



The Reshaping of Everyday Life: 1790-1840 (Everyday Life in America)

By Jack Larkin

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"Compact and insightful. "--*New York Times Book Review* "Jack Larkin has retrieved the irretrievable; the intimate facts of everyday life that defined what people were really like."--*American Heritage*

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The Reshaping of Everyday Life: 1790-1840 (Everyday Life in America) By Jack Larkin Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #117258 in Books
- Brand: Larkin, Jack
- Published on: 1989-11-01
- Released on: 1989-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .86" w x 5.31" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this highly readable, informative if specialized history, Larkin, historian at the re-created Colonial Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts, describes the social changes that accompanied the country's swift development in its first decades of independence. He cites statistical research and quotes contemporary observers from abroad on various aspects of day-to-day significance: the gradual disappearance of the self-contained family farm and village artisan, for example, as textile plants, shoe factories and other enterprises took "control of materials and product out of the hands of the craftsmen and put them into those of merchant capitalists." Larkin also discusses the drop in family size as land became scarcer and settlement moved westward, as well as the steady improvement in housing and available goods brought by the railroads. Readers are reminded of the lack of refinement prevalent in those times: the dirtiness of home, grounds and person, the crudity of food and dress, the commonplace of cold-climate Americans sharing beds with strangers in roadside inns. Illustrations not seen by PW.

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Review

"Virtually all human activity in the late 18th and early 19th centuries comes in for scrutiny in this compact and insightful book."--New York Times Book Review"

From the Back Cover

A fascinating history of the daily lives of Americans in the first fifty years of the new republic, told often in their own words. Jack Larkin describes the often gritty texture of life as these Americans experienced it, weaving the disparate threads of everyday life into the rich, complicated tapestry of American history during this transitional period.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Farrell:

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