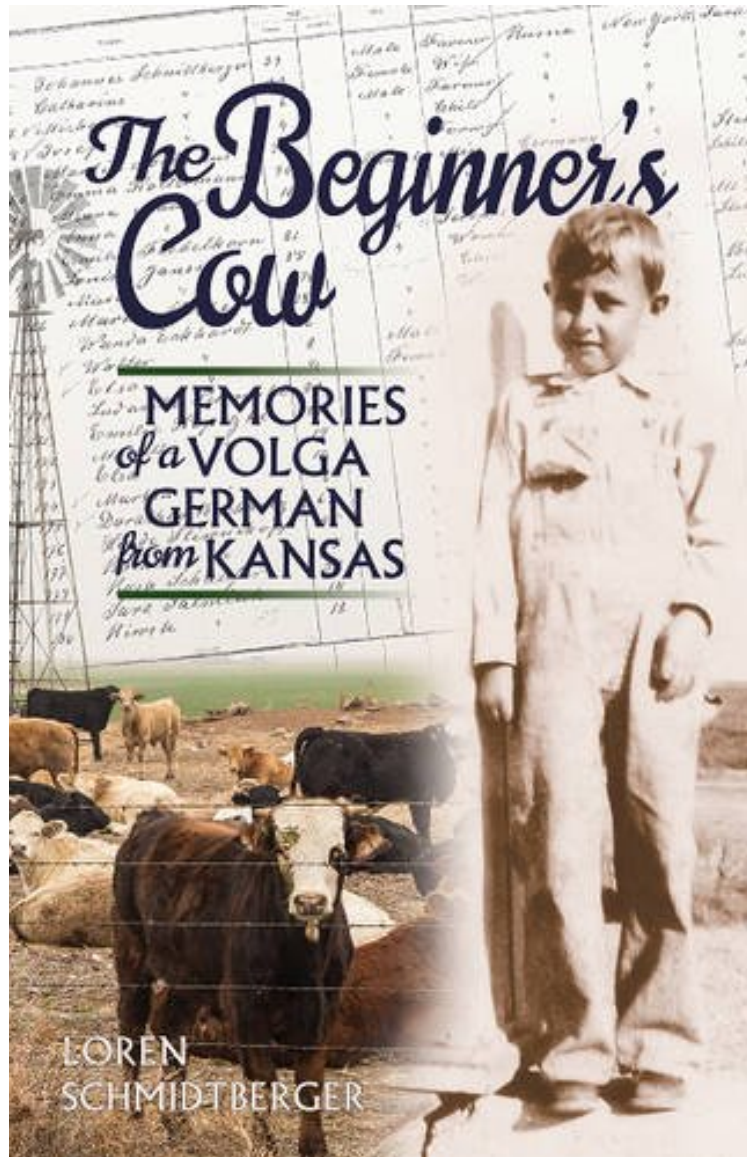


[FREE] The Beginner's Cow: Memories of a Volga German from Kansas (American Midwest Series)

The Beginner's Cow: Memories of a Volga German from Kansas (American Midwest Series)

Loren Schmidtberger

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Loren Schmidtberger : The Beginner's Cow: Memories of a Volga German from Kansas (American Midwest Series) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Beginner's Cow: Memories of a Volga German from Kansas (American Midwest Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Delightful ReadBy AddedCBoth my parents came from large

families so I have many aunts, uncles, and cousins. Disclosure: the author is one of them. That's why I bought the book, but I found it very enjoyable beyond the family connections. Loren Schmidtberger offers tight prose and dry wit that travels a life well lived from the plains of Kansas to East Coast academia. His essays on a range of topics are both personal and universal, told in a friendly, engaging and economical style. It's a great read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thoroughly enjoyed the writing in this bookBy walkingbillI thoroughly enjoyed the writing in this book. The author has no big confessions to tell, nor does he seek to solve the world's problems, but what he does do is write so very beautifully about a simple well lived life. In the telling, he seamlessly weaves the historical setting, so that the reader can clearly identify the time and its conflicts. Some of the essays made me laugh out loud: Bilingual Cows, My American Dream and Consulting Emily Post. And then there's the poignant Old White Face, an essay I'll never forget. Truly, this book was an unexpected treasure, essays to ponder long after reading. In fact, I would say this deceptively unassuming book, will become one of my all time favorites.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Captivating InformativeBy CustomerI love this book. I don't know much about Kansas other than the Wizard of Oz but this book brought life in the dust bowl alive for me. I felt like I knew the author's brothers and sisters by the end, and I really liked the essay format. I especially like the way the author took such an optimistic view of such difficult times. Definitely a look at a world I didn't know but am glad I met.Nancy T.

At the age of seven, Loren Schmidtberger was assigned to a beginner's cow the gentlest cow in the herd and the easiest for a child just beginning to milk. As he learned to milk with the help of the cow, he also learned the art of living from the unforgiving reality of the Dust Bowl years tempered by the steadfast resilience of his Volga German community. After he left the family's isolated Kansas farm and throughout his teaching career, Schmidtberger's life was filled with ever-present memories of family and community. Now he offers us those memories in stories told with wry humor and gentle grace. These tales span the decades with a clear-eyed gaze, reflecting a cultural legacy that laid the foundation for a life well-lived, and illustrating the deep cultural changes between America in the 1930s and the America we know today.

This collection of essays recounting a disappearing way of life is a remarkable primary source about the life of one Volga German family in Kansas during the twentieth century. Scholars and general readers alike will enjoy the images, vignettes, and lessons of life as well as gain a greater understanding of the nation's cultural developments since the 1930s. --Petra Dewitt, author of *Degrees of Allegiance: Harassment and Loyalty in Missouri's German-American Community during World War II*Loren Schmidtberger's engaging essays take the reader on a lifetime journey, from his youth on the isolated prairies of central Kansas to the ultra-connected urban world of the twenty-first century. Schmidtberger's parents, the heirs of Volga German immigrants, raised him in a German-speaking household amid the trials and tribulations of the Great Depression and dust storms. His insights on family, Catholicism, marriage, life and death, and social change in post-World War II America are rooted in Kansas soil and transported to the East Coast. This is an engaging, highly readable work, one that is encapsulated in Schmidtberger's quote from Montaigne: "I speak the truth, not so much as I would, but as much as I dare, and I dare a little more as I grow older." --James Sherow, Kansas State University, managing editor, *Kansas History: Journal of the Central Plains*About the AuthorLoren Schmidtberger born in 1928 and raised on a farm near Victoria, Kansas. He attended St. Fidelis Minor Seminary in Herman, Pennsylvania, before earning his BA from Fort Hays Kansas State University and his PhD from Fordham University. Dr. Schmidtberger taught at Saint Peter's University in New Jersey for fifty-one years, specializing in American literature, especially the works of William Faulkner. He was appointed the Will and Ariel Durant Professor of Humanities in 1991. He is currently Professor Emeritus of English at Saint Peter's University.