



MARC AND EVELYNE BERNHEIM

GROWING UP IN OLD NEW ENGLAND





The Bernheims on location.
*Old Sturbridge Village photo by
Russell C. Hamilton*

Marc Bernheim was born in Paris and has a degree in chemical engineering. For a time he worked as a chemist in the perfume industry. *Evelyne Bernheim* was born in Vienna, has a degree in Spanish studies, and worked as a reporter for Time, Inc. They were married in 1957 and in 1961 decided to forsake their other careers and devote themselves full time to photography and writing. They have since made numerous trips to Europe and Africa, carrying out assignments for major newspapers, magazines, and book publishers. Their previously published books include *Bush to City* and *A Week in Aya's World: The Ivory Coast*. When the Bernheims are not traveling around the world they live in Larchmont, New York.

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Each year a group of girls and boys spends the summer living and working in Old Sturbridge Village, a meticulously recreated community of early nineteenth century Massachusetts. This unique photographic record of their activities there offers a fascinating close-up of rural life in New England as it was in the 1820s—what people wore, the kinds of houses they lived in, the work they did, how they spent their leisure time.

Scores of stunning photographs trace the daily routine of these modern day youngsters as they explore the experiences of their counterparts of a hundred and fifty years ago—what it was like to dip candles, churn butter, weave cloth, guide an ox-drawn plough, serve as a pewterer's apprentice, pump a blacksmith's bellows, learn the three Rs in a one-room schoolhouse, celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and even go looking for a ghost in the graveyard.

The lively, factual text, written in the form of a personal journal, captures the charming vernacular of the period. Words and pictures combine to provide a glowing portrait of daily life in old New England. Here is a book to delight readers of all ages.

For Mike and Judy

Who, like me, remember Central Park

Bames

Sturbridge, December, 1971

MARC AND EVELYNE BERNHEIM

GROWING UP IN OLD NEW ENGLAND

FOREWORD BY DR. BARNES RIZNIK, VICE PRESIDENT, OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE

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Foreword

This is a special story about growing up in a New England country town during the years after the American Revolution and the winning of independence. The time itself was one of self-discovery in our young nation.

While this is a fictional account, it uses original historical sources, museum artifacts and the modern camera carefully and realistically to picture—and to bring to life—the human details of community and family life in New England a century and a half ago. This book is an invitation to imagine yourself living in a New England village during the early nineteenth century.

Old Sturbridge Village serves as the scene for *Growing Up in Old New England*. The Village reflects the culture of a representative small New England inland town during the years from 1790 to 1840. In such villages (where perhaps eight out of every ten men were farmers) one could find between a thousand and three thousand persons. The entire population of the United States at this time was less than the population of New York City today.

The early national period constitutes an important link between the Revolutionary War and the present. It was a time of social, economic and political change in the everyday experience of New Englanders; improvements in agriculture and transportation, the rise of local textile factories, the

pulls of urbanization and westward immigration, the problems of religious diversity and treatment of the black and the poor, and new modes of fashion irrevocably transformed New England village life.

As an outdoor museum of New England history, Old Sturbridge Village wants to promote accurate knowledge of the acts, thoughts and material expression of early nineteenth-century New Englanders in the hope that through such an encounter with the past we can better understand who we are and how we came to be so. *Growing Up in Old New England* is a unique introduction to and an excellent reminder of a visit into that past.

Barnes Riznik
Vice President
Old Sturbridge Village

March, 1971
Sturbridge, Massachusetts