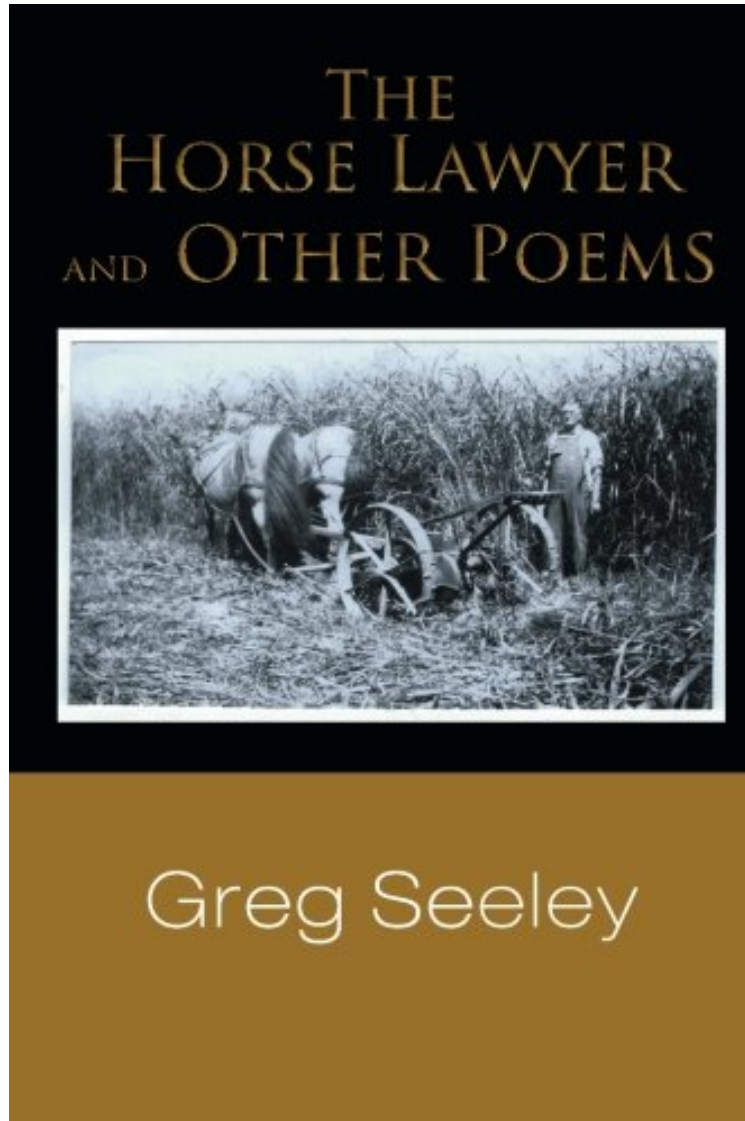


[FREE] The Horse Lawyer and Other Poems

The Horse Lawyer and Other Poems

Greg Seeley

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#4402551 in Books 2014-09-05 2014-09-05Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .29 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 1496936930114 pages | File size: 41.Mb

Greg Seeley : The Horse Lawyer and Other Poems before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Horse Lawyer and Other Poems:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful family history told through free verseBy Deborah SweeneyThe Horse Lawyer and Other Poems is a slim volume of free verse poetry which recalls the lives of three Seeley men: Ira, Frank, and Donald. After the Civil War, former Union soldier Ira Seeley purchases land near Afton, Iowa. Raised in Pennsylvania as an educated man, he served as schoolmaster and local sheriff before the war. In the

beginning poem, Ira muses, If I get home to Iowa with my health, I want to build a farm with a fine white house in which to raise our children and orchards and a garden. Kiss the babies and tell them Papa loves them. The poems continue to tell the tale of Ira's toils on his land. After he dies, the land passes to his son Frank, and finally to his grandson Donald. The poems span the years from 1865 to post World War II when the land finally passes to another family when Donald's children have no desire to be farmers. Based upon the oral history and papers passed down to the author, *The Horse Lawyer* provides a slice of American history from the 19th and 20th centuries as well as a view of Iowan farm life. *The Horse Lawyer* is at times reminiscent of Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology*, especially with poems like *The Windmill Doctor*, *Big Smith* or *The Last Blacksmith*. In these poems, Seeley writes about individuals who inhabited the world of Afton, Iowa, in the early 20th century. These persons were well known to the Seeley family and part of the local community. The book is similar in form and format to *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (which won several book awards for 2014). In her book, Woodson tells the story of her childhood in the South Carolina and New York, during the 1960s and 1970s, using free verse. Genealogy and family history can often be dry subjects, a regurgitation of facts and dates. It takes a skilled storyteller to capture the tales of long-gone ancestors and retell them as interesting narratives. Greg Seeley has taken the additional step of transforming his family's stories into powerful vignettes. The free verse style works well, and the only regrettable critique that this reviewer can provide is that the book was not longer. Seeley is not the first to use free verse to tell stories, and he definitely can compete with the masters.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. **WHAT A TREAT!** By Sharon
I'm not one to read much poetry, but Mr. Seeley has a writing style that engaged me from the start. To quote from the preface, "This volume of verse chronicles the experience of an Iowa family on the same piece of land four miles north of Afton, Iowa over a period of 125 years". I was hooked. The lyrical verses roll with a quiet power, drawing me into the lives of this strong, proud farming family, only one of many who settled the land called Iowa. I came to enjoy each verse more than the last, feeling as if these people were a part of my past too. Read it and see if you don't feel the same way - it's that good.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **Wonderful Book - Don't Miss Reading This!** By Steve Gathje
If you love your poetry simple and unadorned get this book! The style fits perfectly with the subject, simple and unadorned people working the land in Iowa. And what makes this book so wonderful is that the people (and the writing) are actually much more subtle and complex than one sees at first glance. I thoroughly enjoyed this book!

The Horse Lawyer and Other Poems chronicles the struggles and triumphs of three generations of an Iowa farm family over a 125-year period. The "story" begins with a soldier coming home from the Civil War and setting foot for the first time on his newly-purchased farm and ends when the land next changes hands in the early 1990s. The book is the story of the family, their friends, and their neighbors as they try to adapt to the changing world around them. Their lives and personal aspirations are shaped by two world wars, a harsh climate, the dust bowl, and the Great Depression. They seek to meet this adversity and thrive through love, self-reliance, work, faith, and a strong sense of community.

About the Author Greg Seeley grew up on a farm north of Afton, Iowa. He graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a major in history and received his master's degree from the University of Iowa. Greg is a retired certified public accountant and lives in Overland Park, Kansas, with his wife Carolyn, a retired math teacher and former farm girl. As a boy, Greg often heard stories about his ancestor's lives on the family farm. He has recounted these stories, with some license, in his first book, *The Horse Lawyer and Other Poems*. Greg hopes that readers will experience the same feelings of strength and fortitude that sustained the horse lawyer, his family, and his neighbors. The poetry is for all who have ever wondered what their lives would have been like had they followed, in Robert Frost's words, "the road less traveled"