

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

WINTER/SPRING 2016

THIS PLACE MATTERS

National Trust for Historic Preservation



German Masonic Home
Tappan



Haddock Hall
Piermont

This Place Matters started as a way for people to shine a spotlight on the historic places that played a role in their lives. The project is simple: visit the SAVING PLACES website to download and print a sign. Take photos with the sign at the places that matter most to you and share the photos online with the hashtag #ThisPlaceMatters.

This is what St. Thomas Aquinas history major Christopher Hernandez did for his senior project. Using the hashtag #Orangetown and #ThisPlaceMatters, Chris shot sites and added commentary at locations throughout Orangetown. Joining in a nationwide effort, he has helped to define the town's moniker *Rich in History* in a personal way, within the platform of social media.

This virtual preservation project offers people opportunities to add their personal narratives to the history of places that are meaningful to them, whether those places are community churches, elementary schools, a barn or abandoned Rail Road Station. To date, thousands of photos have been snapped and shared. The phrase *This Place Matters* has become ubiquitous in preservation, often serving as a rallying cry for communities when a beloved place is threatened. It is preservation through the eyes of the beholder, providing a simple but powerful message; this place matters to me.

tappantown historical society

Historic preservation was initiated in 1964 when the Tappan Civic Association formed a steering committee composed of Paul Melone, John Alison and Tom Lehrecke, to investigate the possibility of special zoning to protect the historic structures and limit permissible types of construction in the heart of Tappan. The committee was formed none too soon, for a month later builders filed an application to erect a two story commercial structure on land directly in the back of the present Tappan Library.

Over the period of a few weeks the steering committee collected 1,055 signatures out of 1,376 registered voters in Tappan. A historic zoning law was proposed and for the next ten months the advantages and disadvantages of historic zoning were discussed at meetings. The historic zoning proposal was officially approved at a Town Board meeting on December 28, 1965.

The Civic Association project to establish the Historic Area created such interest that it gave rise to the Tappantown Historical Society, a group dedicated exclusively for the preservation of Tappan's heritage. Its first general meeting was held on November 15, 1965 and its first president was J. Wesley Pullman.



MARILYN SCHAUDER Returning to a lifelong passion

"If a man empties his purse into his head no man can take it away from him. An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest." —Benjamin Franklin

This quote was written in the flyleaf of a children's history book by Marilyn Schauder's great-uncle, John Kroeger. It personifies Marilyn's philosophy of life. Her interest in history has only grown over time. It follows a tradition left by her family, which has been in residence in Tappan for almost 100 years.

A graduate of Tappan Grammar School and Tappan Zee High School, she went on to study at the Bellevue School of Nursing and later the State University of New York. Her professional life spanned a career as a nurse and in the pharmaceutical industry. Upon retirement, she was able to devote her attention to local history. She helped to organize a reunion of her Tappan Grammar School class, and from that became involved with the Tappantown Historical Society. Marilyn started attending the Orangetown Museum's openings and functions, and quickly became involved as an advocate, supporter and benefactor. Ever curious and enthusiastic, whatever she approaches, be it genealogy, local history, or attending a performance of 'Hamilton', Marilyn keeps history alive, and encourages all who know her to do the same. *EKS*

Three Cheers for the Marydell Sisters

Historic preservation is not limited to architectural structures. Preserving our greenspaces, especially as we rush towards development, is of utmost importance. That is why the recent actions of Marydell Sisters, is so significant. 40 acres in Upper Nyack overlooking the Hudson River will be saved. Instead of selling to developers, the order is insuring preservation by selling to the Trust for Public Land, a non-profit conservation group, which, in turn, will convey the land to the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.



Is the Greenbush Church in Danger?

The Greenbush Presbyterian Church in Blauvelt has been a presence in our community since 1812, when a group of local residents took it upon themselves to break with the Tappan Reformed Church to establish an English speaking congregation. After losing several structures to fire, the present church was completed in 1883. Significant features include an 800 pound bell aloft in a graceful church tower for bell and steeple, stained glass windows and a Moller Pipe Organ. Once a thriving religious community the congregation has dramatically thinned out – and the fate of this beautiful structure is in question. As we consider preservation this year, let's not forget about this local gem.

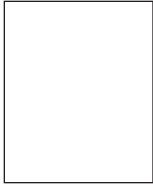
historical society of rockland county

In 1954 a concerned group of individuals met in an attempt to save from destruction the historic Salsbury House near the Tappan Zee Bridge in South Nyack. Organized as the Tappan Zee Historical Society, they failed to save the building but began a culture of preservation awareness that had an impact on the public and came to be known as the Historical Society of Rockland County.

They went on to acquire and preserve the Jacob Blauvelt Homestead, a 4-acre site in New City with a 19th century historic house, barn and outbuilding that is a New York State 'Path Through History' site. In advocating for historic preservation it works with private individuals and public institutions to erect historical markers commemorating important places, people and events in Rockland County's history. Of the many programs it sponsors, perhaps most significant is the Rockland County Executive's Historic Preservation Merit Awards which recognizes outstanding preservation efforts. Encouraging continued historical awareness it advocates for: historic contribution, preservation leadership, preservation restoration, continuing use, adaptive use, rescue and artisan (a tribute in support of craftsmen).



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 May 7
considering preservation
past/forward
 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

THIS WINTER & SPRING:



past/forward Townwide opening Saturday, May 7th at the DePew House. In considering preservation, the Town of Orangetown can look back on a history of achievement as well as some significant losses. Featuring local history superstars, with a nod to some spectacular saves. Featuring a screening of Tina Traster's documentary film: *This Place Matters* and the evocative sculpture of Dutch artist Nynke Koster from her *Elements of Time* series. We invite the viewer to consider what is old in a new way. Exhibit open through November 13th, 2016. At the DePew House, 196 Chief Bill Harris Way, Orangeburg, NY



Antiques & Collectibles Sale: Saturday, May 21, 2016, 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, Music & Historians, 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:
 Save the date! Sunday June 26th at the historic '76 House in Tappan. In the spirit of celebrating the museum and all things preservation, join us for a lively repast honoring a woman who keeps history alive – Marilyn Schauder.



VIDEO: In case you missed the museum's groundbreaking exhibition 'From Holland to Here' we are able to provide you with another chance to see it. By visiting the museum's website www.orangetownmuseum.com and clicking on the VIDEO tab in the upper header, you can access our YouTube video. Collector George Way with Curator Elizabeth Skrabonja and Museum Director Mary Cardenas recollect this important show.

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
 Jerry Bottari, Thomas Diviny, Denis 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