

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

FALL 2019

THE GIFT OF

History

by Emily Hingle



Here at the Museum, we rely on our community to share with us. Anything from historical artifacts, documents, to verbal stories; our museum uses these things as a way to enrich and preserve Orangetown's wonderful history. Over the years, we have received hundreds of artifacts from the community, which allows us to create a collection and archives for the public to research in. We are so grateful to the Orangetown community for making our collection possible and history accessible.

As Orangetown's new Curator of Collections, it's my job to process donations and oversee their assimilation into our collection. Over the past few months, the museum has received several donations that have made fantastic additions to our archives collection. One of the oldest documents we have received recently is a land indenture dating all the way back to the year 1768 (2019.32.01). Donated by Florida resident Helen Hayes Lein, the indenture still has remnants of the original wax seal found at the bottom of the paper! This impressive donation is one of the oldest documents we have in our collection, and is a treasure to see in person.

One of the most interesting donations we received this year was a collection of documents bound in a book, containing information on a long standing Orangetown family, the Verbryks. Donated to us via the Historical Society of Rockland County, the Verbryk family is one of the most documented families we have in our collection. This collection of 18th and 19th century documents

(deeds, indentures, wills, etc.) was collected by James V. Clarke in the early 20th century (2019.23.03). One paper is a letter from Abraham Verbryk to John Verbryk written in 1858. In the letter, Abraham asks John to confirm that he served under Captain Samuel Verbryk in the War of 1812. He wanted to know because he needed an affidavit confirming this information so he could collect a bounty on his land.



Another earlier document in the album is a paper that lists men called to service in the Revolutionary War. This document lists well over fifty men, which includes descendants from prominent local families such as the Blauvelt, Demarest, and Haring families. Believed to be written in the 18th century, this document further emphasizes the role that Orangetown played in our war for independence.

Another document included in this album is a petition to the New York State Legislature from the most prominent families of Rockland in the year 1834. The families ask the state not to install a Catholic college and seminary in Nyack, on the grounds that Catholicism was not popular, and that there were not that many Catholics in the county. It appears that this petition did not work however, as the first structure of the Parish of St. Anne was constructed in Nyack in 1837. Unfortunately, an accident caused the Parish to burn down before it could be used, and the structure you still see today was finished in 1870.



~continues on page 3

OPENING APRIL 19, 2020

ORANGETOWN SUFFRAGIST

American women fought for more than seven decades to earn the right to vote. During that time, they organized, lectured, petitioned, lobbied, paraded, picketed and went to jail for daring to support suffrage. The movement questioned the country's commitment to democracy, highlighted persistent racial and class tensions and challenged domestic relationships. It shaped the individuals involved in the struggle, at times demanding enormous sacrifice.

In the early days of the republic, women had few rights. Most married women could not own property, a common requirement for voting; enslaved women, considered property themselves, essentially had no legal rights. Inspired by the growing abolition movement, women began advocating for their own rights by the mid-nineteenth century. The 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York was the first of many gatherings dedicated to advancing women's equality. Following the upheaval of the Civil War, the expansion of civil rights for African Americans during Reconstruction ignited a renewed effort for universal suffrage, though disagreements over strategy divided the movement.

In the twentieth century, the next generation of suffrage leaders introduced new tactics. Adopting strategies used by the British suffrage movement, activists held open-air meetings and parades. Beginning in 1917, and throughout World War I, the National Woman's Party staged a sustained daily protest at the White House, decrying the hypocrisy of America's defense of democracy abroad while women were denied the vote at home. Some picketers were arrested and imprisoned, bringing visibility to the movement and forcing the suffrage question onto the front pages of newspapers and magazines. The combination of civil disobedience and political lobbying eventually produced results, leading to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. Few of the women who began the suffrage campaign before the Civil War lived to witness the victory.

With this exhibit, **Orangetown Suffragist** honors the women of Orangetown that were engaged in this national movement and the legacy they have left us. The fight upended traditional notions of gender roles and forced a reconsideration of the duties and privileges of citizenship.

By recognizing our inner *Orangetown Suffragist* we continue to promote the advancement of women and girls in our community.



Welcome Back Emily!



In the summer of 2018 we were impressed with our intern, Emily Hingle and now we are pleased to welcome her back as Curator of Collections. Emily comes to us with a BA in Anthropology and minor in Classical Archaeology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. While an undergrad she participated in a semester long program learning gallery and exhibition curation in Florence, Italy and, while she was interning with us, also assisted as a cataloger at the Edward Hopper House in Nyack. This past summer Emily was a Registrar at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem, Israel. Her skill set and enthusiasm have been put to the test during this busy fall as we have been accepting record donations, including the *Bob Knight Collection*, and hosting several lively events. Please stop by to meet her!

THE GIFT OF HISTORY

~continued from page 1

Lastly, the museum received an album of photographs of the Verbryk family, donated by Firth Haring Fabend (2019.09.01). With over thirty pages of photographs spanning decades and fifty family members identified, we have made amazing progress with researching the history behind several individuals. All of our genealogical research is provided by our in-house genealogist, Sue Schwinn, who has been a fantastic help with researching the genealogies behind several of the familial donations we have received.

Without the thoughtful donations we receive, we would not be able to share the knowledge that we have. Because of the Orangetown community, we keep history alive. Whether you still reside here or not, your history matters to our museum.

All of the documents mentioned in this article are available for the public to research. Our archives are accessible via appointment Monday through Friday. Please email Emily at curatorcollections.ohma@gmail.com or call the museum for more information.



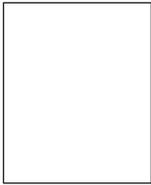
Summer 1949 at Shanks Village, Judith (Schwartz) Karp and friends. Photo courtesy of Judith Karp

SHANKS for the Memory

As our 'Shanks Legacy' exhibit draws to a close, there were a lot of new memories made. With record attendance, the exhibit touched all generations. Middle school students from the South Orangetown school system wrote reports, our intern from Dominican College created a video, our town historian spoke at several venues. Numerous veterans visited and enhanced our exhibit while embellishing our display with first person accounts. Sons, daughters, husbands, wives, historians and neighbors stopped by to recall, recount and learn. On October 27th at our 'Children of Shanks Village' program, co-sponsored with the Orangeburg Library, a full house braved a torrential rainstorm. The outpouring of recollections beat what nature was delivering to us. The museum's thanks go out to all of our friends that made this year of Shanks such a success. We hope to see you all at our **Holiday Open House - A Shanks Legacy Holiday** featuring songs, décor and cheer of the 1950's at the historic Salyer House on Sunday, December 15th.



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

OPENING APRIL 19, 2020
ORANGETOWN
SUFFRAGIST

Open Tuesdays
 and Fridays 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

UPCOMING :



ORANGETOWN SUFFRAGIST The fight of American women to get the right to vote was fought on many fronts – including our own, here in Orangetown. Learn about this fascinating movement within the context of how women lived and were perceived at the time as we celebrate 100 years of women’s suffrage. At the DePew House. Exhibit opens on April 19th and will run through November. Admission free; donations graciously accepted.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE It’s a SHANKS LEGACY holiday as the historic Salyer House is dolled up in its best 1950’s finery remembering how Shanks Villagers would have celebrated. Bubble lights on a beautiful tree and holiday music made famous by Bing Crosby and Judy Garland (performed live by *Francine & Joel*) will take us back . Our program starts at 2 pm at the Historic Salyer House, 213 Blue Hill Rd., Pearl River, NY Admission is free; donations accepted.

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

Christopher Day, 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