

Kyvig, David E. and Marty, Myron A. *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You*. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1983. Pp. xiii, 300. Photos, notes, bibliographies, appendices. \$15.95 (cloth).

Kyvig, a historian and archivist at the University of Akron, and Marty, a historian with the National Endowment for the Humanities, combined their expertise in 1978 to co-author *Your Family History: A Handbook for Research and Writing*. Their second work, *Nearby History*, extends some of the ideas found in their earlier collaboration on the "family" and includes "the community and material culture (ix)." For their focus, Kyvig and Marty state that "rather than identify this past as 'local,' or 'community,' history as some have done and limit it to a concept of *place*, or call it 'family history' and restrict it to a concept of *relationship*, or talk about material culture and confine the discussion to *objects*, we have chosen the term 'nearby history' in order to include the entire range of possibilities in a person's immediate environment" (p.4).

This is not a book dealing directly with sport history. Yet, it does provide: numerous ideas for the sport historian seeking information; types of evidence and data available; examples of how to utilize material once it has been found; and, most importantly, instructions on how to bridge from localized data to mainstream history. Twelve chapters are arranged around these major themes with the bulk of information on evidence which spans chapters 4-9. Here, the authors discuss the use of censuses, city directories, business records, interviews, photographs, artifacts, and landscapes and buildings. Chapters 10 and 11 pertain to "preservation" and "research and writing" while the final chapter addresses what some have called "the big picture"- "Linking the Particular and the Universal." In this regard, Kyvig and Marty stress that "the individual experiences of ordinary people were most accessible through the study of their immediate social institutions, families, and communities; these in turn could

serve as case studies for understanding national patterns" (p.223). Recently, this type of history has been referred to as "history from the bottom up" and provides much of the raw data to support comparisons between regions and further allows the historian more latitude to generalize to a more inclusive larger context for his or her findings.

All sport historians should ask themselves "what can be done nearby?" Numerous examples of answers to this query can be found in the various local, state, and regional history journals which have published sport history articles since their inception. Most notable have been the works on "city history" such as Somers on New Orleans, Northam on Seattle, Rosenzweig on Worcester, Hardy on Boston, and Adelman on New York. Many biographical studies are also the result of "nearby history." Sporting business histories, the histories of parks and playgrounds, YMCA's and YWCA's, sporting teams and clubs, sporting grounds, and resorts are additional examples whereby the physical location of the historian can lead to indepth research in the primary sources yet provide a good atmosphere for universalizing the findings. Sport, in the examples above and in several others, has more than local ramifications because of leagues, agencies, conferences, championships, and governing bodies which by their very nature link-up the particular with the universal. Also, the media tends to diffuse sporting information moreso than other dimensions of the human experience.

Nearby History is also a good book of reference. It includes excellent bibliographical essays following each chapter and is interspersed with examples in the form of photographs and illustrations. An extensive appendix includes copies of application forms for requesting information from federal agencies, sample gift agreement forms, guidelines for historic preservation, and listings for national and state archives and state historical societies.

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