

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

October, November,
December
2015
Volume 38 (2015)

Dryden Town Historical Society
14 North Street, Dryden, NY 13053
607-844- 9209



2015 SOUTHWORTH HOUSE GALA

Saturday, December 5

6pm – 8pm

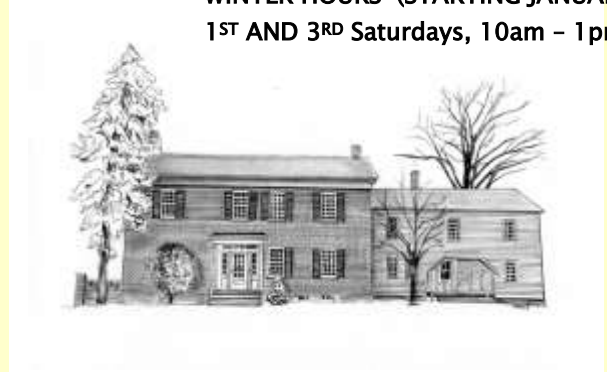
An evening of holiday celebration with fine food, wine, live music, special raffles, and holiday decorations. All in support of the preservation of the Southworth Homestead, 14 North Street, Dryden.

The entire \$60 per person ticket fee will go towards the effort because of generous donors. Invite your friends. Be sure to make your reservation by December 1, by sending your check to the DTHS (write "Gala" in the memo line), PO Box 69, Dryden, NY, 13053.

Or contact **Bob Jacobson, 844-9189, Betsy Cleveland at 844-5334** or drbobjacobson@gmail.com.

WINTER HOURS (STARTING JANUARY 1)

1ST AND 3RD Saturdays, 10am – 1pm



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

HIDDEN SURPRISE ORNAMENTS

Saturday, December 5th

10:30 AM - 1PM

Southworth Homestead, 14 North Street, Dryden

Quick and Easy! Drop in and take just a few minutes to turn strips of decorative paper into an ornament with a "secret".

Free and Open to All Ages



On September 21, Moya Dumville, conservator with WestLake Conservators in Skaneateles, reattached fallen wallpaper pieces.



2015 Raffle to benefit the Southworth Homestead

Drawing will be December 5, 12 NOON

This year there are two items in the Benefit Raffle. Buy a ticket and take a chance on either an antique quilt or a framed copy of a locally famous photograph.

- The colorful pieced and tied quilt is signed : *C J Knettles, 1891*, donated by Gina Prentiss.
- The photograph shows Dryden Lake and many surrounding farms. Ross Sherman took the photo from Carpenter Hill in 1955. It was Hand tinted by Mildred Sherman. This framed copy was donated by Bob Watros.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Each ticket is a chance to win either the quilt or photograph.

THE WILL OF JOHN SOUTHWORTH

David Smith, David Waterman, Harry Weldon and I have undertaken an effort to determine the details of John Southworth's Last Will and Testament. While his handwritten will was but three pages, distribution of his great wealth was a lengthy and complicated process. He owned property in the Northeast and mid- West. He held many mortgages and notes throughout the area in addition to numerous securities. Southworth died in 1877 and left his entire estate to his children, grandchildren and five friends. In 1945, after a process taking nearly seventy years, his estate was finally closed.

Once our work is completed, we plan on creating a detailed accounting, which I think many will find interesting.

Bob Watros

WOW, Another Successful Pie and Bread Sale

Our annual Pie & Bread Sale was very successful again this year thanks to all our wonderful members. Whether you baked, called members, sold at the sale, or made a donation, you are all awesome. We had apple pies, pumpkin pies, pecan pies, lemon meringue pies, blueberry pies, coconut custard pie, cherry pie, cheesecake, cookies, a braided frosted apple bread, garlic yeast breads, brownies, and all kinds of quick breads and more. If you were unable to contribute this year we understand and we will call again next year. We totaled \$727.50 in an hour and 45 minutes. Thank you everyone. And many thanks to the First National Bank of Dryden for allowing DTSH to fill the lobby with baked goods again this year.



Annual Pie and Bread Sale was held on **November 7** at the 1st National Bank. Double tables were full to overflowing with homemade pies, breads, cookies, even a frosted braid and a cheesecake. From left, coordinators, Mary Hornbuckle and Shirley Price, helper, daughter, Missy and pleased member and shopper, Joan Keno.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Special thanks to Peter Zon, Betsy Cleveland, Dryden Fire Department, and all of the many volunteers who served up the first ever DTSH Pancake Breakfast on October 18th!

In to the Woods By Shirley (VanPelt) (Otis) Price

When looking at our beautiful rolling hills, my eyes always stop at Beam Hill between Star Stanton and Hammond Hill. Beam Hill can be accessed either by going up Irish Settlement Road or by going up what we call the “back side” from Route 38. Going up the “back side” from Route 38, Beam Hill Road becomes seasonal in the winter, being it is very steep. Between myself, my brother and sister in law, Wayne and Joan VanPelt and my other brother and sister in law, Roger & Debbie VanPelt, we own 98 acres starting at the top of Beam Hill Road down the “back side” of Beam Hill. These properties have been in our family since the 1920’s when my great-grandfather Elmer VanPelt acquired most of the property. My father, Harold VanPelt, purchased my woodlot and my brother and sister in law’s, Wayne and Joan VanPelt, woodlot from his grandfather, Elmer VanPelt and his neighbor, Archie Carpenter, for \$1.00 to \$2.00 an acre in the 1930’s. My brother and sister in law’s, Roger and Debbie VanPelt, woodlot was called the Beam Lot and was purchased by my father and mother, Harold and Nancy VanPelt in the 1950’s. I remember my father going to Cortland each month to give Mrs. Beam his payment, as I often rode along. My father loved the woods and would spend time just walking and watching the trees grow, removing trees that may have fallen against another and clearing his woods roads. He also harvested fire wood from the woodlots, as I grow up with a Kalamazoo wood cook stove in our kitchen and a wood burning parlor stove in the living room as our only heat sources. My father was a farmer but he looked for any excuse to go to the woods. His other grandfather, Abner Shevalier, was a French-Canadian lumberjack and I believe my father had inherited his genes. When it became difficult for my father and mother to keep up with the taxes, they offered the woodlots for sale to us, their children. They owned approximately 180 acres of woods, 20 acres was on Tehan Road and my other brother, Richard VanPelt, purchased the Tehan Lot from them.

My brother and sister in law, Wayne and Joan VanPelt, built a home on the top of Beam Hill, near the tower, and we get together every fall for an annual chili, soup and lots of other foods and desserts, and a woods walk. My niece, Jackie (Otis) McDonald and her family, Laurie (Stevens) Vidler and her family, myself, Dick and Sandy VanPelt, my daughter, Marcie and her husband Zach, met at my brother and sister in law’s, Wayne and Joan VanPelt, home for the annual get together last Sunday. It was in the 40’s and spitting snow, but we went on our woods walk. Jackie and Laurie are best friends and they both grew up on Beam Hill riding horses through the woods. We first trekked down the hill on my property to the Boy Scout lean-to that my father and the Boy Scouts built in 1946 from chestnut logs. Every spring and fall I make a journey there to brush off the pine needles from the roof. After climbing back up the hill, we started walking along the ridge to Star Stanton to look at Bob Watros’ lean-to and found it to be in good shape. By the time we got back to eat, only Jackie and I wanted to wander some more. Jackie and I walked down the “back side” of Beam Hill Road and went in to the woods on the Beam Lot looking for a large rock that sticks out of the woods. It is about 5’ tall of about 30’ around and we found it. My father always commented that we can only see about a third of it as the rest is buried. I was also looking for an old foundation to a house and barn that was a farm at one time, but I couldn’t for sure tell where it was as the leaves were thick in the woods. We followed the woods roads back up the hill to my brother’s house.

It is always spiritual for me to be in the woods, the quiet, the reminiscing of our father and grandfather, being on the lookout for salamanders, deer and small animals, looking up at the trees that reach for the sun, the winterberries, the princess pine and all the colors in the leaves that have fallen. My dog, Samantha, treks through the woods with us, disappearing then coming back to us every so often to check on us. Usually Linus, my brother’s dog that resides on Beam Hill, goes with us in to the woods, but he is getting older and having problems walking the distance. Linus has grown up in the woods and is known by all the neighbors, cross-country skiers and hikers that pass through. It was sad that we had to leave him behind this year. Within the last few years, fishers have moved into the woods in our area. The fishers were introduced here to take care of the porcupine population by the DEC. It seems to be working as I have never seen a porcupine in the area. I am also noticing the absence of wild turkeys in the woods. This may also be because of the fishers as they climb trees with no problems.

We have also had several sledding parties down the “back side” of Beam Hill Road. It is about a mile down but the people who pick us up drive about 15 miles down Irish Settlement Road then Ferguson Road to Route 38 and then up Beam Hill Road to the seasonal section and then back up to the top of Beam Hill Road the way they came. After a couple of runs we usually are worn out depending on the consistency of the snow. We use plastic sleds, tubes, snowboards and skis down the “back side” of the road. These sledding parties end up at my brother and sister in law’s house on the top of the hill, with the usual chilies, soups and a large kettle of hot chocolate.

Family, friends and good food make these memories as precious as a trip to Disneyland.

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL

Our annual day honoring the heritage of the Town of Dryden was held on Saturday, **September 19**. The Jimmy Decker Band played bluegrass music all day. A class from Cortland State College set up an area of International Children's Games that was enjoyed by both young and old. We had many demonstrations – sheep shearing, quilting, knitting, chair caning, spinning wool on old spinning wheels by the Blacksheep Handspinners and the making of lace by the Finger Lakes Lace Guild. There was an old fashion pie eating contest that was enjoyed by all participating and spectating. The Dryden Community Center Café sold food during the event. Over 100 people were in attendance throughout the day. It was a learning, fun, family event.

THANK YOU TO:

Music	Jimmy Decker SlewFoot Band
Food	Dryden Community Café
Kids Games	Vicki Wilkins, SUNY Cortland professor, Recreation, Parks and Leisure
Pie Eating Contest	Betsy Cleveland

Demonstrations

Sheep shearing	Brian Magee
Blacksheep Handspinners Guild	
R Townley wheel Spinners	Jean Tyler and Wayne Harbert
Flax spinner	Sue Quick
Finger Lakes Lace Guild	
Chair caning	Carl Taylor and Lois Fox
Quilters	Therapy Thimbles
Homer High Knitastics	Marcie Mann



Marcie Mann from Homer High School Knit Club demonstrates getting started in knitting to an eager youngster.



There were many interesting demonstrations during Heritage Day. DTHS member and hand spinner, Sue Quick is demonstrating spinning flax fibers.



On Heritage Day the Quilt makers were hard at work, sewing, piecing, and stitching.

Dryden Town Historical Society received grant from Ithaca Rotary Club

Many thanks to Ithaca Rotary Club for their award to the DTHS. “On behalf of the Ithaca Rotary Club, I want to thank you for your recent proposal to our community grants program. This year, we received 35 proposals requesting nearly \$30,000, which reflects the great diversity of organizations and needs in our community. We will be funding nine proposals this year, and I am happy to inform you that your organization's proposal was one of those selected by the committee. Your request for \$750.00 for the Southworth House parking lot lighting project will be funded in full”.

Ithaca Rotary Club



Spinning wheels in the background and Cathy Whalen and the Finger Lakes Lace Guild demonstrating lace making at the Heritage Day Festival.

Dryden Town Historical Society Recognized with award from The History Center

The Dryden Town Historical Society was recognized at The History Center in Tompkins County’s Inaugural Annual Awards Ceremony for their team work and dedication to creating the Southworth Homestead as an important historic site that invites the public to connect with history from numerous perspectives. This historic house has become an important destination and an asset to Tompkins County’s heritage that enthralls both county residents and tourists.

The awards ceremony was on October 10 at the History Center. DTHS appreciates the honor of being recognized with the 2015 Team Award from The History Center.



From left, Bob Baxter, DTHS member and program sponsor, Shirley Price, Gina Prentiss, John Kiefer, DTHS, other award recipients.

From left, Rod Howe, THC director, Bob Watros, DTHS president, Corey Earle, THC president





Betsey Van Sickle, tour guide for Becky's Birthday Tour at the Southworth House. This was the last 2015 public tour scheduled. Betsey is holding the gift that everyone attending received. The table is decorated as it was for Becky Wood Southworth's 5th Birthday Party. The photograph on the sideboard is an enlargement of a photograph taken in October 5, 1926.



The Dryden Hobby Club held their October meeting in the Activity Room on the lower level of Southworth House. Members enjoyed a private tour of the Southworth House and each visitor received a free gift in honor of Beck's Birthday.

Call DTHS to learn more about Private tours and Activity Room availability for organizations and families.



Adrian Finney was a happy and very neat winner in the pie eating contest.



During a break in the music and activities on Heritage Day, Pie Eating contestants "using hands only" dig into perfect chocolate cream pies made by Betsy Cleveland.



Second place winner in the pie eating contest was Joshua Prentiss.

Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

Ending: November 2, 2015

FOR MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD PROJECT:

Suzanne Cardwell — For the Project
Beatrice Gnirs-Bush — For the Project
Rotary Club of Ithaca — For parking lot lighting
Randall & Barbara Shew — For the Project
Diantha S. Southworth — For the Project
Bob Timmerman — For the Project (DTH Society Logo Sign on East Wing)
Donald Turk — For the Project
Betsey VanSickle — For renovation of the French wall paper
Bob Watros — 1) For the Project; 2) For the Project

FOR MONETARY MEMORIAL DONATIONS:

Rick J. & Carol S. Boley — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
James Holman & Dorothy Buerk — In memory of Willis Marion
H. Edward Chamberlain — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
James & Vera Graves — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
Stephen & Christian Graves — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
Bradley & Marilyn Larson — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
Kenneth & Catherine Paddock — In memory of Jean Warholic
Bard & Gina Prentiss — In memory of Willis Marion
James & Vera Graves — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
Shirley Price — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
Diantha S. Southworth — In memory of Dr. & Mrs. Chauncey Robert Southworth
Rick J. & Heather Boley — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
Sebastian & Rebecca Tice — In memory of Horace "Ace" Shackelton
Fred A. (Ben) Williams — In memory of Willis Marion

FOR MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE DTH SOCIETY:

Dryden Mutual Insurance Co. (c/o Bob Baxter) — Towards cost of 2015 programs
Mary Hornbuckle — For program (tent rental)
Diana J. Landis — Wherever needed the most
Betty Marion — For program (tent rental)
Shirley Price — For program (tent rental)
Saino Zazzara — To the general fund

FOR "DONATIONS-IN-KIND":

Gina Prentiss — Various non-historical items
Shirley Price — Coffee/Tea mugs for re-sale
Dan & Mary Stone — Amish quilt for fund raising
Bob Timmerman — Road side banner for "Heritage Fest"
Bob Watros — Copies (1,500) of Southworth records at Tompkins County Clerk's Office

Dryden Town Historical
Society

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607-844-9209

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DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

14 NORTH STREET OPEN HOURS

Starting January 2015

1st and 3rd Saturdays

10 AM – 1 PM

or by appointment

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, as an attachment in an email, instead of the print version that arrives in the mail?

If so, please send us an email with “Prefer Newsletter Electronically” in the subject line to drydennyhistory@gmail.com.

Dryden Town Historical Society

14 North Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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