

About Jim Lockett

I was born in 1949 in Manhattan and moved to 47 Grandview Ave, Dobbs Ferry before I was a year old, with my father, Hubert, my mother JoLeigh, my sister Arleigh and my brother Dan. (My half brother Terry Dyke also lived with us in Dobbs Ferry, but not until 1962). My aunt Terry Lockett, uncle Vernon, and cousins Vivien and Martin also lived in Dobbs Ferry. My father was very active in village affairs, serving on the school board and later on the village board of trustees.

In 1957 we moved to 72 Colonial Ave., Dobbs Ferry, to a great old house I have written about before in The Ferryman newsletter.

I went to the Dobbs Ferry public schools as part of the class of 1967, but graduated early in 1966, because I felt too restless to spend another year in high school. Still I had some really good experiences as a kid growing up in Dobbs. I was very active as a scenery building and sound and lighting technician for stage productions in school, at the Presbyterian Church and at the former movie theater, which was re-opened as a professional theater for plays for 2 years while I was a teenager. Sailing was another of my passions. We had a sailboat on the Hudson.

I got my BA in social science, specializing in American and Latin American history from Pace College in 1970, Magna Cum Laude, and began a 7 year career in business journalism, writing about the consumer electronics industry for various trade publications. I lived on Battle Hill in White Plains and commuted to work in Manhattan.

I got my Ph. D. in economics from Cornell in 1980, after three years in Ithaca and two years in Washington, D.C. , the first of those being at the President's Council of Economic Advisers and the second being at Brookings Institution.

I came to Boston in 1980 and began a 3 1/2-year teaching stint at Brandeis U. But during that time, I became deeply involved in community development and affordable housing development, working first with my neighborhood nonprofit community development corporation as a volunteer board member and then president. In 1983 I quit teaching and quit my board position and made nonprofit real estate development my career, serving at different times as Executive Director of The Boston Housing Partnership and the Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation. From 1991 to 2009, I was an independent consultant helping nonprofits to develop and operate large affordable housing developments. My role during development was to assemble and oversee the development team and to structure and obtain the financing, and after completion I would help with tenant selection and oversight of the property management company. If the project was a cooperative, as some were, I would also train the tenant board of directors and serve as their consultant.

In 2003 I started SailboatsToGo.com, a website selling sail kits for canoes, kayaks and dinghies. The inspiration was the success of my attempt to design a sailboat I could fold up and take with me in checked baggage on vacation that would be big enough to carry

two or three adults. We took annual winter vacations at a campground in the Virgin Islands, and I wanted to bring my own sailboat. The sailboat-in-two-bags worked out great, so I figured I should share it with the world.

The portable sailboat business took off. I designed more successful boating products, had them manufactured, and added them to my website, along with boats and boating accessories designed and made by others that fit my marketing niche. For six years I kept up the two careers -- sailboats and affordable housing. In 2009 the sailboats company became my sole occupation and in 2012 I took in a partner to help carry the load. The business continues.

Today I live in Waltham, MA, near Boston, with my wife Betty and our daughter Sofia. My son Jeffrey and his family (wife Gigi, kids Vida and Kyle), live 12 minutes away by car.

I'm delighted to have time to do things like historical research during the boating off season. I was inspired to do this research by the series of articles in the Ferryman by Jeanne Fritz, whom I knew when I lived in Dobbs Ferry as a child. (I didn't read the articles until many years after they were published). I started out just to distill the story of the ferry out of her series of articles, shoring it up with some source material, but when I found some of the received story was false and there was an interesting true story as yet untold, I was hooked.

This is a picture of me:

