

# RECENT REVIEWS

## *This Is Who We Were: 1880-1899*

*"This Is Who We Were: 1880-1899 joins the other This Is Who We Were books in providing students with primary-source information about a particular period in United States history. Section one begins with 29 profiles of individuals like that of telephone company executive Donald Rutherford in 1880; the profiles include snapshots of life at home and work and facts on life in the community (in the case of Rutherford, the community was Boston, Massachusetts). This section of profiles is generously illustrated and successfully immerses readers in the life and times of the person featured using various materials like historic documents and diaries. A list of historical snapshots of inventions, political events, women's rights, expansion, and more comprises the second section, while section three provides data on the annual income of blacksmiths, cigar makers, and others for 1883, 1890, and 1898, along with pricing information for such products as furniture polish, a typewriter, and coffee in 1883, 1890, and 1898. This section also has information on the value of a dollar from 1860 to 2014. Section four "All around Us," uses 86 documents in chronological order (mostly reprinted in their entirety) from popular magazines and newspapers to give a sense of how people felt about a variety of topics like music, shopping, women's work, and education. The fifth and largest section, "Census Data," is comprised of six state-by-state ranking*

*Grey House Publishing*

*4919 Route 22, PO Box 56 Amenia, NY 12501*

*(800) 562-2139 FAX (518) 789-0556*

*www.greyhouse.com books@greyhouse.com*

# RECENT REVIEWS

*tables from 1880, 1890, and 2010 followed by reprints from the 1890 Census of Population and a reproduction of the report "Progress of the Nation: 1790-1890."*

*This will be a helpful resource for students from middle school through high school and beyond because it makes accessible in one place a wealth of interesting and useful information. A selected bibliography and index round out the volume."*

*-ARBA*

*"Following the series' pattern, this reference combines census and other government data with personal narratives; snapshots of history, such as advertisements and magazine excerpts; and lists of significant events to provide a portrait of a decade. The first section in this volume is made up of 29 profiles (including "Educational Reformer and Teacher in Rural Wisconsin in 1881" and "Textile Mill Worker in 1890"). These profiles are broken down into the bullet-point sections "Life at Home," "Life at Work," and "Life in the Community." There is also information on the economy of the times (including income and price lists), and 86 primary document references. The latter half of the book presents a variety of census tables. This is a useful source for student assignments and general browsing and is recommended for school and public libraries."*

*-Booklist, May 2015*

*"This terrific book looks at life in the 1880s and 1890s by enabling the reader to understand the average American citizen who went through, among other*

*Grey House Publishing*

*4919 Route 22, PO Box 56 Amenia, NY 12501*

*(800) 562-2139 FAX (518) 789-0556*

*www.greyhouse.com books@greyhouse.com*

# RECENT REVIEWS

events, the industrial revolution, labor strikes, an influx of immigrants, and the growth of cities and the railroad. A section of personal profiles portrays, for example, a railroad construction engineer (1883), a professional baseball player (1888), and anticorset campaigner (1896), and a teenage garment industry labor organizer (1898). Historical snapshots examine major turning points such as the assassination of President James Garfield; Susan B. Anthony's Congress for women's rights in Washington, DC; and the close of the Spanish American War. Economic information is imparted through figures relating to food, clothing, housing, and transportation, and figures on annual incomes and selected prices are analyzed. An index shows the value of the dollar for every year from 1860 to 2014. Also of note are reprints of newspaper and magazine articles, letters, and posters depicting such events as Billy the Kid's death, early home remedies, and Ernest Thayer's poem "Casey at the Bat." Those desiring further readings might consult H.W. Brand's *The Reckless Decade: America in the 1890s*. **VERDICT** This wonderful study of what America was like in the 20 years leading up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century belongs in libraries with extensive holdings in social science and history. It will interest the individual scholar and general reader alike by virtue of a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the book.

-Library Journal, May 2015

*Grey House Publishing*

4919 Route 22, PO Box 56 Amenia, NY 12501

(800) 562-2139 FAX (518) 789-0556

[www.greyhouse.com](http://www.greyhouse.com) [books@greyhouse.com](mailto:books@greyhouse.com)