



Native American and modern U.S. history (p. 19). With a companion website featuring primary sources and a Q&A blog by the author, *Native but Foreign* will make a useful text for college-level classrooms and curious readers alike.

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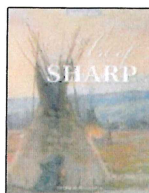
Remembering Lucile

A VIRGINIA FAMILY'S RISE FROM SLAVERY
AND A LEGACY FORGED A MILE HIGH

Polly E. Bugros McLean

University Press of Colorado, Boulder, 2018. \$29.95 cloth.

It has long been the conventional wisdom among scholars of the African American West that a paucity of archival resources and the failure to value, collect, and save material related to the African American experience in the West has caused a lack of scholarship on that topic. Polly E. Bugros McLean's *Remembering Lucile* helps fill that void and provides a valuable contribution to the history of the African American West by telling the story of Lucile Berkeley Buchanan Jones, "the daughter of pioneering emancipated slaves who traveled west to Colorado in order to forge a new life in the mile-high city" (p. 250). Buchanan was the "first Black woman to graduate from two of Colorado's prestigious institutions of higher education (Colorado State University and the University of Colorado)" (p. 252). Even though she was forced to leave Colorado at times because racial restrictions prevented her from earning a teaching position, she managed to pursue a decades-long career in education and, McLean writes, "embarked on a life of adventure, achievement, and

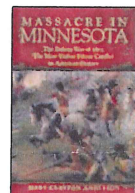


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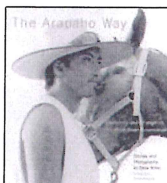
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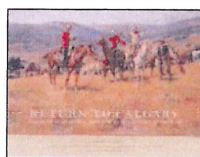
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risk-taking, marked by innovation, self-reliance, and independence—qualities that were the hallmark of the West” (p. 252).

While *Remembering Lucile* focuses primarily on the fascinating details of Buchanan’s life and family history, McLean also enhances the narrative with her own story as an African American educator in Colorado, and as a researcher undertaking the challenging project of tracing Buchanan’s life. At times, the biography reads like a detective novel or a police procedural, and McLean occasionally shifts into first-person narration to tell of her decade-long experience tracking down information. McLean’s research takes her, among other places, to the Virginia plantation where Buchanan’s family members were enslaved (a property owned by a white man who—according to family lore McLean effectively proves—was also Buchanan’s grandfather). By incorporating the research process in her book, McLean effectively employs an investigative model for writing an African American Western history when traditional resources are scarce.

Although McLean makes use of collected archival materials—such as school records and historical African American and mainstream newspapers—she also gathers information on Lucile from unexpected sources. McLean learns a great deal about her subject, for example, from a trunk full of material including photos, letters, and clothing discovered in the Texas home of one of the subsequent owners of Lucile’s Colorado house. As McLean writes, “One of the challenges of writing about a non-celebrity is that you do not have one main repository of the person’s papers, which forced me to hunt for materials about Lucile in obscure places” (p. xxi).

Thanks to McLean’s success in that hunt, *Remembering Lucile* presents a captivating family history of survival and triumph amid slavery in Virginia and post-Civil War migration to Colorado, followed by Lucile’s educational career and her eventual return to live in the house her father built on Raleigh Street in Denver. Indeed, McLean’s approach of making “the hunt” part of the story adds another fascinating layer to a compelling history, and *Remembering Lucile* will surely appeal to readers interested in biography, western history, autobiography, and autoethnography.

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