

deal with the hard facts it presents, to the heightening of their own awareness of the mixture of human and divine in all of us — even prophets. As my favorite common reader wrote of her response to the book's Joseph, "I went on to put myself in his place, between Emma and a drawn sword. . . . But he loved the Lord and was committed to restoring a principle that was almost unbearably hard." This reader's sensitive reading justifies Samuel Johnson's faith in common readers of all ages: "Our authors, after nearly destroying our faith [in Joseph] let Emma restore it. [The] strong, quiet, intelligent, compassionate

and loving woman [they show her to be] could not lay aside her moral training, yet she loved him so deeply that she couldn't surrender him to his own God, but loved him to the end" (Ursenbach 1984). Without sacrificing Joseph we have an Emma Smith we can own, understand, and love.

REFERENCES

- Ursenbach, Lucile to Maureen Ursenbach Beecher. 5 Nov. 1984. In my files.
- Woolf, Virginia. *The Common Reader*. 1925; New York; Harcourt, Brace & World, 1953. She quotes Johnson in his *Life of Gray*.

Genealogical Blockbuster

The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy, edited by Arlene H. Eakle and Johni Cerny (Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing Co., 1984), 748 pp., \$39.95.

Reviewed by Gary Topping, Curator of Manuscripts, Utah State Historical Society.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE consumed with genealogical passion to profit from this new work of far-reaching and fundamental importance, though those who are will buy it as a matter of course and use it extensively. Furthermore, raw beginners and salty old pros alike will find it easy to use and inexhaustible in its benefits. Micheneresque in both title and scope, *The Source* is an indispensable adjunct to any genealogical project that values thoroughness and efficiency.

This is not a manual of research procedure; that function is to be filled by a companion volume, *Ancestry's Guide to Research*, scheduled for later publication (though referred to in *The Source* as already having appeared). An introductory section deals with basic research procedures and common pitfalls; but the book's main emphasis is on locating and using the various sources, published and unpublished, available to genealogists. A concluding section, "Special Resources," deals primarily

with records on immigration and ethnic minorities, and seven appendices give current addresses of repositories and publishers useful to genealogists.

In spite of its formidable size, *The Source* is remarkably easy to use. The researcher can quickly locate a needed chapter by using an "information guide" at the beginning of each chapter, which gives, in graph form, the type of information contained in the records being considered, a table called "Could You Use This Chapter?" giving the chronological period in which such records were kept, and "Clues That You Should Consult These Records." Because some of the chapters are very lengthy and all are very detailed, these pages will save the researcher a great deal of time.

Copious illustrations appear, it seems, on almost every page. Facsimile examples of every significant record type are given. The researcher who has never seen a manuscript census schedule, for example, can practice using one, illustrated in this book, before entering a library. The techniques for using some sources, such as the handy Sanborn fire insurance maps, are even less well-known, and the illustrations in such cases are especially welcome. (Note that the Sanborn map illustrated on p. 524 is