COMING HOME
By David Smith

The Southworth Homestead on North Street was built in 1836 by John Southworth. His descendants occupied it continually until the passing of Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson in April 2011. After the death of John Southworth in 1877, the Homestead is believed to have been occupied successively by:

- Harrison Southworth from 1877 to 1885.
- Ella Ward Southworth 1840 to 1919.
- John H. Southworth sporadically from 1871 to 1952.
- Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson 1918 to 2011, except five years in Virginia.

At her death, Rebecca Simpson very generously bequeathed the Southworth Homestead to the Dryden Town Historical Society. Ownership was transferred on 3 February 2012.

Exploring the Southworth family records reveals the story of their lives, and the times in which they lived. John Howard Southworth made almost daily entries in his diaries from 1923 until his death in 1952.

John H., his wife, Florence Montgomery Southworth, and their daughter, Rebecca Wood Southworth, lived at Newport, Virginia, where they are found in the 1920 federal census. In 1923, they moved home to the Southworth Homestead, a trip of 645 miles, made in five days. His 1923 diary entries begin on April 25.

- Wednesday, April 25, 1923
  "finished loading car about 5 PM paid Gunther $145.00, billed car out + paid freight $111.60, Night at Sewards (Hilton Village, Va)".

- Thursday, April 26,
  "Newport News Va. our car furniture left for Dryden, night at Sewards".

continued on page 2
Coming Home, continued

- Friday, April 27,
  • starting odometer “16840 left Hilton Village Va. 9:45 am Yorktown, 5:30 pm Fredericksburg, Princess Anne Hotel, 16977, 137 miles 4 qts oil 7 gas”

- Saturday 28th
  • “left Fredericksburg 9:30 Am, Washington noon, Joined AAA began to rain, Frederick Md 4 Pm, Francis Scott Keyes Hotel, 17091 = 114 miles”

- Sunday 29 April
  • “left Frederick 9:40 Am, Gettysburg Battlefield 11 to 2, Harrisburg 3 Pm, repairs to car wheels and brakes, Beck absorbed with music + pianist after dinner, 17184 = 93 miles 2 qts oil 5 gas”
  [Note:“Beck” refers to Rebecca Wood Southworth.]

- Monday 30 April
  • “left Harrisburg 9:40 am, 17184, Bethlehem 17280, Windgap Del. Water Gap Stroudsburg 5:30 p, 127323 Pennstroud Hotel, 1 qt oil, gas Scranton, 139 miles”

- Tuesday 1 May
  • “left Stroudsburg 8:40 am, arrived Dryden 4 pm, Stroudsburg 17323, Binghamton 17433, Owego 17455, Dryden 17485”

- Friday 4 May
  • “our Car Furniture arrived”

- Saturday 5 May
  • “unloaded car & got stuff in house Homestead”

His diaries are rich in Dryden history and details of Southworth family life in the early 20th century. Wiring for electric lights was begun almost immediately on their arrival at The Homestead. Deferred maintenance demanded continuing attention. Southworth family life will be the focus of future newsletter stories.

Florence Montgomery Southworth, with daughters of Betsey Southworth Van Pelt

John H Southworth, son of Harrison and Ella Ward Southworth
Note from the President

As of this year’s annual meeting, it will be time for me to step down as President of the DTHS because my term limit has come. It has been a great honor to serve in this capacity for the past two years. Needless to say, the Society has seen great, marvelous changes and it was fun to be at the helm. I want to express my sincere appreciation to the membership and the board for entrusting me with this responsibility and look forward to my continued involvement in the future.

Best Regards,
Betsy R. Cleveland

IN MEMORIAM

Peter Wood Van Sickle
February 4, 1947 - February 13, 2012

Peter Wood VanSickle was the son of Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson's only sister, Genevieve Wood Van Sickle. Peter grew up spending time with his cousins in the Southworth Homestead. In later years he spent much of his time devoted to keeping the Southworth Homestead nicely painted.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS! SHOP THE OP!

June 2nd, 2012 Fundraiser
9am - 3pm
DTHS OPPORTUNITY SALE
Southworth Homestead Barn
14 North Street

This year shop the Op Sale for these featured items:
• good condition washer and dryer
• fine console TV
• Harden living room sofa, and
• an attractive wood bedroom set - bed frame, dresser, night stand,
• dolls and much, much more

The Op Sale is one of DTHS favorite Fundraisers.

Please donate lots of good condition items to help make this year extra successful.

To donate, to volunteer to help, or to schedule pick-ups, call 844-8700 or 898-3461
Lyndon Walker, 54th Ohio Infantry Regiment

Lyndon S. Walker, an ancestor of many current residents of Harford, Virgil and Dryden, set out from Harford to join the 54th Ohio Infantry. He was sent to Camp Dennison, Ohio to train. His letters to his sister, Andoah, in Harford, tell of daily life during the civil war and the battles his regiment took part in.

It is interesting that Lyndon’s 54th Ohio Infantry was one of several Union Civil War Regiments that wore the colorful Zouave Uniform.

George Chevalier, Harford Town Historian, has shared this family history of his great-great-aunt, Andoah Walker and her correspondence with her brother, Lyndon, during the civil war.

The Bicentennial celebration of 1976 produced a great interest in the heritage crafts of spinning, weaving, and rug hooking. Kay Ross had a flock of sheep on Irish Settlement Road and plenty of fleece to spin, but there were no local sources of instruction, materials and equipment. So, in central New York fashion, Kay Ross and Linda Olds were instrumental in founding the Blacksheep Handspinners Guild, and started their new shop in 1978.

The shop offered instruction and materials- no need to travel to other areas. Linda's father contributed the art work and illustrations, and Kay's father learned to weave. Mr Purinton built his own loom, and became the better weaver, says daughter, Kay. Some of his weavings and his shuttles handmade from cherry wood from Irish Settlement Road are also on display. Visit this small exhibit featuring the business and creative skills of two local women.

George Chevalier, Harford Town historian, with family blue and white coverlet, made in 1848 by J Impsom for Andoah Walker of Harford. On display at History House on loan from George Chevalier.
Relying heavily on the Southworth Homestead conditions report by Crawford and Stearn, we are preparing an application for a New York State Environmental Protection Funds grant. Included in the application is repair to brick work, correcting moisture related problems, install or improve all mechanical systems, and substantial repair to the sills and foundation of the east wing. At present the condition of the floor and corner of the east wing is in a weakened condition, but the brick house seems strong. We hope to be successful in our application because DTHS will be able to use the appraised value of the Southworth Homestead as our match for this grant this year only.

Now that spring has arrived at the Southworth Homestead, volunteers will be needed. Volunteers for these areas will be helpful: grounds or maintenance or docent. If you would like to volunteer to help with grounds, maintenance, or be a docent when the building is open to the public for any event, please respond to gpp@frontiernet.net. Please include volunteer area, your name, email address and phone number. Thank you.

Helping to make the Opportunity Sale a huge success this year will a great way to assist the Southworth Homestead. See you there - June 2nd.

LISTINGS OF APPRECIATION

(Contributions received since November, December 2011, January 2012 Newsletter)

February 2012
George Chevalier – Copies of “History of the Town of Harford” for resale
Willard Downey – For the Southworth Homestead
Louise Mose – A Gift Membership
Doris Nitsios – In memory of Seraphim Nitsios
Shirley & George Price – For the Southworth Homestead
Shirley Shackelton – A Computer Peripheral Device
Margaret Solomon – In Memory of Peter VanSickle

March 2012
Brian & Jody Earle – Donation-In-Kind (Boxes of Re-Cycled looseleaf notebooks)
Kathy Johnston – For Dryden Town Historical Society (In general)
Viola Lane – In memory of Peter Wood VanSickle
Bard & Gina Prentiss – In memory of Peter VanSickle
Mary Ellen Rumsey – In memory of Peter VanSickle; and: For the Southworth Homestead
Mr. (or Mrs.-?) Van Bronn – In memory of Peter VanSickle
Robert “Bob” Watros – For the Southworth Homestead

Welcome Southworth Homestead exhibit at the History House
Southworth Family and The Homestead
by David Smith, Southworth Committee

In 1836, John Southworth built the house known as The Homestead at 14 North Street in Dryden. It has been owned by the family ever since, though it is uncertain who was living there at times. The federal census taken in 1850, 1860 and 1870 document his family. His estate was estimated at one million dollars when he died in 1877.

John’s youngest son, William HARRISON Henry Southworth, born in 1840, was Head-of-Household and living at Dryden at the time of the 1880 federal census. His family included wife, Ella Ward Southworth, with their children, John H., Betsey A., and Frederick W. When Harrison died in 1885, his estate did not include The Homestead.

It is not clear who may have lived at The Homestead between Harrison’s death and the 1900 federal census. Ella Ward Southworth, Harrison’s widow, is found in Ithaca in 1888 and 1889 [City Directory], with her three children, John H., Betsey A. and Frederick W. In the 1890 directory, John H. is listed as a student. The 1890 federal census record is yet to be discovered. The 1900 federal census finds John H. living in Ithaca as Head-of-House with his mother, Ella W. Southworth, his first wife, Mary Lyon Southworth, their son Faber, sister Betsey A. and brother, Frederick W. In a 1905 Ithaca Journal column, Ella Southworth is reported to have made renovations to the Homestead, circa 1901-1904. Ella died in 1919. In the 1910 federal census John H. is found at Dryden as Head of House with his son Faber and his mother Ella W. Southworth. He is shown to be married, probably before his divorce from Mary. When the 1920 federal census was taken, John H., his 2nd wife, Florence M. Southworth, and daughter Rebecca, were living at Newport, VA. As his diary records, they moved from Virginia to the Homestead in April 1923. The Homestead was held in the estate of John Southworth from 1877 until 1924, when the Homestead was deeded to John H. and his sister, Betsey Southworth VanPelt. The Homestead passed to Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson when John H. died in 1952.

The federal census of 1930 found John H., Florence, Rebecca and George Monroe living at Dryden.

The recently released 1940 Village of Dryden federal census shows additional family information: Southworth, John H., head of household, age 68; Florence M., his wife, age 57; their daughter, Sarah Rebecca, age 21; Lovegrove, Helen, lodger, age 22, Teacher, Public School; Learn, Barbara, lodger, age 22, Elementary School Teacher. The Homestead is valued at $6,000. John was employed as School Treasurer, Dryden, working 10 hours a week, for 15 weeks in 1939, at salary of $300.
UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 26, 2012
7 pm (doors open at 6:30PM)
Dryden Village Hall
South and George Streets

PROGRAM - "Weather Wise:
Memorable Weather Related Events in
the Town of Dryden"

Presented by Simon St Laurent
Everyone is invited to display photos and to
share weather-related stories.

“Thank You”
The Dryden Town Historical Society would like to
thank the following local businesses for allowing us to
display our event posters on their premises. Your
continued support is sincerely appreciated.

1st National Bank of Dryden
Arnold’s Florist
Back to Basics
Bailey’s Insurance
Book Barn of the Fingerlakes
Bright Day Laundry
Brookton’s Market
CFCU Community Credit Union
Clark’s
Creative Touch
Dandy Mini-Mart
Dryden Agway
Dryden Apartment Company
Dryden Community Café
Dryden Dollar Store
Dryden Queen Diner
Dryden Wine and Spirits
Fingerlakes Physical Therapy
The Harford Exchange
Hollenbeck’s Cider Mill
Kinney Drug
Lehigh Valley Apartments
McDonald’s
Nice N’ Easy
The Orchid Place
Pete’s Tire Service
Phoenix Books
Plantation Inn
Rite Aid
The Second Knob
Shears
Todi’s Pizza
Tompkins Trust Company
Treeforms
Wildflowers

May 24th, 2012
7 pm**
31st Annual meeting of DTHS and program
Dryden Village Hall
South and George Streets

PROGRAM -
"In the Neighborhood: Willowbrook Manor"

This program will focus on the neighborhood around
the Southworth Homestead. Bob Watros, David
Smith and Mark Goldfarb will tell the story from the
early days to the present of the first senior housing
corporation in the town of Dryden.

Bob was one of the founders of Willowbrook, David
is learning about the land that once belonged to
Southworth Homestead and Mark has been the
manager for decades.

**Doors open at 6:30 with time to enjoy
refreshments and look at scrapbooks that were
prepared for the 30th anniversary of Willowbrook.
Dryden Town Historical Society
36 West Main Street
PO Box 69
Dryden, NY 13053
Phone: 607-844-9209
E-Mail: historyhouse@odyssey.net

HOURS AT THE HISTORY HOUSE
Saturdays
10 am – 2 pm

DON'T FORGET!
31st Annual meeting of DTHS
May 24th, 2012 (Thursday), 7 pm
Dryden Village Hall, South and George Streets
PROGRAM - In the Neighborhood: "Willowbrook Manor"

Board of Trustees
Betsy Cleveland, President
Gina Prentiss, Vice President
Debbie Fisher
Janet Hollenbeck, Secretary
Robert Jacobson
Muriel Likel
Andrew Seyfried
David Smith
Mary Ann Sumner
Robert Watros
Sandra Prugh, Treasurer