

of escape to freedom since he disclosed few details as a precautionary measure. The only real fault I find with this re-issue, like so many other historical works being published today, is that the notes are placed at the end of the text as opposed to the bottom of the page, necessitating a great deal of page-flipping and irritation. But this is a wonderful little book and particularly useful for topics related to slavery and the coming of the Civil War.

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**Corinne Azen Krause. *Grandmothers, Mothers, and Daughters: Oral Histories of Three Generations of Ethnic American Women*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1991. Pp. xiv, 231. Cloth, \$24.95.**

This work is based on a study of 225 women conducted in the mid-1970s, entitled "Women, Ethnicity, and Mental Health." Follow-up interviews in the late 1980s with eighteen of the women updated their reactions. Italian, Jewish, and Slavic immigrants made up the principal ethnic groups in Pittsburgh in 1900 and are the focus of this survey. Changes in peasant economies and religious pogroms drove thousands of families from eastern and southeastern Europe to seek better opportunities in the United States. Initially, most of the men worked in the steel mills and later branched out to small businesses. Women might take in sewing or help in family stores, but they were rarely employed outside the home until the second and third generations. With mastery of English, girls got service jobs in laundries, restaurants, or as domestics. With education some of the third generation moved into the professions.

This study is concerned primarily with the culture the immigrants brought with them and the changes resulting from life in America. Each group had deep convictions about the roles of women as well as of men, the raising of children, and commitment to the extended family. Beyond family loyalties, immigrant women related most closely with their religious roots. Church and synagogue associations provided needed support, but they also restricted integration into the new society. Ethnic neighborhoods also contributed to the slow pace of melding into the broader community. Girls, who were expected to marry within their communities, were taught homemaking skills at home with emphasis on the care of children and the preparation of traditional foods. Except for Jewish immigrants, schooling was not considered important for girls. Each generation showed greater awareness of the value of education for both boys and girls and pride in their academic accomplishments. World War II provided broader job opportunities and expectations for the daughters. The women's movement expanded the horizons of the granddaughters. While most individuals remained in the religious tradition of the older generations of their families, they became less strict in their observance of rigid rules.

In the process of remembering and speaking to strangers, memories of tensions within families seem to have faded. With the stress of becoming Americanized, there must have been serious disagreements. The overriding emotions expressed by each interviewee were of shared love and an awareness of the price paid for immigration to a new country.

For teachers this book offers a reservoir of anecdotes for lectures. For students, it will afford a foundation for research. The bibliography covers major and less well known studies of immigration published over the last fifty years. A listing of the questions asked in the interviews, perhaps in an appendix, would have given a springboard for students' research on the immigrant experience. Even lacking such a listing, a careful reading of any of the sections will provide student researchers with the basic questions to which they may add their own. Aside from the ethnicity aspect, students interested in family history will find this book a helpful tool for exploring the changing ideas about gender roles, courtship and marriage patterns, family relationships, the impact of religion, and the increasing importance of education and community involvement in twentieth-century America.

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