

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SPRING 2023



It has been an exciting season here at the Museum with wonderful new donations being welcomed into our collection. One of which was generously given by Ileana Grams-Moog, a resident of Asheville, North Carolina, whose grandmother had an incredible impact in Orangetown and beyond. Two medical bags and numerous archives belonging to Dr. Anna Munster now live at OHMA.

THE Dr. Anna Munster COLLECTION

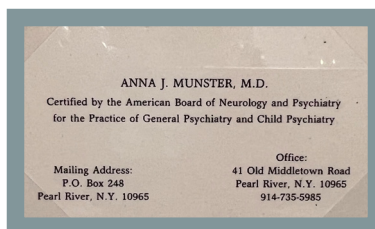
by Ashleigh Malone

DR. ANNA MUNSTER was a distinguished physician from Romania who studied first in Vienna, completing her Bachelor's degree at age 17, then at the University of Strasbourg in France. A medical doctor by age 23, Anna pursued a specialty in lung diseases and was certified by age 27. At the time when Dr. Munster was preparing to become a practicing physician, she found herself fleeing the Nazi regime. A journey that brought her to southern France as a grape-picker, where she was spared from the list of Jewish people to be brought to camps. She then traveled over a 6,000 ft. snowy mountain to the sanctuary of Switzerland. It was in Switzerland that Dr. Munster provided medical care for women and children in six refugee camps. After departing from the camps she was appointed to a post at a tuberculosis treatment station. Within the few years following the end of the war, Anna, along with her family, first moved to New York. While living in New York, Dr. Munster became the Chief Resident at Montefiore's Tuberculosis Sanatorium and began to seriously pursue the field of psychiatry, completing her residency at Pinewood. A few years later Dr. Munster left New York for Israel where she

served a community of children at a tuberculosis hospital near Jerusalem for two years.

Upon returning to the United States in 1956, Dr. Munster settled in Pearl River, New York, and began her tenure at Rockland State Hospital as the Senior Psychiatrist of seven wards treating female children and adolescents ages 5-16. There, Dr. Munster completely transformed her unit by implementing a short-term

care program that dramatically decreased the population of long-term patients at the institution. When it came to retiring from Rockland State Hospital after thirteen years of service, Dr. Munster used that ending as a new beginning. She began her

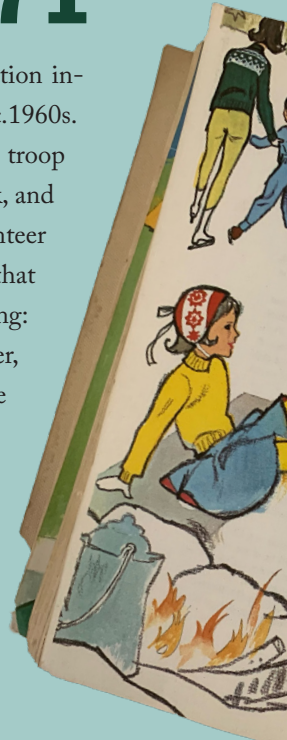




TAPPAN TROOP #71

IN MARCH OF 2023, the museum received a sentimental donation including memorabilia from the Tappan Troop #71 of Girl Scouts of America, c.1960s. This donation was made on the behalf of Annette Rein and consists of the troop flag, a sash sewn with patches and pins, the “Cadette” Girl Scout Handbook, and many photographs of the adventures of Troop #71. Martina Gomez, a volunteer at the museum, has been diligently processing this collection and noticed that the acquired badges represent a wide range of activities and tasks including: Troop Camper, Campcraft, Hospitality, Childcare, Housekeeper, Homemaker, Pioneer, Tree & Shrub, and Conservation. While the badges may look a little different these days, what remains the same is the long lasting camaraderie shared between the individuals in the troops. In a parting letter dated October 31, 1965, Annette’s Troop Leader reminds the girls to always try to do their best, take time to help others and be friendly, and lastly “The nice thing about memories is that no one can take them away from you.”

MAY ALL WHO PARTICIPATED CHERISH THE MEMORIES OF BEING A GIRL SCOUT. SD





The Dr. Anna Munster Collection

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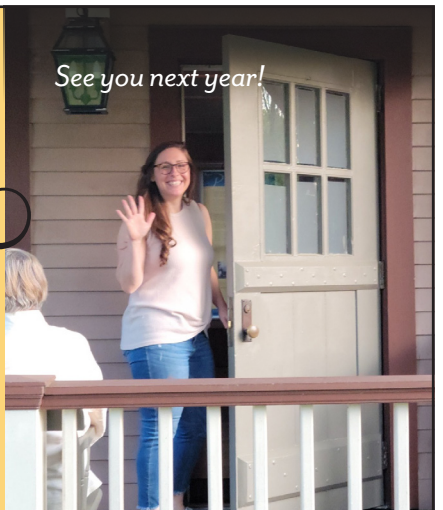
fellowship in child psychiatry at Mt. Sinai at age 50. As a Board certified physician and child psychiatrist, Dr. Munster became the clinical assistant professor at Cornell and Mt. Sinai Medical Schools for the next two decades.

Dr. Munster's dedicated service to her patients over the years is memorialized in the donation we received from her granddaughter. An abundant collection comprised of 48 objects and an assortment of archives, we are fortunate to be the home to Anna's belongings. The story of these antique medical tools—ranging from a sphygmometer to a pristine collection of forceps—is supported by thorough paper records preserved by Dr. Munster, detailing her career—from her personal study notes through her official offer letters from each hospital. Perhaps one of the most inspiring items in this collection is the handwritten memoir titled "A Woman's Life" that Anna had scribed on the back side of work papers. Having Anna's own account and thoughts about her life and accomplishments certainly enhances the story we are able to assemble with this collection. It adds a primary source, a human spark, to her tools that is incredibly valuable to the museum's insight on Dr. Anna Munster.

While processing this accession, I was reminded of one of my favorite museum narratives—the present connects to the past. Ties across generations are especially magnified in this collection. As the granddaughter of a woman who spent many years working in the Rockland State Hospital Children's Unit myself, this collection feels special to me in many ways. The Dr. Anna Munster Collection is an extensive showcase of the triumphs of her life among extraordinary circumstances. One of Dr. Munster's medical bags can currently be seen on display at the DePew House.

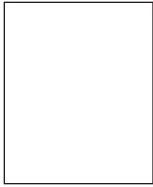


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UPCOMING :



Getting There RIVERS ROADS RAILS: Orangetown Open Tuesdays & Fridays 10-2, Sundays 1-4 at the DePew House. Find out why transportation matters in a place where the journey is a part of the adventure. Featuring models, paintings, maps, a film and more! Admission free; open through November 2023.



RAILS TO TRAILS GUIDED TOUR. Join Steve Schwinn for a guided tour of the best of Orangetown's Rails to Trails. It's a historic re-purposing of the rail lines that's close to our hearts. Sunday, June 11th at 12 pm. Meet at Sparkill Memorial Park. Admission 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 23, 1-4 pm (Rain Date Sunday July 30).



YOGA AT THE MUSEUM: Bring your Yoga mat and get ready for some good karma at the Orangetown Museum. More information to follow for this event planned for a Saturday morning in September on the Historic Salyer House grounds. Namaste!

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.

TOWN 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