

# DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

April, May, June  
Volume 40 (2017)

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

## HOURS

Saturdays, 10am - 1pm

## 8th Annual That Old House Tour: Dryden

Saturday, June 17, 2017 | 12 - 4:00pm

Tour the Southworth Homestead, Dryden Hotel, Southworth Library, Candelight Inn, and other historic homes in Dryden. Tickets available from Historic Ithaca.

Get an exclusive look inside beautiful homes & sites with this self-guided walking/driving/biking tour of selected interiors in the historic village of Dryden,

New York!

Register at:

<http://www.historicithaca.org/house-tour-dryden/>

**\$15** general admission

**\$12** for Friends of Historic Ithaca, seniors, and students

**\$10** per person for groups of 4 or more

**Free** for children under 12

**Check In and Day-of Ticket Sales:**

11:30am - 2pm

at the Southworth Homestead / Dryden Town  
Historical Society

14 North Street, Dryden, NY 13053



## Celebrating Rural Heritage: Verne Morton's Photographs

June 17 at 10:00 a.m. at Dryden Mutual Insurance Company

As a prelude to Historic Ithaca's Old House Tour, Dryden Mutual Insurance Company, 12 Ellis Drive, Dryden, N.Y., will open at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 17. Bob Baxter, former CEO, will give a guided tour of the 150 exquisite Verne Morton photographs that line the hallways. For nearly 50 years local photographer Verne Morton (1868-1945) devoted himself to photographing Tompkins County rural and village life. Rod Howe, Executive Director, The History Center in Tompkins County, will provide a brief talk at 11:00 on Verne Morton and what his photographs convey of rural life in the first few decades of the twentieth century. This information will also be posted to [www.thehistorycenter.net](http://www.thehistorycenter.net).

There is no cost but RSVPs are encouraged by e-mailing [community@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:community@thehistorycenter.net).

## OP SALE RESULTS

The 2017 OP Sale was held on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> under an eye-catching green and yellow striped tent on the grounds of the Southworth Homestead. We may not have had as much merchandise this year but what we had was of good quality and ready to sell. The selling staff comprised of Shirley Price, Mary Hornbuckle, and Sue Morrie were joined by Bob Jacobson who kept us laughing through two wet and, sometimes, dreary days. We'd like to thank the DTSH members who gave their time to set-up on the 25<sup>th</sup> and clean-up on the 27<sup>th</sup>: Barb and Ken Carnes, Brian Earle, Jan Hollenbeck, Joan Keno, Sam Morrie, Mary Ann Sumner, and Bob Watros. We'd also like to thank the members, family, and friends who cleaned out their closets, cupboards, and garages and provided us with items to sell. We are delighted to report that the sale made **\$2,087.35!!**



## EXHIBITS



Please stop in and see the WWI exhibit now on display. Note the three different styles of puttees worn by George B Bailey, Hollister Johnson and Harry Bush. The helmet with the pine tree design belonged to Walter Hunt. The photos, documents and objects in the exhibit are all from the DTSH historical collection thanks to these families: George B Bailey, Harry Bush, Leon DeCamp, Hollister Johnson, George Monroe, Chester Rockwell.

In March of this year, a small Southworth Family jewelry collection was inventoried. There were many interesting items, including this silver bracelet depicting horse and rides, small pencil in silver case, and a folding lorgnettes. A lorgnette is a pair of spectacles mounted on a handle. They were popular in the 19th century.

## Chapter 7 of Bob Watros' Memoir Cars And The Mobil Gas Station

In July of 1955 I bought my first real car. It was a 1950 Studebaker two-door coupe. I paid \$250.00 for it. It was in fair shape, but needed some motor work. Harold made arrangements for Tony (Howard) Bell to overhaul the motor. It then ran like new. Like all young men of the day, I often ran it at top speed, which was 85 miles per hour. One Saturday night, I was cruising around town and found Paul Cook parked near the main intersection. He had his father's Nash, which was about the same horsepower as my car. Hence, I challenged him to a race on the Harford Road. That highway was recently reconstructed, had little traffic and I believed well suited for a racetrack. We were about three miles out of the village, when I was able to pass the Nash. I had just pulled back in the right lane when a red Mercury convertible flew by me. Though Paul and I were unaware, other boys observed our challenge and were following along. Bob Harrison's Mercury was far faster than our vehicles. Harrison had pulled out of sight and I was still running wide open when I entered a big dust cloud. Suddenly, I was able to make out a cow standing in the middle of the road. Unable to avoid it, I hit her broadside. The cow flew into the ditch and I skidded on down the road barely keeping the car upright. Once I was able to stop, Paul pulled alongside and Gary Portzline pulled up in his car. Shortly, Harrison returned to the scene, as he was sure I had hit the cow. He explained that he saw the cow and was able to avoid it by pulling onto the road shoulder. By doing so, he stirred up a big dust cloud thereby obscuring my vision. The car was a total wreck and I was very lucky to be unhurt. Mr. Howser, the farmer, hearing the commotion, soon appeared on the scene. By then, the other boys decided things would be better if they were not around, and had left. The farmer was not happy, but knew he was liable for his cow being on the highway. He proceeded to butcher the animal on the spot to salvage the meat. The State Police soon arrived and completed the accident report. Ed Smith then arrived with his tow truck and transported both my car and me back to town. In the weeks that followed, Mr. Howser's insurance company conducted a full investigation eventually settling the case. I only had the car for six weeks. After the settlement, I went to Syracuse and purchased a 1953 Dodge, the second of many cars I would own in my lifetime.

I spent a lot of time during my youth hanging around the local Mobil gas station at the "Four Corners". I guess I was age 10 or 12 when I was drawn to that place because of my interest in mechanics. At that time, Stewart Williams ran the establishment. He made it known to me he didn't care to have a kid under foot, but never threw me out. Over time I got to be friendly with the three men working there. They were Dorr Yaples, originally from Owego, Hank McGory, living on the North Road and Myron VanPelt living in the village. Dorr and Hank worked in the gas station while Myron worked as a mechanic.

When Woodrow Wood assumed the business, I was accepted as a regular and in fact worked at the station part-time. I usually spent some social time at the station after school. After supper, instead of doing my homework, I would return there for a couple of hours. Each evening, many local people would stop for gas and spend a few moments discussing the local news. However, certain people would gather there every night to pass the news, much as was done at the barbershops. Each night you could expect to see the village cop, Hugh Foster, Louie Fortner, Frank Satterly II and Art Thomas. Hugh would show up in uniform, badge, gun and hat. He would stand around for an hour or so making his presence known to those passing autos. Then he would proceed down one side of Main Street and back the other checking the door of each business. Once that was complete, he would get in his car and go home. Louie Fortner worked at various jobs, but always showed up each night dressed like a gentleman. He liked to gamble, mainly on the horses. If Woody, who also liked to gamble, was there, Louie often gave him a few bucks to place a bet for him at Vernon Downs. Frank Satterly II worked for the NYSDOT and stopped just to pass the time and find out the Dryden news. He was friendly, and we became very good friends. Art Thomas was a bachelor and lived alone down by the bridge on South Street. He was a very quiet man and rarely spoke unless drawn into a conversation. In his later years he developed Alzheimer's disease. His personality changed completely and he became an incessant talker. He had to be taken to the mental institution at Willard where he eventually died.

Woody was a very hard working person. He would open the station at 7 AM and worked on occasions into the evening. He was also somewhat temperamental. When he was in that state of mind, avoidance was the better part of valor. My stepfather, Harold Pulling was hardly a diplomat either. One Monday morning Harold drove in with the telephone truck for gas. Woody was not in a good mood. Harold realized it and refused to ignore Woody's tantrum, and proceeded to provoke a major blowup. Unfortunately, I stopped for gas shortly after, and Woody was still burning. I recognized the situation and said very little.

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However Woody could not contain himself and yelled at me "I would rather meet a grizzly bear than Harold Pulling on a Monday morning". I nodded and left.

Dorr Yapple was an avid sportsman. His father was a respected Game Warden in Owego and Dorr had the same genes. He hunted some, but his passion was fishing. He talked about it much of the time and traveled around the state and even to Canada to fish. Later in life, at the age of ninety, he could be seen fishing on Dryden Lake.

Hank McGory, like all his brothers, was well liked. He had a good sense of humor and enjoyed a good laugh. I remember the time shortly after I was married, he would ask if Joan was pregnant yet and then have a good laugh. Hank had been married for years and had grown children. After a few months though, the word got out that his wife was pregnant again. I let him know that I had the last laugh. Hank also had a milk route and trucked milk in cans enjoyed a good laugh. I remember the time shortly after I was married, he would ask if Joan was pregnant yet and then have a good laugh. Hank had been married for years and had grown children. After a few months though, the word got out that his wife was pregnant again. I let him know that I had the last laugh. Hank also had a milk route and trucked milk in cans from some of the area farmers to the milk plant in Harford. When school was out, I would get up early and meet him at the four corners at about 7 AM to ride around the route.

Myron VanPelt operated the auto repair shop at the Tripp's service station. He was a plumber and pipe fitter by trade but spent several years as a mechanic in his own business. My interest caused me to spend time in his shop observing his work. I informed him I wanted to become an auto mechanic. He attempted to discourage me, stating he thought there were easier ways to make a better living. He did not convince me, but fate intervened.

Habits are hard to break. After I was married, I still found myself going to the gas station regularly. Once I had a house and family, I found other things more important.

## CLEAN UP DAY!



June 3, Dryden Beautification Brigade volunteer puts the finishing touches on the Southworth House urn plantings.



Shirley Price, Fred Likel and Bob Watros work on the Southworth Homestead grounds.



Mary Hornbuckle, volunteer spruce up



Janice Williams spruces up the main stairway.



March 2017 The Dryden Fortnightly Club scheduled an evening tour and refreshments at the Southworth House.



Patti Kiefer, presenter of the program, "Lyman Corbin's Mills" talks with Vladimir Dragan after the program and Annual Meeting.



2017 DTHS Exhibit "Things Change: 1917 - 1918" includes a service flag from the Harry Bush family and stereo views on loan from Brian and Jody Earle.



The Dryden Fair main building model made by Willard Downey in 1997 is in the foreground of the DTHS



June 10, 2017, Dryden Dairy Day - Abe Lincoln rides along with Josh Prentiss in the Dairy Day parade.



Bob Watros, with partner, Joshua Prentiss, drove his 1952 Chevrolet pickup truck as Dryden Historical Society entry in the Dairy Day



June 10, 2017 - John Southworth, Nancy Ellis, Jennie McGraw Fiske take seats in the DTHS parade entry.



3 pm Bob Watros, Muriel Likel and Tom Sinclair take down DTHS table at Montgomery Park

## Research story by Mary Hornbuckle

Miscellaneous Silver Spoons from the Southworth collection:

6 ½" spoon with a "shovel" shaped bowl and an ivory handle. This spoon carries the silver mark of Whiting Manufacturing Company over the word "STERLING" and the number 2888.

Fortunately, Google supplied a wealth of information on this pattern:

"Delightfully ornate American Aesthetic Period sterling silver spoon in the rare "Ivory" pattern, this opulent ornamental server was expertly crafted of sterling silver and solid ivory by The Whiting Manufacturing Company of North Attleboro, Massachusetts, c. 1890. The bowl is comprised of delicate gold vermeil over sterling, embellished with graceful decorative scrolls and openwork. It is complemented by a gorgeous curved handle made of pure ivory. This pattern, #2889 was designed by Charles Osborne and was patented in 1890. Charles Osborne worked for Tiffany & Co. prior to joining Whiting. There were about 27 pieces produced by Whiting in this line, all with fancy bowls, adorned with ornate piercing and repousse decoration. The ivory handles, for which the pattern is named, were frequently carved and often had a brown stain applied to the lower part of the handle."





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Society

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**DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

14 NORTH STREET

HOURS

**Saturdays, 10 AM – 1 PM**

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