

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SUMMER 2014

A camera is the closest thing we have to a time machine that can transport us back into someone else's now forgotten world. The faces we look at were looking out at a photographer well over 100 years ago. The photograph has the uncanny ability to transport us directly to a particular moment in time — and to leave us there, a part of that past.

In the 1830s both Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre of France and William Henry Fox Talbot of England were independently searching for a method to produce a photographic image. By the 1850s the daguerreotype, calotype, wet-collodion process, ambrotype and tintype had been invented — and had become big business in New York. By 1853 approx. 3 million daguerreotypes had been produced and thousands of persons were employed in producing photographs. Photography became a unifying force that brought people together in the shared pleasure of having their photographs taken. Whether a practical science or an art — photography had changed our world forever.

This collection of images taken from the scrapbooks of Juanita Dysart chronicle the lives of some of her ancestors, early residents of Orangetown. These photographic images of members of the Blauvelt, Haring and Verbryk families serve as reminders of what life was like in Orangetown. EKS



In 1976 the NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION under the auspices of NYSCA, (New York State Council for the Arts), funded an exhibit brought forth by Orangetown resident and interior designer, Eraine Albin. This exhibit was composed of photographs taken of interesting places and architectural features of older homes in Rockland County. The photos were taken by several persons familiar with the area. The exhibit was entitled, "Hudson River Villages," although it included non-river communities. Selected photographs are from Nyack, South Nyack, Grand View, Piermont, Palisades, Snedens' Landing, also Tappan and Blauvelt. The objective was to guide the preservation and rehabilitation of whole areas eligible for historic designation. This focused attention has a legacy of impact, as most of the buildings featured in this select group are still in existence today. America's Bicentennial Year of 1976 saw a renewed interest in our collective historic past that Orangetown and its mid-century historians such as Sally Dewey and Paul Melone championed. The historic designations and National Landmark sites that grew from this period, keep Orangetown "Rich in History."



DEWINT HOUSE, TAPPAN

The oldest house in Rockland County is the DeWint House built in 1700 distinguished by its sharp pitch old style gable roof. The ground floor is constructed of fieldstone, including sandstone. The house has been refurbished to its original construction and the dormers in the upper floor that were added in the 19th century, have been eliminated. It was here that General Washington dined with Sir Carleton. Since George Washington was a Mason, the New York State Free & Accepted Masons purchased the house and grounds and maintain this facility.

PHOTO: Eraine Albin



VIEW OF MAIN STREET, TAPPAN

Looking east to Main Street from Tappan Road, this photo shows a house on the right that was once a stage coach stop, then a boarding house and bar and grill and now a restaurant. The building on the left is now the Tappan Library, formerly a grocery store, teashop and funeral parlor. The barn was known as "Stuerke's Barn" which later became an antiques store. Currently, it has been incorporated into the enlargement of the library.

PHOTO: Eraine Albin



CAPTAIN JOHN'S HOUSE, SNEDEN'S LANDING

The architecture of this house indicates that it was built between 1820-1840. The house consists of three sections all of which are two stories, however in 1965 a third story was added to the middle section. At one time the house was used as a tavern frequented by quarrymen who worked in the nearby sandstone quarry and by river boatmen.

PHOTO: Eraine Albin



RAILROAD STATION, PIERMONT

The last surviving Erie RR Station was built in 1873 on Ash Street and functioned until 1966. It was also the home of Belle Kelly, former ticket agent and telegrapher for more than 50 years. Her son Tom continued to live there after her death in 1976. The station is built in Victorian style with wide overhanging eaves. Over the years, the station has fallen into a dilapidated condition, but through efforts of the Piermont Historical Society, was refurbished and will soon be used as a museum.

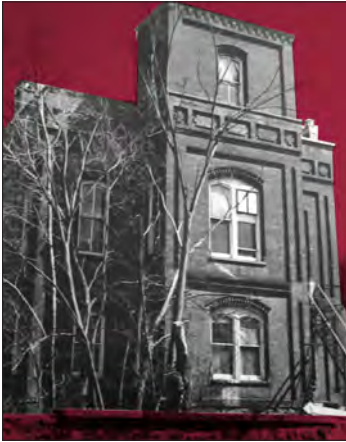
PHOTO: Sally Savage



SILK MILL, PIERMONT

Located on Ferdon Avenue, this building was once known as Haddock Hall. Built in 1875, it housed a general store and at one time the upper floor was used as a library. In 1916, it served as a Venetian palace in a silent movie entitled, "Venice." Later it was a clothing factory, a yacht motor factory and a mill for making textiles – parachute ripcords and ribbons. Today it contains a number of apartments and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO: Valerie Meyer



ONDERDONK HOUSE, PIERMONT

Located on the corner of Ritie Street and Piermont Avenue, this typical Dutch Colonial sandstone house was built in three parts, the original in c. 1737 followed by an addition in c. 1810 and another in c. 1867 with a smaller frame shed-roofed addition on the west side of the wing. The dormers were added later. It was near this house the George Washington met with Sir Guy Carleton on May 4, 1783 and traveled to the DeWint House where they dined and discussed the key points to ending the Revolutionary War.

PHOTO: Valerie Meyer



What's in your Attic?
Consider taking a table to sell your wares at the museum's upcoming Antique & Collectible Sale, Saturday, October 4th, from 10 – 4 pm.

Spend an enjoyable day with your neighbors on the lovely grounds of the DePew House. Table rental is only \$25. Please contact the museum for details.

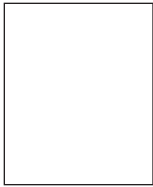
Thanks to all who joined us in celebrating the museum at the Friends of the Orangetown Museum's Annual Dinner June first at the 1776 House. The raffle prizes at this year's dinner were particularly spectacular – and the raffle ticket sales have helped the museum in continuing its work in preserving local history. This year's winners were:

- ★ Virginia Garber - \$500.00
- ★ Tess Rasso – Basket of Fine Wines
- ★ Rosemarie Fornario – Basket of Local Restaurant Gift Certificates
- ★ Natalie Schutter – Gourmet Basket of Culinary Treats.

Our appreciation to all involved!



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



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

AN ORANGETOWN SCRAPBOOK

Featuring photographs, collectibles and ephemera spanning several centuries, various industries and individuals where ‘rich in history’ comes to life.
 Open Tuesdays 10 – 2, Sundays 1 – 4, or by appointment
 Admission your donation

☛ 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

THIS SUMMER AND FALL:



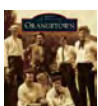
AN ORANGETOWN SCRAPBOOK open at the DePew House
 Showcasing how we remember our past, with scrapbooks, photographs and fascinating memorabilia, this exhibit is a collector’s delight. Find out why ‘what’s in your attic’ may be more important than you think.
 Exhibit open through November 16th.



Antiques & Collectibles Sale: Saturday, October 4, 2014, 10 am – 4 pm
 The museum will be open free of charge! Enjoy a beautiful Fall 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.



The DePew House Stoop Project
 After several years of planning, fretting and hoping, the 1930’s porch addition added to the front facade of the DePew House will be demolished, and substituted with a more appropriate Dutch style stoop. Please stop by throughout the summer to check out this construction.



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