

This I Know

Two gifted women, separated by a century, share a link to the Hudson Valley and perhaps the eternal graces.

"Jesus loves me, this I know," Miss Anna Bartlett Warner wrote, "for the Bible tells me so." The words are part of a celebrated and cherished American hymn. Warner penned the hymn's words while residing with her widower father, Henry, and sister, Susan (also an author), on Constitution Island, on the Hudson River.

"They came from New York City," a Constitution Island docent said of the Warner family. "Henry Warner was a lawyer and the daughters had private tutors, carriages and all the accoutrements of high living."

When the Warners lost their fortune in 1837, their Constitution Island property became their primary residence.

Though parts of Warner's hymn have been rewritten over the years, her message remains the same. It appears on the artwork of Dorian Lee Remine, illustrated with watercolor images of the Hudson, West Point, and the Warner residence and gardens, beloved surroundings of the Warners.

Remine, who grew up in Rockland County, visited Constitution Island with her mother nearly 15 years ago. She went on to relive her experience with watercolors, and credits Anna Warner and God with the inspiration.

Remine refers to this favored piece as "Jesus Loves Me." She first featured the montage on greeting cards and has since reproduced it in many formats.

"When I went on the tour," Remine said, "God gave me the idea of putting it together. I chose the words of *Jesus Loves Me* (centered) and in the top left corner is the Cadet Chapel and the classic West Point scene, because Anna Warner and her sister had taught Bible classes to the cadets. In the bottom right hand corner is the Warner house and the garden path on

Constitution Island. In the bottom left corner is the Hudson River, on which



the sisters traveled back and forth." Remine bordered words from the hymn with red columbine, blue chicory and black-eyed Susans. She added grapes to represent Christian Communion. And the name Anna B. Warner, who passed away in 1915, rests below Miss Warner's hymn.

"Whenever I see *Jesus Loves Me*," Remine said, "I hardly ever see Anna Warner's name. Some church hymnal books credit her, but not often."

Remine's artwork has made its way around the world. She has painted regional scenes from Brotherhood Winery to Lawrence Farms. Her husband and two daughters have come to recognize their home as a bustling studio. In the Remine living room, when someone wants to relax with a snack and drink, they move a few brushes and paint from the table to share the space with their resident artist.

"I feel like I'm a messy person," Remine says, "but my art is very precise."

So precise that Remine has

received commissions for many projects and was honored with the top award by the Salmagundi Art Club in New York for her "Cape May, New Jersey" watercolor.

Her brush strokes have captured Niagara Falls, Central Park, the Adirondacks and much of the Hudson Valley. Like Anna Warner, who spent her lifetime writing, teaching and gardening, Remine draws inspiration from the beauty around her.

Anna Bartlett Warner, a writer who lived much of her life in the nineteenth century, and Dorian Lee Remine, a New Windsor watercolorist, never met in this life. But if Remine earns her wings, when she moves on from life on earth, she anticipates meeting Warner in heaven above.

To see Dorian Lee Remine's watercolors, browse the artist's Web site at www.DorianLeeRemine.com. To learn more about Anna B. Warner and Constitution Island, check out www.constitutionisland.org.

