

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SPRING 2015



from
*Holland to
Here*
featuring the
George Way
Collection

From Holland to Here

Dutch farmers of yesteryear, their heritage in Orangetown known
The delights of creation from many a hand be shown
Lush be the forests, fertile be the farmland, the river banks a treasure
Welcomed by Dutch Settlers for many a vision, many a measure
Passions in ventures, across the seas, all in praise
Labors, artistry, faith and family to fill their days
Artifacts of heart and hand to behold
Within many a tale to unfold
Alchemic be the light in artistry fine
Captured be the divinity of Being and time
Behold, behold, the beauty of craft and art
From which your viewing venture bears its start.

Rose Marie Raccioppi, *Poet Laureate*
Orangetown, New York

Portrait of a Couple, Frans Hals, c. 1622, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



ON SATURDAY, APRIL 18th on a glorious spring day the museum opened *From Holland to Here* to rave reviews. Mr. George Way, whose remarkable collection is on display, was on hand to greet visitors and share some of his knowledge of art of the Netherlands. There was plenty to see; mysterious portraits, glistening silver and majestic carved chairs evoked, in the museums galleries, a time gone by, set off by music from the Baroque period. Not to be missed is a tribute to the Association of Blauvelt Descendants. This group, which harkens back to an original Dutch ancestor whose 11 children settled in Orangetown in the 1600's will be celebrating their 90th reunion

this year. The film, *Blauvelts – An American Journey* can be seen in the museum's screening room. Also available is the renowned genealogical tool – ancestry.com – set up on a special computer station for museum visitors. Even if your ancestors were not Dutch – we encourage the community to investigate their heritage; by knowing our past – we can define our future.

From Holland to Here will be open until November 16th

EXHIBITION HOURS:

Tuesdays & Fridays 10 – 2pm, Sundays 1 – 4 pm

or by appointment. Admission is free; donations accepted



Banquet at the Crossbowmen's Guild in Celebration of the Treaty of Münster, Bartholomeus van der Helst, 1648, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

There were many people involved in the success of *From Holland to Here*. The Friends of the Orangetown Museum and staff worked tirelessly to produce this world class offering to the public. Special thanks should also be given to the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam for *Rijkstudio* and the opportunity to use images from their marvelous collection.

Lisa Barbieri, Allen Reiter, Peter Wade, Paul Clark, Marie Koestler, Jami Zahemski, Regina Haring, Kimball Parker, Joseph Barbieri, George Way, Jack Geist, Henry Rennie, Aruna Shah, Giuliano Premus, Elizabeth Skrabonja, Marie Maning, Anne Pinzow, Bob Simon, Mary Cardenas, Sandi Miller, Robert Knight, Sylvia Aisenstadt, Luise Weischowsky, Ellen McCarty



The Lent Legacy Destroyed

by Mary Cardenas

For a short while, it looked like the Abram Lent House would be taken apart and moved on to property donated by the Dodge Family. A meeting with Supervisor Stewart, Walter Aurell, Tom Graff, owner of the Lent House and myself occurred on Friday, April 3rd at 9 am. At this meeting it looked as though things were hammered out to remove the house and establish it at another place. However, on Saturday morning, April 4th, I arrived at the Lent House site in time to see the backhoe smash the southwest corner of the roof of the house. I heard a groan, then a screech and a few seconds later, a sigh as though someone had just expired. I did not imagine this – there were other witnesses present to verify what I heard. So ends the life of a 263 year old house. And along with it, a piece of Orangetown history. It is heart-breaking to see the demise of a house that saw the American Revolution, the coming of the railroad - the West Shore in 1878 and Camp Shanks.

Abram Lent was born on May 27, 1732 and died on October 29, 1813. Both he and his wife Sarah Haring whom he married



{ ...a piece of our history has been taken away from us! }

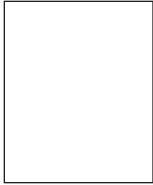
on July 7, 1753, are buried in the Clausland Cemetery in Orangeburg. On July 4, 1774 at the Yoast Mabie Tavern in Tappan, Abram was one of the signers of the Orangetown Resolutions, a document which was a forerunner of the Declaration of Independence.

Abram received a commission as a Colonel of the First Regiment of Militia of Foot (infantry) of Orangetown in December, 1775. However he resigned his commission in March, 1776 because he was accused of being a Tory (pro-British) since he and some of his men were captured by the British General Clinton and Lent made no effort to escape. Lent left Orangetown and lived in Nova Scotia where he was a farmer for a while and eventually returned to his home in Orangeburg. The house stayed in the family until 1918 and since then has had three owners.

The loss of the Lent House has generated an outcry from the residents of Orangetown to institute regulations in the building code, which would help protect such historic houses from such a fate. After all, a piece of our history has been taken away from us!



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

Opening April 18th
FROM HOLLAND TO HERE

Featuring the Collection of George Way
 Open Tuesdays 10 – 2, Sundays 1 – 4, or by appointment
 Admission free; donations accepted

☛ 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 & SUMMER:



FROM HOLLAND TO HERE – *featuring the collection of George Way*: A picture of Dutch culture in the 17th century within the context of their settlement in Orangetown. On loan will be the stunning collection of art & artifacts from the collection of George Way of Staten Island, featuring paintings, furniture and fabulous artifacts from the period, Ancestry.com and the film *Blauwelts – An American Journey*. Exhibit open through November 15th



Antiques & Collectibles Sale: Saturday, May 16, 2015, 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 7th at the '76 House at 5 pm. This year's dinner will recognize the Piermont Historical Society under the direction of Richard & Lola Esnard for rescuing the Erie Railroad Station in Piermont.
 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