

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SPRING 2024

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

This July 4th, the good people of Orangetown will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the “Orangetown Resolutions,” which were the forerunner of the Declaration of Independence that were presented on July 4th, 1776. The Orangetown Resolutions were signed by members of the correspondence committee—Colonel Abraham Lent, John Haring, Esquire, Mr. Thomas Outwater, Mr. Gardner Jones and Peter T. Haring. These resolutions state that the freehold-

ers and inhabitants of Orangetown and the Province of New York did not mind being British subjects, but they were in opposition to the imposed duties (taxes) dictated by parliament. To celebrate this event, **A reading of the resolutions will take place at the '76 House on Thursday, July 4th, 2024.** *This event is sponsored by the Tappantown Historical, the Historical Society of Rockland County as well as the Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives.*

ORANGE TOWN RESOLUTIONS

At a meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of Orangetown and Province of New York, on Monday the fourth day of July 1774, at the house of Mr. YOAST MABIE in said town, the following resolves were Agreed upon and passed, viz.:

“1st, That we are, and ever wish to be, true and LOYAL subjects to his Majesty George the Third, King of Great Britain.

“2nd, That we are most cordially disposed to support his MAJESTY and defend his crown and dignity in every constitutional measure, as far as lies in our power.

“3d, That however well disposed we are towards his majesty, we cannot see the late acts of PARLIAMENT imposing duties upon us, and the act for shutting up the port of Boston, without declaring our ABHORRENCE of measures so unconstitutional and big with destruction.

“4th, That we are in duty bound to use every just and lawful measure to obtain a REPEAL of acts, not only destructive to us, but which, of course, must distress thousands in the mother country.

“5th, That it is our unanimous opinion that the STOPPING all exportation and importation to and from GREAT BRITAIN and the West Indies would be the most EFFECTUAL method to obtain a speedy repeal.

“6th, That it is our most ardent wish to see concord and HARMONY restored to England and her colonies.

“7th, That the following gentlemen, to wit: COLONEL ABRAHAM LENT, JOHN HARING, Esquire, Mr. Thomas OUTWATER, Mr. GARDNER JONES, and PETER T. HARING be a committee for this town, to CORRESPOND with the city of NEW YORK, and to conclude and agree upon such measures as they shall judge NECESSARY in order to obtain a REPEAL of said acts.”

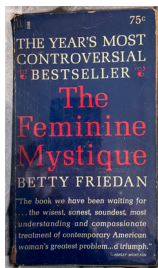


The DePew House opened our latest exhibit *Creating Community 1950* on April 21st. Highlighting the rapid expansion of a once rural oasis with the construction of new housing and transportation opportunities – Orangetown met the 1950's with vigor. Listen to an interview with Director Mary Cardenas and Exhibition Curator Elizabeth Skrabonja on *Crossroads of Rockland History* (www.WRCR.com) with Clare Sheridan wherever you get your podcasts to find out more – or stop by the museum Tuesdays & Fridays from 10-2 or Sunday from 1-4pm.



THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE

Book by Betty Friedan, Published by Dell Publishing Company, Inc., NYC 1963
OHMA, Original Copy, Gift of Alice Reis



In 1956 the Summa Cum Laude graduate of Smith College Betty Friedan along with her husband and three children moved to a stone barn in Sneden's Landing. By 1957, when Betty was 36, the family settled in an Italianate 1868 Victorian on River Road in Grand View.

It was also in 1957 that she began work on a questionnaire that she distributed among 200 of her fellow Smith classmates on the occasion of their 15th college reunion. The startling patterns that emerged from this research turned into Friedan's best selling work of non-fiction, *The Feminine Mystique*. Often called one of the most important books of the 20th century it led to a nationwide dialog regarding the rights of women in America.

While in Grand View Friedan was a part of a community in flux. Long settled families with local businesses and farms together with artists like Helen Hayes and Aaron Copeland, veterans with their families living in Hickory Hill and Shanks Village along with Lederle and RPH employees created a vibrant community. Interested in progressive educational reform, Friedan joined forces with Dr. Leo Poulos, a principal in the Blauvelt School System to implement a special program for South Orangetown students. The Community Resources Pool brought local intellectuals, many from Columbia University to Orangetown for weekend enrichment classes.

For her part in contributing to the recognition of women and help in reducing gender discrimination, a plaque was placed in front of the Grand View Village Hall on November 10, 2011. The wording reads: **Grand View—on—Hudson, Birthplace of the Modern Women's Movement.**

Norman Rockwell (1894-1978)

was one of America's most popular illustrators. He captured the essence of American life with his *Saturday Evening Post* covers that mirrored the everyday life of Orangetown in the 1950's. Here are some comparisons that offer a nostalgic overview. To add to your enjoyment – tune in to *Romantic Hickory Hill* compiled for us by DJ Tedster on Spotify and be sure to join us on October 5th at the Manse Barn, Tappan for a live 50's songfest with the FOREVER YOUNG band.



Expense Account (Traveling Salesman), 1957

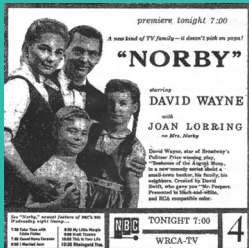


Shanks Village Commuters, ca. 1950

Photo by Tom McAvoy, Life Magazine, Time Warner Inc., OHMA

During the early days of Shanks Village Route 9W to the George Washington Bridge was the only way to get to New York City by car. There was no New York State Thruway or Tappan Zee Bridge or Palisades Interstate Parkway. Bus and train service was expensive, so villagers responded with the formation of carpools. For a 25 cent fare villagers were picked up from Shanks & 116th Street – in time for classes at Columbia University.

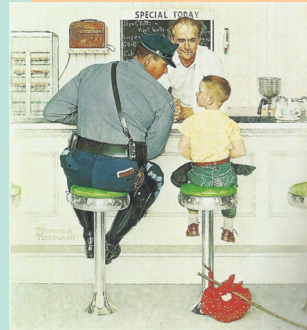
Shot in Pearl River, **Norby** was an early TV sitcom that focused on the life of a small town bank clerk. A member of the original production crew exploring the area across the Hudson River from Manhattan in search of a suitable location for the TV series took a wrong turn off nearby highway 9W, drove in to Pearl River and decided he had found the just the locale that was needed. One of the first shows to be shot in color thanks to an early sponsorship from the Eastman Kodak Company, local residents were delighted to see their town on the small screen and were occasionally included as extras.



Norby, 1955
New York Times advertisement from Jan. 5th, 1955, Reprint



New Television Antenna, 1949



The Runaway, 1958



Officer Cline and Guest, 1950

Photo by John F. Geist, OHMA

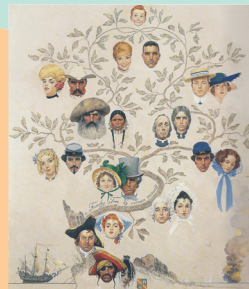
On a cold winter morning in 1950, Grand View police chief George Cline found a lost and stranded white goose near village hall. He rescued the goose and brought it inside his police car to warm up. Chief Cline was known throughout Grand View for his dedication and willingness to help anyone. This could include anything from directing traffic to clearing a clogged household drain. He was known just as distinctly for his ubiquitous cigar.

The Association of Blauvelt Descendants was founded and held their first reunion in 1926. Their forebears were some of the earliest Dutch settlers in Orangetown and they can trace their lineage back to the 17th century. Still active today, the ABD continues its genealogical research and scholarship on early New Netherland, publishes a newsletter, *The Blauvelt News* and, of course, holds annual reunions.



Reunion of the Association of Blauvelt Descendants, ca. 1960

Ray Blauvelt, James Blauvelt, Carrie Miller, Marie Merritt, Eleanor Blauvelt (James' wife), Ethel Blauvelt Jochum, Charles Jochum (Ethel's husband)
Photo taken at the Dutch Reformed Church, Tappan OHMA, Gift of Bob Blauvelt



Family Tree, 1959

Claire Behrens was born and raised in Pearl River. Her parents were prominent members of the community and Claire attended the local schools. She married Lester Lamb at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Pearl River and had her reception in her parent's home, as was then typical, and the bride threw her bouquet to awaiting friends off the back steps. They met at Hanover Bank in New York City, where they were both employed.



A Pearl River Wedding, 1952

Claire Behrens & Lester Lamb on their wedding day, July 5th, 1952, OHMA, Gift of Claire Lamb



Marriage License, 1955

On display: examples of 1950's aluminum and steel kitchen appliances: mixer, bowls, toasters & iron used by housewives in Orangetown.

OHMA, gift of anonymous

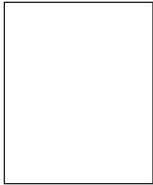


The Historic **Salyer House** the jewel in the crown of the Orangetown Museum complex has a new sign.

Hosting engaging educational tours for the South Orangetown school system and beloved Holiday Open House programs, the Salyer House is open by appointment.



196 Chief Bill Harris Way
 Orangeburg, New York 10962
 Tel. (845) 398-1302
 www.orangetownmuseum.com



at The Salyer House
 213 Blue Hill Road
 Pearl River, New York
**A Spy in Our Midst,
 Our Dutch
 Sandstone Houses
 &
 Our Dutch Families**
by Appointment

at The DePew House
 196 Chief Bill Harris Way
 Orangeburg, New York
**Creating
 Community
 1950**
Now open!

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 to get our eblasts!

UPCOMING :



CREATING COMMUNITY 1950

Here is an origin story not unlike that of our first Dutch settlers. Find out how a building, baby and business boom exploded in Orangetown in the 1950s. Opening April 21, 2024. Open Tuesday & Friday, 10-2 pm, Sundays, 1-4 pm at the DePew House. Admission is free.



WINE & CHEESE & POETRY WITH MUSIC

Back by popular demand! Enjoy the museum's new exhibit and the tunes of our house band *Lounge Zotica 3000!* There will be food for the soul, (poetry) wine and a selection of cheeses thanks to our collaboration with the Orangeburg Library. Friday, May 10 from 5:30 – 7 pm. Donation: \$5.



AWAY WE GO! THE PEARL RIVER SOAP BOX DERBY

Spend an afternoon learning the history of Orangetown's Soapbox Derby with local history librarian, Jim Cassetta. Refreshments will be provided, Admission is free; Registration required at: www.orangetownmuseum.com/events Sunday June 9th at 1:30 pm at the DePew House. Admission is free.



ARTS SUNDAY

What better way to spend a summer Sunday afternoon than with a visit to the museum and the opportunity to view some local art as well. The museum will be open free of charge and there will be some surprise vendors sharing their wares on the beautiful grounds of the DePew House. Sunday, July 21 from 1-4 pm.

THE ORANGETOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Mary Cardenas, MUSEUM DIRECTOR • Stefanie D'Erasmo, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS
 Elizabeth Skrabonja, CURATOR FOR EXHIBITIONS • Steve Schwinn, BUILDINGS MANAGER
 The Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives was founded in 1992 to acquire, preserve and exhibit objects which reflect primarily the history of the Town of Orangetown. The Museum's additional, but not lesser mission is to document, research, promote and publicize the town's rich, historical heritage of the town for the people of Orangetown.



Teresa Kenny, SUPERVISOR
 Jerry Bottari, Thomas Diviny, Brian Donohue and Paul Valentine, COUNCILMEN

FRIENDS OF THE ORANGETOWN MUSEUM

Your membership in the Friends of the Orangetown Museum helps to collect and preserve the history of Orangetown. Members will receive notices of programs and events as well as free admission to the Museum's special exhibits and events. The Museum is a 501 (C) (3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

STUDENT/SENIOR \$25 | INDIVIDUAL \$35
 FAMILY (up to 6 members) \$75
 PATRON \$150 | HERITAGE \$1,000 | BENEFACTOR \$1,500