

This attractive volume delivers in good measure the historical information and insight promised in its title. More attention to editorial detail would have enhanced its usefulness.

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Muddy Boots and Ragged Aprons: Images of Working-Class Detroit, 1900-1930. By Kevin Boyle and Victoria Getis. (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1997. Pp. 208. Illustrations, notes, bibliography. Paperbound, \$29.95.)

By the 1920s the city of Detroit, Michigan, was a symbol of the rapid urbanization, industrialization, and immigration that had occurred in the United States in the five decades after the Civil War. Having grown from a population of 45,000 in 1865, Detroit was the nation's thirteenth largest city with a population of nearly 285,000 by 1900. By 1930 Detroit's working-class population had increased to 1.5 million people, and its status as a major industrial center was undisputed.

The story of Detroit's industrial, urban, and working-class development in the early twentieth century is not new. Historians have produced a plethora of books and articles examining the working-class city. Most studies, however, have relied on traditional sources such as company records, letters, and diaries, which have not always painted a very vivid picture of everyday working-class life.

In an effort to document the lives of Detroit's working class more fully, Kevin Boyle and Victoria Getis have turned to a nontraditional source, photographs. In *Muddy Boots and Ragged Aprons* they have successfully integrated nearly ninety previously unpublished photographs and thought-provoking commentary to paint a broad picture of working-class life in Detroit in the first three decades of the twentieth century. The photographs are drawn from a variety of archives, including the Ford Industrial Archives, the Ford Historical Museum at Greenfield Village, and the Archives for Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University.

Organized in three sections—Home, Work, and Community—this volume shows the importance of using photographs to document the everyday life of ordinary workers. Ranging from the interior of a working-class bar, to a group of women in the decorating department of the Jeffery-Dewitt Sparkplug factory, to a crowded and unhealthy bedroom, to a social gathering of the Bethel AME Church, the photographs provide important lessons for labor historians and nonacademics alike.

Most strikingly revealed by the photographs is the difference in the standard of living between the middle class, illustrated by Charles Hargraves (p. 40) and Margaret Cummer (p. 44), and the working class, represented by Abdul Amondi and Dom Poccia (p. 52) who labored in the Ford automobile factory. In the Hargraves and Cummer households the photographs include porcelain sinks, bathtubs, toilets, paintings, carpeting, wallpaper, and decorative fireplace mantels. In the photographs depicting working-class households one is startled not by what the occupants had but by what they did not have. The absence of closets, wardrobes, and chairs; the use of scraps of cloth for curtains; and well-worn furniture, linens, and utensils characterized the homes of the working class.

Boyle and Getis have succeeded in their primary goal: "exploring the everyday life of ordinary people, in all their glory" (p. 19). *Muddy Boots and Ragged Aprons* provides readers with a window through which to view the complexities of Detroit's industrialization, immigration, and urbanization. Moreover, the lessons learned from the book's photographs and text can be applied to other cities such as Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Youngstown during this period.

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Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy. By Annette Gordon-Reed. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997. Pp. [xxiii], 288. Appendices, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Did he or didn't he? As far as the American public is concerned, it seems, the verdict is already in: Thomas Jefferson was the father of Sally Hemings's children. But Annette Gordon-Reed is not quite so ready to decide. There are, she says, days she wakes up knowing that Jefferson fathered Sally Hemings's children and other days when she is less sure. It might be argued that this is the historian's fate. In the absence of a smoking gun (or in this case a DNA test), one can never be certain. Still, Gordon-Reed's reexamination of the evidence will convince many readers that they can be as sure about the reality of the Hemings-Jefferson relationship as they are about any number of other things.

Long dismissed by mainstream historians as a politically inspired calumny or an instance of what Freud called the family romance, the story of a relationship between the third president and a slave (who may or may not have been his late wife's half sister) gained new currency when revived in Fawn Brodie's 1974 biography, *Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History*. But Brodie's claims, based in part on dubious psychologizing and a tendency to overread the Jeffersonian texts,