

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.

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*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.)

The American Association for State and Local History has published a number of highly useful guides intended to help small historical museums, historic preservationists, and others with frequently encountered problems. There is surely a need for guides to the preservation and restoration of log structures, for many such buildings are owned by institutions and individuals. This present booklet, unlike most others by the AASLH, is unfortunately not entirely useful and may in some cases be harmful.

The problems with the book arise from two erroneous assumptions. One is that log construction is essentially the same everywhere in the United States, and the second is that early log buildings are essentially the same as twentieth-century log vacation homes and rustic retreats. The techniques of preservation and restoration the authors recommend are appropriate to twentieth-century log structures built in the western United States. They are sometimes inappropriate or misleading for early log structures of the eastern United States.

If a log building has stood in good condition for at least 150 years, it is a mistake to believe that modern materials and techniques of construction are better and should be used in repair and restoration. For example, when log houses in Indiana were built in the last century, the builders used roof decking (boards nailed atop the rafters to which the shingles then were nailed) consisting of boards with spaces between them. When the shingles were saturated with rain water, air could get to the underside of the shingles to dry them out. The authors of this book, however, recommend using plywood roof decking, and plywood will keep air from reaching the underside of the shingles. This will hasten decay of the shingles and perhaps result in other damage. If one is working with traditional architecture, one should stick with traditional, time-tested materials and techniques. The old-time craftsmen who built the structures knew what they were doing, and we should try to learn from them today. Harrison Goodall and Renee Friedman have not recommended this approach, probably because they have dealt mostly with modern log buildings.

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