

Here Comes Doctor Ward: A Climb to Glory, by Howard E. Cartwright. Evanston, IL: Chicago Spectrum Press, 1995. xii, 238 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendix, bibliography. \$25.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY LEE ANDERSON, A & P HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Donovan Frederick Ward was born in 1904, the seventh child of a poor but hardworking Dubuque family. In most respects, Ward's upbringing bore the imprint of time and place: a warm family life, a succession of part-time jobs, and high school interests that spanned music, athletics, and a variety of clubs. After high school, Ward enrolled at the University of Dubuque for two years, then pursued medical studies at the University of Iowa from 1926 to 1930. Following an internship in Detroit, Ward returned to Dubuque to establish his surgical practice in 1931. Although Ward described the growth of his practice as "painfully slow," hard work and a reputation for selfless dedication were the foundations of a long and rewarding career capped by his selection as president-elect of the American Medical Association in June 1964 and his unexpected accession to the presidency just four months later.

This short book is not a professional biography. Indeed, the author provides little insight into the science, practice, and politics at the heart of Donovan Ward's medical career. Instead, he devotes considerable attention to Ward's family life and his community and business involvements, including his role as an organizer of Life Investors of Iowa. The author does so in order to fill out a portrait of, in his words, a "true American hero."

Here Comes Doctor Ward presents a curious face, in an important sense neither history nor biography. Unabashedly celebratory, the book, in its way, delivers on its promise to chronicle the achievements of "a man, a surgeon, and a leader," and its sketches of life in early twentieth-century Dubuque and of the social fabric of a middle American community are occasionally interesting and useful. Historians will, however, find the author's aversion to analysis disappointing and frustrating.

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.