



## The Last of the Handmade Dams: The Story of the Ashokan Reservoir

*By Bob Steuding*

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The Last of the Handmade Dams tells the story of building New York City's first great Catskill Mountain Reservoir, largely built by pick-and-shovel work. It was a triumph of engineering but with profound consequences for more than 2,000 persons in the flooded Ashokan Valley. Eleven communities were razed for the mammoth project. 2,000 graves were disinterred and relocated. The story is told in all aspects: political, social, engineering. It tells of immigrant laborers and their problems, of the dislocations and the lore of the drowned valley all that remained as the waters rose.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### Review

"For reservoir-lovers (I wholeheartedly...among these) there's a bit of entertainment as well as an in-depth education." --*Spider Barbour, Catskill Center News*

#### About the Author

Bob Steuding teaches Humanities at Ulster County Community College in Stone Ridge, New York. He is also State University of New York Faculty Exchange Scholar and serves as the Poet Laureate of Ulster County. Among his other books are two volumes of poetry, *Ashokan* and *Winter Sun*, a critical biography of the Pulitzer Prize poet Gary Snyder, *A Catskill Mountain Journal* and *Rondout: The Story of Hudson River Port*.

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##### **Raul Warren:**

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**Chuck Bryson:**

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