This report is a brief account of the author's 1968-69 postdoctoral fellowship activities at Harvard, studying the bearing of social science literature and methodology on the history of education, particularly with reference to historical patterns of socialization. Specific products to which reference is made include two papers: "Childhood in America: The Image and the Experience," and "The Family Versus the World: The Experience of Bronson Alcott." An exploratory article on the history of American attitudes toward children (CG 005 600) is to be published in the "Encyclopedia of Education;" this same topic is the basis for a book in progress. (DJB)
I spent 1968-1969 at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University, studying the bearing of social science literature and methodology on the history of education, particularly with reference to historical patterns of socialization. I was particularly fortunate to have close contact not only with such social historians as Oscar Handlin and Bernard Bailyn but also with several others who were engaged in a project, funded by the U. S. Children's Bureau, dealing with the historical aspects of childhood in America. These included Professors Robert Bremner, John Barnard, Robert Mennel and Tamara Harevan. I also had the opportunity to work with John Demcy, of Brandeis University, who is exploring aspects of the family and child-rearing in the colonial period. In addition, I participated in a seminar conducted by Erik Erikson on "History and Life History." During the course of my study, I became particularly interested in the uses of social role theory in analyzing historical relationships between children and adults. A fruitful (and totally unexpected) experience occurred in April of 1969, when for a period of several weeks I left the library and seminar to witness the "Harvard Confrontation," which provided an opportunity to understand at least one aspect of conflict between the young and their elders.