

event that was most significant for the denomination's history: Caroline Pearre's founding of a women's missionary society that blossomed into the national Disciples group. Hudson locates this at a time of local retrenchment. More national denominational context would have been welcome; for example, when the local church sponsored an overture to the national Disciples convention to recognize conscientious objection (138), we are left wondering what became of that resolution.

But back to that importuning woman in Welsh's office: she said many people needed shoes and clothing. The community response packed clothes nearly to the rafters. Miracles are outside a historian's jurisdiction, but capturing small acts of compassion could be congregational histories' dissent to larger narratives of avarice and power.

Grant Wood's Iowa: A Visitor's Guide, by Wende Elliott and William Balthazar Rose. Woodstock, VT: Countryman Press, 2013. xviii, 112 pp. Illustrations, maps, index. \$19.95 paperback.

Reviewer Jan Olive Full is senior principal and managing member of Tallgrass Historians L.C., an Iowa City-based historical and archaeological consulting firm.

Few American painters are as well known as Grant Wood, especially for his ubiquitous *American Gothic*. Yet outside Iowa, the physical locations that nurtured Wood and served as his bucolic settings are much less familiar. This slim, well-illustrated volume intends to rectify that. Organized into five geographic chapters focused on clusters of Wood-related sites, the book is reminiscent of the "tours" promoted in the 1938 WPA guide to Iowa. Following autobiographical prefaces, the author and her spouse, the book's photographer, describe each location and explain its historical association with the artist. Not all sites are directly linked to Wood. Sidebars offer interesting if tangential information on other artists and areas.

The author's insights on Wood's personal and professional life, as well as Wood's evolving reception by art historians, are perceptive and informative though frequently purely speculative. Much of the text is overly dramatic and romanticized. And despite living in Iowa for a decade, the author manages to paint modern-day Iowans as provincial sorts—not an easy task in today's global village—and their cities as charming cultural oases (87). Cedar Rapids, for example, home of a large Quaker Oats factory adjacent to the city's downtown, is compared to "a modern-day Florence," its small skyscrapers evocative of the Superman television set (20). Despite sometimes confusing directions (West Branch is recommended as a "good pit stop" after

leaving Iowa City and heading *west* toward Des Moines [83]) and awkward geographical groupings of sites, the book offers a light and breezy introduction to the abundant artistic landscape to be discovered in Iowa.

The Crusade Years, 1933–1955: Herbert Hoover's Lost Memoir of the New Deal and Its Aftermath, by Herbert Hoover, edited by George H. Nash. Stanford, CA: Hoover Institution Press, 2013. xlv, 519 pp. Illustrations, notes, appendixes, index. \$39.95 hardcover.

Reviewer Glen Jeansonne is professor of history at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. He is the author of *The Life of Herbert Hoover, 1928–1933: Fighting Quaker* (2012) and is working on a complete biography of Hoover.

Herbert Hoover remains a relevant presence. In 2011 the Hoover Institution Press published his account of the Cold War, *Freedom Betrayed*. *The Crusade Years, 1933–1955* followed two years later, after lying fallow in the vaults of the Hoover Institution for more than 50 years. The ex-president began work on the books during World War II and suspended his labor in about 1955, then halted without completing either study, turning to more immediate pursuits. They were turned over to a committee comprising his sons, Alan and Herbert Jr., and several friends and relatives who feared that some tart passages might damage living persons or Hoover's own reputation. With the publication of *Freedom Betrayed*, a lengthy dissertation on foreign policy, and *The Crusade Years*, a prolific complement, chiefly on domestic policy, specifically the trend toward collectivism in government, focusing on the New Deal and socialism abroad, it is as if an archivist had uncovered a musty epilogue to *Romeo and Juliet* or Charles Dickens had surprised us with another chapter dealing with the "Ghost of Christmas Past." As these classics continue to fascinate, so, too, does Hoover.

After his presidency, which ended with the bitter defeat of 1932, Hoover became the most prolifically published ex-president in history. His interests ranged from the welfare of children to fishing, food relief, and world peace. Denied his party's presidential nomination in 1936 and 1940, he moved to the right and remained influential in GOP politics, speaking at conventions and campaigning during biennial congressional elections. He feuded with Franklin D. Roosevelt for more than three terms, befriended Harry S. Truman, became reasonably close to Dwight D. Eisenhower, was active in relief during and especially after World War II, and chaired two government commissions on reorganization of the executive branch. He traveled as an emissary to Europe in 1937, had audiences with Hitler and Goering and with