

The

# Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SPRING 2022

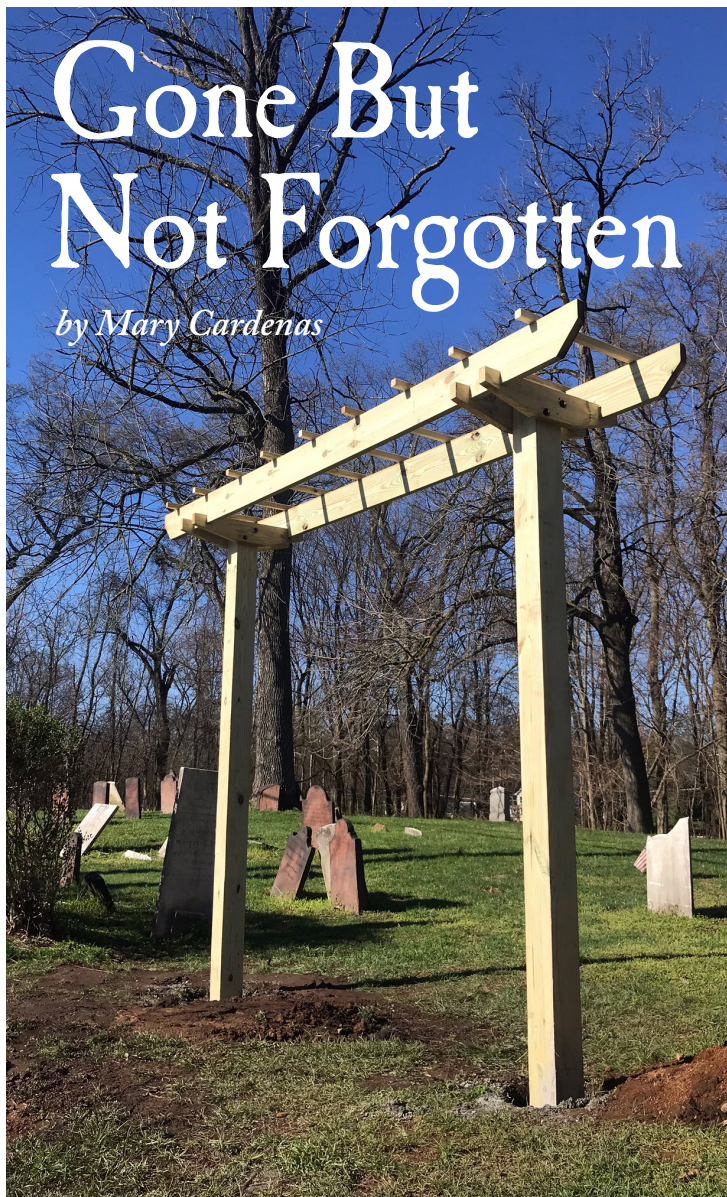
On April 23rd *The Orangetown Memory Project* opened at the DePew House. Our themes of memory and reminiscence have been resonating within our community – and without.

In a recent op-ed for *The New York Times* by Questlove, (Academy Award winning filmmaker, drummer, D.J. producer, director, culinary entrepreneur and musical director for ‘The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon’) falls right into place with our theme. In ‘Collecting Things is an Act of Devotion’ he writes,

“Collecting became a way to prevent the past from slipping away. A collection starts as a protest against the passing of time and ends as a celebration of it. Along the way, the objects went from being the possessions of a collector to a collection. If you listened closely, you could hear them saying:” We are history”. What did they mean by that? Well, when

*continues on page 3*





# Gone But Not Forgotten

by Mary Cardenas

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CEMETERIES** in Orangetown, some of them exclusive and some just family plots. The two cemeteries that have recently received attention are the Clausland Cemetery and the Rockland Cemetery. The Clausland Cemetery is located in Orangeburg, off Greenbush Road at the foot of Clausland Mountain and the Rockland Cemetery in Sparkill is off of Kings Highway on the side of the mountain. In the Clausland Cemetery the earliest recorded interment was in 1755 with a total of 239 internments. Each of these cemeteries has its own history beginning with the earliest inhabitants of Orangetown. The Rockland Cemetery was founded in 1847 and currently has 14,300 internments. The Clausland Cemetery, at the foot of Clausland Mountain has a number of Revolutionary War era militia buried there including Colonel Abraham Lent and Lieutenant Colonel Johannes Blauvelt. There are many famous local personages buried in the Rockland Cemetery such as John Fremont – The Pathfinder, Rodger Haddock, builder of *Haddock Hall* now known as the Silk Mill as well as Eleazer Lord and William Whiton, founders of the Rockland Cemetery. Each of these cemeteries has its own distinctive characteristics – one is built on the side of a mountain and the other off the main road. In May the Clausland Cemetery enjoyed a major restorative effort. Debris and weeds were cleared out and after substantive research, the original gravestones were cleaned and a beautiful pergola was installed as the Eagle Scout project of Dylan Tobin of Pearl River Troop # 55. I attended the ceremony on May 21, 2022 as the Rockland Cemetery celebrated its 175th birthday with pride knowing that our local ancestors are gone but not forgotten.



## Wine & CHEESE Poetry WITH Music

co- sponsored with the Orangeburg Library brought record crowds on a rainy Friday night; a good time was had by all.





## HELPING HANDS

A new season at the Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives is upon us as we welcome 4 new undergraduate interns and volunteers for the summer! Jeremy Silber and Erin Sweeney of St. Thomas Aquinas College, Maria Camus of SUNY New Paltz, and Elizabeth Quigley of Wellesley College will be joining the team and assisting with projects focusing on collections management. Throughout the course of the summer our new team members will be essential in cataloging the extensive Bob Knight Collection, inventorying and organizing the collection storage area, conducting historical/background research, digitization, and creating collections-based educational content for our website and social media.

In light of the many helping hands this summer, our new interns and volunteers will benefit from the experience of working at both the DePew House and the Salyer House. The DePew House is where the new team members will learn our museum cataloging database, PastPerfect, and conduct research on incoming artifacts and archives to be accessioned. The Salyer House projects are more physical and involve inventorying our 3-D objects and re-organizing our storage space to better hold our collection. This summer will be both busy and exciting and we look forward to having all of our new students!

*Stefanie D'Erasmus*



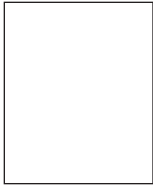
## THE ORANGETOWN MEMORY PROJECT continued from page 1

there are enough things, organized with some sense of chronology, they tell us a story about the past. They tell us that the past matters. Legacy matters. It gives us hope for a future with the confidence to hold the past – to protect and preserve it, to explain it and elevate it, to keep its light shining brightly even as it drifts out into the sea of time.”

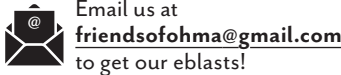
Whether it's celebrating the myriad collections of Bob Knight (from paper weights to postcards) the fascinating world of indentures or wondering about how 'Dutch Merchant with a Falling Lace Collar' got here, *The Orangetown Memory Project* honors the past in a special way. A museum is a compression chamber of the past, present and future; it helps us to rediscover that we are not alone. *EKS*



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 www.orangetownmuseum.com



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



**UPCOMING:**

**ORANGETOWN MEMORY PROJECT:** Open through November 20th; Tuesdays and Fridays 10 – 2, Sundays 1 – 4 at the DePew House. With this exhibit we celebrate the preservationists and encourage the uninitiated to fall in love with the past. Featuring the magnificent Dutch painting: *Dutch Merchant wearing a Falling Lace Collar* painted Ca. 1672. Admission is free

**WISH YOU WERE HERE!:** Friday, August 5th at 10:30 at the DePew House. Kid's program inspired by the Bob Knight postcard collection. Children K-6th Grade are invited to the museum with their adult friends to visit the museum's *Memory Project* exhibit, do a craft and hear a story! Sign up for this program is at the Orangeburg Library. Admission is free – curiosity required!

**YOGA AT THE MUSEUM:** Saturday, September 24th at the DePew House. Bring your yoga mat and get ready for some good karma at the Orangetown Museum – outdoors, (weather permitting!) and a tour of the museum. Led by master practitioner Debbie, all levels are welcome. Admission is free – Namaste!

**HIGH TEA PARTY:** Monday, October 10th at *The Gracie Rose* in Pearl River. Inspired by *The Gilded Age & Bridgerton* an elegant tea with superb tastings in a beautiful space awaits. Relax with friends for a charming afternoon of Victorian decadence. More information on this fundraiser to follow.

**THE ORANGETOWN MUSEUM ANNUAL DINNER:** Back by popular demand! Sunday, November 13th at 5pm at the '76 House Tappan. Join friends, historians and preservationists as we celebrate the past in a new way. Surprise guests, a hearty repast and good cheer await – it's been a long time coming! For ticket information please contact the museum.

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE:** Three Sundays in December: 4, 11 & 18, from 1 until 4 pm. The Historic Salyer House is the perfect venue to grab some holiday cheer in our beautifully decorated homestead. With carols, Mary's mulled cider and the friendliest Santa in town, join us for a special look at the magnificent new old additions to the collection! Admission is free; donations appreciated.

**THE ORANGETOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**

Mary Cardenas, MUSEUM DIRECTOR • Stefanie D'Erasmus, 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 | SINGLE \$35  
 FAMILY (up to 6 members) \$75  
 PATRON \$150 | LEGACY \$1,000 | BENEFACTOR \$1,500