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# Yankee Talk: A Dictionary of New England Expressions (Dictionary of American Regional Expressions)

Robert Hendrickson

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**Robert Hendrickson : Yankee Talk: A Dictionary of New England Expressions (Dictionary of American Regional Expressions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yankee Talk: A Dictionary of New England Expressions (Dictionary of American Regional Expressions):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of a Kind By Goybabe I've seen a couple reviews grouching,

implying that this book is nothing but some regurgitated Stephen King. That's simply not so. Ok, it's not Green's slang, or the OED. Nor does it cost two thousand bucks. It's a great little book on New England slang, about the only one out there. And though it, perhaps, is not painfully scholarly, it is accessible, and scholarly enough to print for every word where he had it from, and its roots if they're known. Often they aren't. He also gives you a great intro and many full sentences, to get a feel for the unique patterns of speech. My book is set in Salem in 1803, and though I know the age of sail, and knew its slang would be dominant, there are many other sources here than the sea. It's been a big help. Also, there is a great reason, known to historians, to concentrate on Maine. Until the Constitutional Convention, Maine was a part of Massachusetts, a sort of colony if you will. A backward colony, where modernity was much later in coming. Consequently, many linguists have pointed out that Maine became a treasure trove of country terminology that had often been lost in Boston and other New England towns. And the book highlights something that was a happy accident for me. My last book featured Regency characters in Dorset, in the West Country, which has, like Yorkshire, an incredibly singular slang. As I studied it I noticed how much of it had slipped into the language of the American West, terms like "duds" for clothes. But when I chose Salem, I forgot that most of the Pilgrims and Puritans who founded it came from Dorset, as well as Sussex and Essex. I found in journals and letters, and in this book, that tons of the language, especially of farmers and servants, was almost pure Dorset, with some changes after a century in America. In that respect as well, this book has been a great help to me, especially when I'm tired, and just can't find a cute and colorful phrase to put in a character's mouth. I think any writer working in this period would find this volume a real help. There's almost nothing out there like it, certainly not on any of the useless websites. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fun for Browsing By Steven O. Yankee Talk is a fun book for browsing. You may find some favorite old expressions, and those terms unknown to you will delight and entertain. The only notable error I found was that the nickname "The Granite State" is inexplicably assigned to Vermont. New Hampshire is "The Granite State." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Ian Randall Wilson This book is just a lot of fun. Some of the strangest expressions you never heard of.

Through a fusion of Puritanism, seafaring, advanced learning, and a terseness brought on by the vicissitudes of weather, New Englanders have developed a vocabulary and manner of speaking that is unique. In Yankee Talk, renowned language maven and writer Robert Hendrickson has collected and defined more than 3,500 words and phrases from as far afield as Bar Harbor, Groton, and Marblehead. Many entries include a discussion of literary or historical sources - from Edith Wharton to Stephen King, from Captain John Smith, who coined the name "New England" in 1616, to novelist Mark Helprin, who notes that some Irish Bostonians have "a dialect strong enough to make the planet green." The third of five volumes in the Facts On File Dictionary of American Regional Expressions series, Yankee Talk features an extensive introduction that provides in-depth coverage of the New England region and its different dialects, in addition to the often salty phrases that make up the heart of the book: don't know enough to pound sand in a rat hole (extremely stupid), go sandpaper the anchor (get out of here, don't bother me), he's so contrary he could float upstream (said of a very stubborn person), mighty small potatoes and few in a hill (something or someone of little consequence), and two lamps burning and no ship at sea (said of a foolishly extravagant person).