

*Detour Iowa: Historic Destinations*, by Mike Whye. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2020. 192 pp. Illustrations. \$21.99 paperback.

Reviewer Valerie Van Kooten is Executive Director at Pella Historical Museums in Pella, Iowa. Prior to joining Pella Historical Museums, she taught courses on writing and worked as a grant writer at Central College in Pella.

While there are a variety of guidebooks about Iowa (place names, biographical dictionaries, nature guides), few, if any, deal strictly with historic destinations. Enter *Detour Iowa: Historic Destinations*, by Mike Whye, a Council Bluffs photographer and author. Broken down into ten sections of the state, *Detour Iowa* highlights the best-known—and sometimes totally unknown—historical sites, oddities, businesses, and homes around the state that have a point of historical interest. Black-and-white photos, taken by the author himself, accompany some of the entries.

Occasionally the book includes a collection of items within an area, such as the “Soda Fountains of Southwest of Iowa,” or an overview, like “Van Buren County.” Each entry highlights why that destination is important to the area or the state overall, along with a brief description of its history and what the visitor will experience. A website or phone number would have been helpful with each location, as would a designation of whether the featured site is on public property (such as cemeteries and parks) or requires a paid admission. The size of this paperback book makes it easy to tuck into a pocket in your car for your next road trip—or anytime you’re traveling in Iowa and find yourself wanting to learn some state and local history.

*Iowa’s Remarkable Soils: The Story of Our Most Vital Resource and How We Can Save It*, by Kathleen Woida. Bur Oak Books. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2021. xv, 238 pp. Illustrations, glossary, notes, index. \$25.00 paperback.

Reviewer Charles Connerly is professor emeritus of planning and public affairs at the University of Iowa. His most recent book, *Green, Fair and Prosperous: Paths to a Sustainable Iowa* (2020), was published by the University of Iowa Press.

Joseph Frazier Wall begins his history of Iowa with the assertion, “For Iowa, the land serves as more than an introduction. It is the major story line” (Wall, *Iowa: A History*, 1978). In Kathleen Woida’s *Iowa’s Remarkable Soils: The Story of Our Most Vital Resource and How We Can Save It*, land, more specifically soil, is the main story. Like Wall, Woida recognizes that Iowa’s highly fertile soils are key to the state’s identity and purpose as a leading agricultural state. But while Wall’s book covers the human interaction with the soil, Woida literally looks underground to help the