

Hold Dear, As Always: Jette, A German Immigrant Life in Letters, edited by Adolf E. Schroeder and Carla Schulz-Geisberg, translated by Adolf E. Schroeder. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1988. viii, 309 pp. Illustrations, notes, index. \$34.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY JANE PEDERSON, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

Hold Dear, As Always is the result of the collaboration of an American editor and translator, Adolf E. Schroeder, and a German scholar, Carla Schulz-Geisberg. They have woven together the letters and autobiography of Henriette Geisberg Bruns (Jette) into a powerful, often moving account of this German immigrant woman's life. This volume reproduces most of the 270 letters written between Jette and primarily her brother Heinrich Geisberg across seventy-two years, from 1827 to 1899. These letters, transcribed first from Gothic script by Schulz-Geisberg and her daughter Eva-Maria Westerman, are located in the private family archives of the Geisberg family of Münster in Westphalia, West Germany. Adolf Schroeder's translations into English offer American historians and readers a resource not often available to them.

The letters span a lifetime and reveal the events and inner life of Jette and her family. The collection is framed by two letters: the first was written in 1827 by fourteen-year-old Jette to an aunt informing her of the death of Jette's mother after the birth of a child; the final letter is written by Jette's daughter notifying Jette's sister in Germany of Jette's death in 1899. The letters in between are the intimate story of Jette's life, as an adolescent and young woman in Germany, of love and marriage, immigration to Missouri in 1836, the birth of ten children and the death of seven (three within a few days of each other during an epidemic), the premature death of her husband, debt and financial crisis, and the task of raising her own and her brother's orphaned children, and her strenuous but ultimately unsuccessful efforts to preserve the sanity of a younger brother, to mention just a few of the highlights. These letters reveal the dramatic and mundane details of Jette's life and the inner landscape as well: an ordinary woman whose life story makes extraordinary reading.

Historians interested in women, the family, German immigration, and ethnicity will find *Hold Dear, As Always* to be a valuable and singular source. Jette actively shaped and directed her life even in the face of tragedy and hardship that seemingly would break the spirit of the most hardy. Her letters also lay bare the bonds of kinship strained and sustained across thousands of miles and almost three-quarters of a century by a combination of commitment, compassion, courage, and cantankerousness. Articulate and actively involved with the

social, economic, and political life of her family, Jette belies the stereotype of an oppressed hausfrau. She lived the values of order, responsibility, and hard work that characterized the German professional and bureaucratic class from which she came. More than a record of events and activities, her letters present the proddings of the inner self in the face of both tragedy and joy.

The Road to Rebellion: Class Formation and Kansas Populism, 1865-1900, by Scott G. McNall. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1988. xviii, 354 pp. Illustrations, map, tables, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.95 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY THOMAS BURNELL COLBERT, MARSHALLTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In surveying the literature dealing with Populist political agitation of the late nineteenth century, it seems that although interest in the Populists occasionally diminishes, it never seems to end. Indeed, it is an intriguing historical subject. Now Scott G. McNall, a professor of sociology at the University of Kansas, has added his name to the long list of scholars who have explored the realm of Populism.

What McNall attempts to do, however, is not to rewrite the history of Populism but rather to explain why the Populists did not create a class movement. McNall does not work from the older view of Populism associated with John D. Hicks's *The Populist Revolt* (1931), which presented Populism as a groundswell response to economic and political concerns. Rather, he uses the model of Populism developed by Lawrence Goodwyn in *Democratic Promise: The Populist Moment in America* (1978). Goodwyn believed that Populism should be seen in terms of movement formation, a democratic movement that suffered defeat. Goodwyn offered a model of stages of development for such a movement: in general, a large segment of society has socioeconomic grievances, so its members create an organization to represent their interests, which in turn helps to develop an ideology for their views, and that leads to concerted political action. Consequently, such a movement becomes, at heart, as much culturally as economically based. Unlike Hicks or Goodwyn, McNall does not attempt an encompassing narrative or analysis of Populism. Rather, he focuses solely on Kansas. He thus has produced a case study—but not necessarily a history—of Populism and Populists in Kansas. Instead of talking about a democratic movement, as Goodwyn did, he looks for a Jeffersonian class movement aborning in Kansas and seeks to explain its dissolution.

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