

# Making Mountains New York City And The Catskills

Making Mountains The Catskills The Catskills In the Catskills Guide to the Catskills and the Region Around The Catskills in Vintage Postcards The Catskill Mountains and the Region Around The Catskills The Catskills Folk Songs of the Catskills The Future of the Catskills Murder in the Catskills The Scenery of the Catskill Mountains as Described by Irving, Cooper, Bryant, W.G. Clark, N.P. Willis, Miss Martineau, Tyrone Power, Park Benjamin, Thomas Cole, Bayard Taylor and Other Eminent Writers A Review of the Summer Birds of a Part of the Catskill Mountains The Catskills Catskill Hotels West Through the Catskills Outing and the Wheelman Picturesque Catskills, Green County Catskill Mountains, Ulster & Delaware R.R. and Connections David Stradling Stephen M. Silverman Kenneth Myers John Burroughs Arthur G. Adams Irwin Richman Charles Rockwell Alf Evers John G. Mitchell Norman Cazden New York (State). Temporary State Commission to Study the Catskills Norman James Van Valkenburgh Eugene Pintard Bicknell Thomas Morris Longstreth Irwin Richman Dorothy Kubik Richard Lionel De Lisser

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for over two hundred years the catskill mountains have been repeatedly and dramatically transformed by new york city in making mountains david stradling shows the transformation of the catskills landscape as a collaborative process one in which local and urban hands capital and ideas have come together to reshape the mountains and the communities therein this collaboration has had environmental economic and cultural consequences early on the catskills were an important source of natural resources later when new york city needed to expand its water supply engineers helped direct the city toward the catskills claiming that the mountains offered the purest and most cost effective waters by the 1960s new york had created the great reservoir and aqueduct system in the mountains that now supplies the city with 90 percent of its water the catskills also

served as a critical space in which the nation's ideas about nature evolved straddling the great influence writers and artists had upon urban residents especially the painters of the hudson river school whose ideal landscapes created expectations about how rural america should appear by the mid 1800s urban residents had turned the catskills into an important vacation ground and by the late 1800s the catskills had become one of the premiere resort regions in the nation in the mid twentieth century the older catskill resort region was in steep decline but the jewish borscht belt in the southern catskills was thriving the automobile revitalized mountain tourism and residence and increased the threat of suburbanization of the historic landscape throughout each of these significant incarnations urban and rural residents worked in a rough collaboration though not without conflict to reshape the mountains and american ideas about rural landscapes and nature

the catskills cat creek in dutch america's original frontier northwest of new york city with its seven hundred thousand acres of forest land preserve and its five counties delaware green sullivan ulster schoharie america's first great vacationland the subject of the nineteenth century hudson river school paintings that captured the almost godlike majesty of the mountains and landscapes the skies waterfalls pastures cliffs refuge and home to poets and gangsters tycoons and politicians preachers and outlaws musicians and spiritualists outcasts and rebels stephen silverman and raphael silver tell of the turning points that made the catskills so vital to the development of america henry hudson's first spotting the distant blue mountains in 1609 the new york state constitutional convention resulting in new york's own declaration of independence from great britain and its own constitution causing the ire of the invading british army the catskills as a popular attraction in the 1800s with the construction of the catskill mountain house and its rugged imitators that offered wasp guests one hundred percent restricted accommodations hebrews will knock vainly for admission a policy that remained until the catskills became the curative for tubercular patients sending real estate prices plummeting and the wasp enclave on to richer pastures here are the gangsters jack legs diamond and dutch schultz among them who sought refuge in the catskill mountains and the resorts that after world war ii catered to upwardly mobile jewish families giving rise to hundreds of hotels inspired by grossinger's the original disneyland with knishes the concord brown's hotel kutsher's hotel and others in what became known as the borscht belt and sour cream alps with their headliners from movies and radio phil silvers eddie cantor milton berle et al and others who learned their trade there among them moss hart who got his start organizing summer theatricals sid caesar lenny bruce mel brooks woody allen and joan rivers here is a nineteenth century america turning away from england for its literary and artistic inspiration finding it instead in washington irving's rip van winkle and his childhood recollections set in the catskills in james fenimore cooper's adventure romances which provided a pastoral history describing the shift from a colonial to a nationalist mentality and in the canvases of thomas cole asher b durand frederick church and others that caught the grandeur of the wilderness and that gave texture color and form to irving's and cooper's imaginings here are the entrepreneurs and financiers who saw the catskills as a way to strike it rich plundering the resources that had been likened to creation the catskills tanneries that supplied the boots and saddles for union troops in the civil war and the bluestone quarries whose excavated rock became the curbs and streets of the fast growing eastern seaboard here are the catskills brought fully to life in all of their intensity beauty vastness and lunacy

from the 1890s through the 1920s the postcard was an extraordinarily popular means of communication many of the postcards produced during this golden age and even some from later years can today be considered works of art postcard photographers traveled the length and breadth of the nation snapping photographs of busy street scenes documenting local landmarks and assembling crowds of local children only too happy to pose for a picture these images printed as postcards and sold in general stores and five and dimes across the country survive as telling reminders of an important era in america s history this fascinating new history of the catskills of new york showcases more than two hundred of the best most evocative vintage postcards available

the catskills tells the story of one of america s most historically rich and romantic regions alf evers evokes the special charm of the catskills region with explorations of its flora and fauna legends superstitions and natural and unnatural wonders packed with illustrations detailing the history of the catskills from the time of its first settling through the revolutionary and civil wars the borcht belt years the famed woodstock festival up to the present the catskills is a memorable book that does full justice to a vital vein of our american heritage

traditional songs from the catskill area of new york state are accompanied by detailed discussions of their roots development musical structure and subject matter

at one time according to the catskill institute there were more than a thousand hotels spread across the mountains of greene ulster delaware and sullivan counties the catskills were an exciting world full of pleasures to be enjoyed with summer and winter activities characterized by entertainment food sports card playing and food again catskill hotels with a collection of some two hundred images tells the story of this world which began with america s first resort hotel the catskill mountain house continued with places such as the world famous grossinger s and can still be found today at kutsher s country club the mountain house at lake mohonk and a few other hardy resorts

first road through the mountains

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