

whose subject is as important for the student of American history as for the specialist in Jewish Americana.

Besides the text, there are statistical tables; a long, critical bibliographical note; diagrams of a so-called "dumbbell" tenement and tenement block; and a map showing the boundaries of subethnic districts and the locations of theatres, schools, *yeshivot*, settlement houses, and other landmarks of the Lower East Side. Fourteen cartoons, drawings, and photos provide a gallery of Jewish faces, occupations, and interests, and re-create the hustle of the pushcart market on Hester Street and the look of typical tenements and sweatshops.

East Lansing, Mich.

JOHN J. APPEL

Dr. Appel, Assistant Professor of American Thought and Language at Michigan State University in East Lansing, has published a number of studies dealing with immigrant history and historiography.

A Word from Waco

Waco, Texas, October 2, 1876

Messrs. Editors:

It may be hardly known to you that there is such a place as Waco. But there is, and it is a thriving little city, situated on the banks of the Brazos. It is the educational center of the great state of Texas, and has a population of about 8,000 souls, probably one fiftieth of which is Jewish. New Year (one day) and Day of Atonement were quite zealously observed by our Hebrew brethren here. They are, alas! votaries of the lucre seeking sect, an attribute generally smothered under the more popular title of "Reform." One family, alone, is orthodox. The rest consider Moses and his dietary laws entirely too antiquated to deserve modern observance. The Benai Berith is in a tolerable flourishing condition in our midst; and likewise the H[ebrew]. B[enevolent]. S[ociety]. Our co-religionists are particularized for their charitableness, and those here are not exception. Every benevolent, religious, and educational institution in our city owes its prosperity in no small degree to its Jewish benefactors. A neat "Hebrew Rest" [cemetery], which we possess, Providence be praised, is seldom needed. Until lately, we had a "Shochet," but feeling himself out of his element "he hath departed."

Respectfully, A Word From Waco.

[*The Jewish Messenger* (New York City), October 13, 1876]