

# DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

## AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

January, February,  
March  
Volume 41 (2018)

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

**HOURS - Saturdays, 10am - 1pm**  
and always by appointment 844-9209

### Dryden Town Historical Society Annual Meeting

**Wednesday, May 16, 7PM**  
Dryden Village Hall  
Doors open at 6:30

DTHS will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall. This is our opportunity to summarize the activities we've worked on in the past year. Though we try to be humble, our enthusiasm and pride will surely show. We'll also touch on plans for the coming year and elect Trustees to fill four vacancies on the Board. The twelve Trustees meet monthly to conduct the business of the Society. That business includes plans for maintaining the Southworth Homestead and strengthening the programs and events that help members and other Dryden residents enjoy Dryden's history. Each Trustee chairs one of the committees that drive the work of the Society including the Program Committee, Exhibit Committee, Collection Committee, Finance Committee and more. If you think you might be interested in becoming a Trustee, please contact Mary Ann Sumner ([masumner@gmail.com](mailto:masumner@gmail.com) or 227-5519) or Shirley Price (844-8700 or [Otisprice3@yahoo.com](mailto:Otisprice3@yahoo.com)).



Following the business portion of the meeting, Mary Ann Sumner will talk about long-time resident of Dryden, William Dilger, the subject of the current exhibit at the Southworth Homestead. Bill was a scientist, teacher, artist and more. Some of his Cornell students still have ties to Dryden. Some of you may remember buying a Christmas tree at his Neimi Road farm. You may have been lucky enough to have attended the Happy Way Day Care program during the years Bill volunteered there. Or if you never met Bill, you'll enjoy the story and artwork of this exemplary neighbor.

## 2018 DTHS “OP”-portunity Sale

The **2018 “OP-portunity” Sale** will be held on the grounds of the Southworth Homestead on **Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, and Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

Once again, we are asking our members to look around their homes to see what treasures they can part with; you need the space and we need the merchandise. This would be a good time to cull your collection of antiques and vintage items, or simply recycle your reusable clutter.

This year will be adding a “**Collector’s Corner**” to showcase better quality donations that could potentially bring a higher price. Remember, this is a fund-raising event that will help restore and maintain the Southworth Homestead.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Kitchenware
- china and glassware
- lamps
- small appliances
- holiday decorations
- tools
- toys, dolls, games and puzzles (no missing pieces)
- musical instruments (no pianos, please)
- art (paintings, prints, sculpture)
- furniture (chairs, tables, and such – larger items will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis)
- collectibles
- DVDs and CDs
- items with ties to local history are particularly desirable.

No clothing, large TVs, or mattresses: When in doubt, call **Shirley Price (844-8700)** or **Mary Hornbuckle (898-3461)**. Arrangements can be made for picking up donations or for dropping items off at the Southworth Homestead. Donate what you no longer want or use and then buy someone else’s treasure to take its place. Now mark your calendar and get ready for the Op-portunity of a lifetime!

## DTHS Program

### Tour of Six Mile Creek

**April 26, Thursday, Dryden Village Hall**

Doors Open before 6:30PM for conversation about our community’s history

Presentation at 7pm

From its headwaters in Dryden to its end in the City of Ithaca, Six Mile Creek is one of the most important streams in Tompkins County. Using photos, video, and sound, this presentation will show some of the sites along the creek—some long gone, like the Fountain House in Slaterville, and some still active, like Brookton’s Market in Brooktondale. Old photos will be combined with modern

Presenters:

*Susan C. Larkin*, a retired middle school teacher, has been studying photography at Tompkins Cortland Community College since 2005. She is a member of the State of the Art Gallery in Ithaca.

*Timothy Larkin* is a software engineer and a semi-retired member of the IT staff at Cornell's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He has lived in Caroline since 1969, but never understood where the Brooktondale railway trestle had been until he started working on this web site images to show graphically how much has changed. [info@toursixmilecreek.org](mailto:info@toursixmilecreek.org)



## The Revolutionary Soldier Who Did Not Want Dryden Lot 39 –

By David Waterman

Dryden Lot 39 is a square mile of land with one corner resting on the village four corners intersection. It extends from there, a mile each way North past the churches and the Southworth Homestead, and East toward Virgil. Edward Griswold settled on this lot 39 in about 1802, a year after the Amos Sweet log cabin on the same lot became abandoned. Mr. Griswold was a large presence in early Dryden Village history, credited with a host of generous acts, as detailed in Goodrich's "Centennial History of Dryden" (p.77), in which he is declared "Father of the Village of Dryden." Griswold did not obtain this land from Military Tract balloting, though he fought in the Revolutionary War. He did his part for Connecticut, not New York. The Military Tract balloting, finally accomplished in 1791, gave Dryden Lot 39 to one Bartholomew Vanderburgh, Ens. 2nd NY Regiment, who had really no need for frontier land. For the Village of Dryden, it seems this turn of events was fortunate. Just think how different Dryden village's early history could have been.

Bartholomew Vanderburgh was born in 1753, the second son of a Dutchess County founding family. His father, James Vanderburgh, had built the first substantial house in the Beekman area, in which he ran an Inn. In the revolution, the home was used as a supply depot for the Americans. James commanded the fifth regiment of Beekman County Militia and had 40 men to guard the stores. His Inn became a favorite, secure stopping place for George Washington, who preferred to stop there whenever he traveled through Dutchess County.

The son, Bartholomew, joined the American cause in May of 1778, he being then 21. Complaints were soon lodged to General Clinton that Vanderburgh had previously joined one company as an enlisted man, before joining a different company where he would be an officer. A letter questioned whether he had given back his first signing bonus.

In early summer of 1779, Ens. Vanderburgh was home at his father's Inn, and his father was not, when a French officer helping the Americans, and men under his

command were staying there. Bartholomew somehow insulted the French officer, with some anti-French sentiments. The French officer had Bartholomew clapped in irons in the cellar of his father's house, where he allegedly beat and frightened him, and would not allow any of his family to visit him, until Bartholomew begged for pardon.

When his father found out about the incident, he wrote a letter of complaint to George Washington. Armand was charged with the offences mentioned above, as well as various instances of knocking people's hats off their heads, "being a breach of the 1st. Article 9th. Section of the Articles of War." Then Lieutenant Colonel Armand-Tuffin wrote a lengthy and vitriolic letter to his friend, Alexander Hamilton, to seek help in his defense. In it, he stated that "Mr. Vanderburgh is a contemptuous person, not because his son, who is the person who insulted me, but because he holds the insult of his son as if he had done a very good deed." He goes on, "I am French, they hate us, they like to hang us here in this country", and then he characterized Americans as "a people too young yet to understand the political skill necessary to hide their natural hate." The letter did not succeed in obtaining Hamilton's assistance, and Armand lost his commission.

Bartholomew served in the 5th NY Regiment during the Clinton/Sullivan Campaign, which was tasked with the elimination of Iroquois towns and food supplies in Upstate New York. His widow, in her deposition for a pension, stated that she remembered Bartholomew talking about "going against the Indians", but she could not remember any details. After the war, Bartholomew moved back onto his father's farm. His life after the war was not entirely without incident. In 1788 he was found to be in possession of someone else's horse for which he refused to pay and was sued. At some point he secretly married, against his father's will. They kept the marriage and their baby a secret and did not "officially" marry until much later, 1792. Bartholomew died in 1796 at the age of 43, one year before Amos Sweet came to Dryden, and is buried on his father's farm.

As an officer, Ens. Vanderburgh was entitled to two Military Tract bounty lots. The other lot he drew was Hector lot 73, a beautiful, hilltop spot overlooking Seneca Lake, west of Mecklenburg. He did not want that one either.

## DTHS Mini Exhibit "1918: One Hundred Years Ago"

During 2017 DTHS displayed many objects and photographs from the archives that illustrated Dryden's involvement in WWI, the war that President Woodrow Wilson called, "the war to end all wars." Many town of Dryden men served in the armed forces, were wounded and four gave their lives. Several women served and many were active in volunteer support organizations. Cornell University students and George Junior Republic citizens played a role.

In 1918, fighting ceased when the WWI Armistice went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month on November 11, 1918. The "Great War" officially ended on June 28, 1919 when the Treaty of Versailles was signed.

### Influenza Epidemic

In addition to mourning the deaths and injuries of Dryden soldiers, 1918 saw the community again shaken by death. The Influenza epidemic raged world wide killing an estimated 50 to 100 million. 675,000 died in the United States. Locally the Ithaca Journal started to mention that many residents were ill with influenza on October 5, 1918. From that date on Tompkins County flu was in the news daily. On October 17 there were five deaths in 24 hours, on October 18, five more deaths. The next day, eleven more were dead. The flu killed young adults (20 – 40) in the highest numbers. In Tompkins County in 1918, 140 died from influenza and pneumonia. In Dryden, Fanny Montgomery Wood, was one of the deaths from Flu associated pneumonia, just a month after giving birth to a daughter. From that day forward, baby Rebecca Wood was brought up by her mother's sister, Florence (Mrs. John H. Southworth). Within the year Rebecca was adopted as Rebecca Southworth.



### 163 year old coin at Southworth House

The 1855 Liberty Head Large One Cent coin is a part of American history and a part of Southworth Homestead history. This coin was found inside an interior partition wall on the second floor of the East wing of the Southworth House during preparations for the apartment in 2014.

### LEND A HAND

Historic House guided tours begin on the first Saturday in May.

Would you like to help with sprucing up the Southworth House on Monday, April 16 ?

Would you be willing to be a guide? SH tour guide training, April 16. It's lots of fun. Please let us know. 280-7328



Thanks to Brian and Jody Earle for the loan of these WWI stereo views.



## New DTHS Exhibit at Southworth House "The Artwork of William Dilger"

Bill Dilger and his family were long time residents of Neimi Road in West Dryden. He was a noted ornithologist, professor and painter. DTHS is pleased to show a sampling of his artwork in this current exhibit.

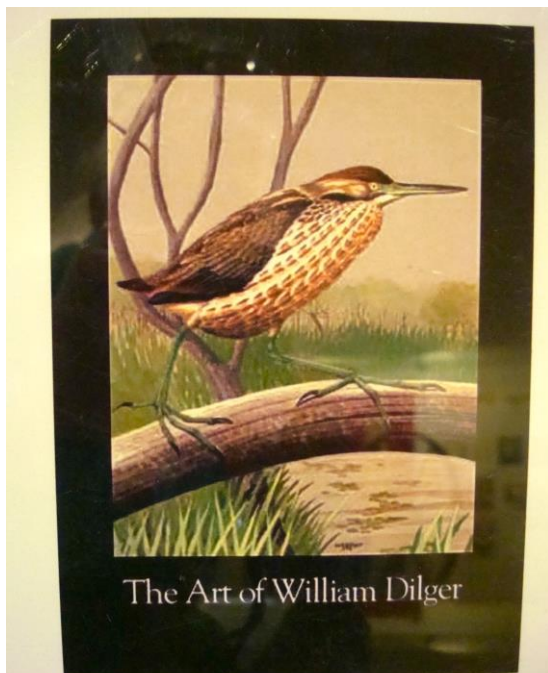


Over the years DTHS has had the good fortune to work with Cornell. The still very useful Architectural Survey of the Village of Dryden was researched and prepared by Cornell graduate students. This year Olivia Heckendorf, a student in Preservation Planning has chosen Southworth Homestead for her project. We enjoy sharing information and look forward to her report.

Olivia Heckendorf, Cornell graduate student, taking exterior photos of the Southworth Homestead on a cold snowy day.



Paintings by William Dilger on display

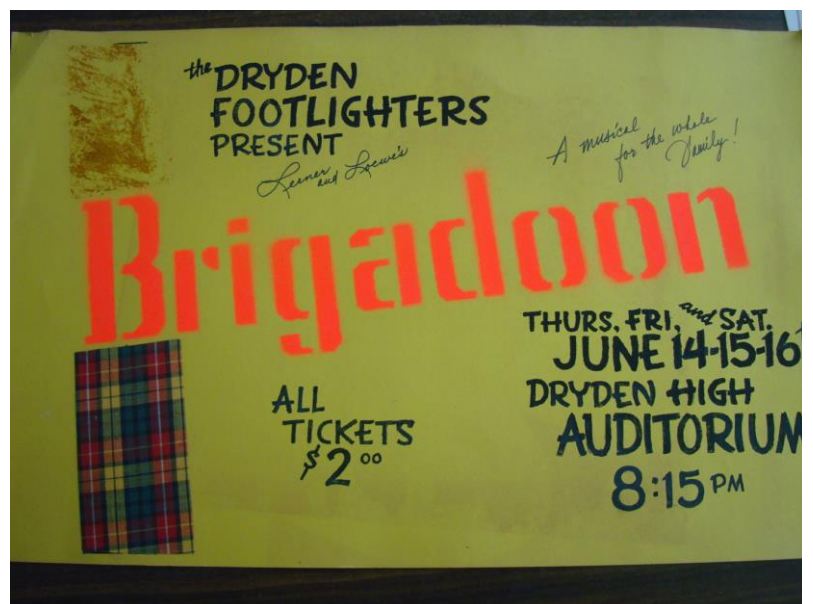
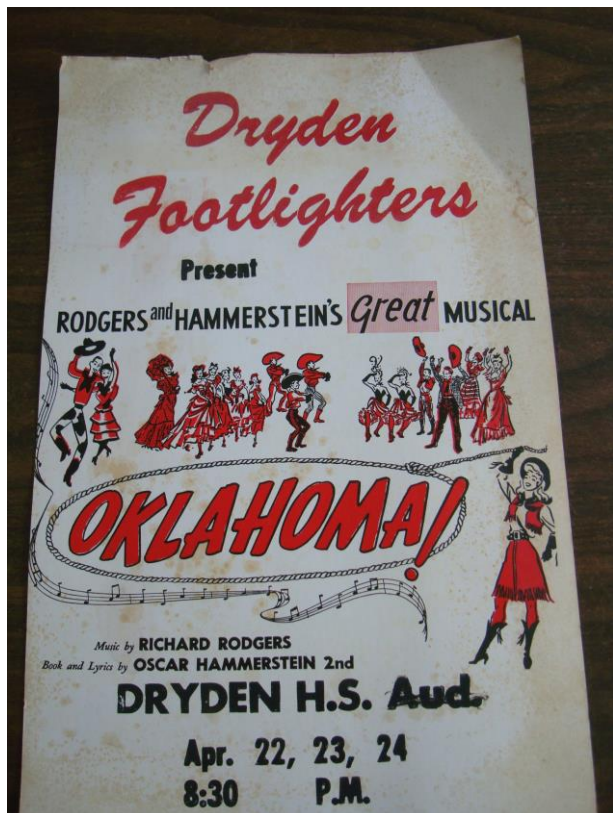


Hand painted eggs, carved wooden loon under glass dome, and sketches by William Dilger in the display case.

**MAIN EXHIBIT COMING THIS SPRING**

**Dryden Footlighters**

Dryden Footlighters, the beloved theatre group, kept good records, prepared wonderful PR and posters and wowed area audiences for almost 30 years. DTHS has an extensive collection of Dryden Footlighters photographs, posters, organizational minutes and records, and videos. If you were in the audience, production team, in the orchestra or part of the cast, you will enjoy this exhibit. For more information, email ginaprentiss@gmail.com







Mary Monroe, was a Dryden poultry woman. She showed her prize winning Minorca chickens at poultry shows throughout the northeast and beyond. She was a Poultry judge at agricultural fairs and a Cornell Farmer's Institute extension agent for over 30 years. Mrs. Monroe was a woman's advocate and lecturer to women's groups about the value of raising chickens as a means toward independence.



Home of Mr and Mrs George Monroe, 95 West Main St, Dryden village, where Mary Monroe raised her Minorca chickens, early 1900s. The Monroe barn was the site of Cornell research in the development of artificial Insemination. Note the gas lamp in right foreground.

### "Authentically Rural" Weekend

DTHS is taking part in "Authentically Rural" weekend planned by The History Center and Historic Ithaca **October 5 - 7, 2018.**

The weekend will feature barn tours and rural traditions. Collaborating with other Tompkins County organizations fulfills a DTHS 2018 goal to expand our presence regionally. DTHS " Homestead Heritage Fair Day" will be one of the Saturday events offered by our partner organizations. Thanks to DTHS receiving a Tompkins County Tourism grant again this year, the day is going to be better than ever. Music, animals, heritage craft demonstrations, kids games, quilts, eats by Dryden Cafe," and more will keep things hopping on Saturday, October 6th from 10 am until 3 pm. See you then. Let us know your suggestions for the day. [ginaprentiss@gmail.com](mailto:ginaprentiss@gmail.com)  
#Homestead Heritage Fair Day



The Ithaca Times article, "Outbreak: Ithaca and the 1918 Flu Epidemic," January 24-30, 2018, had an interesting note.

"Franklin Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, traveled to France to visit the front. On his return trip, the flu struck his ship, the USS Leviathan, and several people died aboard. Roosevelt was stricken, and it developed into a case of double pneumonia.

The wall light (above) is one of eight mounted on the walls of the Southworth Homestead. They are from the USS Leviathan, salvaged by John H Southworth.

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Society

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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](mailto:drydennyhistory@gmail.com).

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