

Posted by Ross Green

Pennsylvania Sauerkraut

E. W. BLOSER'S INK. [Written before 1929.]

Use a large ink well, filling it 3/4 full with pure Arnold's Japan Ink. After using it in the pure state until it gets too dark or thick, thin it with water, strong black coffee (strong enough to KILL A CAT) or Arnold's Writing Fluid. The coffee will give a light line of a brownish tint, the writing fluid a greenish effect, and the water a light line of a grayish appearance. Use any of these fluids with which to thin it - the one that will give the effect you prefer. Add a little of one of these fluids every few days to keep the ink thin as desired. Never stir the ink. A sediment will gather at the bottom of the well which should never be stirred up. Draw a strip of paper across the surface to remove dust, scum, or crust. When it gets too pale or muddy, clean the well thoroughly and refill with Japan, adding one of the fluids as before. Some like the ink best when the Japan and writing fluid are mixed half and half. If this is done, pour both in a bottle and shake well; then let stand, and shake as little as possible thereafter when filling the well. When the Japan ink is properly thinned, we think it is one of the finest inks in the world for fine penmanship. It is used by nearly all the best penmen everywhere, but it requires a little experimenting and patience in learning how to mix it. It is not at its best for some time after being poured into the well. Like Pennsylvania sauerkraut, it improves with age. For that reason, those who wish to have good ink on hand at all times should have two ink wells, so that while the ink in one is being used, the other will be 'getting ripe.'