

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

WINTER 2022

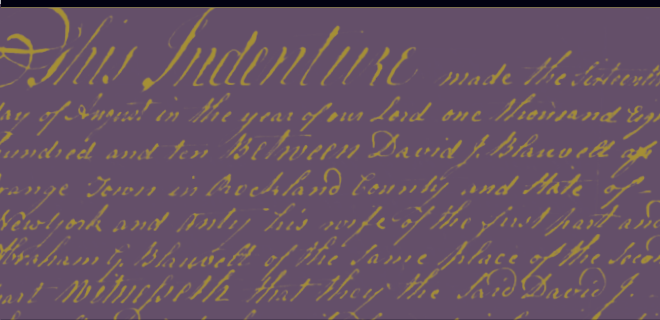
WHAT WAS INFORMS
WHAT WILL BE



ORANGETOWN

MEMORY

PROJECT



THE PAST IS
ALWAYS PRESENT

Preserving the Past informs the future; it takes more than words, architecture & objects. It requires a type of literary imagination. History is about the continuity of place that occurs within the context of change. Living with landmarks can anchor a community and celebrate daily creative reciprocity. Period photographs present a type of magic mirror and hand written documents shift us into a slower, more formal gear. As we question who we are, finding out who we were adds immeasurable value to our daily lives. In this place that was settled by colonists from The Netherlands in the 17th century, the mysterious **Dutch Merchant Wearing a Falling Lace Collar** centers our exhibition. The story of how he got here is as serendipitous and colorful as our Blauvelt descendants. It is a celebration of now through *the precious, the incommunicable past*. It is a key to the future. Let's consider what is old in a new way.

ARTIFACT SPOTLIGHT:

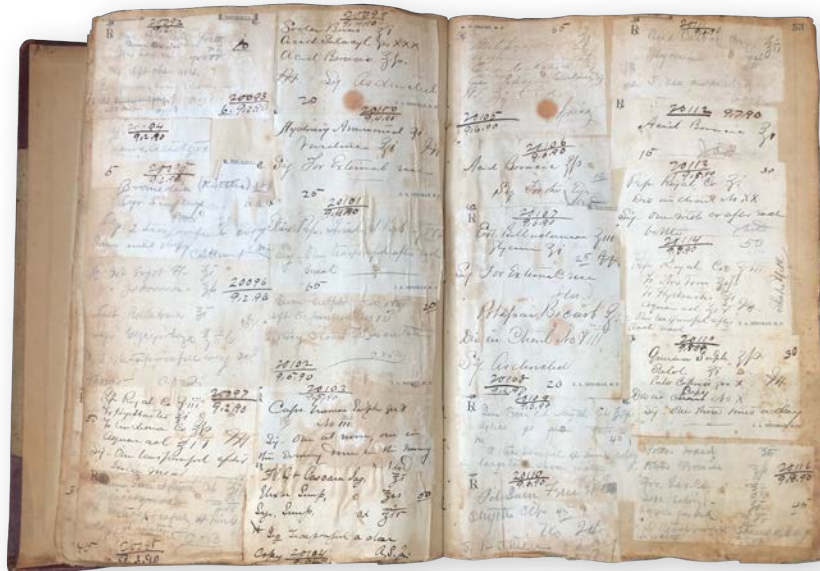
Local Pharmacy Receipt Book

IN A TIME

before antibiotics, what was being prescribed to treat illness, disease, and infection? An artifact on exhibit from the Bob Knight Collection gives insight into this question. Specifically, a 19th century Pharmacy Book comprised of hundreds of doctors receipts detailing formulas for various prescriptions.

Thanks to Sue Schwinn, volunteer and genealogist, it was determined that the book most likely belonged to C.H. & J.E. Smith, Prescription Druggists, once located on Main Street in Spring Valley, N.Y. The druggists would read the doctor's receipts to create the prescribed medication for the patient. Sue further concluded that two of the doctors writing prescriptions, A.O.B. (Albert Osborn Bogert) and J.A. Dingman (James A. Dingman), also resided in Spring Valley. Due to the locality of the pharmacy, it is possible that some of these prescriptions may have been used to treat residents of Orangetown. After learning about the provenance of the book, the next question was focused on its contents; specifically, what was being prescribed?

While countless transcriptions have been made at the museum, we could not read the handwriting on the prescription receipts. However, registered nurse Jean Callaghan was able to identify the medical terminology and found that some of the prescriptions included arsenic, chloroform, and opium tincture. In the 19th to 20th centuries, these substances would have been prescribed for many reasons. For instance, opium tincture was most likely prescribed as a painkiller and would have been

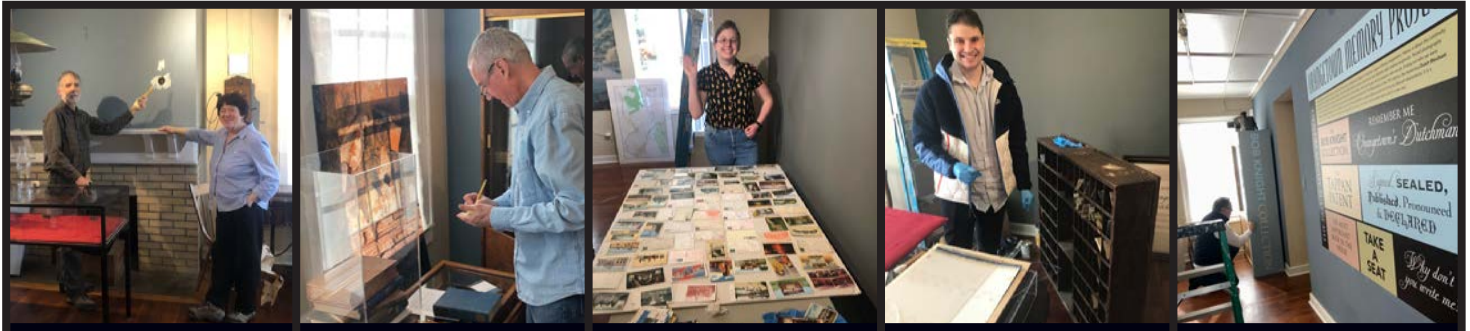


used for a number of ailments, ranging from severe pain to coughing. Moreover, if one were to give birth or undergo a surgical procedure in the late 19th to early-mid 20th century, there is a chance that Chloroform would have been used as an anesthetic; chloroform was later banned by the Food and Drug Administration in the

1970's due to its harmful effects. Lastly, while arsenic was more widely prescribed in the 19th century to treat ailments such as fevers and asthma, and diseases such as syphilis, it is interestingly enough still used to a lesser degree today. While the use of arsenic has drastically decreased, arsenic trioxide has proven effective in treatment of some forms of cancers, such as refractive acute promyelocytic leukemia.

While this artifact is intriguing for a number of reasons, it is important to recognize why this item matters. As our new exhibit expresses, the past is always present. The contents of this book details a medical history: what was being prescribed? What ailments or diseases were present? How were medications made and what did they contain? We learn from the past into order to create a better, more sustainable future (that includes antibiotics!). Thanks to modern medicine, these remedies may no longer be needed, but it is always important to review the archives. When visiting the new exhibit, Orangetown Memory Project, be sure to check out this artifact for yourself! ■

by Stefanie D'Erasmus
CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS



MAKING MEMORIES

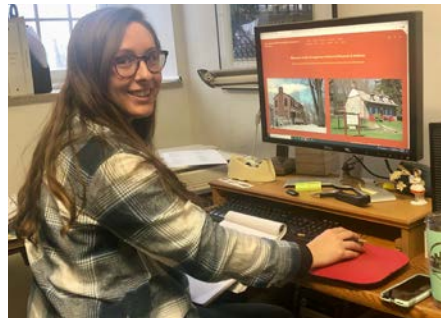
The Orangetown Museum staff and volunteers have been busy this winter preparing for the opening of **The Orangetown Memory Project**. Bearing witness to the power of objects, there will be a lot to see – and think about as we consider the past in a new way. Calling all collectors –there is something for everyone to be nostalgic about.



BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

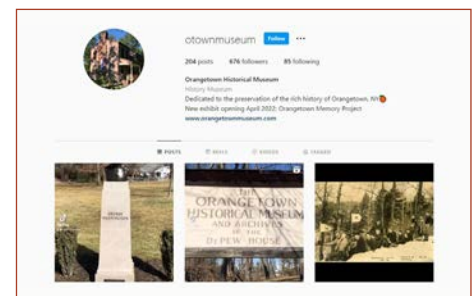
Here at OHMA we are pleased to announce that the re- launch of our website www.orangetownmuseum.com is now live! It is easier to navigate and provides updates on collection acquisitions, events and local history. A website is basically a museum’s calling card; it needs to be accessible by phone and on the desktop. It’s a snapshot of what we are all about.

None of this would have happened without the tenacity and skills of our new Curator for Collections Stefanie D’Erasmus. Stefanie started at the museum in November and has quickly become an invaluable member of our team. With an undergraduate degree from SUNY Brockport in Anthropology and History and a graduate degree in Anthropology, (concentrating in Archeology and Museum Studies) from Florida Atlantic University, Stefanie has had extensive experience working with Cultural Resource Management as a field archeologist. She has also served as a museum technician



for the National Park Service. An inquisitive personality with attention to detail, Stefanie will follow the story of each artifact to its source and make sure that it is well documented and taken care of. Her work on launching the new website will help to open up the museum to many more visitors.

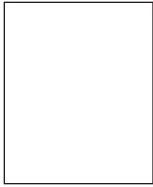
Besides the website, Stefanie, with the help of Volunteer and *Friends of the Orangetown Museum* Board Member, Jeannine Clark – as well as our Research Assistant Sarah Konyak has helped to revitalize our Instagram account (@otownmuseum) as well as our TikTok account (@otownmuseum) and our Facebook



account (@orangetownmuseum). All of this social media outreach serves our community by connecting our story visually and historically. It helps us to make new friends in far away places and to spread the word about what makes Orangetown so ‘rich in history’. It’s also a fun way to prove that history matters. ■ EKS

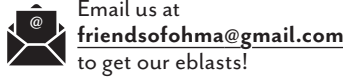


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 Orangeburg, New York 10962
 Tel. (845) 398-1302
 www.orangetownmuseum.com



Opening
APRIL 23, 2022

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**
by Appointment



UPCOMING :



ORANGETOWN MEMORY PROJECT: Opens April 23rd. Open Tuesdays and Fridays 10 – 2, Sundays 1-4 at the DePew House. With this exhibit we celebrate the preservationists and encourage the uninitiated to fall in love with the past. Let's consider what is old in a new way.



WINE & CHEESE & POETRY WITH MUSIC! Friday May 20th, 5:30 – 7 pm at the DePew House. Together with the Orangeburg Library, the museum opens its doors for a tour of The Orangetown Memory Project and a wine & cheese event of note. Orangetown's Poet Laureate Rosemarie Raccioppi returns to recite words that inspire – with musical accompaniment that will bring out the poet in all of us. Suggested donation \$5.



YOGA AT THE MUSEUM: Bring your Yoga mat and get ready for some good karma at the Orangetown Museum. More information to follow for this event planned for a Saturday morning in June on the Historic Salyer House grounds. Namaste!



WISH YOU WERE HERE! Friday, August 5th. Kids program inspired by the Bob Knight postcard collection. Children K-6th grade are invited with their adult friends to visit the museum's 'Memory Project' exhibit, do a craft and hear a story. Sign up for this program is at the Orangeburg Library. Admission is free – curiosity required!

THE ORANGETOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Mary Cardenas, MUSEUM DIRECTOR • Stefanie D'Erasmus, CURATOR OF COLLECTIONS
 Elizabeth Skrabonja, CURATOR FOR EXHIBITIONS • Steve Schwinn, BUILDINGS MANAGER
 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.



Teresa Kenny, SUPERVISOR
 Jerry Bottari, Thomas Diviny, Brian Donohue 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