

residentBook Review

More Landmarks You Must Visit

by Roger Zotti

Researching local history isn't a chore for author and illustrator **Constant Waterman** aka **Matthew Goldman**, and he clearly did a huge amount for his latest book, **More Landmarks You Must Visit in Southeast Connecticut (Ingram Spark)**. "I enjoy research—even when I can't find what I'm looking for," he told *The Resident*. "Then it means making time to visit local historical society archives or contacting some ancient citizen who remembers." His hope is, he added, that "More Landmarks" "will inspire its readers' curiosity about and admiration for our lovely region."

What prompted Constant to write "More Landmarks"—for

which, of course, he did the richly detailed and excellent art work—was "owing to all the feedback I received after the first 'Landmarks' book, such as 'Why didn't you include our church, or library, or sawmill, or town hall, or' Also there are certain landmarks that posed a challenge to illustrate, such as the 'Slater Museum' (1854) in Norwich and 'St. Clements Castle' (1902) in Portland."

One of my favorite pieces is "Uncas Leap" aka "Indian Leap." In it Constant writes: "Uncas, Sachem of the Mohegans, led his outnumbered warriors against 900 of the Narragansetts at 'The Battle of the Great Plain' in 1643." The Mohegans chased the Narragansetts, most of whom were



**You Must Visit
In Southeast Connecticut**



Written & illustrated by:
Constant Waterman

Constant Waterman hopes his latest book sharpens its readers' appetites "for our lovely region."

"unfamiliar with the territory." When they "found themselves at

the precipitous gorge below the falls," they didn't surrender but tried "[leaping] the chasm." With one exception they all fell to their deaths. **Miantonomo**, the exception, survived, though injured, and **Uncas**, who "made the terrific leap, pursued and captured his injured enemy."

Asked by *The Resident* why he writes and what advice he has for aspiring writers, Constant replied, "I write probably because I'm not bright enough to pursue some career that's more remunerative. Also, I like to see pages piling up. It's similar to stacking firewood. My woodpile is now so high my house is no longer visible from the road." His advice for aspiring writers "is, firstly, don't give up on yourself—be confident your writing will improve. Secondly, set deadlines. You needn't write every day, but

you need to finish your next piece of writing before you're too old to remember what the 'SAVE' button is for."

Asked, too, if he plans another "Landmarks" book, Constant said, "I doubt if I'll undertake another book of this genre. It's a lot of work and I'm interested now in pursuing more imaginative and metaphysical art." (Let's hope he changes his mind about writing another "Landmarks" tome: They're a terrific way to learn and appreciate local history.)

Presently Constant's newest art work is on view at the **Stagecoach House Inn, 1136 Main Street, Wyoming, RI**, and he invites viewers "to talk with him and stay for a cup of tea." Also note that his cards and other books can be purchased at www.constantwaterman.com. Also visit him on **Facebook**.