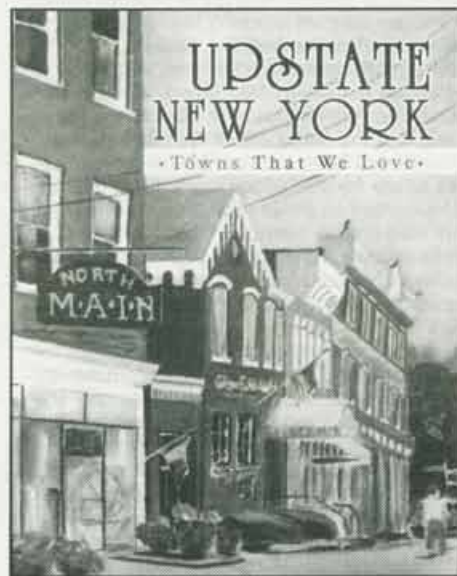


July 30–August 13, 2008

Selected Books from Main Street

by Catherine Crank of Battenkill Books

This issue features two extraordinary books by local authors. Although they are very different, I predict you will like them both.



Upstate New York "Towns That We Love"

by Elizabeth J. Cockey and
Barton M. Cockey
(Bridgeway Books c. 2008)

Every morning, those of us lucky enough to live here may awaken to chirping birds and

a view of the sunrise over the eastern hills. Sometimes we pause long enough to feel gratitude for the ambiance of our surroundings. Elizabeth Cockey, who grew up in Greenwich, NY, has traveled back to her roots accompanied by her husband, Barton, and they have collaborated on a book that showcases our nearby villages and towns. Overflowing with prints of gouache and watercolor by Elizabeth from the first painting of Salem's Main Street on the front cover to "Over the River and Through the Woods" on the back cover, one cannot help but enjoy the familiar scenes in this book.

The fields, forests, streams, and landmarks of our villages and towns, inclusive of Greenwich, Schuylerville, Saratoga Springs, Easton, Salem, and Cambridge are spread before us on page after page of vivid color.

A brief history of each territory written in a lively conversational style by Barton Cockey identifies the subject of each painting and provides information that will whet your appetite for further historical research on places of greater interest.

The last chapter invites the reader to check the map and to explore the world around Greenwich—maybe Lake George or Fort Ticonderoga, or wherever else you might be drawn to investigate.

Tim Tefft, author, editor, and publisher

in Greenwich, NY, has written, "This volume welcomes everyone to our towns, our places—rich in flavor, rich in history, rich in lore. This book will show and tell you why we who live here, or once lived here, will always call it home."

Elizabeth and Barton Cockey live in Baltimore, MD, and Greenwich, NY. Barton is a diagnostic radiologist at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. Elizabeth has degrees in art, psychology, and art therapy. She works at the Good Samaritan Nursing Center. Her memoir Drawn from Memory: A Personal Story of Healing Through Art chronicles her experiences in working with Alzheimer's and dementia patients as an art therapist.

P.S. There are also note cards and postcards of the same landmarks that appear in the book.

Us Carvers

A memoir of sorts in which an American wood-carver and his English mentor chip away at the Tree of Knowledge.

by Gerry Holzman
(Grinling Press c. 2008)

The familiar titles of the collection of worn books and wood carvers' tools pictured on the cover of this book are representative of the wide range of interests shared by two master carvers who reside in different coun-

tries, but share a passion for the ancient craft of carving. Once a year for a period of six years Gerry Holzman traveled to England to take carving lessons from Gino Masero, one of England's master carvers.

These two men corresponded for 20 years until Gino died in 1995. Holzman describes the pleasure he had in first receiving Gino's handwritten letters on flimsy airmail stationery arriving from across the Atlantic. Remember that stationery?

I feel it is a privilege that Holzman has shared these writings that philosophize on life, while commenting on travel, history, politics, art, architecture, and carving. There is astute observation, reflection, and humor in these exchanges. There are also photos of Gino and a pair of his wonderful carvings.

Gerry Holzman and his wife, Arleen, live in a restored carriage house in Cambridge, NY. An expert in carousel carving, he is the head carver and director of the New York State Carousel project, which has created a fully operational carousel based on the history of New York State. It is on permanent display at the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown, NY. A documentary of this project is scheduled for airing in 2009. He has also contributed articles to national media and been featured in television documentaries of his work.