

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

FALL 2016

PRESERVATION begins at home

Fashion is more ephemeral than interiors or architecture. But perhaps more than it need be. For something to be 'in fashion' it needs to be of the times, but that doesn't mean it can't also be kept and treasured for a lifetime. Fashion at its best can articulate desires and feelings that we might not have known we even had. But style is open to the present and the past, and it is that which endures, and that which we aspire to.

Deborah Needleman, Editor's Letter, NYTimes "T" Magazine, April 17, 2016

The family of Florence Cecilia Etzel had long preserved mementos of this beloved ancestor. She was born into a family with solid Orangetown roots on May 20, 1890. Her mother was Anna Mary Lediger, the oldest daughter of George Lediger of Blauvelt. It is this George Lediger who donated the land for St. Catherine's Church in Blauvelt. Florence married Thomas A. Haney on August 18th 1928. A modern woman (she worked as a teacher and school secretary) when she married at 38 her wedding ensemble, displayed here, was chosen with great care. It was packaged in a custom made box from the prestigious fashion emporium 'L. Bamburger & Co.' fitted with drawers that open with ribbon pulls and personalized in gold script. It became a treasured family heirloom that was donated by her daughter Maureen Lanzilotti to the Orangetown Museum in October of 2015. Although Florence died in Nyack hospital in 1987, her spirit, and style, endure.

Wedding Gown worn August 18th, 1928 by Florence Cecilia Etzel

Custom made, champagne colored satin with chantilly type lace. The sleeveless dress has a dropped waist and straight silhouette with a high/low hemline. A large satin bow at the back of the dress accentuates the lower back neckline.

Wedding Veil

Tulle 'royal length' veil is 122 inches in length. The headdress is a lace crown of the Russian Imperial style, embellished with wax flowers that form a semi-circle on both sides of the crown towards the back.

elements of time

by the Dutch artist Nynke Koster, 2014
Foam with rubber, frame of wood

Courtesy of LMAKgallery, 298 Grand Street NYC & the artist



Inspired by classical architectural ornamentation, 'elements of time' are simultaneously functional objects and autonomous works of art. These whimsical rubber stools take on iconic shapes from the history of decorative art.

A 2013 graduate of the Royal Academy of Art in the Hague (KABK) Nynke Koster is concerned with the transformative function of art, as it becomes a new way to consider the past. Her rubber castings are both familiar and foreign; they manipulate, in a lighthearted way, what is expected into what can be.

Taking inspiration from the past brought Nynke to Orangetown last year when she visited vestiges of the Dutch enclave that settled in our area. Her new project, 'Coexist New Netherland' is an attempt to interpret the Dutch identity of New York. Through telling an old story in a new way, Nynke Koster creates 3D memories that shed light on history. Her work augments the case for preserving the past to inspire us today.

Nynke Koster is a 2013 graduate of the Royal Academy of Art in The Hague. She has exhibited at Miami Art Basil, during Milan Design Week, was awarded the D'SIGN award and is represented by LMAK Gallery in NYC. She is currently working on 'Coexist New Netherland' and projects for the Soestdijk Palace and The Hague Historical Museum in the Netherlands.



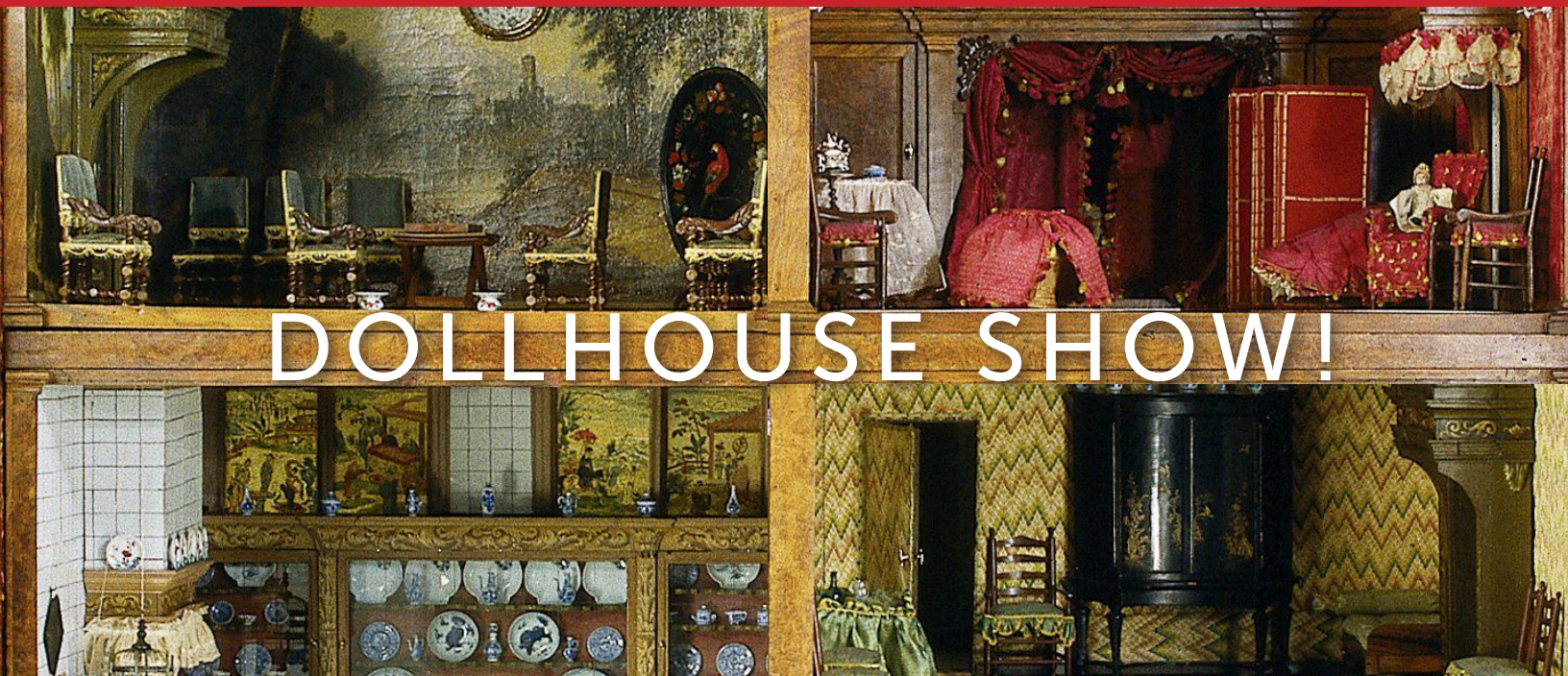
Museum Director Mary Cardenas with visiting Dutch Historian Marissa Klaver at the De Wint House. Marissa was visiting the States to research the traces of Dutch culture in American Society. Her work is expanding scholarship on the early Dutch settlers in Orangetown.



Without the assistance of Masako Birmingham, (left) who recently completed her undergraduate degree at FIT's Art History & Museum Profession's Program and Colleen Moriarty, (right) a recent Masters Program Graduate in Public History from SUNY Albany past/forward would never have moved forward. Many thanks to them and Registrar Joe Barbieri for their extraordinary efforts.



A happy reunion! Buildings Manager Giuliano Premus (left) and Curator Elizabeth Skrabonja (in white) welcome former OHMA Curator Julie Trumpler and her husband Allen at the DePew House. The Trumplers were instrumental in the establishment and expansion of our museum.



DOLLHOUSE SHOW!

Join us for Four Fabulous Sundays at the Historic Salyer House, beautifully decorated for the holidays.

Miniature wonders will fill the rooms of exquisite diminutive dwellings at our Dollhouse Holiday Show curated by Joanne Potonovic. Santa just might turn up for carols and cookies under the tree. Admission is free; donations accepted.

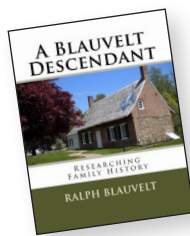
4 Sundays: November 27th • December 4th, 11th, 18th. 1-4 pm • Historic Salyer House • 213 Blue Hill Road, Pearl River

IMAGE: Petronella Oortman's Dollhouse: Courtesy of The Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

researching FAMILY HISTORY

Join author Ralph Blauvelt at the museum on Sunday, October 16th at 2 pm for a book signing and reception celebrating the publication of **'A Blauvelt Descendant – Researching Family History'**. Admission is free, treasures never exhibited from the Blauvelt Collection will be on view and our current exhibit **past/forward** will be open.

'A Blauvelt Descendant' is the third book by Ralph Blauvelt, and the first to deal directly with his Dutch heritage. It is always interesting to follow the path that leads to genealogical research; in the first section Ralph writes:



I started college at Manhattan School of Music in 1960. While signing up for my classes, the secretary asked me about the Blauvelt descendant who married John Kennedy. I didn't know anything about it, but it was apparently a hot rumor in society circles about the soon to be elected President of the United States. *The Blauvelt Family Genealogy*, published in 1957, simply identified him as the 'son of Joseph P. Kennedy, one time ambassador to England.'

A few years later, while still a student at the Manhattan School of Music, I got a part time job as a page in the music division of the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Soon after I started working there, the head librarian asked me if I knew about Lillian Evans Blauvelt, an opera diva of the early 20th century. Again, I had to plead ignorance.

I later learned that Lillian and I shared several lines of Blauvelt ancestors.

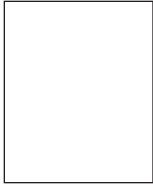
It was also at the New York Public Library that I learned from other employees that the page with the Kennedy information in the library copy of *The Blauvelt Family Genealogy* was missing. Someone had torn it out during the time of the alleged scandal.

I had committed myself to a life in music, but I began to think I should know more about my family and the history of the Blauvelts. My parents purchased a copy of *The Blauvelt Family Genealogy* and I learned about the Association of Blauvelt Descendants who published it. In the book I could trace my ancestors nine generations back to Gerrit Hendricksen Blauvelt, progenitor of the Blauvelt family in America. I read about Lillian Evans Blauvelt, the opera diva, and Durie Malcolm, the Blauvelt descendant who married John Kennedy (* authors note: The evidence for this marriage is unclear – it may have been destroyed – and cannot be verified). I was no longer ignorant about my name and my Blauvelt heritage.

In 1976, the year after our daughter Colette was born, my wife Frances and I joined the Association of Blauvelt Descendants (ABD). Through our involvement, we developed friendships with a number of our Blauvelt cousins, and in 1982, the association invited us to become members of the Executive Board of Directors.'



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 www.orangetownmuseum.com



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

Closing November 13th
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 FALL & WINTER :



past/forward 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



A Blauvelt Descendant. Join us for a book signing and reception featuring Ralph Blauvelt to celebrate the publication of his latest book. Find out how Ralph discovered his roots among the pioneer settlers of the Tappan community and view some never before exhibited treasures from the Blauvelt collection.. Sunday, October 16th at 2 pm. Admission is free. At the **DePew House**, 196 Chief Bill Harris Way, Orangeburg, NY



Holiday Open House – Dolhouse Show! The Historic Salyer House is the perfect venue to view a magical world of miniature residences. Nestled amid homespun decorations, join us for four fabulous Sundays of holiday cheer. Spiced cider and cookies will be served to all guests – admission is free; donations accepted. At the historic Salyer House, 213 Blue Hill Road, Pearl River, NY Sunday November 27th, December 4th, 11th and 18th from 1 – 4 pm.



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.



TOWN 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