Days on the Family Farm: From the Golden Age through the Great Depression

From the beginning of the twentieth century to World War II, farmwife May Lyford Davis kept a daily chronicle that today offers a window into a way of life that has all but disappeared. May and her husband Elmo lived through two decades of prosperity, the Great Depression, and two World Wars in their farming community just east of Rockford, IL.

Based on the diaries and farm ledgers of a farmwife from Rockford, IL. Published by the University of Minnesota Press: “A story both intimate and epic that paints a vivid picture of Midwestern farm life.”

“An unusually focused view of the momentous first half of America’s 20th century.” Illinois Alumni

“A remarkable window into the Middle America of the first half of the twentieth century. . . . . Students, scholars, and general readers will connect with the struggles, joys, and sorrows of this farm couple.” Journal of Illinois History