white-eyed when I got through." Alabama.
White lightning	Whiskey.
White mule	Whiskey. Lower south.
Whup	Variant of whip.
Whur	Variant of where.
Whut	Variant of what.
Wint	Variant of went.
Wisht	Variant of wish.
Wool gathered	To be confused, General.
Words.	Words ending in <u>low</u> frequently become <u>ler</u> . Note: Feller, yaller, swaller, holler, meller, willer, piller, biller, etc. General
Worm	To pick worms from tobacco. Heard in tobacco belt
Worth	Worth a dime with a hole in it. A metaphor characteristic of backwoods reactions. "He never was worth a dime with a hole in it." Alabama.
Written	Variant of wrote. "I written you last week." Note also: taken for took.
Writ	Variant of wrote.
Writin's	To put into writing. "If you've got that in writin's you've got a case." Common.

- Wrop Variant of wrap.
- Wishy-washey Unstable. Tending to change one's mind.
"He's a turrible wish-washey feller." General
- Y'all Variant of you all. Common. Little used
in the singular, however. A persistent belief
exists among Northern readers that the word
is employed in the singular in common speech.
Such, however is rarely the case. In its
essence the word implies plurality.
- Yaller janders Yellow jaundice.
- Yander Variant of yonder.
- Yank To Pull hard at suddenly. "I yanked myself
loose."
- Yap A country lad.
- Yap To talk, gossip, complain. "You don't do
nothing but yap all the time."
- Year Ear. "I yanked his year nearly off."
- Yearling Yearlins. Presumably a year old calf. In
reality a half grown animal regardless of age.
- Yes-shur Yes sir. The shur sound is heard frequently
in Marengo County, Alabama.
- Yistiddy Variant of yesterday.
- You can't get all your
coons up one tree." An expression exhorting contentment with
things as they are - you can't have everything
you wish. Alabama.
- You could knock me
down with a feather! Surprised, startled. Alabama.
- You'ens Plural of you.

Yourn . Variant of yours.
Yowl To wail. "Quit your durned yowlin!"
Yudle Yodle. Tennessee.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The dialect of the upper and lower South is alike in approximately as many instances as it is unlike. Where the forms themselves differ, there exist in the different localities in most instances, other forms of equivalent value: Red Neck, in Mississippi; Peckerwood, in Arkansas; Rosum Chawer, in Alabama; Hard Ankle, in Kentucky; Cracker, in Georgia, apply to the same general type of "white trash."
2. Dialectic forms are not confined to illiterates. Many people who use the rural vulgate are literate; frequently fairly well educated, prosperous farmers; many are highly intelligent. The determining factor in the use of a word is local custom, not extent of learning. In general, however, the more pronounced dialect is spoken by backland people, whose educational advantages have been limited.
3. The more archaic dialectical forms are rapidly passing out. The advent of the automobile, establishment of consolidated schools, the widening outlook of backward people are changing the speech of dialect regions into the modern and conventional forms. Fifteen years of observation of local speech forms has shown that when the older generation dies, most of the obsolete and archaic folk speech will have largely passed out with them.
4. Much of rural speech is derived directly from the soil. The metaphor is that of familiar things.
5. Where the soil suggests nothing startling enough, the backlander, out of a grotesque taste in language, invents what he needs. Such words usually possess no sense whatever. They are simply whimsical combinations of sounds

that satisfy the backwoodsman's sense of expression. Dodad, for example.

6. Parts that cannot be classified under the head of peculiar idiom or psychological slant may be catalogued under the head of survivals of earlier English. Many forms hark back to Shakespeare or Chaucer. Ax, for ask; hit for it, etc.

7. Aside from Anglo-Saxon in common usage everywhere, the Bible appears to contribute very little to the speech of rural people. One might reasonably expect to hear the poetical forms of the King James version in somewhat general use. But the heavy poetical quality of that speech period is generally lacking. One hears a backwoods slang much more often. In fact, rural regions have their slang just the same as urban centers. The difference is that rural speech slang is derived from the soil, or outcroppings of the backwoodsman's grotesque language sense, whereas the urban dweller speaks in a tongue of the street.

8. The "r" sound is much more pronounced in the Upper South than in the Lower South. Apparently, the farther South one goes the softer becomes the r, until eventually it disappears almost entirely.

9. The influence of the negro is not marked in any of the dialect districts studied. In fact, it appears that the superstition that the folk speech is greatly modified by negroisms has no foundation in fact. The negro has a dialect of his own, but the poor white of the South has not borrowed it. The difference is racial, not geographical.

10. The superstition existing even among Southern people of the more educated castes that rural speech is mostly a collection of language violations and grammatical errors has even less foundation. Backland speech obeys the same general laws that urban speech obeys, is just as pure, is historically often purer.

than the present conventional English, and otherwise, is quite as desirable and elegant, locally.

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