A Journey of Voices: Stewards of the Land

By Diane McAdams Gladow

**About the Author:**

Diane McAdams Gladow is a former English Composition instructor at Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas. During her nine years at the University, she also served as a director of the Writing Center on campus and the voice of the Grammar Hotline. After leaving the University, she taught adult basic skills at the Adult Education Center in Emporia. For almost twenty years, she was a coordinator for the Emporia Literacy Program. She has authored three other books, a memoir of her husband’s family, Rich Heritage, the first book in the A Journey of Voices series, Chasing the Frontier, and the second book in the A Journey of Voices series, Stewards of the Land. She enjoys family research, traveling, and reading among her collection of hobbies. She was born and raised in Hobbs, New Mexico, graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso, and obtained a Master’s Degree from the University of New Mexico. She and her husband live in Emporia, Kansas, and have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

**About the Book:**

A Journey of Voices: Stewards of the Land is the second book in Diane McAdams Gladow's nonfiction series about common, ordinary families who lived American History and in some cases helped to make it. This book tells the story of the Crume family by interweaving old letters, pictures, land documents, Bible records, and historical references with an account of the family's life and movement through seven generations. The story of this family is truly the story of American history from 1746 to 1946 and the story of American agricultural life and how it changed over two hundred years. Whether flatboating in the frigid winter weather down the Ohio River, building homes in the wilderness, fighting in the American Revolution, enduring the Civil War in a border state, dealing with Indians in Texas, surviving the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, and experiencing the misery and uncertainty of two world wars, this family lived it all. Come see America's history through their eyes and voices as they struggle to build lives on the land in a bold new country.

Discussion Questions:

1. This book is written about seven generations of the Crume family. Did any of the family members stand out to you? Why?
2. What did you think of the chapters where the author is talking with her mother? Did this help frame the rest of the historical information?
3. What do you think of the subtitle, “Stewards of the Land”? How did it relate to the story being told?
4. The author mentions the drive and energy of the Crume family members often. Are there any virtues that your family is proud of?
5. One of the Crume family’s claims to fame is their relation to Abraham Lincoln. Does your family have a famous (or infamous) person among their relations?
6. Where there any pictures, maps, or illustrations that stood out to you?
7. Why do you think family history is important to so many people? Are there lessons we can learn from our ancestors?
8. The author talks about a pair of pliers used for pulling teeth as one of her family heirlooms. Are there any heirlooms in your family?
9. There are several instances of “family tall tales” being told in the book. Does your family have any stories that they love to tell about ancestors?
10. Have you done any of your own family research? Did you find out anything interesting or unusual?