The shadows, which convey anguish and pain or illustrate’s work with that of Durer. Rackham’s long sleep to a few of the neighborhood children. These go unnoticed in their comparisons of the British art and American artist with that of Durer. Rackham’s gnarled hands of Rackham’s Rip cast ominous 300 guineas. The originals were exhibited in their chases 50 color illustrations of Rip Van Winkle, the book contained 13 handsome illustrations, who rarely used ink and nonethe employed in his text. Wyeth, son, found “great quality” in these pencil drawings but, according to the son, himself an accomplished artist, the father did not. The elder Wyeth’s self-criticism notwithstanding, this American classic as illustrated by him is still a collector’s treasure. Will America’s marathon sleeper survive the twenty-first century? Only time will tell.

Rackham, the artist, knows what Rip, the child-artist, does not know, that there is sometimes a high price to pay for a spirited imagination. In the end, it could be said that Rip Van Winkle, this most American of books, helped popularize Rackham’s career in America.

N.C. Wyeth’s Rip Van Winkle, on the other hand, is a more kindly figure that Rackham’s. Too, his eyes reveal that he has gone through an unexplained transformation but the shadows in Wyeth’s illustration of the older Rip belong to the dusty corners of time and not the cluttered attic of the mind. Published by David McKay in 1921, the book contained 13 handsome illustrations, who rarely used ink and nonethe employed in his text. Wyeth, son, found “great quality” in these pencil drawings but, according to the son, himself an accomplished artist, the father did not. The elder Wyeth’s self-criticism notwithstanding, this American classic as illustrated by him is still a collector’s treasure. Will America’s marathon sleeper survive the twenty-first century? Only time will tell.

Rackham, the artist, knows what Rip, the child-artist, does not know, that there is sometimes a high price to pay for a spirited imagination. In the end, it could be said that Rip Van Winkle, this most American of books, helped popularize Rackham’s career in America.

N.C. Wyeth’s Rip Van Winkle, on the other hand, is a more kindly figure that Rackham’s. Too, his eyes reveal that he has gone through an unexplained transformation but the shadows in Wyeth’s illustration of the older Rip belong to the dusty corners of time and not the cluttered attic of the mind. Published by David McKay in 1921, the book contained 13 handsome illustrations, who rarely used ink and nonethe employed in his text. Wyeth, son, found “great quality” in these pencil drawings but, according to the son, himself an accomplished artist, the father did not. The elder Wyeth’s self-criticism notwithstanding, this American classic as illustrated by him is still a collector’s treasure. Will America’s marathon sleeper survive the twenty-first century? Only time will tell.

Rackham, the artist, knows what Rip, the child-artist, does not know, that there is sometimes a high price to pay for a spirited imagination. In the end, it could be said that Rip Van Winkle, this most American of books, helped popularize Rackham’s career in America.

N.C. Wyeth’s Rip Van Winkle, on the other hand, is a more kindly figure that Rackham’s. Too, his eyes reveal that he has gone through an unexplained transformation but the shadows in Wyeth’s illustration of the older Rip belong to the dusty corners of time and not the cluttered attic of the mind. Published by David McKay in 1921, the book contained 13 handsome illustrations, who rarely used ink and nonethe employed in his text. Wyeth, son, found “great quality” in these pencil drawings but, according to the son, himself an accomplished artist, the father did not. The elder Wyeth’s self-criticism notwithstanding, this American classic as illustrated by him is still a collector’s treasure. Will America’s marathon sleeper survive the twenty-first century? Only time will tell.
“A people need a past in order to have a direction in which to travel.” The Catskills once echoed the name of Rip Van Winkle throughout its verdant hills. Fifty years ago visitors to this region were regaled with many incarnations of Rip and his legend. Rip’s Rock, Rip’s Retreat, Rip Van Winkle Bazaar, Rip’s Garage; wherever you looked, there was Rip. A Rip here, a Rip there, Rip predominated everywhere. Following the heyday of the American Tourist Movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Rip fell asleep once again. That is, until now. The time is right for Washington Irving, creator of Rip Van Winkle and other important American tales, to take his place as the preeminent author of the Catskill High Peaks. This trail is an effort to do just that, as well as to preserve the past and to remind today’s traveler of the travels and travels of yesteryear.

7. Washington Irving Inn

Named after distinguished American author Washington Irving, this century-old inn is part of the tradition and charm of the American Tourist Movement that took hold in the 19th century in Catskill High Peaks. Sophisticated travelers can escape everyday life at this Historic Inn, © 1890, in 1705 acres Catskill State Park and see spectacular Fall foliage in the heart of the “Catskill High Peaks,” America’s First Wilderness. Minutes from world-class skiing at Hunter & Windham Mountains. 518-589-5560, Rte. 23A, Hunter, NY www.washingtonirving.com

5. Rip’s Rock

According to legend, it is here that Rip Van Winkle laid down to his solemn, two score undisturbed sleep, but not before making merry with the ghost of Henry Hudson and his band of misshapen little men. To find out more about Rip’s Rock and other Rip related sites, visit the Mountain Top Historical Society’s Visitors Center in Haines Falls. For more information, contact MTHS at www.mths.org.

9. Van Winkle’s Restaurant at the Kaatskill Mountain Club

This upscale bistro named after Washington Irving’s most famous character, Van Winkle’s Restaurant offers wall-to-wall poster-size images of Rip and other Catskills’ memorabilia throughout. The restaurant is located in the foothills of Hunter Mountain, home to world class skiing. Van Winkle’s Restaurant is located off Route 23A in Hunter Village.

6. Tannersville

The Painted Village — Mark Twain could be spotted taking a stroll along Main Street at the height of the Victorian era. What was he doing here? Perhaps visiting one of his many friends such as Candace Wheeler or Mary Mapes Dodge who had homes in nearby Oteora Park. Although it is almost certain that Twain did no writing while he was here, one of his most famous quotes, “The walls were so thin that Twain did no writing while he was here, one stop to think that this action resulted in a lion taxpayer dollars and three human lives.”

10. The Early Tanners: Hunter Village Square

Rip Van Winkle History Trail

The Bronck Museum is an excellent way to experience firsthand the early Dutch influence in Greene County. It is from these early colonists that Washington Irving firsthand the early Dutch influence in Greene County. It is from these early colonists that Washington Irving.

2. The Rip Van Winkle Bridge

The Rip Van Winkle Bridge was designed under the guidance of the New York State public works using $3.4 million in loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, a Depression-era agency. The finished bridge, named after one of Washington Irving’s most famous characters, Rip Van Winkle, measures 1040 feet long. In 1935, bridge workers installed a two-lane roadway and completed reconstruction of a Dutch-colonial-style toll plaza and administration, topped off with stepped gable roof reminiscent of Washington Irving’s home, Sunnybank. The Rip Van Winkle Bridge officially opened to traffic on July 2, 1935, at a cost of $2.4 million taxpayer dollars and three human lives.

1. Sunnyside

Perched proudly on the banks of the Hudson River in Tarrytown, NY, Sunnybank is the creation of American author Washington Irving. Irving purchased the two-room Dutch farmhouse in 1835 for $1800. Over the next decade and a half, the writer, with help from his artist friend, George Harvey, redesigned and added to the original early 18th century structure. Together, the two men created a mansion that would later be known as the American Romantic style. Particular interest was paid by Irving to adding historical architectural elements such as a stepped-gable roof and wickerhearves, reminiscent of the Dutch homes that Irving had seen as a child growing up at New York City, Call 914-631-8280.

11. The Early Tanners: Zadock Pratt & Pratt Museum

Although most of us have forgotten Colonel Edwards and his wanton destruction of the first growth forest of the Catskill High Peaks, many of us recall with fondness another Greene County tanner, the Honorable Zadock Pratt, who is also one of the County’s Favorite Sons. Pratt was more than a tanner; he was what Emerson called a “Representative Man,” helping to pave the way from Catskill Landing to the mountainous region of the Catskill High Peaks in search of a direct trade route for his furs. Pratt lived in what is now known as the American Romantic style. Particular interest was paid by Irving to adding historical architectural elements such as a stepped-gable roof and wickerheavers, reminiscent of the Dutch homes that Irving had seen as a child growing up at New York City, Call 914-631-8280.

12. Hardenburgh House

The Hardenburgh House was built in 1806 on 1.5 million acres given to Johannes Hardenburgh by Queen Anne in 1708. This early stone dwelling was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. Located on Route 23 in the Town of Roxbury, Delaware County, on the outskirts of Prattsville, Greene County, this unusual example of Dutch architecture in the Catskill High Peaks is said to be haunted by the ghost of a freed slave who once belonged to land owner Johannes Hardenburgh.