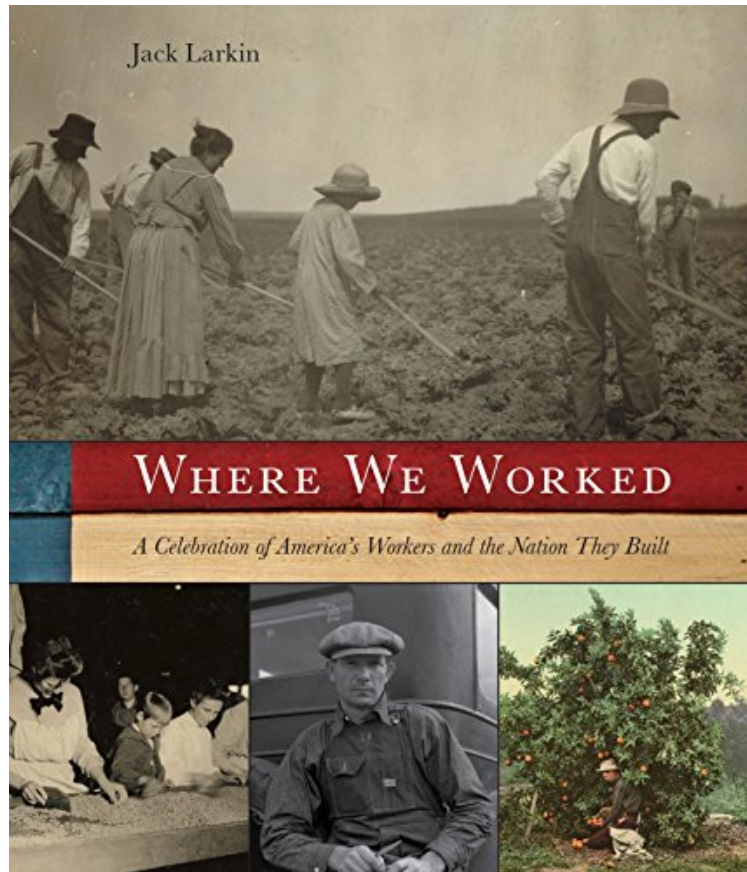


Where We Worked: A Celebration Of America's Workers And The Nation They Built

Jack Larkin

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Jack Larkin : Where We Worked: A Celebration Of America's Workers And The Nation They Built before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where We Worked: A Celebration Of America's Workers And The Nation They Built:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Patricia LarkinMy late cousin Jack wrote this. God bless him..6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Just the right book by just the right personBy John IbsonFew historians come to the study of American everyday life with credentials matching Jack Larkin's. His "Reshaping of Everyday Life, 1790-1840," now over 20 years old, appeared when many American historians were still preoccupied with exceptional experiences and eminent persons. Larkin and a few others joined French historians in showing us how illuminating it could be to focus meticulously on the lives of ordinary people in the nation's past. Appropriately enough, this splendid new work of Larkin's follows his brilliant and gorgeous book of a few years ago, "Where We Lived: Discovering Places We Once Called Home." Both of these books have come after Larkin's long and distinguished career as Chief Historian at Old Sturbridge Village and a teacher at Clark University. With prose remarkable in its insight, grace, accessibility and wit, and a wealth of carefully chosen photographs that are much

more than simple illustrations, "Where We Worked" not only instructively takes us into the workplaces of the past, but deeply and revealingly recaptures the very lives of those who worked there. This work of rock-solid historical scholarship is much needed nowadays, a time in which the dignity, complexity, and value of the work of ordinary Americans so rarely receives the recognition it deserves. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. History of the Everyday Man By Patricia B. Sparks While the title of this book is Where We Worked, and the illustrations of the workplaces are indeed incredible, this book also provides insight into the men who did the work. Through his illustrations, Jack Larkin helps us to understand what it must have been like to be there while these people accomplished the tasks that are so important to the development of this country. When he brings us the words of the men who built the railroads or those who worked in the steel mills, it is easy to imagine being there with them. His work underscores the idea that history is not just about the famous people, but is actually about those who seem to lead ordinary lives. His inclusion of personal comments and family examples makes the book personal for the reader, and it is easy to add our own ancestors to the story and to feel a part of this history.

A celebration of America's workers and the nation they built. Narratives tell the stories, over time, of wheat growers and sharecroppers, mill girls and housemaids, gold miners and railway porters, farmwives and cowboys, newsboys and stenographers.

From Booklist Spanning from the 1830s to the 1930s, this presentation of the American world of work also bridges labor's transition from manual to mechanized production. Illustrating toil and toilers with hundreds of photographs, Larkin personalizes history with workers' life stories, such that the text reads in sections like Stud Terkel's oral history *Working* (1974). That effect arises from Larkin's quotation of testimonies taken by the New Deal's Federal Writers Project and the inclusion of the occupational histories of his streetcar motorman father, farmer grandfather, and machinist father-in-law. Their jobs fall into Larkin's overall organization of labor into agriculture, trades, mining and manufacturing, and office work. Larkin favors posed pictures of people with their implements, a sound decision for helping encapsulate the subjects' attitudes about their work. Pride animates many images, but so do wear, hazard, and tedium, especially in photographs of child workers. Touching just tangentially on economics and unions, Larkin's visually absorbing volume appeals as an individualizing expression of labor history. --Gilbert Taylor "...a rich collection of photographs, drawings, lithographs, newspaper cartoons, and advertisements, mostly from the Library of Congress, but also from labor unions, public libraries, and a few from (the author's) own family album, to create a picture of the hardest-working people in the history of the world... This lively and down-to-earth book journeys from the dawn of the nineteenth century through the 1930s. It will especially appeal to the young adult reader who has never seen a dial telephone, much less a telegraph, textile mill, or blacksmith shop. It's fascinating reading." -- Jack Shakely, ForeWord "In this masterpiece of visual and textual history, Jack Larkin records the nitty-gritty of hard labor from the 1830s to the 1930s. Ingeniously combining words and pictures, he spreads before us the world ordinary people lived in most of the time—the world of work."