

New Online Exhibit Highlighting the Life of Ruth Lynda Deyo Launches May 5 on HuguenotStreet.org



Permanent Collection.

NEW PALTZ, NY (April 21, 2020) – In two weeks, Historic Huguenot Street will launch a new online exhibit, *“Delicacy, Grace, & A Degree of Virtuosity” Ruth Lynda Deyo (1884-1960)*, starting Tuesday, May 5 at huguenotstreet.org/exhibits. The exhibit highlights the story of this world-renowned concert pianist, her life abroad, and historical impact, based on Ruth’s personal correspondence and other items from the Historic Huguenot Street

Ruth was born in Poughkeepsie to Peter Deyo (1852-1908) and Ida Florence Woolsey Deyo (1855-1896). At the age of nine, she performed her own published works in the Assembly Hall of the Women’s Building at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Ruth moved to Europe at age 18 to study music further. In 1924 she traveled to Cairo, Egypt and met her husband Charles Dalton. They married in 1932 and stayed in Egypt. The rich Egyptian culture inspired her to write, along with Dalton, her grand opera entitled The Diadem of Stars.

The exhibit is the first of a series of online exhibits being developed by the HHS Curatorial Department focused on prominent women in the history of New Paltz. Thanks to a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts in 2020, Historic Huguenot Street celebrates the centennial anniversary of votes for women with women’s rights and history programming that includes lectures, a reading and discussion club, partnerships, a new school program, exhibits, and an immersive-theatre experience.

The online exhibit is part of the museum’s pivot to digital programming while its doors are closed to the public during the health crisis. Joining other institutions across the country and abroad, Historic Huguenot Street has launched a new online programming initiative that includes engaging videos, hands-on activities, special deals from the museum shop available for delivery,

and new ways to participate and explore its exhibitions, archives, and collection. These virtual experiences will be available on the museum's website and shared through its social-media channels using the hashtag #MuseumsFromHome.

Anyone interested in supporting Historic Huguenot Street and its new approach to online programming and digital content can become a member or make a donation on the museum's website, <http://www.huguenotstreet.org/donate>.

Sponsored by the New York State Council on the Arts.



Image information: Ruth Lynda Deyo sitting at piano with husband Charles Dalton. 1933 Christmas card sent by Ruth to New Paltz relatives from Maru Nefer, Maadi, Egypt. Historic Huguenot Street Permanent Collection, gift of Stephen P. Lumb.

About Historic Huguenot Street

A National Historic Landmark District, Historic Huguenot Street is a 501(c)3 non-profit that encompasses 30 buildings across 10 acres comprising the heart of the original 1678 New Paltz settlement, including seven stone houses dating to the early eighteenth century. Historic Huguenot Street was founded in 1894 as the Huguenot Patriotic, Historical, and Monumental Society to preserve the nationally acclaimed collection of stone houses. Since then, Historic Huguenot Street has grown into an innovative museum, chartered as an educational corporation by the University of the State of New York Department of Education that is dedicated to protecting our historic buildings, preserving an important collection of artifacts and manuscripts, and promoting the stories of the Huguenot Street families from the seventeenth century to today.

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