

Brown has given us an important and original study of one of the best-known figures in U.S. history. It reveals to readers Jane Addams the human being rather than the myth. Her flaws, her strengths, as well as her capacity for change, adaptation, and acceptance of others who were not exactly like her are exposed in a way that will enable us to view her as a product of her environment, but also as a historical figure who believed first and foremost in a democracy based on social justice for all people. Brown ends her book on this last point, arguing that it is essential to understand all of Addams's actions, finally, as a result of her ideal that all of society's problems could only be solved through mutual understanding. Addams spent her life attempting to be the honest broker, the person who brought people together, "rising above dogma and self-interest and embracing flexible solutions out of mutual concern for a common good" (295). Such a conclusion may not satisfy anyone who wants to argue that Addams should have been more radical in her approach to resolving the mammoth problems of the Progressive era. Yet, as Brown so convincingly portrays, Jane Addams believed that lived experiences and not necessarily an inflexible political ideology had to guide one's actions in order to achieve reform.

Citizen: Jane Addams and the Struggle for Democracy, by Louise W. Knight. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005. xvi, 582 pp. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$35.00 cloth.

Reviewer Judith Ann Trolander is professor of history at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She is the author of *Professionalism and Social Change: From the Settlement House Movement to Neighborhood Centers, 1886 to the Present* (1987) and "Hull-House and the Settlement House Movement: A Centennial Reassessment" (*Journal of Urban History*, 1991).

Jane Addams was the most famous settlement house leader in the world, a multi-issue reformer, and a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. Louise Knight's carefully researched, insightful, and beautifully written biography takes Addams's story up to 1899. By that time, Addams had established Hull House, attracted some other leading reformers to it as residents, launched a successful speaking career, published some articles, and become nationally known. Her books, including the classic *Twenty Years at Hull House* (1910), would not appear until the twentieth century, and her prominence as a reformer would continue to grow. What Knight does in covering the first half of Addams's life is to detail Addams's transition from living in an upper-class family in a small midwestern town to her life at Hull House in a poor, immigrant neighborhood in late nineteenth-century Chicago.

Because of Addams's prominence in American history, Knight had a lot of archival material available to use in describing not only Addams, but her family, the places she lived, the books she read, the people she met, and the issues with which she became involved. In addition, Knight makes good use of recent historiography relating to women, labor issues, and intellectual and social developments to set Addams in historical context. Consequently, even though Addams never made her home in Iowa, Knight's account of her father's contributions as a wealthy, second-generation pioneer in Cedarville, Illinois, provides a detailed story of success in the Midwest that was often repeated with different details in many other towns. As a young man in the 1840s, Addams's father got a loan from his father to purchase a flour mill and substantial farmland near Cedarville, adding to his holdings as the region developed. He then became a banker and a politician. The Addams family was the wealthiest in town.

Likewise, the picture Knight paints of Jane Addams attending Rockford Female Seminary presents a close-up of student life in a midwestern institution on the verge of becoming a college that would grant bachelor's degrees. Her teachers required a lot of writing, a skill that would become very useful to her. She also had some major opportunities to develop her skill as a speaker. The specific family pressures Addams faced after graduating, such as having to choose between marriage and a career, are typical of Addams's generation, which was the first generation to graduate from college in significant numbers. A common assumption was that a woman could not combine a career and marriage. What is so wonderful about Knight's book are the specifics and the detail that make these representative experiences of Jane Addams come alive.

In other respects, Jane Addams was far from typical. Knight carefully examines the various influences that caused Addams by the time she was 29 to renounce what she called the "family claim" in favor of founding an innovative, new institution, Hull House. Because her stepmother disapproved, the support Addams got from a college friend, Ellen Gates Starr, was crucial to her having the nerve to proceed. Female friendships were important to Addams's generation, but Hull House was the first settlement house in the world to include both men and women as residents.

Addams was also a reader of the serious books of her day. Knight discusses these books and explains how she believes their ideas influenced Addams. In addition, Addams sought out people of all classes and was open to new influences, often deliberately looking at a problem from all sides. She carried her sense of social and cultural superiority with her, but that was tempered by what Knight refers to as the frontier

“ethic of equality” (68) or her “egalitarian etiquette” (198), meaning that Addams was brought up to treat all people, regardless of their class, politely. Although she never completely lost her sense of social and cultural superiority, her Hull House experiences made her more aware of the perspectives of others. That, in turn, made her a leading commentator on the social issues of her day. She helped to open up the new career of social work to women and was one of the founders of Progressive reform, a prominent feminist, a peace advocate when that was unpopular, and an eventual recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Readers who spend time with this book will be well rewarded with some vivid pictures of rural and urban life in the Midwest, as well as insights into one of the most remarkable women in American history. This book is a “good read.”

Steel Trails of Hawkeyeland: Iowa's Railroad Experience, by Don L. Hofsommer. Railroads Past and Present Series. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005. xiii, 353 pp. Illustrations, list of acronyms, notes, bibliography, index. \$75.00 cloth.

Reviewer Rebecca Conard is professor of history and director of public history at Middle Tennessee State University. In 1990–91, she directed a statewide survey of railroad architecture for the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office.

Don Hofsommer has been studying and writing railroad history since the mid-1970s. Much of his research has focused on railroads important for the economic development of the upper Midwest. His publications record is unmatched. Given the complexity of Iowa's railroad history, it is doubtful that anyone else could have delivered such a wealth of information in one volume. The sheer fact that Hofsommer managed to produce a richly illustrated book that can be physically handled with relative ease is both remarkable and commendable.

Steel Trails of Hawkeyeland is the fifteenth book to be published by Indiana University Press in its Railroads Past and Present Series and the first to tackle the entire railroad history of a single state. Hofsommer approaches his subject chronologically, although that is not obvious just by scanning the chapter titles. Thus, “Beginnings” (chap. 2) chronicles the westward extension of railroads from Chicago to the Mississippi River from 1848 to 1860; “War” (chap. 3) demonstrates that the “westerling process, while slowed, did not stop” between 1860 and 1865; “Recovery” (chap. 4) details the development of “Iowa's rail grid” between 1865 and 1873, with a predominant east-west axis, representing lines that connected the farms and towns of Iowa, and beyond, to Chicago's stockyards, factories, and distribution centers.