



NEWS
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**SPRING &
SUMMER
2000**

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Three of the five grantors: from left: James R. Dunbar, Eva Dunbar Bailey, and Violet Dunbar Donaldson, brother and sisters of the late Alice W. Dunbar, on the front porch of the main house.

ALICE DUNBAR EASEMENT PROTECTS ESOPUS CLIFFS AND WATERFALL

A remote and pristine stretch of Ulster County's renowned Esopus Gorge has been set aside in perpetuity as the result of a generous decision on the part of the late Alice Dunbar of Lomontville and her five brothers and sisters. The forty acre parcel in the township of Marbletown, four miles north of the hamlet of Stone Ridge, includes high cliffs and a thirty foot waterfall.

The acreage adds significantly to the Conservancy's Esopus Gorge Project, which already protects four other parcels along the Gorge: the adjoining James and Marjorie Dunbar easement; the Eddy family easement, and the Cathy & Keith Abell easement two and a half miles upstream, also in Marbletown; and the Cathedral Gorge easement in the Town of Olive, donated to the Conservancy by the State University of New York at New Paltz.

The Alice Dunbar property has a distinguished and interesting history. Its stone house dates from 1832, replacing an earlier structure (destroyed by fire) said to have been built in 1716. The place was acquired in 1947 by the late Henry F. Dunbar, a botanist, who with Mary Domville of Woodstock co-authored *The Flora of Ulster County*, published in 1970. Alice, daughter of Henry Dunbar, had intended to draw up an easement contract but had not completed the work before her sudden death in 1996. The easement is a gift to the future — in her memory — from her sisters and brothers: Eva Dunbar Bailey, Violet Dunbar Donaldson, Susanne Dunbar Barrymore, Edward Dunbar, and James Dunbar.

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