

Dear Poppa: The World War II Berman Family Letters, compiled by Ruth Berman and edited by Judy Barrett Litoff. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1997. xxii, 314 pp. Illustrations, genealogy. \$29.95 cloth, \$15.95 paper.

REVIEWED BY TERRENCE J. LINDELL, WARTBURG COLLEGE

In May 1943 Reuben Berman, an Army Air Forces physician, departed for duty in England. His family, which had followed him from assignment to assignment while he was stationed stateside, returned to their home in Minneapolis. Reuben's wife, Isabel, began a voluminous correspondence to keep him in touch with what was happening at home, especially in the lives of their four children, all under ten years of age. As part of her routine, she asked the three older children (the baby of the family being too young to talk) what they wanted to say to their "poppa." As they spoke, she typed their comments. The result is a substantial collection of children's letters that is far more detailed than one would find if the children themselves had done all of the writing.

This work, containing about a third of the surviving correspondence, touches on themes experienced by millions of families. Reuben's letters speak of the conditions he found overseas, his daily life, advice to his children, and his yearning for loved ones. In November 1944 he plaintively asked for home movies because "I want to see what my family looks like. I'm away so long I'm beginning to forget" (224). Isabel's letters describe the children's health and activities, the family's social outings, and household management. However, it is the children's letters—replete with accounts of playmates and paper drives, Hebrew school and music lessons, war toys and longing for their absent father—that make this book a unique and significant addition to the growing literature on the World War II home front.

F. K. Weyerhaeuser: A Biography, by Charles E. Twining. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1997. ix, 332 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliographical essay, index. \$29.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROBERT J. GOUGH, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

Frederick King (F. K.) Weyerhaeuser, grandson of nineteenth-century timber magnate Frederick Weyerhaeuser, was an executive in various family enterprises from 1919 to 1965, eventually heading the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. He and his wife, Vivian O'Gara Weyerhaeuser, were leaders of civic and social life in St. Paul and encouraged the establishment of what became the Forest History Society. F. K. also

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