

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

FALL 2022

Remembering High School

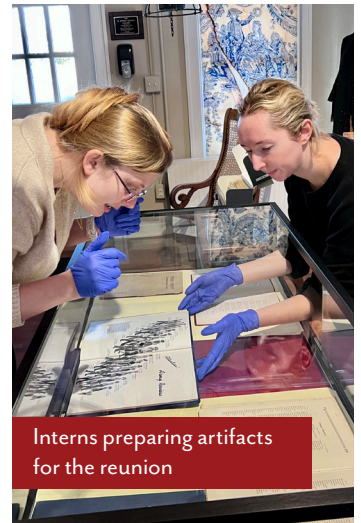


Class of '77
Washington Trip



Members of Pearl River High School
Class of 1971 visit the DePew House

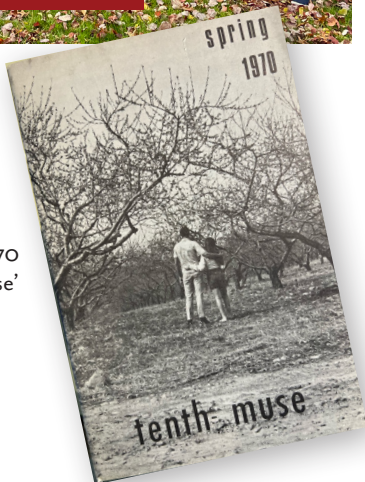
When the Pearl River High School, Class of 1971 asked to visit our museum's *Orangetown Memory Project* as a part of their reunion weekend, we were delighted. This precipitated a search in our archives for materials relating to Pearl River High School, and as anticipated, we uncovered a treasure trove. A plethora of prom tickets, yearbooks, poetry journals and photographs ensued. What was of particular interest as we reviewed the materials that spanned decades – from the 1920's until the present – was the pervasive sense of hope and optimism. *EKS*



Interns preparing artifacts
for the reunion

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Spring '70
'Muse'



1942
Yearbook



“Dead People Are My Life”

– OHMA’S SECRET WEAPON,
SUE SCHWINN



Sue Schwinn,
genealogist

Keeping up with the past is part of the business of a history museum. When documenting a document it’s always a good idea to know as much about it as possible. Frequently, interesting artifacts come our way with only the thinnest thread of provenance. The only information we have might be the donor’s recollection of some distant

relative. During such times we turn to our secret weapon – genealogist Sue Schwinn.

Sue has been a volunteer at the Orangetown Museum since 2018, but her interest in the past has been a lifelong obsession. As an anthropology major with an interest in archeology, Sue started researching her own family history old school; searching out census records, microfilm and library archives. The thrill of the hunt intrigued her and soon she was hooked. When PC’s came out she tapped into their massive data capacities, assisting in genealogical research for visitors to the New City Library Local History Room while also volunteering at the Rockland County Archives, (her other superpower is transcribing 18th century handwritten documents). Her book genre of choice is the mystery novel which makes perfect sense; digging into the past and uncovering the unexpected, (whether good or bad) motivates her. She never loses her enthusiasm or gets bored – there is always more to discover.

Here at the museum she has helped to give life to inanimate objects – found out just who was wearing that wedding dress, who was that WWII soldier and what happened to him, which family of Dutch descendants owned those quilts or how Edward Hopper is related to all of those Blauvelts. It’s an invaluable service that enlivens our collection by personalizing the past and honoring our collective legacies. *EKS*

CAMP

WHEN THE CAMP SHANKS MUSEUM

received a massive donation of WWII related photographs, slides, scrapbooks and documents from Douglas Schonenberg as collected by his maternal grandfather,



Peter Hingle and the Camp
Shanks WWII Archive

Edward Gilbert they were frankly stunned. This treasure trove of material had never been archived and presents a very particular and personal viewpoint of how WWII was perceived in real time. To help them with this important project our museum is allowing the archive to be processed and ana-

lyzed here with the help of their volunteer, Peter Hingle, a recent history graduate from SUNY Oneonta, (and coincidentally the brother of our past curator, Emily Hingle). Covering a range of topics, the archive is a testament to the importance of paper and visual archives – and to how, by working collaboratively, museums can better serve the communal good.

Peter has organized the hundreds of photographs and corresponding negatives within folders; he created finding aids for the disparate categories and organized the material into 8 massive binders. For



the 14 boxes of slides, (containing up to 300 slides per box) he created a spreadsheet for each slide box covering

SHANKS COLLABORATIVE

topics from WWII, mid century politicians and even the space race. His favorite artifacts, however, are two scrapbooks that reveal an in depth photographic timeline of WWII. From the museum's perspective it is more than encouraging to witness the enthusiasm of this young historian. In conversation Peter has said, "Overall, this is a very special collection, depicting different aspects of the mid 20th century and I am very proud to have been a part of this project". And we, in turn, are proud of him. *EKS*



Remembering High School

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Class of '38
Spirit Jacket

FROM THE 1925 'PENCIL POINTS'
COMMENCEMENT ISSUE,
PEARL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL:

.....
And now we leave after twelve long years of doubtful, hard work, leave for greater things, to begin at the foot of the ladder of life. Out there we will guide ourselves as best we may for there we will have no parents and teachers to oversee our labor. And we must live lives that are irreproachable. We must climb from the least to the greatest as we have climbed in the grades of school. Do we not strive, we shall not succeed.

.....
Success attained means for some, honor among men, for some, the pleasures of life, and for some, both. Success awaits us at the end of that long road to be traversed. The diligent shall arrive early and the indolent arrive late or perhaps pass out by the way side, and the crafty, seeking a shorter route, shall be sought out and penalized.

.....
Here a little, there a little; word by word; line by line; precept by precept, we have gathered in the foundation for our life among men. We have been given a head start. We are all sad, but our sadness and our sorrow is tempered with joy and expectancy, hope, and a desire to see how strong are our own wings and to learn what Dame Fortune holds in store for us.

THE DUTCHMAN MOVES



Ensconed as the centerpiece of our historic exhibits at the SALYER HOUSE our Dutch Merchant was moved with a little help from our friends.

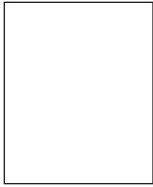


Annual Dinner

The Friends of the Orangetown Museum hosted another successful event celebrating our educational partners at Dominican University. A fine time was had by all – we look forward to seeing you next year!



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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
&
Our Dutch
Families**

by Appointment

 Like us on
Facebook
@orangetownmuseum

 Follow us on
Instagram
@otownmuseum

 Email us at
friendsofohma@gmail.com
to get our eblasts!

As we go to press we have learned of the passing of the *Friends of the Orangetown Museum* Founder, Catherine Dodge. An iconic preservationist, look for a profile of her life in our next *Crier*.

UPCOMING :



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE: Two more Sundays in December: 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.



Getting There RIVERS ROADS RAILS: *Orangetown* Opening in April at the DePew House through November 2023. Find out why transportation matters in a place where the journey is a part of the adventure. Featuring models, paintings maps and more: Admission free

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.



TOWN 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 | INDIVIDUAL \$35
FAMILY (up to 6 members) \$75
PATRON \$150 | HERITAGE \$1,000 | BENEFACTOR \$1,500