

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

SPRING 2020

Even though our museum is closed for now, we wanted to share a preview of our upcoming exhibit ‘Orangetown Suffragist.’ We look forward to hosting you in the near future – for now please like and follow us on Facebook (@orangetownmuseum) and Instagram (@otownmuseum) for weekly Orangetown history content, in addition to getting the fastest news and updates on our programs and events. Stay safe and keep in touch.

Women

Who Are Working to Win the Vote – Suffrage Campaign Plans

**FROM THE ROCKLAND COUNTY TIMES
MAY 23, 1914**

The campaign in behalf of equal suffrage has really never stopped since the first suffrage convention in 1848: it is being forwarded in New York State by a round of Assembly District Conventions under the Empire State Campaign Committee. The campaign will be managed along the same lines that every political party campaign has followed since the beginning of the republic. The state has been divided into twelve Campaign Districts. Rockland County is in the Ninth Campaign District which is composed of Westchester, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan Counties. **Mrs. Robert Leber, a woman of charming personality and decided views on progress, is leader of the Rockland County District League.** The Annual Convention of Rockland County will be held at the Sparkill Firehouse on May 27th. The Tappan Woman’s Suffrage Club, Dr. J. N. Rankine, Chairman, will entertain the convention and luncheon will be served. Everyone of any shade of suffrage belief will be welcome to the sessions.



**VOTES
FOR
WOMEN**

This photograph from 1914 taken in front of the Hotel St. George in Nyack en route to the state women’s suffrage convention in Rochester, New York. Pictured at center: Beveridge C. Dunlop, the county’s assemblyman. **Mrs. Alma Leber of Blauvelt** (indicated) was the first Rockland Assembly District Leader of the NY State Women’s Suffrage Party.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

1815-1902

INTELLECTUAL POWERHOUSE

Elizabeth Cady Stanton was one of the principal organizers of the first convention fighting for the rights of women. In 1848, at the historic Seneca Falls Convention in New York, **Stanton was the principal author of the 'Declaration of Sentiments'** which demanded equal social status and legal rights for women, including the right to vote. In May of 1869 Stanton and Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), with their eyes set on a federal Constitutional amendment that would grant women the right to vote. A resident of Tenafly, NJ, she did not live to see ratification of the 19th Amendment.



Susan B. Anthony

1820-1906

FEMINIST ICON

Susan B. Anthony is generally considered the main organizer of the women's suffrage movement in the United States. Together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton she founded and led the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. In 1871 the NWSA adopted the strategy of asking women to vote and file law suits when denied. In 1878, along with Stanton, Anthony arranged for a presentation of an amendment in Congress, which would give women the right to vote. Popularly known as the Susan B. Anthony Amendment, it later became the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920 granting women the right to vote.

Elizabeth Smith Miller

1822-1911



DESIGNER OF BLOOMERS

Elizabeth Smith Miller was a descendant of Gerrit Smith, noted abolitionist as well as from one of the sixteen farmers who settled in Tappan in 1686. As a cousin to Elizabeth Cady Stanton and a supporter of the suffrage struggle she became its most ardent advocate of clothing reform. In the spring of 1851 after becoming increasingly disgusted with the long skirt, she made a radical decision to amend this shackle. Her design of 'Turkish trousers' was christened – bloomers – thanks to their adoption by the journalist Amelia Bloomer. The new question became, no longer, how do you look, but how do you feel?

Dr. Elizabeth Blauvelt

1873-1912

MEDICAL MISSIONARY

The Dutch descendants of the Blauvelt clan left behind many notable ancestors. One trailblazer was Elizabeth Hedges Blauvelt, a daughter of Mrs. Jennie E. Hedges and the Rev. G.M.S. Blauvelt, who was the Pastor of the Tappan Dutch Reformed Church for 19 years. She was a graduate of the Easton High School, Bryn Mawr and Johns Hopkins University where she earned her MD degree in 1904. After her graduation she practiced for a year at what was called The Women's Hospital on



14th Street in NYC, (later known as St. Vincent's Hospital). In the fall of 1905 she went to China as a medical missionary and was in charge of the hospital at Amoy, China. She returned home after contracting an illness in China after three years, but her legacy as a humanitarian was honored by her mother in her will. A special bequest was made to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Dutch Reformed Church for the maintenance of the 'Elizabeth Hedges Blauvelt Hospital' to be constructed in Tongan, China.

Alice Paul

1885-1977

THE AGITATOR

Alice Paul was one of the most prominent activists of the 20th century women's movement. Alice grew up attending suffragist meetings with her mother. Her main objective was to pass a federal suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In 1916 Alice founded the National Women's Party (NWP). Through their protests, marches and demonstrations, the suffrage movement gained popular support. **She was arrested as a 'Silent Sentinel' for picketing in front of the White House**, and sentenced to jail for 60 days at Occoquan Workhouse in 1917. By August 26, 1920 she returned to Washington to celebrate the passing of the amendment.



Alma Leber

1884-1948

THE VELVET GLOVE

Besides being the first Rockland Assembly District Leader of the NY State Women's Suffrage Party, Mrs. Leber became secretary of the Rockland County Conservation Association and worked with various national peace organizations and locally with the Rockland County Peace Association, was a founder of the Blauvelt Library, a member of the Nyack Hospital Auxiliary and one of the founders of the World Association of Mothers for Peace. She graduated in 1903 from Hunter College and was a public school teacher before her marriage and move to Rockland County. Here she and her husband purchased a 100-acre farm from the late Eugene Blauvelt in 1908 where they built their home. A Quaker, she fought her entire life for humanitarian causes, starting with the women's rights movement.



Mary Lawrence Tonetti

1868-1945

ARTISTIC CATALYST

A fine artist who broke down conventions and challenged societal norms. Following a conventional 'grand European tour' in 1886 she advanced her studies in sculpture at the Julien Academy in Paris. She was apprenticed to the renowned sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens and taught at New York's Art Students League. She was a co-founder of New York's 'Metropolitan Club', an association for women in the arts professions. In 1893 she was assigned by Saint-Gaudens the commission to create the keynote figure of Columbus for the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Her life work, however, turned out to be establishing a flourishing artistic enclave nestled within the confines of Snedens Landing. She created an artistic haven for painters, writers, sculptors and dancers acting as both muse and advocate. Her legacy continues to encourage women working towards equality in the artistic sphere.



Lulu Serven

1873-1941

PEARL RIVER INFLUENCER

This Pearl River native and daughter of local industrialist Isaac W. Edsall took over from Alma Leber as Chair of the County's suffrage forces in 1917 when Rockland and NY State finally approved votes for women. **She is credited with tenacious house to house efforts that secured this win.** On November 7th 1917, suffrage in Rockland County won by a margin of 503 votes, (4,238 votes for, 3,735 against). Nationwide suffrage would come in 1920. She went on to become president of the Rockland County Women's Republican Club and vice chair of their Women's Committee. She was the president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Orangeburg Fair and president and later vice president of the Historical Society of Rockland County. During her tenure she was instrumental in marking many Revolutionary era landmarks.



Caroline Lexow Babcock

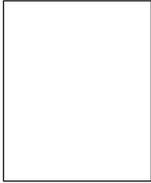
1882-1980

NYACK'S POLITICAL FIREBALL

Daughter of a prominent Nyack family (her father facilitated the ouster of the 'Boss Tweed' machine in New York City) her education went beyond the degree she received from Barnard College in 1904. An organizer of the Collegiate Equal Rights Suffrage League of New York State she became Executive Secretary for the national group. **She became Field Secretary for the Women's Political Union and worked tirelessly to revise the thinking of important political figures of the time, such as Presidents Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson.** When the 19th Amendment was added to the Constitution it read: *The right of citizens to vote shall not be denied because of sex.* Caroline Lexow Babcock, described in a 1912 'Journal News' article as "the never-say-die Miss Caroline Lexow" had played a part in this victory.



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The museum is temporarily closed. Stay safe.

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

COMING SOON
**ORANGETOWN
 SUFFRAGIST**

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*

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<p>1840 Elizabeth Cady Stanton attends the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London and begins work on the international suffrage movement.</p>	<p>1848 Seneca Falls N.Y. Women's Rights Convention defines the American Women's Suffrage Movement with The Declaration of Sentiments.</p>	<p>1851 Elizabeth Smith Miller designs 'bloomers', a tunic with pants popularized by Amelia Bloomer that gives women freedom of movement.</p>	<p>1869 Women's suffrage is granted in Wyoming and Utah territories and the National Woman Suffrage Association is founded.</p>
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<p>1871 A group of women from the Nyack Female Institute marched to the polls requesting the right to vote in the November election.</p>	<p>1876 The Declaration of Rights for Women is presented at the United States Centennial celebration in Philadelphia.</p>	<p>1913 Five-thousand women march in Washington supporting women's suffrage the day before Woodrow Wilson's inauguration.</p>	<p>1920 On August 26th the Nineteenth Amendment is adopted. Women of the United States are enfranchised.</p>
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THE ORANGETOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
 Mary Cardenas, MUSEUM DIRECTOR • Emily Hingle, 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, 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
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