

The

# Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SPRING 2011

*In the spirit*

of keeping local history alive, the museum has been accelerating its efforts. Our *Holiday Open House* this past December hosted a record number of visitors and was a rousing success. The Salyer House never looked more beautiful, dressed in its Victorian best. We are proud to note here that the Historical Society of Rockland County will be honoring the Salyer House and the efforts of the Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives with a Preservation Award at its annual awards ceremony on May 15th. Such recognition is a distinction that can be shared by many who have helped over the years; most specifically, *The Friends of the Orangetown Museum*.

April 11<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> the Salyer House was again happy to host 350 seventh grade students from the South Orangetown School District. Through the initiative of their talented Social Studies Team Teachers, we led the students through *Maj. John Andre – A Spy in Our Midst*, *At Home in Orangetown* and *Our Dutch Sandstone Houses*. We are hoping to again assist in facilitating an exhibit of the student's artwork at the Blauvelt Library based on projects made relating to their visit. The museum will be participating in the *Rockland County History Conference*, part of an excellent program organized by Prof. Peter Feinman of IHARE, the Institute of History, Archeology & Education in September. Of special interest will be an emphasis on education and outreach

within local school systems – something we at the museum are particularly committed to.

Work is ongoing on the museum's book project – a history of Orangetown to be published by ARCADIA press. Planned as an historical overview, it will put the combined histories of the hamlets of Orangetown in one volume, beautifully illustrated with period photographs from the area. The Museum's annual *Antiques & Collectibles Sale* is planned for Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 – 4pm on the grounds of the DePew House. This anticipated event always presents an opportunity to pick up some treasures and view the current exhibit. In response to the 'Year of Hopper' initiative, The Friends of the Orangetown Museum are planning our annual dinner for Sunday, July 10th at Casa Mia in Blauvelt. This year we will be honoring those who initiated the preservation of the Hopper House.

With this in mind, Mr. Jeffrey Keahon will be facilitating a visit from the artist, Edward Hopper. If you are curious as to how this can be possible, you will just have to attend the dinner to find out.

Our spring exhibition at the DePew House, *Orangetown – Edward Hopper's Backyard* will be open from May 14<sup>th</sup> until December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Calling to mind what influenced Edward Hopper's earliest development within the environs of Orangetown, the exhibit will offer some surprises. While expanding on Hopper's interest in film, we have created a screening room that will feature a 1912 effort by the provocative local film talent, Helen Gardner. Her production of *Cleopatra* filmed in Tappan was the first multi-reel feature film of its time. Screened in Nyack, Edward Hopper might have started his lifelong interest in the cinema from a seat at the Lyceum theatre. EKS



Promotional flyer distributed by the Albany Ward Company in London, England, 1913, promoting **Helen Gardner's Cleopatra**

# ORANGETOWN

Various sites in Orangetown, from Nyack and Piermont to Tappan and Sneden's Landing surely inhabited Hopper's memory.



## SUMMER EVENING 1947

Oil on canvas  
Collection of Mr. and  
Mrs. Gilbert H. Kinney

## The Hopper House, North Broadway, Nyack

B&W Photograph  
Joseph Barbieri  
OHMA



Edward Hopper's boyhood home built in 1858. The north wing addition was added to this house the year Edward was born in 1882. Many volunteers and local organizations have contributed to its restoration and maintenance leading to the house being added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2000. The simple front porch and railings are reminiscent of *Summer Evening*, painted many years after Hopper had moved from Nyack.



## COLD STORAGE PLANT 1933

Watercolor  
Fogg Art Museum,  
Harvard University

## Piermont Landing

B&W Photograph  
Barbara Gill Porta, 1977  
OHMA, Gift of Catherine Dodge



The landing as seen in the 1970s. The pier was home to the Piermont Paper Company beginning in 1902, which merged with the Robert Gair Company in 1920. In *Cold Storage Plant*, Hopper depicts an industrial zone close to water.



The enduring mystery of Edward Hopper's narrative can be found in his interpretation of places from his past.

# Edward Hopper's Backyard



**SEVEN A.M.**  
**1948**

*Oil on canvas*  
Whitney Museum of  
American Art

**Shop on  
North Broadway,  
Upper Nyack**

*B&W Photograph*  
Elizabeth Skrabonja  
OHMA



Built around 1885 this clapboard faced storefront was built by John and Charles Pitt for James Voorhis. It served as a general store, ferry ticket office and post office and has come to be known as 'the 7 am house'. Regarding the painting, Josephine Nivison Hopper, Edward's wife, referred to it as a 'blind pig' - an establishment that illegally sells alcoholic beverages.



**RAILROAD  
TRAIN**  
**1908**

*Oil on canvas*  
Addison Gallery of American Art,  
Phillips Academy, Andover, MA

**Erie Railroad  
Station, Nyack**

*B&W Photograph*  
Al Seebach, 1965  
OHMA, Gift of Al Seebach



Railroads, trains, and stations were prominent subjects of Hopper's work throughout his career. The early *Railroad Train* shows the dark palette and heavy brushstrokes indicative of the Ashcan School and could have been modeled from his many trips taken from Nyack. Around 1908 Nyack had a rail terminal, with 30 passenger trains a day, a port for steamboats and a cross-Hudson ferry.

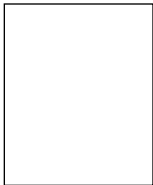


196 Blaisdell Road  
Orangeburg, New York 10962

Tel. (845) 398-1302  
[www.orangetownmuseum.com](http://www.orangetownmuseum.com)

☛ at The DePew House  
196 Blaisdell Road, Orangeburg, New York  
*Office, Archives by Appointment*  
(845) 398-1302  
***Orangetown – Edward Hopper’s Backyard.***  
Inspired by the Year of Hopper Initiative, this exhibit is designed to emphasize Hopper’s earliest years and influences through comparative photographs and period artifacts.  
Open May 14 – December 9, 2011

☛ 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***  
Permanent Exhibit: Hours by appointment  
(845) 398-1302



COMING THIS SPRING AND SUMMER:



***Orangetown – Edward Hopper’s Backyard*** will open at the DePew House, 196 Blaisdell Road, Orangeburg New York on Saturday, **May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**, from 2-4 pm. A historic snapshot of the surrounding area formative to Edward Hopper’s early years, featuring objects, photographs and personalities of the late Victorian era in Orangetown. This multimedia presentation will focus on Hopper’s early influences and how they informed his mature work. Open through December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



**Antiques & Collectibles Sale: Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**, 10 am – 4 pm, Rain Date, Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Presented by *The Friends of the Orangetown Museum*  
Antiques • Fine Collectibles • Jewelry • Glass • Decorative Arts • Fine Arts • Furniture  
At the **DePew House** 196 Blaisdell Road, Orangeburg, New York



**Friends of the Orangetown Museum Annual Dinner**  
Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, at the Casa Mia Manor House, 577 Route 303, Blauvelt, NY at 5 pm. Tickets are \$55. per person.  
Please join us to celebrate the achievements of the Orangetown Museum and honor the Edward Hopper House for their 40 years of service.

THE ORANGETOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES  
Mary Cardenas, MUSEUM DIRECTOR • Elizabeth Skrabonja, MUSEUM CURATOR  
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.



Paul Whalen, SUPERVISOR • Nancy Low-Hogan, COUNCILWOMAN  
Thomas Diviny, Michael Maturo and Dennis Troy, 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 \$10 SINGLE \$15 FAMILY \$20  
LIFE MEMBER \$100 CORPORATE \$250