Emma Wormwood was a school teacher in the late 1890’s, who resided in Illinois. Her diary is a primary source published by the Newberry library. Digital copies of her journal were made available through crowd sourced encryption.

Wormwood’s diary provides insight into concepts of identity in her community. Entries between January and February, her pupils discuss the “Negro and Indian Issue,” expresses curiosity about Kentuckians, and question what it means to be a “Backwoodser”. This encryption project highlights Emma Wormwood’s accounts of identity.

This project encrypt’s Emma Wormwood's diary entries between January 28th and February 2nd. These entries are insightful accounts of perceptions of identity from the perspective of Wormwood as well members of her community.

To build this project, I implemented minimal computing strategies that make journal entries machine readable with simple XML encryption, structured with Schematron. RelaxNG elements have been added to highlight where aspects of identity appear in the text, as well as other key elements including locations and names. XSLT conversion is utilized to display this project in browsers, using HTML.

I created a quote @type for quotations about identity to label quotes that discuss perception of identity. To accompany this feature I created special tags that mark identities with @type ‘self’ or ‘other’. Throughout the journal entries, accounts of what identities are of the self or other change and evolve. What constitutes identification of a ‘Backwoodser’ is a point of contention that is explored.