

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

FALL 2011



Antique & Collectible Sale

Join us! On Saturday, October 1st from 10 am – 4 pm, *The Friends of the Orangetown Museum* present an opportunity to pick up some treasures at our fall sale on the beautiful grounds of the DePew House at 196 Chief Bill Harris Way (formerly Blaisdell Road), Orangeburg, NY. The museum's exhibit – *Orangetown – Edward Hopper's Backyard* will be open, free of charge. We look forward to sharing a beautiful autumn day with you.



The Sparkill Creek Comes to Town Hall

The long anticipated traveling exhibit – *Down to the Hudson: the Sparkill Creek* is coming to Town Hall. This fall Town Supervisor Paul Whalen will officially open the display – a historical overview of this important waterway that has played a crucial role in the development of Orangetown. On view in the entrance foyer of Town Hall at 26 Orangeburg Road, Orangeburg, NY for six weeks, the exhibit is a part of the museum's outreach program and is scheduled to travel to several venues after its premier at Town Hall.



Holiday Open House

Four Fabulous Sundays – November 27th, December 4th, 11th & 18th at the historic Salyer House, 213 Blue Hill Road, Pearl River, NY from 1-4 pm. Travel back in time with us for a traditional holiday celebration – enjoy a cup of mulled cider, some ginger cookies and an extra helping of nostalgia. Admission is free: donations gratefully accepted. Special musical presentations of the season are planned; please check with the museum for details.

With a Little Help from our Friends

The Orangetown Museum is able to fulfill its mission of service to the historical integrity of the community only through the help and support of volunteers. Here we share with you some recent photos. Our sincere thanks to all! *EKS*



1: DePew House 2: Summer campers tour our grounds 3: Joe Barbieri, Allen Reiter (Camp Shanks Collection), Marie Koestler & Aruna Shah in the library 4: Volunteers & Staff on a busy Wednesday. Aruna Shah (Records), Elizabeth Skrabonja (Curator), Giuliano Premus (Buildings Manager), Henry Rennie (Library & Transcriptions), Sandi Miller (Development), Joe Barbieri (Research), Marie Koestler (Photo Archive), Mary Cardenas (Director), Jami Zahemski (Intern), Ernie Robbins (Installation Consultant) 5: Jeffrey Keahon studying the Hopper comparison panel 6: Rear façade of the Salyer House before the Holiday Open House 7: Board of the Friends of the Orangetown Museum: Marie Manning, Robert Simon, Rosemarie Fornario, Kimball Parker, Robert Knight, Joseph Barbieri, Luise Weischowsky, Catherine Dodge, Jeffrey Keahon, Ellen McCarty (not pictured) Anne

Pinzow, Laura Davie & Joe Leiper 8: Curator Elizabeth Skrabonja with the Griffiths Quilt 9: Orangetown Supervisor Paul Whalen awarding Eagle Scout Dan Mart a citation for his work at The DePew House 10: Intern Jami Zahemski (Sally Dewey Collection) with Jack Geist (Local History) in the library 11: Ernie Robbins assists Giuliano Premus with a display unit for the Hopper exhibit 12: Joe Barbieri at the Antique Sale 13: Bob Knight describing his postcard collection on view at the DePew House 14: Director Mary Cardenas at the Hopper exhibit's opening reception 15: Paul Clark (Arcadia book project) sifting through photos 16: The Salyer House (Not pictured, Jackie Chesman & Eileen Lyman, (Newspaper Archive) & Sunday Docents, Frances & Ralph Blauvelt, Gladys & Joe Coates, Joan Lediger & Felice Morris).



MAJOR

John André

John André was born on May 2, 1750 of Swiss and French Huguenot parents, Anthony André and Marie Foissin Girardot. He was the oldest of five children: Mary Hannah, Anne Marguerite, Luisa Catherine and William. It is thought that John attended St. Paul's school in London, but as a young teenager, he was sent to the Academy (later the University of Geneva) in Switzerland where he studied math, military drawing, flute and ballroom dancing lessons. At seventeen, John's father called him back to London where John became a member of the family business-importing. However, John was not content. He yearned for the days he spent in Geneva. In the spring of 1769, Anthony died leaving L25,000 to be divided amongst the five children. It was then that John, his mother and two older sisters vacationed in Buxton, a health spa, noted for "it's curable waters." Here he met and fell in love with Honora Sneyd. She was the foster child of Reverend Thomas Seward of the Lichfield Cathedral. Her foster family disapproved of the match and John could not win her hand in marriage. Eventually her interest in him had waned. John abandoned any hope of attaining Honora's affections and in early 1771 he purchased a second lieutenancy in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, or 23rd Foot (regiment), rejecting the family business.

André was not long with the Fusiliers. In the fall of 1771, he purchased a first lieutenancy in the 7th Foot, which afforded him higher pay and ample opportunity to move upward in the ranks. Early in 1772, he was picked for advanced training at the Georgia Augusta, a military program affiliated with the University of Gottingen, Germany. Later that fall, André was ordered to rejoin his regiment, which had been assigned to Quebec City, Canada. André headed for Canada by way of the colonies, landing in Philadelphia at a time when the first Continental Congress had arrived. He stayed in Philadelphia for a brief period before leaving for Boston. He noted that the colonies were inhospitable towards the British occupation. André was assigned to a fort at Chambly, St. Johns, Canada, which was later captured in November, 1775, by General Richard Montgomery of the Continental Army. All those captured were sent to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, including André. In December of 1776, he was part of a prisoner exchange. André headed to New York and where he spent the winter. While in New York, he served as an aide to General William Howe who promised him a staff appointment as soon as one became vacant. On June 5, 1777, Major General Charles Grey sailed into New York and Howe "begged to recommend to him a young officer of great abilities, whom for some time he had wished to provide for." André became Grey's aide-de-camp. Major General Grey was better

Major John Andre was hanged as a spy in Tappan at noon on October 2, 1780. The museum's permanent exhibit at the Salyer House 'A Spy in our Midst - Major John Andre' explores this fascinating story and can be seen during our Holiday Open House.

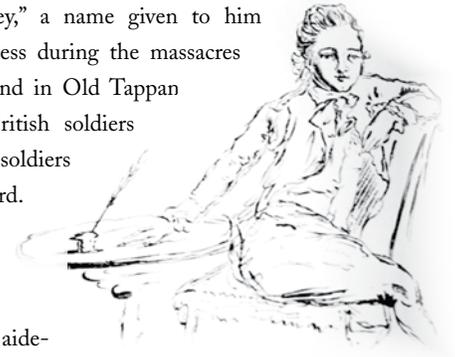
known as "no-flint Grey," a name given to him because of his ruthlessness during the massacres of Paoli, Pennsylvania and in Old Tappan New Jersey whereby British soldiers killed Continental soldiers using a bayonet or sword.

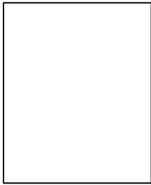
André was witness to these events. Grey was relieved of his command and André was named aide-de-camp to Sir Henry Clinton.

André, who was given the rank of captain in 1778, was named adjutant general under Sir Henry Clinton's command who later appointed him major.

In April of 1779, Clinton assigned André to military intelligence. Through some intermediaries, André was apprised of Arnold's offer of defection for a price. Through a series of letters, in code, Arnold was supposed to meet with André and Colonel Beverly Robinson at Dobbs Ferry on September 11, 1780. However, Arnold could not rendezvous because he was deterred by gun-fire from a British gunboat. After this failed mission, another meeting was arranged.

The British sloop of war, the Vulture, sailed up the Hudson River bringing André who was met by Joshua Hett Smith and rowed ashore to Long Clove Road in Haverstraw. There, André met with Arnold and agreed to a price for information concerning West Point and nearby garrisons. André made Arnold an offer of money and the promise to make him a brigadier general in the British Army. André and Arnold went to an upstairs room of a house and here Arnold gave André vital information concerning West Point and other fortifications. While Arnold and André were discussing the plans, the local militia under the command of Col. James Livingston, fired cannonade at the Vulture causing the ship to retreat downstream abandoning André. Arnold needed to get André back to British lines. He devised a plan where Smith and André would cross the Hudson to Westchester, and Smith would guide André south, back to British held territory. However, Arnold convinced André to change his British regimentals and carry the secret papers in his boots. Smith guided André as far as Pine Bridge where André proceeded south and was intercepted by three skinners near Tarrytown. He was eventually brought to Tappan, where he went before a board of inquiry and was found guilty of spying and sentenced to hang on October 2, 1780.





196 Chief Bill Harris Way (formerly Blaisdell Road)
Orangeburg, New York 10962

Tel. (845) 398-1302
www.orangetownmuseum.com

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

Orangetown – Edward Hopper’s Backyard.

Inspired by the Year of Hopper Initiative,
this exhibit is designed to emphasize Hopper’s
earliest years and influences through comparative
photographs and period artifacts.

Tuesdays 10-20; Sunday 1-4
or by Appointment

Exhibit closes December 9, 2011

☛ 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

Holiday Open House – Four Fabulous Sundays!

THIS FALL AND WINTER:



Holiday Open House: Four Fabulous Sundays – November 27th, December 4th, 11th, & 18th.

At the Historic Salyer House, 213 Blue Hill Road, Pearl River, New York, from 1 – 4 pm.

Save the dates to join us for a glass of mulled cider at our annual holiday celebration.

Caroling, beautiful decorations and a nostalgic welcome await you.



Antiques & Collectibles Sale: Saturday, October 1st, 10 am – 4 pm, Rain Date, Sunday, October 2nd

Presented by *The Friends of the Orangetown Museum*

Antiques • Fine Collectibles • Jewelry • Glass • Toys • Decorative Arts • Fine Arts • Furniture

At the **DePew House**, 196 Chief Bill Harris Way (formerly Blaisdell Road), Orangeburg, New York



Orangetown – Edward Hopper’s Backyard: Now open at the DePew House, 196 Chief Bill Harris Way (formerly Blaisdell Road), Orangeburg, New York. A historic snapshot of the surrounding area formative to Edward Hopper’s early years, featuring objects, photographs and personalities of the late Victorian era in Orangetown. This multimedia presentation focuses on Hopper’s early influences and how they informed his mature work. Open through December 9th, 2011.

THE ORANGETOWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Mary Cardenas, MUSEUM DIRECTOR • Elizabeth Skrabonja, MUSEUM CURATOR

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

Paul Whalen, SUPERVISOR • Nancy Low-Hogan, COUNCILWOMAN
Thomas Diviny, Michael Maturo and Dennis Troy, 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