

about not keeping younger generations within the fold, suggesting that the meeting's premium on silence might be the culprit. But she ignores shelves of books bemoaning the same theme from denominations that prefer words.

In an intriguing joint memoir, put together by Don Laughlin after his wife's death, two West Branch Quakers partially confirm Marsh's thesis that Quakers should talk more about their faith. While not much Friends spirituality is explicit, Don's conscientious objection and post-World War II draft resistance and Lois's participation in Witness for Peace and opposition to capital punishment as a parent of a murder victim do suggest moral underpinnings that might exonerate silence. Historians of marriage before reliable birth control will also find this of value.

Brad Burns's observation that fiction writers exceed historians in portraying Iowa history seems true in this case; those wanting more insight on Iowa Conservative Quakers would be well served by reading Margaret Lacey's little-noted collection of short stories, *Silent Friends* (1992).

David Plowden's Iowa, edited by Christopher R. Rossi, with an introductory essay by Rima Girnius. Iowa City: Humanities Iowa, 2012. 99 pp. Illustrations, bibliography. \$20.00 paper.

Reviewer Mary Noble is catalog librarian emeritus at the University of Iowa Libraries. She is the author of *Iowa's Women Professional Photographers* (2000).

Published in association with an exhibition traveling around Iowa through 2014, this small-format volume with more than 50 of David Plowden's photographs made in the state demonstrates Plowden's interest in documenting rural landscapes as well as a variety of public and private interiors and exteriors in towns and cities that may have vanished by now or be in danger of doing so. Two views of a working steamboat in Dubuque date from 1964, and one of a Sioux City bridge is from 1969. Several are from the 1980s, including some from previously published collections; most (over 30) date from 2003 to 2009. These range from new views following familiar Plowden themes of rural grain bins and elevators to three views inside and out of Iowa's oldest prison at Fort Madison. Only one actually includes people, but almost all show environments built or altered by the state's residents over time. The book concludes with excerpts from a 2011 interview with Plowden that reveal something of his influences and working methods and explain his fascination with Iowa and the Midwest.

Plowden's vision as revealed in this selection draws attention to easily overlooked aspects of our past and present environments and should inspire viewers to further appreciation and understanding of the significance of their surroundings.