

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

Meal of the Militiamen in Celebration of the Peace of Munster (fragment)
Bartholomeus van der Helst, 1648, RIJSMUSEUM

SUMMER 2023



FINDING *Orangetown*

FRIENDS OF THE ORANGETOWN MUSEUM ANNUAL DINNER

You're invited! Make this the year you place yourself in the past. Join friends, historians and preservationists as we celebrate the past in a new way on Sunday, November 12th for our annual dinner at Tappan's historic '76 House.

The Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives is a clearinghouse of information documenting and explaining the history of the Town of Orangetown. Thrill to the fascinating tale of how a San Francisco native discovered his Orangetown Dutch heritage by sharing his collection of 18th century documents with us. From Quackenbush to Blauvelt – it's a tale of preservation and tenacity that settles right in our own backyard.

Presentation by Randall Stuart • Theatre Artist, Director & Storyteller

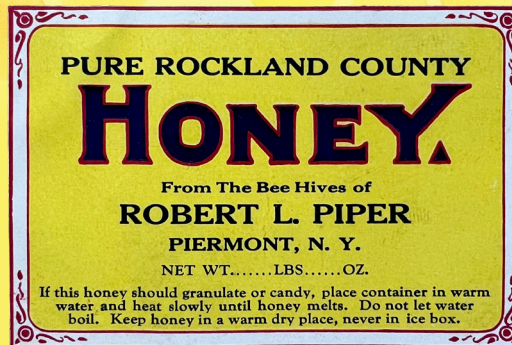
Of the various and sundry donations that pass into the Orangetown Museum collection, some speak to hobbies that defined our inhabitants. The Piper family of Piermont left behind a scrapbook that speaks to a sweet legacy.

The Beekeepers of Orangetown

by Bethany Keith, Intern

This June, the Orangetown Museum received a donation on behalf of a descendent of a fascinating Piermont family: The Pipers. Objects of all kinds – checkbooks, postcards, school report cards, a train ticket sleeve, a scrapbook, and more – comprised this donation. William Cleveland Piper (1885-1969) moved to Piermont from Anthony, Texas in 1910 and established himself within the community. He worked as head electrician for the Robert Gair Company (eventually the Continental Can Company) for thirty-four years before retiring in 1944. With his wife Elizabeth he had three children: William G. Piper, Robert L. Piper, and Irene Brockman.

Apart from his career as an electrician, William C. Piper served as a member of the Piermont Village Board for 14 years, was a master of the Wawayanda Lodge, F&AM Sparkill, and, perhaps most interestingly, was a recreational beekeeper. The Pipers were active members of The Rockland County Beekeepers Association, frequently hosting monthly meetings at their home



and apiary. A meeting notice for the association posted in The Journal News on July 13, 1945 reads, “The Pipers have a dozen or so strong colonies and Mr. Piper and his two sons have made most of the hives themselves, copying them from a well-known commercial model in complete detail.” That “well-known

commercial model” was likely from a company like the A.I. Root Company, a beekeeping supplier from which son Robert Piper kept many pieces of correspondence. Robert, a sergeant of the Orangetown Police Department in Pearl River, ran a local honey business registered in his name. A large scrapbook contains numerous documents, like receipts and pamphlets, related to this honey business.

Thanks to the Pipers and their family artifacts, we have a great look at the unique lives and experiences of a close-knit mid-twentieth century family.



Halloween Party!!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH • 1-4 PM

It's always a party with the Orangeburg Library – come if you dare in costume to the DePew House and get a free copy of Dorothy Mellet's 'Gravestones of Rockland County' book and spooky snacks. The ghost of our favorite Dutch privateer threatens to be haunting with friends. Costume contest for adults & kids; win a history treasure chest filled with antique curiosities, (photos taken will be judged at 3:30 pm). Crafters will be on hand. Admission is free.

HOLIDAY Open House

**3 SUNDAYS
IN DECEMBER:
3, 10 & 17, 1-4 PM
AT THE HISTORIC
SALYER HOUSE**

Get away from the glitz and come to the historic house on the hill. The Salyer house will be decorated, Mary's mulled cider will be brewing and the carols will be swinging to the tunes played by our 'wine & cheese' duo, Lounge Zotica 3000. The friendliest Santa in town will be on site on the 17th. It's our gift to you; admission is free – just bring your holiday cheer.



Our next exhibit at the Orangetown Museum will delve into an origin story not unlike that of our first Dutch settlers. When a group of WWII Vets found themselves bunkered at Shanks Village – they rallied together and found a way to stay here. Not unlike the Salyer or DePew families that assisted one another in constructing their Dutch sandstone houses – the residents of what came to be called ‘Hickory Hill’ banded together to make Orangetown their home.

CREATING COMMUNITY 1950: The Hickory Hill Experiment



“An attractive housing development now nearing completion in Tappan, NY is probably the nearest thing to a scientific test ever made of how much an average man can contribute towards the building of his own house. In pioneer days, a man who needed a house just laid up

four log walls and got the neighbors to help him put a roof over them. The man who has all the skills needed to build a house today is rare indeed. At the Hickory Hill project, however, white collar men from New York City Skyscrapers are now helping build 32 fine houses. The size and scope of the Hickory Hill project, together with the number and variety of people involved, make it an almost ideal measuring stick of the average man’s usefulness in the building of a house.

In 1946 most of the present Hickory Hill owners were living in a student-veteran housing project near New York called Shanks Village. They knew that they couldn’t go on living there indefinitely and began thinking about houses of their own. A serious minded, scholastic crowd – several of them are Ph.D.’s in subjects such as botany, chemistry and anthropology – their first step was to form a study group. An architectural student led the study of types of houses and developed a questionnaire on preferences and special requirements; a lawyer spearheaded an investigation of ways and means of organizing and financing a housing cooperative; an engineer led the attack on such problems as heating. The site that they chose consisted of 32 acres in the Hudson River Valley. It was part of a hillside farm



over which the Redcoats and the Colonials marched in the Revolution. They laid it out in 32 lots, averaging a little less than an acre, and set aside the balance – about two acres for later community development. Then, in the spring of 1950 they went to work.”

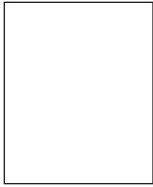
Arthur Bartlett

April 1952 ‘Popular Science’





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

Getting There
**RIVERS
 ROADS
 RAILS**
Now open!

Like us on
Facebook
 @orangetownmuseum

Follow us on
Instagram
 @otownmuseum

Email us at
friendsofoma@gmail.com
 to get our eblasts!

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.



YOGA AT THE MUSEUM: Bring your Yoga mat and get ready for some good karma at the Orangetown Museum. Saturday, September 23rd, 10 am at the DePew house. Admission is free. Namaste!



HALLOWEEN PARTY: Come in costume and get a free gravestone book and spooky snacks. Meet historic ghosts, best costumes (kids & adults) can win an historic treasure chest. Sunday, October 29th, 1-4 pm, DePew House. Admission is free, come if you dare.



ANNUAL DINNER: The Friends of the Orangetown Museum Annual Dinner's theme this year is 'FINDING ORANGETOWN'. Join us to celebrate our shared connections with guest speaker Randall Stuart and his Dutch descendant discoveries. Sunday November 12th, 3 pm, Historic '76 House Tappan. Ticket price: \$90. per person



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: The historic Salyer House is the perfect venue to grab some holiday cheer in our beautifully decorated homestead. Swing to carols performed live by Lounge Zotica 3000 and meet the friendliest Santa in town on the 17th. 3 Sundays in December, December 3, 10 & 17, 1-4 pm Historic Salyer House. Admission is free

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