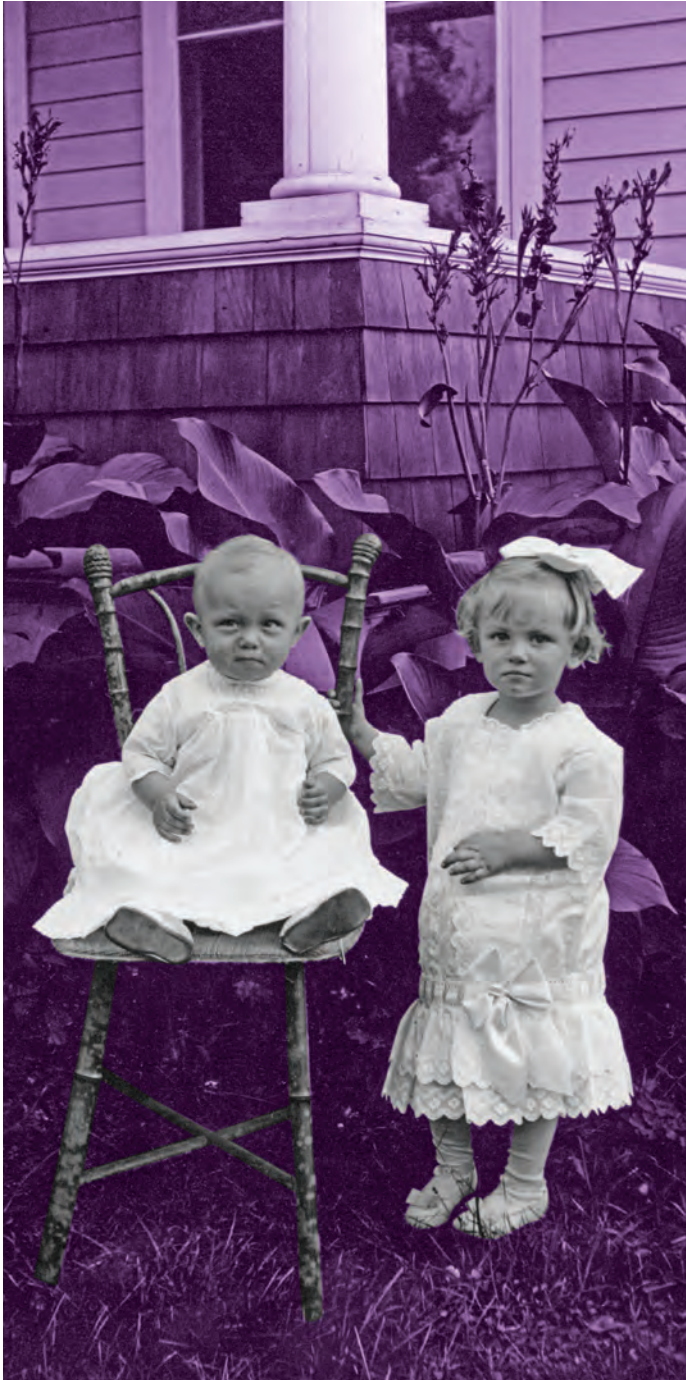


The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SPRING 2014



ORANGETOWN Scrapbook

What's in your Attic?

Featuring photographs, collectibles and ephemera spanning several centuries - where 'rich in history' comes to life.

Tuesdays 10-2 pm • Sundays 1-4 pm

Opening April 12th at the DePew House

Our window panels feature photographs by the Pearl River photographer, George W. Springsteen, (1884-1934). Part of a large collection donated to the museum by the Kenneth & Christine Springsteen family, these photographs chronicle the expansion, prosperity and spirit of life in Pearl River at the beginning of the 20th century. Some of the subjects of Springsteen's camera include; Serven's Day Store, The Odd fellows Hall, The Unique Reading Room, The Dexter Folding Company, The Fort Comfort Inn as well as residences and portraits of the Katzenkamp, Vanderbeck, Dexter, Keahon, Hendrickson and Eiserman families, to name just a few.

Judging from the aspect presented by this collection, Springsteen was able to capture not only the trust of his subjects, but also mirrors a sense of optimism. Pearl River was expanding - and that excitement in regarding the future looks back at us now from the past.



On Sunday June 1st The Friends of the Orangetown Museum hope that you will join us at our annual dinner at the 1776 House. This year we will be honoring three brilliant local librarians who have worked closely with the museum and have distinguished themselves recently with local history projects. History museums and libraries form a base of inquiry for research and reflection – answering that time honored question – ‘who was here?’. One institution can complement the other, filling in gaps and providing ‘aha!’ moments, when necessary. Special projects need a special person at the helm – with the passion to bring life to historic inquiry. The three librarians and their contributions are:

Jim Cassetta

Adult Services and Local History Librarian for the book:
Images of America: Pearl River

Laura Grunweg

Director of the Blauvelt Library for the book:
One Hamlet, Many Blauvelts and the library at the heart of it all

Brian Jennings

Local History Librarian at New City Library, formerly of the Nyack Library
for the *Sound and Story Project*

EKS

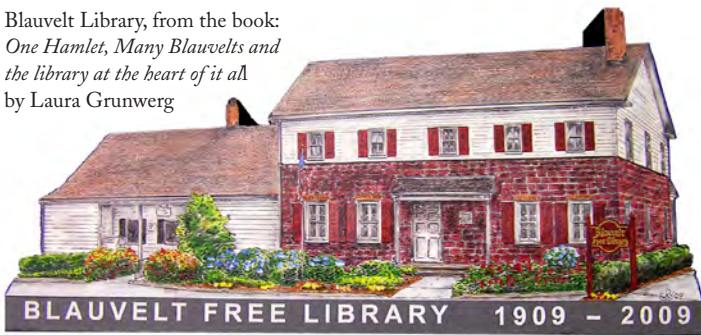


Dexter Folder Company, Postcard, Ca. 1920, from the book: *Images of America: Pearl River* by Jim Cassetta

“By the time he was twenty-one young Talbot Chambers Dexter, with the background of his father’s skill with tools, and spurred by his own impatience with the tedious job of folding newspapers by hand, had invented a machine to perform this function. As the story goes, a press break down had delayed that day’s edition. To make up lost time, instead of having the papers hand-folded as usual Dexter rigged several spare press rollers to fold the papers as they came of the press. From this inspired makeshift came the idea for the world’s first automatic newspaper folder.”

From Dexter Digest, May 1965

Blauvelt Library, from the book:
*One Hamlet, Many Blauvelts and
the library at the heart of it all*
by Laura Grunberg



Taken from

One Hamlet, Many Blauvelts and the library at the heart of it all
By Laura Grunberg, Director, Blauvelt Library

The Blauvelt – Raab House circa 1752 - 1852

“Seven Blauvelt-built homes still stand along or near the ‘Greenbush Road’ (today’s Western Highway) and most bear markers noting their provenance. One of them – the Blauvelt/Raab residence – would become the permanent home of the *Blauvelt Free Library*. The original house is thought to be the boxy wooden structure dating from 1752. It is the area first encountered upon entering the library, where the broadbeamed ceiling hangs low above the fireplace. The outside door opened directly into the room as was the Dutch custom. A vestibule was appended over 300 years later when library staff complained of the chill.

An authentic account of the original structure is difficult to determine, obscured by conflicting historical interpretations and further muddled by inaccuracies perpetuated in newsprint. A *Journal News* article claimed the original building burned in a fire and was rebuilt and expanded by Judge Blauvelt in 1852. Other sources maintain he raised the roof of the existing sandstone wing in that year and remodeled both floors to incorporate architectural details influenced by the Classic Revival style – rectangular sandstone lintels and a doorway graced with sidelights. A spider web transom featured a tiny shepherd and sheep, a tribute to one of the Judge’s many entrepreneurial ventures.”

THE Keahon Gallery

On Saturday, April 12th at 3pm as we open our next exhibit, Orangetown Scrapbook, The Friends of the Orangetown Museum will dedicate the front gallery of the DePew House to the memory of our friend and supporter, Harold Jeffrey Keahon. His commitment to the museum and dedication to the preservation of local history will not be forgotten.

Sound & Story PROJECT of the Hudson Valley



‘The Cube’ at the Nyack Library, Recording stories for the ‘Sound & Story Project’, (soundandstory.org) from local individuals who have shaped our community. Project initiated in Nyack by Brian Jennings.

As the Local History Librarian at the Nyack Library, Brian Jennings spearheaded a digitization project that converted oral history interviews with Nyackers from the 1970s to the 1990s on audiotape, to digital files. These files are now available to audiences online, and contain interviews from local business owners, politicians, activists, journalists, and long time residents. Working in conjunction with the Sound and Story Project of the Hudson Valley, Brian was also instrumental in gathering notable members of Nyack’s community for a new series of interviews at the Nyack Library via Sound & Story’s “Cube” - a specialized mobile recording studio, expanding Nyack’s oral history collection. Together with the Sound and Story Project and Hudson River Valley Heritage, Brian has helped preserve and share Nyack’s rich history.

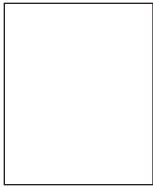
“I’m eighty five years old today, and I like to tell the story that one of the benefits of living close to the Hudson River was that because of the sewage I picked up such immunities to diseases and things like that I’m fairly long lived!” - Interviewee Thomas Quinlan jokes when asked about swimming in the Hudson in the 1920s.

Use this QR code to download
The Sound & Story’s iPhone app:





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



☛ The DePew House
 196 Chief Bill Harris Way
 Orangeburg, New York
Office, Archives by Appointment (845) 398-1302

Opening April 12th

AN ORANGETOWN SCRAPBOOK

Featuring photographs, collectibles and ephemera spanning several centuries, various industries and individuals where 'rich in history' comes to life.

☛ 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

South Orangetown Middle School tours this spring

THIS SPRING AND SUMMER:



AN ORANGETOWN SCRAPBOOK opening April 12th at the DePew House
 Showcasing how we remember our past, with scrapbooks, photographs and fascinating memorabilia, this exhibit is a collector's delight. Find out why 'what's in your attic' may be more important than you think.
 Exhibit open through November 16th.



Antiques & Collectibles Sale: Saturday, May 17, 2014, 10 am – 4 pm
 The museum will be open free of charge! Enjoy a beautiful Spring day with some fabulous Antiques, Fine Collectibles, Jewelry, Toys, Decorative Arts, Furniture, Fine Arts & Ephemera. Table Rental for Dealers is \$25.
 At the **DePew House** 196 Chief Bill Harris Way, Orangeburg NY. Please call (845) 398-1302 for further information.



Friends of the Orangetown Museum Annual Dinner. Join us on Sunday, June 1 at the 1776 House!
 This year's dinner will recognize the work of three local librarians and their contributions towards the advancement of local history. Jim Cassetta for his upcoming Arcadia book on Pearl River, Brian Jennings for his 'Sounds & Stories' oral history initiative in Nyack and Laura Grunberg for her book on the Blauvelt Library. Tickets are \$55.



Get the book – ORANGETOWN. Discover 300 years of local history!
 Pick it up at the DePew House, price: \$23.83 or let us mail it to you, price: \$25.00 (price includes shipping & handling)
 Make your check payable to *Friends of the Orangetown Museum* and mail to the museum at
 196 Chief Bill Harris Way, Orangeburg NY 10962.

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.



Andrew Stewart, SUPERVISOR
 Thomas Diviny, Tom Morr, Dennis Troy 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 \$10 SINGLE \$15 FAMILY \$20
 LIFE MEMBER \$100 CORPORATE \$250