

necessary to further clarify the significant roles of those groups who have been largely excluded from or severely underrepresented in scholarship thus far because of their political, sexual, or socioeconomic dominance by others. This research highlights the integration of archival, oral, historical, architectural, material culture, and archeological methods to answer innovative questions about the influences of gender and its ramifications in our past, present, and future interpretations of the daily lives of those who came before us.

This series of concise, clearly written essays is accessible to the archeologist and the nonarcheologist as well. Although none of the essays deal directly with the Midwest, the subject matter holds potential for parallel studies in Iowa and throughout the region. The essay topics range widely conceptually and geographically and include Native-American and African-American communities, all-male and predominantly male communities, and working women in urban communities. The universality of the social constructs of gender, race, and ethnicity—however they may be manifested in all varieties of communities—and the absorbing research and interpretation issues suggested herein make this anthology engaging to a broad audience.

*The Collected Short Works, 1907–1919*, by Bess Streeter Aldrich; edited by Carol Miles Petersen. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995. xiii, 244 pp. Notes. \$40.00 cloth.

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Family values? Should you wish to read popular short stories whose rural or small-town settings and limited characters represent Scotch Presbyterian, middle-class Iowa life between 1900 and 1918, the short (sometimes 700–800 words) magazine pieces collected here are for you. Bess Streeter Aldrich (using the pen name Margaret Dean Stevens) wrote these popular magazine stories to illustrate her affection for small-town Iowans. She admired their courage, integrity, religious convictions, and belief in the dignity of family and community life. These words appear in the titles of the twenty-six stories: *House, Husband, Wife, Grandpa, Best Man, House of Dreams, Family*. Bess Streeter Aldrich wrote of what she knew and kept her focus on simple pleasures: "Sentiment doesn't lie in soil, or in climate, or latitude, or longitude. It lies in the hearts of people. Wherever there are folks who live and work and love and die, whether they raise hogs in Iowa or oranges in California . . . there is the stuff of which stories are made" (xiii).

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