

however, that the decline of Communist strength in the UAW came primarily as a result of their inability to resist the anti-Communist onslaught unleashed in the early Cold War years. In a blistering final chapter, "Reuther and Reaction," Keeran indicts the new UAW president as responsible for setting the pattern for the liberal anti-Communist purge that swept major unions in the early Cold War years.

Keeran's history sometimes reads like a legal brief, relentlessly defending the role played by the Communists in the internal union struggles of the 1930s and 1940s. Though often a good technical defense, his argument does little to put the UAW Communists in a broader intellectual or social context. From his perspective the Communists were the rightful heirs of the American socialist tradition, and their vociferous defense of the Soviet regime in the 1930s and 1940s proved merely the necessary education of the American working class in "socialist internationalism." At the same time Keeran's narrow political defense of the party suffers from the same disabilities that are common to all union histories focused on the relatively narrow world of leadership competition and ideological conflict. The social history of the automobile workers, and that of the thin but important stratum who cast their lot with the Communists, is largely absent from his book. What kind of automobile workers joined the party; what factors explain the variations in Communist support among the local members, regions, and ethnic groups; what meaning did their Communist experience have for those thousands of workers who passed through party ranks? Keeran offers tantalizing references to some of these issues, but his book contains no systematic search for the answers.

*Catholic University of America,
Washington, D.C.*

Nelson Lichtenstein

Searching for Your Ancestors: The How and Why of Genealogy.

By Gilbert H. Doane and James B. Bell. Fifth ed. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980. Pp. xii, 270. Figures, bibliography, appendixes, index. \$10.95.)

Family History Record Book. By James B. Bell. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980. Pp. 263. Forms and charts. Paperbound, \$7.95.)

Today's flourishing genealogical market offers hundreds of manuals to assist persons researching family roots. A classic

guidebook is Gilbert H. Doane's *Searching for Your Ancestors*, originally published in 1937 during another era of intense interest in lineages. Doane, editor emeritus of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, is joined in this fifth revision by James B. Bell, director of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

The authors narrate a brisk step-by-step introduction to the genealogical task, punctuated with problem-solving illustrations and, not least, tips on the diplomatic handling of relatives and records clerks. Twelve chapters furnish the basics, from equipment to final product arrangement. Not overlooked in detailing the value of family papers and government documents are clue-bearing samplers, friendship quilts, engraved silver, school censuses, and lawsuits. The investigator's obligation to establish the accuracy of sources is stressed as is the need to go beyond names and dates to portray the public and private dimensions of the subjects.

A recognition of genealogy's evolving mass appeal underlies the new material on thirty-five ethnic and nationality groups in Part II. Appendixes provide a bibliography and particulars on the state offices of vital statistics, the National Archives and its Record Service Centers, and census data.

James B. Bell's *Family History Record Book* is advertised as a companion volume. Essentially a workbook, it contains a brief review of the genealogical process along with instructions for completing eight enclosed charts and forms. The forms, in multiple copies, detachable and punched for binders, cover the group chart, family and individual biographies, and census, military, immigrant, naturalization, and land records.

Together, the books offer a modern (the chapter in previous editions of Doane's book on gaining admission to the Daughters of the American Revolution is deleted) and affordable reference and record-keeping system. Though addressed to the novice, the experienced genealogist and the historian, who often seek the same sources, should find the reading profitable.

Indiana Historical Society,
Indianapolis

Robert M. Taylor, Jr.

Log Structures: Preservation and Problem-Solving. By Harrison Goodall and Renee Friedman. (Nashville: The American Association for State and Local History, 1980. Pp. 119. Illustrations, maps, tables, appendix, selected bibliography, index. Paperbound, \$10.95.)