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## News from the Land of Freedom: German Immigrants Write Home (Documents in American Social History)

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#1624463 in Books Cornell Univ Pr 1993-04Original language:GermanPDF # 1 9.25 x 6.00 x 1.25l, #File Name: 0801481201656 pages | File size: 57.Mb

**Walter D. Kamphoefner, Wolfgang Helbich : News from the Land of Freedom: German Immigrants Write Home (Documents in American Social History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised News from the Land of Freedom: German Immigrants Write Home (Documents in American Social History):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I bought this book to better my understanding of why so many Germans left their ...By G. SweeneyI bought this book to better my understanding of why so many Germans left their mother land to come to America not even knowing the traditions or language. This book certainly told me what I was looking for. It was a bit drawn out in a lot of places, but I did enjoy peeking into the lives of these Germans through their letters home. It wasn't a book that I couldn't wait for the next chapter, but I did love their determination and drive for a better life for themselves and their families.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Much More Than Just A History BookBy DanceswithNaduahI have owned this book for years and bought it for my girl-friend this Christmas. She loves it just as much as I do.I have read lots of history, but this book does not only tell in each chapter about how the German immigrants came to the US and what it took to start a life in many different areas of interest, it also contains in each chapter many letters which were sent home to Germany.The letters describe in a very personal fashion daily life, hardships and adventures the immigrants had to go through in order to be able to finally start the life

they had imagined in the New World. This book is of utmost interest and is worth every penny. I recommend this book to everyone who is interested in how the life of these Europeans started in America. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Big, thick book! By C. Ender Looks like a very good book. Haven't had much time yet to dig into it but believe it should provide great context for my family history research.

Book by Kamphoefner, Walter D., Helbich, Wolfgang

From Publishers Weekly Kamphoefner, who teaches history at Texas A M, and Helbich and Sommer, a historian and a researcher, respectively, in Germany, assemble here letters written home by German immigrants to the U.S. between the 1830s and 1930s. The entries remind us that hard work and early death especially taxed the first arrivals: in one family only four of 11 children survived infancy, and there are frequent references to the deaths of women in their 30s and 40s. We also read tales of the more adventuresome who left the cities for Mexico or the California gold fields and of those who fought in the Civil War. An amusing sidelight is the introduction of young men to the shotgun wedding, evidently not a practice in the Old Country. There are also accounts of the anti-German feelings provoked by WW I and the virtual banning of German-language study in the schools. General readers would do well to skip over the first 60 pages devoted to the editors' and translator's difficulties, but the letters themselves will be of great interest to those descended from immigrants of any nationality. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA monumental feat of popular archivism as the editors (Kamphoefner: History/Texas AM; Helbich Sommer: History/Ruhr Universitt Bochum) select from over 5000 letters in the Bochum collection about 350 that are most representative of the German immigrant experience in America, ca. 1830-1930. Organized into three categories--"Farmers," "Workers," "Domestic Servants"-the letters selected were written by 20 different individuals or families, each contributing several letters over a course of years. The correspondents offer an intimate look at immigrant triumphs and troubles (most often about money, especially falling into debt, or about bad health: as Christian Lenz writes in 1849 from Tennessee to his brother in Germany, "here there's no fear of war, what the sword is for you is here the Korlra [cholera]...Here the sickness is so common that in the big cities half the people have been buried")--as well as fresh eyewitness descriptions of America ("Dear Marie," writes Wilhelmine Wiebusch in 1884 from Brooklyn to her overseas mother, "you really ought to see New York...the most beautiful and main street, Broadway, is more than 6 hours long...Crossing the street is positively dangerous, one wagon after the next, so loud you can't hear yourself talk, business and money everywhere"). Expertly translated by Vogel, with intensively researched introductions and annotations by the editors, this is a vital and captivating contribution to immigrant lore. -- Copyright 1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: German