

Whetstone of Genius (1940). She argues that within the confines of contemporary society in Cambridge and Concord, Mass., Fuller could never consider combining a literary career with marriage or sex outside of marriage. Only in Europe did the two aspects of life she coveted appear compatible, and in Italy, when she fell in love with a young nobleman (he was 26, she nearing 37), she happily had a son by him. Biographer Blanchard leans to the theory that they were not wed until shortly before they sailed for the United States in 1850 aboard a merchant ship, the *Elizabeth*. It was wrecked off Fire Island, N.Y. The child's body was washed ashore. Those of the Marchese and Marchesa Ossoli were never found.

**FIRST GENERATION:
In the Words of
Twentieth-Century
American Immigrants.**

by June Namias
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After introducing us to her Jewish grandmother, Minnie Kasser Needle, and 30 other 20th-century immigrants to the United States, Namias skillfully elicits each person's story. Among the speakers in this exemplary oral history are a Greek Horatio Alger, a Filipino organizer of the 1965 California grape pickers' strike, a teenager growing up Italian and American, East European and Vietnamese refugees from political oppression, and victims of racial intolerance. All tell of homes left, lost, missed, and of their lives in America. "This is not a different country, this is a different world," one comments. The author describes three periods of immigration (1900-29, 1930-45, 1946-78), each affected by changes in U.S. laws. All her newcomers to America retain a certain ethnic pride, as in these words from Valeria Kozaczka Demusz (Dorchester, Mass.; formerly of Dgbrowa, Poland): "The Polish people [in Europe] have got to belong under some bigger nation, because they are too small to survive. Here [they] were slighted for a long time. They never spoke up. There is an awful lot of smart Polish people, big people, but nobody knows about it. They've lived in this country and they've done a lot of good, they've lived as beautiful citizens."