

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

ix

INTRODUCTION

Why White Ethnicity? Why Ethnic Pasts?

i

CHAPTER ONE

The Politics and Poetics of Popular Ethnography

Folk Immigrant, Ethnic, and Racial Pasts in History and Discourse

29

CHAPTER TWO

Whither Collective Ethnic Identities?

White Ethnics and the Slippery Terrain of European Americanness

62

CHAPTER THREE

Whose Ethnic Community?

Gendered Pasts and Polyphonies of Belonging

96

CHAPTER FOUR

Interrogating Ethnic Whiteness, Building Interracial Solidarity

Popular Ethnography as Cultural Critique

129

CHAPTER FIVE

Ethnicity as Choice?

Roots and Identity as a Narrative Project

162

CHAPTER SIX
Redirecting Ethnic Options
Historical Routes of Heritage
193

AFTERWORD
White Ethnicity as Cultural Becoming
224

Notes
231

References
259

Index
281