

Lottie's Diary, by Lottie Wetmore; edited by Joan Arnold. Ann Arbor, MI: Rock Branch Productions, 2010. 100 pp. Illustrations, genealogical data, notes, bibliography, index. \$14.95 paper.

Reviewer Anne Beiser Allen is an independent researcher and writer on mid-western history. Her articles have won the State Historical Society of Iowa's Throne-Aldrich Award in 2003 and the Nebraska Historical Society's James Sellers Award in 2010.

Lottie's Diary provides a snapshot of life on a northwest Iowa farm in the 1890s. Lottie Wetmore began the diary when she went with her family to the Chicago World's Fair in September 1893, and it ends a year-and-a-half later, a few months before her death from tuberculosis in October 1895. The diary itself fills only one-third of the book. The remainder consists of family papers, photographs, and an extensive genealogy of the Wetmore family going back to the 1630s, gathered and edited by Joan Arnold, Lottie's great-niece. Of particular interest is Lottie's mother's description of her own trip to the World Cotton Centennial in New Orleans in 1885.

In her diary, Lottie shows us the challenges nineteenth-century Protestant theology sometimes presented to everyday people. She first begins to question the easy faith of her childhood when a neighbor and close friend dies, but eventually regains a deeper understanding after attending a revival, followed by the personal counseling of a sympathetic pastor. The poignant entries of her last year allow readers to share the uncertainties, discomfort, and fears of a young woman who suffered from a disease that was one of the major health problems of her time. The background material illustrates some of the ways that the changes of the early twentieth century affected the lives of people in small Iowa towns by describing the subsequent lives of Lottie's siblings and close relatives. The book will appeal to those interested in genealogy or rural life in the Midwest at the turn of the previous century.

An Iowa Schoolma'am: Letters of Elizabeth "Bess" Corey, 1904-1908, edited by Philip L. Gerber and Charlotte M. Wright. A Bur Oak Book. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2011. xxxi, 191 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$25.00 paper.

Reviewer Karen Leroux is associate professor of history at Drake University. Her research and writing focus on the histories of women, work, and education.

This edited volume of letters allows readers to peer into the life of a young country schoolteacher in turn-of-the-twentieth-century Iowa.