

The

Orangetown Crier

News from the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives

WINTER 2010



Preserving the Past with 21st Century Spirit

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Orangetown Museum and welcome to the second edition of the *Orangetown Crier*. With all the great things going on at the DePew and Salyer Houses — preparing exhibits, projects and events for the coming year, conducting research, archiving historical documents, photos and artifacts and more — I'd like to draw some well-deserved attention to a group of people that make your town's museum "tick."

This special team of people consists of two groups: The Friends of the Orangetown Museum who govern and support our many programs and day-to-day operations, and the community volunteers who donate countless hours of their time to help keep the museum and archives going, and growing.

The Friends of the Orangetown Museum serve as our "board of directors,"

and, as our principal fund-raising body, also have made possible the purchase of equipment, software and supplies we need to preserve the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th centuries of Orangetown history with 21st-century efficiency. Most recently, the Friends enabled the purchase of "Past Perfect," an invaluable — and aptly named — software program designed to more easily categorize, organize and locate the thousands of photos, objects and documents we store, acquire and add to our archives every year.

We are especially grateful to Catherine Dodge, the Friends' chairwoman, who spearheaded the addition of this essential technology. At the same time, we thank Luise Weischowsky, vice-chairwoman, Rosemarie Fornario, secretary, Robert Simon, treasurer, Kimball Parker, fundraiser,

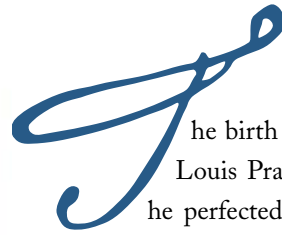
<Friends of the Orangetown Museum Board
(top left): Marie Manning, Robert Simon, Rosemarie Fornario, Kimball Parker, Robert Knight
(bottom left) Joseph Barbieri, Luise Weischowsky, Catherine Dodge, Jeffrey Keahon, Ellen McCarty
(not pictured) Anne Pinzow, Laura Davie, Joe Leiper

Laura Davie, membership and website coordinator, Jeffrey Keahon, community outreach, Robert Knight, historian, Joe Leiper, historian emeritus, Marie Manning and Ellen McCarty, special events, and Anne Pinzow, public relations, for all their support.

The museum is also fortunate to have an accomplished staff of volunteers who assist in our everyday operations, and serve as researchers, docents and participants in our exhibits and events. For all of their hard work and dedication, we thank Joe Barbieri, Ralph and Frances Blauvelt, Jackie Chesman, Paul Clark, Joe and Gladys Coates, Phil DeLorenzo, Christine Fortune, Marie Koestler, Joan Lediger, Eileen Lyman, Ellen McCarty, Sandi Miller, Felice Morris, Henry Rennie, Allen Reiter, Erwin Robbins, Aruna Shah and Jo Winograd for their time and talents. Elizabeth Skrabonja, Museum Curator, and Giuliano Premus, Buildings Manager, complete our staff.

Thank you all for your energy, enthusiasm and support in keeping Orangetown so rich in history... and spirit.

Mary R. Cardenas
*Museum Director and
Orangetown Historian*



The birth of the American greeting card can be traced to 1860 when Louis Prang, (1824-1909) emigrated from Breslau to Boston. There he perfected a method of color printing using a series of metal plates rather than lithographic stone. The result was a richly hued image that far surpassed the hand tinted black & white engravings and lithographs that had been produced. Prang's firm made both expensive cards of true artistry as well as more inexpensive ones for the broader market. All were attractive. His card line also expanded its range of holiday season images to include decorated trees, versatile portraiture of Santa, children playing with toys, carolers, snow scenes and themes that have become traditional. By 1881 Prang was producing more than five million Christmas cards each year. By 1890 imports from Germany became a fad with components that folded, jumped up or were covered with glitter. Refusing to lower his standard, Prang decided that he would continue only with his high-quality printing, leaving the Christmas card market forever.

GREETINGS

The postcards featured are from the Orangetown Museum's DeHos Christie Collection, both sent to Miss Mildred Bader in 1912 and addressed simply with her name and, "Pearl River, Rockland Co., N.Y." A one cent stamp was all it took to mail a postcard from Brooklyn to Pearl River. On the reverse of the top card was the greeting, "Dear Mildred, I hope Santa will treat you good and bring you lots of pretty things. Much love, Katie." The cards reflect a sophisticated combination of pictorial elements, including a stylish Gibson Girl, a good luck horseshoe and Craftsmen style typography. They are slightly embossed, giving the images an added element of depth. At the time these cards were sent, Christmas in Orangetown was celebrated with a rich combination of traditions, festive meals and sentiment.



To see what it was like, the Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives invites you to attend our annual Holiday Open House at the historic Salyer House at 213 Blue Hill Road in Pearl River, New York. Dressed up with decorative greens the museum invites you to enjoy a cup of mulled cider, some ginger cookies and local history. A Victorian Christmas tree, period decorations and charming entertainment – **a special presentation on December 5th from 2 – 3 pm of the St. Thomas Aquinas Choir singing holiday songs and on November 28th and December 12th, Alice Ryan leading us in Holiday song** – all sure to delight! What better way to celebrate the season with your family than with a visit to our collective past? The Museum's permanent exhibits – **A SPY IN OUR MIDST: MAJ. JOHN ANDRE, AT HOME IN ORANGETOWN** and **OUR DUTCH SANDSTONE HOUSES** will be on view, presented with a holiday flair. Open to the public on these four Sundays: **November 28th, December 5th, 12th & 19th from 1 – 4 pm at the Salyer House.** It is the Museum's holiday greeting to you. *EKS*

The Other ELEAZAR LORD

by Joseph Barbieri

Many Orangetown residents know Eleazar Lord for different reasons. Railroad enthusiasts will inform you that he was the first president of the Erie Railroad, and that he gave the name “Piermont” to the area formerly known as the Tappan Sloat, after the pier constructed at the Erie’s terminus there. Others will say that he lived in a “castle” overlooking the Hudson, and some might recall that he founded the Rockland Cemetery. But did you know that he was originally from Connecticut, was president of an insurance company, was fascinated by commerce and currencies, or that he held several honorary degrees? Here are some facts you may not have know about Eleazar Lord.

He was born September 9, 1788, in Franklin, Connecticut. He attended a local school until 1804, when he spent three years working as a clerk for a merchant in Norwich. It was here, as reported in the 1884 *History of Rockland County, New York* edited by David Cole, that “a revival of religion took place, and [Eleazar] received deep and lasting impressions.” In 1810, Lord began his education at the Theological Seminary in Andover, Massachusetts. Licensed to preach on September 15, 1812, the young Eleazar Lord also became a published author with “A History of the Principal Protestant Missions to the Heathen” in 1813. Lord would go on to become a founding member of both the New York Sunday School Union Society and the Young Men’s Missionary Society in 1816. He continued to write throughout his life, composing articles for such publications as the *Christian Spectator* and the *Presbyterian Theological Review* into the 1860s.

While still young, however, Lord’s eyesight began to severely weaken. Perhaps concerned he may be more limited in the future, he decided to turn to more temporal affairs. Lord chartered the Manhattan Fire Insurance Company in 1821, and served as its president until 1833. In 1824 Lord responded to a request from the State of Ohio to help secure a loan from John J. Astor to build a canal connecting Lake Erie to the Ohio River. He also published several pieces concerning commerce, notably *Credit, Currency and Banking* (an 1829 piece in which he provided suggestions to New York State’s then floundering banking system; the state did eventually adopt many of his recommendations), and several letters to the *National Intelligencer* and the *Evening Post* arguing for a national bank bill. Recognizing his scholarly contributions – both theological and secular – Lord was awarded honorary degrees from Williams College, Dartmouth University and the University of New York.

Lord was married twice: first in 1824 to Elizabeth Pierson of Ramapo, who died in 1833, then to Ruth Thomson, from East Windsor, Connecticut, in 1835. Eleazar Lord died in 1871 having greatly influenced Orangetown’s and the country’s history.

To learn more about Eleazar Lord and the Erie Railroad please contact the Orangetown Historical Museum and Archives.



Eleazar Lord as seen in
*History of Rockland County,
New York* ed. David Cole



196 Blaisdell Road
Orangeburg, New York 10962

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www.orangetownmuseum.com

☛ at The DePew House
196 Blaisdell Road, Orangeburg, New York
Office, Archives by Appointment
(845) 398-1302
Museum Closed: We are installing
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. Opening May 14th.

OPEN NOW:

☛ 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:
Tuesdays 10 – 2 pm; Sundays 1 – 4 pm
by appt. (845) 398-1302

COMING THIS WINTER AND SPRING:



Holiday Open House: Four Fabulous Sundays – **November 28th, December 5th, 12th & 19th** at the Historic Salyer House, 213 Blue Hill Road, Pearl River, New York, from 1-4 pm. Join us for a Victorian era celebration; enjoy a cup of mulled cider, some ginger cookies and local history. **Special musical presentations** on November 28th, December 5th and December 12th. Permanent exhibit also on view.



Orangetown – Edward Hopper’s Backyard will open at the DePew House, 196 Blaisdell Road, Orangeburg New York on Saturday, **May 14th, 2011**, from 1-4 pm. 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 will focus on Hopper’s early influences and how they informed his mature work. Open through November 13th, 2011.



Antiques & Collectibles Sale: Saturday, May 21st, 10 am – 4 pm, Rain Date, Sunday, May 22nd
Presented by *The Friends of the Orangetown Museum*
Antiques • Fine Collectibles • Jewelry • Glass • Decorative Arts • Fine Arts • Furniture
At the **DePew House** 196 Blaisdell Road, Orangeburg, New York

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.



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