



Name: Alf Evers

Years: February 2nd, 1905- December 29th, 2004

Residence: Ulster County, NY

Brief Biography: Alf Evers was born in 1905 near the Bronx Zoo on the banks of the Hudson River. At the age of 9, Evers's interest in local history developed when his family moved to the small, rural town of Tillson. Shortly after this his family moved to New Paltz where his father began renovations on the famous Hasbrouck House on Huguenot Street. When Evers was 15, he came across the works of Henry James, whom Evers said made him realize that writing could be worthwhile. Upon attending Hamilton College in New York City, Evers befriended fellow student B.F. Skinner, the man destined to become a famous behavioral psychologist. Ironically enough, Skinner was an aspiring writer and Evers an aspiring psychologist when they met at Hamilton College. After leaving Hamilton and enrolling in Art School, Alf Evers met his wife, Helen Bryant Baker, a commercial artist. Together they produced over 50 children's books. In 1955, Evers's book *The Treasure of Watchdog Mountain* was published. The book was written to teach children about ecology and man's relationship with the land. From this point forward Evers continued writing about the Catskills, eventually producing the monumentally successful *The Catskills: From Wilderness to Woodstock*. Later on, Evers also gave talks and even serve as President of the Woodstock Historical Society. In 1989, Evers would begin his final work *Kingston-On-Hudson* which was completed just prior to his passing on December 29th, 2004.

Major Achievements: Evers was an active member of the New York Folklore Society, producing dozens of articles for their *New York Folklore Quarterly*. His house is listed as a historical site on the New York State Historic Registry. Evers would also produce a number of paintings set in Woodstock in addition to his numerous writing projects.

For More Information: *The Catskills: From Wilderness to Woodstock* by Alf Evers; *Alf Evers: An American Genius* by Carolyn Bennett (<http://www.catskillmtn.org/guide-magazine/articles/2006-02-alf-evers.html>)

Resources: <http://www.nyfolklore.org/pubs/voic31-1-2/obit-evers.html> ;
<http://www.woodstockjournal.com/appreciationofalf.html>

-By Ben Smith