



4919 Route 22
PO Box 56
Amenia, NY 12501-0056

800-562-2139
Fax: 845-373-6360
Email: books@greyhouse.com
www.greyhouse.com

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Contact: Jessica Moody, Vice President, Marketing
Grey House Publishing
(800) 562-2139 x 101
jmoody@greyhouse.com

Grey House Publishing announces *Working Americans, 1880-2011 Volume XII: Our History Through Music*

Grey House Publishing is proud to announce the publication of *Working Americans 1880-2011 Volume XII: Our History Through Music*, the twelfth volume in the Working Americans series. Like its predecessors, this work profiles the lives of Americans – how they lived, how they worked, how they thought – decade by decade.

Earlier volumes focus on economic status or social issues. More recent volumes focus on a specific group of Americans – like immigrants in *Volume VIII*, athletes in *Volume X*, and entrepreneurs in *Volume XI*. This volume highlights American music and musicians – from classical performers to rock star groupies, from production crews to impresarios. *Our History Through Music* depicts the sound track of America – from Appalachia to the Big Apple, from the phonograph to I-Tunes.

Without exception, the 36 individuals profiled in this volume represent all regions of the country, and a wide variety of ages and ethnic backgrounds.

In *Volume XII: Music & Musicians* you will:

- ◆ March with clarinet player Albert Gustoff in John Philip Sousa's Band
- ◆ Go behind the scenes with diva Russ Columbo and Bing Crosby
- ◆ Learn how the Lindbergh kidnapping created the disc jockey
- ◆ Join the Prisonaires behind bars by day and on stage outside by night
- ◆ Get in the mood with Blue Note Records designer Reid Miles
- ◆ Build guitars with master Wayne Henderson

Arranged in 12 chapters, this newest *Working Americans* includes three **Profiles** per chapter for a total of 36. Each profile offers personal insight using *Life at Home*, *Life at Work* and *Life in the Community* categories. These personal topics are followed by historical and economic data of the time. **Historical Snapshots** chronicle major milestones. **Lists of Popular Songs, Quotes of Famous Musicians**, and **Timelines** of music-related events, i.e. *Development of the Clarinet*, and the *Creation of the Victor Phonograph Company* appear throughout. A variety of **News Features**

puts the subject's life and work in context of the day. These common elements, as well as specialized data, such as **Selected Prices**, in currency of the time, punctuate each chapter and act as statistical comparisons between decades.

All twelve volumes, regardless of economic status, time period, or specific focus, offer a unique, almost uncanny, look at those Americans whose talents, desires, motivations, struggles, and values shaped – and continue to shape – this nation. Without exception, the 401 individuals profiled in the twelve volumes of this *Working Americans* series are working toward their version of the American dream.

Like its companion volumes, *Working Americans 1880-2011 Volume XII: Our History Through Music* is a compilation of original research (personal diaries and family histories) plus printed material (government statistics, commercial advertisements, and news features). The text, in easy-to-read bulleted format, is supported with hundreds of graphics, such as photos, advertisements, pages from printed material, letters, and documents.

All twelve *Working Americans* volumes are “point in time” books, designed to illustrate the reality of that particular time. Some Americans portrayed in this 12th volume went on to realize fame and fortune, while others did not. What they all did, however, is help America find her voice, and many of their stories and struggles march on.

Praise for earlier volumes:

“ . . . by arranging the people chronologically rather than alphabetically, users can see how industry changed over time and how ideas and inventions built upon each other. . . .an outstanding overview of the unique inventions and entrepreneurial efforts . . . This work is highly recommended for school libraries from middle school through high school as well as college libraries from community college through graduate school . It should also be found in public libraries of every size.

American Reference Books Annual

“this volume engages and informs, contributing significantly and meaningfully to the historiography of the working class in America...a compelling and well-organized contribution for those interested in social history and the complexities of working Americans.”

Library Journal

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