

Evelina's case, returned to Sweden to find economic and personal fulfillment. Swedish immigrant women were not passive but active in pursuit of better lives.

Mina Anderson married a tailor, and together they bought land in Mille Lacs County and raised their family. The final chapters of the book are devoted to the story of family, farm, and community building. Again, Lintelman skillfully weaves Mina's story with those of other Swedish women who chose marriage and the farm.

I Go to America is a valuable contribution to the history of immigration, American women's history, and the history of the upper Midwest, especially Minnesota. The writing is accessible to general readers, while the research will satisfy the most particular scholars. Anyone with an interest in the American immigrant story or in women's history will enjoy this book.

Lights on a Ground of Darkness: An Evocation of a Place and Time, by Ted Kooser. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2009. xii, 60 pp. Illustrations. \$10.95 paper.

Reviewer Terrence J. Lindell is professor of history at Wartburg College. His research interests include immigration and ethnicity, Populism, and the World War II home front.

In this slim volume, Ted Kooser, 2005 Pulitzer Prize winner in poetry and U.S. poet laureate from 2004 to 2006, takes readers back to the summer of 1949 in Guttenberg, Iowa, where his mother and her two children — including ten-year-old Ted — are spending time with her parents. From that point Kooser's narrative flows backward and forward in time, telling the stories of his mother's family, the Mosers and Morarends, who settled in Clayton County in the 1850s.

These are Kooser's childhood memories of scenes observed and stories heard as the youth watched and listened to his elders as they went about their daily tasks, entertained family in the evening, and reminisced about times gone by. Interspersed with such recollections are more recent events as an older Kooser revisits places of the past and carries the stories of his relatives to the end of their lives. The work was prompted by the approaching death of his mother; she lived long enough to read the manuscript but died in 1998 shortly before the work's initial publication in the *Great River Review*.

Beautifully written, this work will evoke for many readers memories of their own childhood, when the world moved more slowly and when conversations over a card game held the attention of old and young alike.