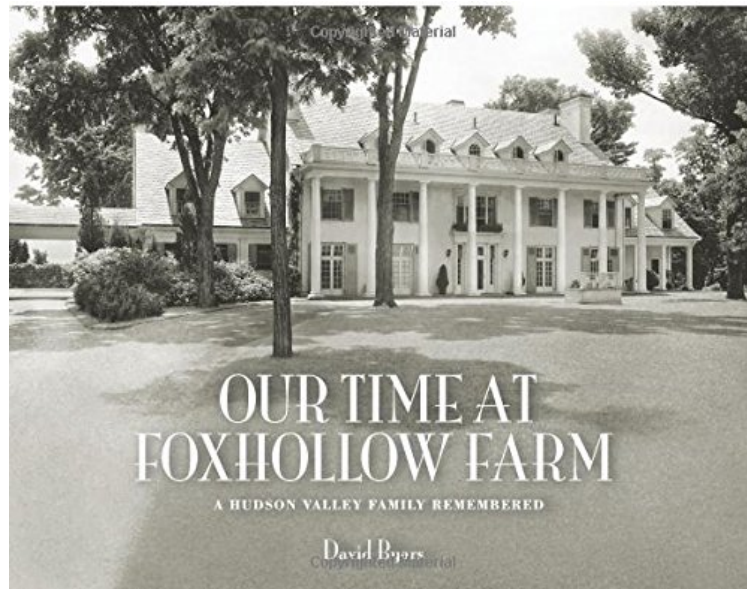


Our Time at Foxhollow Farm: A Hudson Valley Family Remembered

David Byars

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David Byars : Our Time at Foxhollow Farm: A Hudson Valley Family Remembered before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Time at Foxhollow Farm: A Hudson Valley Family Remembered:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful journey back in time -- The Hudson River Valley ca. 1900-1930sBy S. MoskeyI had never heard of Foxfollow Farm or the Dows family before reading this book, but now that I have, I feel as though I've visited a magnificent home in the Hudson River Valley many times and have become an intimate of the family who lived there, and their friends. Rarely is the private life of a great American family open for all to see. In this book, David Byars presents a wonderfully panoramic photographic history of Mr. Mrs. Tracy Dows and their family and friends from the early 1900s into the 1930s. The photographs that Mr. Byars has carefully chosen come from 26 albums of photographs that Mr. Dows himself took during that period. Each photograph is accompanied by a detailed, descriptive caption that puts the photograph in the right context of time and place, making it possible to view the photographs and understand their importance to the family's story. I found myself getting caught up in the ebb and flow of the family's life. By the end of the book, when the family moves out of their home at Foxhollow Farm in the wake of the stock market crash of 1929, I felt as if I was sharing that sad moment with them!There is much to see and enjoy in this book: weddings; raising children; holidays at home and abroad; and many casual, unposed moments that will delight and entertain you. "Our Time at Foxhollow Farm" is a wonderful addition to American cultural and social history. Congratulations and thanks to Mr. Byars for this accomplishment.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An unexpected treat with a family's visual history anchored by a homeBy Peter H. MillenThis is a wonderful book for many reasons. The feel of the paper and binding, horizontal design, photo and text layout was very well thought out and most appreciated. This is a visual book through and through with a rich

library of many, many high quality photos of the era that do not disappoint. It really is a broad view of a family with wide political, social and economic connects of another era. Lacking in pretense yet they were a very well connected the family. Perhaps most surprising is how they seemingly included their sensational architect (H T Lindeberg) of Foxhollow into many activities for years after the estate was complete. Worth noting for any would be buyer this isn't just an architecture book [in fact I'd love to see more of the stone stables] but rather visual history that includes trips abroad, family gatherings and family friends of the era, such as FDR. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. MAGNIFICENT! By Anne E. Donnell This is a magnificent work with splendid photographs and fascinating captions. I anticipate a winter of pleasure .

Our Time at Foxhollow Farm is a remarkable pictorial history of an eminent Hudson Valley family in the early decades of the twentieth century. Illustrated with the family's extensive collection of personal albums compiled during the nascent years of photography, it provides a fascinating insight into the regional, social, and architectural history of the era. In 1903 Tracy Dows, the son of a successful grain merchant from Manhattan, married Alice Townsend Olin, whose Livingston forebears had settled in the Rhinebeck, New York, area in the late 1600s. Dows purchased and combined several existing farms to establish his estate, Foxhollow Farm, next to Alice's ancestral home. He commissioned Harrie T. Lindeberg, a sought-after architect trained under Stanford White, to design the family home and other buildings on the property, and the Olmsted Brothers to landscape its rolling hills. The Dowses raised their three children on the estate, and led a busy social life of tennis tournaments, weddings, dinners, and dances with such friends and neighbors as the Roosevelts and the Astors. Tracy Dows devoted himself largely to the pursuit of agricultural and civic affairs at home and in the Rhinebeck community. Olin Dows, Tracy and Alice's son, became a notable painter active in President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration. Our Time at Foxhollow Farm follows the Dows family from 1903 through the 1930s, documenting their life at home, social activities, and travels in America and Europe. An enthusiastic amateur photographer, Tracy Dows took many of this book's photographs himself, offering a vivid and warmly intimate perspective on privileged early twentieth-century American life.

"David Byars has opened up a view into the world of a family that seems almost like a dream now. It is what I tried to imagine when I began living in the Hudson Valley over twenty years ago, among the remnants and the ruins of buildings designed by Harrie T. Lindeberg. At once social history, architectural history, and a moving family history, Byars's book is a lucid account of the dream. It made me think of the French photographer Jacques Henri Lartigue's photographs of his family, which were taken during the same period Tracy Dows was recording life at Foxhollow Farm. These are original and unusual pictures, rescued and brought to the light of day with care and love." — Annie Leibovitz "The fine hand of David Byars, graphic designer extraordinaire, is evident in this handsome and richly illustrated chronicle, which documents in stunning detail the rarefied life of one of the Hudson Valley's 'elite' families, from the Gilded Age to the Jazz Age. Through photographs, we are introduced to Tracy Dows, a New Yorker, Harvard graduate, and second-generation merchant, who in 1910 built the palatial Colonial Revival mansion, Foxhollow Farm, in bucolic Rhinebeck, New York. The passage from four-in-hand carriages to motor trips, the family's travels abroad, and their frolics at home are lavishly recorded, as are their exquisite clothes, hats, and hairstyles. Byars fills in the details with brief but evocative phrases that capture this little-known but fascinating part of Hudson Valley history. This volume provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York's 'best families': how they lived and played during these tumultuous years." — Barbaralee Diamonstein-Spielvogel, author of *The Landmarks of New York: An Illustrated, Comprehensive Record of New York City's Historic Buildings, Sixth Edition* "David Byars has plumbed a photographic archive of extraordinary depth and quality to bring to life the Dows family and their beloved Foxhollow Farm. This vivid and compelling book draws us into the Dows's world where their estate on the mighty Hudson is a dazzling, natural backdrop to the story of their worldly successes in the circles of great Americans, including Edith Wharton, Stanford White, Charles Dana Gibson, the Astors, and the Roosevelts. Byars brings the reader a palpable sense of intimacy with the family that makes this a piece of history worth seeing and reading." — Peter Pennoyer, architect and coauthor of *New York Transformed: The Architecture of Cross* "I am captivated by the great photos of one of my favorite areas of America at the height of its opulence. I could not be more mesmerized by this book's portrayal of the Hudson Valley's peak periods and great people." — Hunt Slonem, American painter, sculptor, and printmaker "A trip into a forgotten past and a way of life through an amazing collection of photographs. Captured is the extraordinary architecture of Harrie T. Lindeberg, who created some of America's great country houses. With this book, one gets a sense of how buildings, gardens, and scenic places affect the lives of entire families." — Richard Guy Wilson, Commonwealth Professor and Chair, Department of Architectural History, University of Virginia "David Byars has done a brilliant job describing the history of one of Rhinebeck's most important families and their connection with key figures in American history. The fabulous photographs in the book bring you right into the story of the Dows family. This is a book that is well worth owning." — David Miller, President, Rhinebeck Historical Society About the Author David Byars is the Deputy Managing Editor of *Vogue* and has worked in magazine production for thirty-four years, with a strong emphasis on visual imagery. He

was raised in Louisiana, where the antebellum plantation houses along the Mississippi River first sparked his interest in history and architecture. A graduate of Louisiana State University, he moved to New York City in 1982 and currently lives in the historic Bronx neighborhood of Spuyten Duyvil overlooking the Hudson River. He is a board member of Hudson River Heritage, a nonprofit organization in Rhinebeck, New York.