

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SUMMER 2022

Remember Me

Here at the Orangetown Museum several recent donations have substantively enhanced our collection. As a safe house for history with local inclinations – and probably prompted by the breadth of our recent ‘Orangetown Memory Project’ these new acquisitions reflect the eclectic nature of collecting.

An early 17th century Toongast (‘Kas’) made of oak with veneer overlay, of Dutch origin and from the 17th century is now in place at the historic Salyer House. Donated by Maryke Castro-Moons, the Kas belonged to the Moons family and stayed as a family heirloom in Holland until the 2000’s. During WWII the Kas was taken apart and hidden in the attic of St. Elisabet Zienkenhuis, a hospital in Alkmarr, Holland. After the war the Kas was reassembled and kept in the Moon’s family home until it was sold – in the 1990’s. Thereafter the Kas was moved to the donor’s father’s apartment in Holland. With the passing of the donor’s father, the Kas was shipped to the donor in Newark, Delaware. It is from there that our museum welcomed this magnificent piece that will share a gallery with our ‘Orangetown Dutchman’. We invite you to see it during our annual holiday show this December.

It is truly rare for family heirlooms in the form of textiles to survive generations – but this is just what we found in the donation from Mary Malone. The shirt waist wedding dress of pink and gray silk brocade with lace and embellished with silk roses was owned by Anastasia Burke for her wedding to John T. Smith in Piermont in 1895. In incredibly impeccable condition – it features pink and grey vertical stripes, puffed sleeves, boning and lace detailing. A delightful celebration of

color and texture before the tradition of white took over for bridal wear. Where we do see the historic wearing of white is with a christening outfit, also donated by Mary Malone – that was worn by the children of her same ancestor – Anastasia.



17th century ‘Toongast in place at the historic Salyer House

The long white skirt with lace detailing was a prized family possession and worn by all of the Smith children as seen in the 1899 photograph of Helen Skelly (Smith).

Our display of bibles used by the Blauvelt clan brought forth another donation of significance. Donated by Martha Byrne are two beautifully framed pieces celebrating her ancestor’s marriage. The wedding certificate, (and photographs) of Charlotte Elizabeth Blauvelt and Warren H. Wendover that were married on October 1st 1890. Of particular – and nostalgic – significance is the accompanying framed piece; Charlotte’s cotton handkerchief trimmed in hand made lace.

Our display of land deeds, indentures and the Tappan Patent inspired another donation, this time from C.E. William Maurer. It is an indenture deed between Abraham Haring and Martinus Hogencamp for property in Orangetown, New York dated March 1, 1764. A compilation of such deeds – sold, shared, traded and taxed – make up the geographic framework of how we see Orangetown today. Our current collection of these transactions, (with their 18th century ‘lawyer speak!’) bear witness to the timeless importance of property, and give credence to the realtor’s mantra; ‘location, location, location’. Orangetown continues to be a valuable destination.

EKS



Mary Malone & OHMA Curator Stefanie D'Erasmus with the 1895 wedding dress worn by Anastasia Burke to John T. Smith



Detail of the dress worn by Anastasia Burke



Christening Dress worn by Helen A. (Smith) Skelly, 1899, Anastasia's daughter

DOMINICAN CONNECTION

Dominican College has been elevated to the status of a University, becoming the first University in Rockland County! Here at the Orangetown Museum we have enjoyed a close relationship with Dominican – and have been fortunate to have on staff an alum of merit. Here Curator for Collections Stefanie D'Erasmus interviews Sara Konyak:

Tell us about your experience at Dominican University. What years did you attend? What was your major? Mentors? Etc.

I attended Dominican College from August 2017 through June 2021 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a dual minor of Criminal Justice and Communications. During my time there, I was a Resident Assistant so many of my mentors were a part of that community. For my major, my mentors were Professor White and Professor Libertini. There were a lot of people that I saw as mentors, both peers and faculty.

What is something from Dominican University that you loved being a part of?

I loved being a Resident Assistant. I was one for 3 years and it shaped most of my college experience. Although there were hard parts of the job, I still enjoyed both the community of Residence Life and how I could influence it. I loved being able to plan activities for the students. Additionally, I loved the community and activities/events organized by the many clubs on campus and the Student Government Association.

What are you most proud of from your time at Dominican University?

While in college, it is easy to not see the impact that the experience has on you. Looking back, I really appreciate the community that Dominican College had and how much the professors were willing to help out. I was really proud of being an RA and being a part of that community throughout my education. Even as a freshman, getting involved was always encouraged, and a class for freshmen was in the curriculum that required freshmen to go to events on campus and create an activities passport, make a school specific board game, and constantly talk between classmates which was important for creating that community. This class even had a peer mentor who was available for guidance and help.

ORANGETOWN
MEMORY
 PROJECT

*By Rose Marie Raccioppi,
 Poet Laureate, Orangetown, NY*

pages of time present and past
 seasons of change and memories cast
 many a vision portrayed in manifest real
 be each artifact in fulfillment reveal
 with word and object here to unfold
 a story, a time, a quest be told
 labors and blessed holdings to bear
 loving treasures of the Creator's care
 keepsake Bibles hold the divine signature
 of the tree
 the WORD in blessings graced unto thee
 the gifts of time, place, heart and soul
 be these the delights bar the toll
 word, artifacts, personage,
 in regal presentation
 remembrances of BEING in honored
 celebration
 within days and visions of a yesterday
 behold we the blessings of
 come what may
 in petitions, charters, and each
 proclamation
 there be treasured protections and
 commemorative celebrations
 yes, preserving the past never gets old
 for within our story be ever told

How do you believe Dominican University influenced your present and/or future career aspirations?

I always knew that I had wanted to be in the Museum field. My senior year Professor White led me to an internship at the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives. While I am in graduate school, I credit a lot of my practice knowledge to the field to that internship and the Public History class that I took with Professor White. The internship has helped me see what daily life looks like in a museum, problems that can occur, solutions, and gave me relevant experience such as using Past Perfect. I credit a lot to the internship because when I am having a particularly hard time at school and feel unmotivated, volunteering there on Fridays relaxes me and reminds me what the field is like and why I am passionate about museums. Even two years later, being inspired by Professor White helps me stay on my career path.

Question: As an alumna, how did you react when Dominican College officially became a University?

It was strange, I was not aware that Dominican College had even been attempting to become a University. However, it is wonderful to see Dominican College become Dominican University because it gives prestige to the school along with opportunities for students. The college started in 1952 as a two-year institution for women and has now expanded to becoming a University. It is exciting and inspiring to see the school expand and makes me feel proud about where I went to school.

Thank you Sarah! We are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with the new Dominican University!

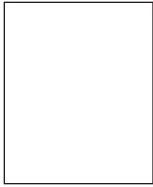
THE HISTORIC SALYER HOUSE



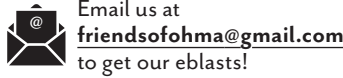
The Holiday Open House is back – visit us December 4th, 11th & 18th from 1 – 4 pm.



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



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: Open through November 20th; 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. Featuring the magnificent Dutch painting: *Dutch Merchant wearing a Falling Lace Collar* painted Ca. 1672. Admission is free



THE ORANGETOWN MUSEUM ANNUAL DINNER: Back by popular demand! Sunday, November 13th at 5pm at the '76 House Tappan. Join friends, historians and preservationists as we celebrate the past in a new way. Surprise guests, a hearty repast and good cheer await – it's been a long time coming! For ticket information please contact the museum.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Three Sundays in December: 4, 11 & 18, from 1 until 4 pm. The Historic Salyer House is the perfect venue to grab some holiday cheer in our beautifully decorated homestead. With carols, Mary's mulled cider and the friendliest Santa in town, join us for a special look at the magnificent new old additions to the collection! Admission is free; donations appreciated.

THE ORANGETOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Mary Cardenas, MUSEUM DIRECTOR • Stefanie D'Erasmo, 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 \$25 | SINGLE \$35
 FAMILY (up to 6 members) \$75
 PATRON \$150 | LEGACY \$1,000 | BENEFACTOR \$1,500