

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

January, February,
March
Volume 40 (2017)

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

Shaker "Great Barns": 1820s – 1880s

A Book Talk with author, **Lauren Stiles**

Tuesday April 25th, 7 p.m.

Dryden Village Hall

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Come early to meet the author and chat. There will be copies of the book, Shaker "Great Barns" for sale.

Free and Open to all.

Historic Ithaca partners with DTHS to present Shaker "Great Barns". Barns have been the subject of many DTHS programs. We've looked at structure, styles, uses, agricultural practices, and farm families. This talk by Lauren Stiles will discuss interesting details about the Shaker "great Barns".

Lauren A. Stiles is an independent scholar who has written on Shaker agriculture, concentrating on the remarkable, four-level dairy barns built by the Shakers from Maine through western New York during the middle years of the 19th century. His book, *Shaker "Great Barns" 1820s-1880s*, includes numerous architectural drawings and photographs illustrating these unique structures. Described with praise in contemporary farm publications these barns became models for advanced modern agriculture. These, however, were not the only interesting barns built by the Shakers. On Route 79 just outside Windsor in Broome County, the Shakers operated a farm complex. One of the barns – known locally as the "1883 Shaker Barn" – was likewise noteworthy. Recent research uncovered an unexpected possible source for its unusual design. The barn and its design will be discussed at the April 25th meeting.

Stiles is a graduate of LeMoyne College with graduate degrees from Columbia and Brown Universities. He is a former librarian, retired after a thirty-year career at SUNY Cortland Memorial Library. Borrow the book at Southworth Library.

WINTER HOURS

1ST AND 3RD Saturdays, 10am – 1pm

Starting April 1, every Saturday



DTHS ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 16

7pm Dryden Village Hall

Program Announcement coming soon!

Shaker "Great Barns" 1820s-1880s:



**Evolution of Shaker Dairy Barn
Design and Its Relation to the
Agricultural Press**

Things are happening at Dryden Town Historical Society!

DTHS received a Tompkins County Community Celebration Tourism Grant for the Homestead Heritage Fair Day to be held on October 7, 2017. It is anticipated that this day-long event will draw hundreds of visitors.

Southworth Homestead is included on the "Dryden Tour" on June 17, 2017. Offered by Historic Ithaca, Inc. the regional preservation organization.

2017 Plans to use the Southworth Homestead as subject and site for a lecture/workshop series are underway. Viewing the current conservation measures of this scenic as well as speakers on the history and process of handmade wallpaper are planned.

DTHS has started to plan a student video project with Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3) classes which will feature the scenic wallpaper as a feature of the Homestead.

This year DTHS received an Archival Needs Assessment grant through Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services for New York (DHPSNY) Planning and Assessment Services.

DTHS received a 2016 Museum Association of NY (MANY) grant to address the process of organizational Strategic Planning. Consultant, Linda Norris, has assisted with the process of clarifying the goals and procedures of the historical society.



Sue Morrie welcomes visitors to the Holiday Workshop. The beautiful wreath was one of four made especially for the Southworth House by Mary Ellen Rumsey.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AT DTHS

We've been busy over the past few years adjusting to our role as stewards of the Southworth Homestead. We're pleased with our progress and it's time to return some of our attention to other projects. Late in 2015 we applied for and received a grant from the Museum Association of New York to support long range planning with consultant Linda Norris. Last summer, in a community survey, we gathered many comments about people's interest in local history. Above all, we heard loud and clear that sharing local history helps people feel connected to the community.

With that in mind, we'll propose an addition to the mission statement in our constitution: *The Society will strive to use local history to strengthen networks that bring the community together.* We want to reach more people than ever this year. We'll be talking with school teachers and administrators to plan opportunities for students to visit the Southworth Homestead and share local stories. In addition to our usual summer events, we'd like to revive walking history tours in the Village of Dryden and add a natural history walk, perhaps at Dryden Lake.

People are interested in preserving and sharing stories of their families or houses or special community events. Our survey and brainstorming gave us plenty of ideas: garden histories, sharing music, maybe a book club. Most important is to maintain a strong base of members. So, we want to do more of the things people enjoy.

Socializing with neighbors while learning a bit of history is a great way to spend an evening. We're planning four programs this year. The first, on **April 25 at 7:00 at the Village Hall, will feature Lauren Stiles talking about 19th century Shaker Great Barns. Our Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2017** and future programs will be announced as plans are finalized.

Life in Dryden in the 40s By Betsey Van Sickle

I moved to Dryden at the age of 3 in 1944 when my father went into the Navy during WWII. My mother was Genevieve Wood Van Sickle, and we moved into the Rockwell House with her father and my grandfather, Walter Wood. He was living there alone since his mother, Georgianna Thomas Wood Rockwell, died in 1939. Georgianna had lived at the Rockwell House since the 1880s when she had married Melvin Rockwell, and had three more sons, Saunders, Chester and George.

But this is about me and Dryden. In the 1940s Dryden was transitioning from a lazy, quiet, farm community into a "bedroom community." People started to move in and build houses on many of the dirt roads surrounding the village: roads I used to ride my bike on in later years.

I can still remember the farmers coming to town with horse-drawn wagons full of whatever to take to the mill where the cemetery place is now. It was a busy mill, ground flour, corn, wheat from dawn to dusk. The train often stopped there or at the train station a few yards down the track where Brecht's Towing is now. The train service used to be passenger as well as freight. I was very interested in trains, and every day I would ride my tricycle down to wave at the engineer as the train rolled by. It was an exciting time. I believe the only passenger service still in existence at the time was the Black Diamond which went to Ithaca and north to Auburn.

One major event in the village was "Old Home Day" which was in July or August and sponsored by the firemen. It is very similar to the Dairy Day we have now, except there was a carnival and beer tent at the end of Lewis Street. The parade went from west to east. I marched in it in 1958 as a drum majorette.

In those days, the village was a very active social place with many organizations and clubs. Almost everyone belonged to one or two and a church. My mother was in two evening bridge clubs. My father was in many clubs. Most women did not work, so they enjoyed their evening clubs. In the past few years, these clubs and organizations have dwindled considerably due to women working, family issues, television, electronic media. It is difficult to get people to come out to a function in the evening now.

Continued on page 5



A miniature holiday scene complete with gifts and lighted Christmas tree charmed holiday workshop guests in the Southworth House dining room



This set of hand decorated dishes from the Southworth Homestead collection has "G.J.R. '41" hand painted on the reverse. Does anyone know the history of these dishes?



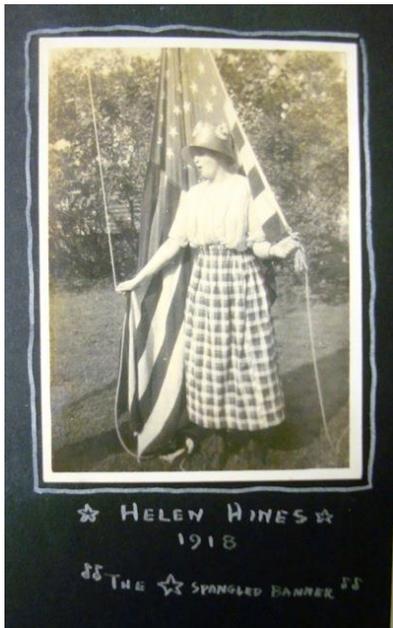
Victoria and her Mom took time to look over the exhibits. They are standing next to the great wheel made in 1858 by Richard Townley. The Carpenter Hill Area signature quilt hangs on the wall.

New Spring DTHS exhibit

"Things Change: 1917 – 1919"

Change was sweeping this country and Dryden, too, felt change. World War I saw local women active in the war effort. Many local men were sent into battle over seas. Women were employed for the first time in the bottling department at Bordens Milk Plant. Milk strikes were threatening at every distribution point. Women received the right to vote in NYS. The influenza epidemic took many lives, but also ushered in new medical advances. The famous Dryden Agricultural Fair held its last fair in 1917.

This exhibit will use information, documents, photographs and objects from DTHS historical collection. For an overview of this time period in Dryden, we turned to the book, Dryden's Second Hundred Years* by Elizabeth Denver Gutchess. * This book can be purchased at DTHS



Photograph of Helen Hines. Helen worked at Bordens Milk Plant during WWI from Ray Rockefeller's photograph Album, DTHS historical collection.

New Mini Exhibit

"History Underfoot in Military Lot 59" on loan from David and Cynthia Waterman

David and Cynthia Waterman live in Military Lot 59 in the town of Dryden at the foot of Beam Hill. This mini exhibit features 8 bottles, an old kitchen drawer and two examples of patent medicine packaging, now framed, but originally found under boards in the walls of their barn. David presented a DTHS program in April 2014 about his discoveries and research. This mini exhibit gives us an opportunity to see the results of history underfoot.



DTHS president, Betsey Van Sickle, draws the winning ticket for the Quilt Raffle. Bonnie holds the jar of tickets.

RAFFLE QUILT GOES TO SOUTH CAROLINA

J Perlmutter, Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, was the winner of the 2016 Quilt Raffle. At 12 noon, on December 5th, DTHS president Betsey VanSickle, drew the winning ticket.

Many, many tickets were sold all over Dryden and at Hollenbeck's cider Mill in Virgil. On several Saturdays Muriel Likel displayed the Quilt Raffle at the Farmers Market at Dryden Agway. On day in June, someone just passing through Dryden stopped. She admired the quilt, the pretty town of Dryden and the great farmers market. She bought a quilt raffle ticket, and she won!

The bold and beautiful Amish quilt was donated to DTHS by Dan and Mary Price Stone. Mary's sister, Bonnie, was on hand to help draw the winning ticket. The quilt raffle made more than \$900. Thanks to the Stones.

Blog: CAYUTAVILLE.QUILT

DTHS member, Pam Shoemaker has a blog about a Tompkins county quilt. There is a name embroidered on every block of this Friendship quilt. Pam has pictured each signature and is researching the name to learn about the people who made up this quilt. She called DTHS and invited everyone to go to her blog. Maybe you have family information to share or maybe you will learn more about your family. Her blog is called CAYUTAVILLE.QUILT. Check it out! Cayutaville Quilt and Other Stories <https://cayutavillequilt.wordpress.com/> Thank you, Pam, for letting us know.

Life in Dryden in the 40s, continued from page 3

People prided themselves on their homes: keeping the lawn mown, planting flowers and shrubs, having pets, painting barns and fences. I have to mention dogs and cats. Dogs were allowed to roam free and were all over the place. Also most people did not neuter their animals. I remember a dog named "Squeak" who belong to the Wood family on Lewis Street. He would always run to our back door for a treat with or without his owner. Often the Woods would call us to ask if Squeak was at my house. We always had cats to keep the mice away. They were not the pets we know and cherish today. These cats were outside most of the time just to come in for food. I had a pet cat my father named Blacktop who was an indoor-outdoor cat. He lived about 20 years.

Children played a lot in their yards. Hide and seek, tag, red rover, etc. No television. I used to climb an apple tree back of our barn and no one could find me. I also had pet turtles; the ones you got in the dime store with painted backs. I had two: Reddy and Bluey. My first life's tragedy occurred with these little guys. A little girl from next door, about 3 at the time, picked up Reddy and bit his head off! I remember screaming at her and rushing in the house and showed my mother. I do not know what mother did with the beheaded creature. I was about 5-6 at the time. I think we buried it in the garden.

Other times we played in the house. I had a special extra room which was made into my "playroom" where all my toys were. I played in that room until I was 11 or 12. I had friends who came, but I was usually alone. I had a small town, a farm, a doll house, and a fort which I combined to make a daily plan for everyone in the town for each day. I also had an electric train that ran through the town. I don't know where the time went but all of a sudden I was 12 and was losing interest in make believe people. I did continue to play the board games with girlfriends. I see many are still here: Monopoly, Finance, Chinese checkers, Scrabble.

Visiting the Southworth House

My Aunt Becky, my mother's sister, lived at Southworth House with her husband George and father, John and step mother, Florence. Aunt Becky is better known as Sarah Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson but to a 4 year old this was not important. She was and always will be, Aunt Becky. Her husband, George and my dad were in the service fighting for our country. My dad was in the Navy at San Diego and George in the Pacific somewhere. George was part of what they called "mop up campaigns." My dad ran the Navy Base newspaper, The Drydock. He always told me I should go to San Diego and I did in Fall 2016. It was a very exciting and beautiful place.

Being a little girl at the Southworth House, I played with the lovely doll house and colored. Beck's two boys had not yet been born. One had, John, who had died after he was born. Mother and Beck and I would go on "shopping expeditions." We would get in an old Ford roadster and go to Cortland or Ithaca. It was an all day affair. I liked it because I always got more toys and clothes. When we returned, we would eat dinner with John and Florence. Florence always asked me a lot of questions. I remember asking her questions but never got a good answer. John talked a lot about the stock market and the war in Europe. It was like a distant storm to me, a horrible storm I did not want to hear about. I was glad that my dad and uncle were in the other war.

The house then was much as it is now. Florence spent most of her time in the kitchen cooking. She did all the work there. She loved to bake bread and wonderful pies and cakes. After my father and uncle returned from the other war, a few months later my cousin George was born and my brother Peter a year later. I was so busy with my coloring books, books, toys, etc. that I never bothered to think how they got here.

I do remember Uncle John talking about President Roosevelt and something called Social Security he had just passed. People from that time forward would have money taken out of their pay and put away until they retired. John was retired, but seemed to think it was a great idea. A lot of people didn't, especially Republicans. I actually thought it was a good idea and I was not a Republican or a Democrat.

I spent many happy days at Southworth House in its ante bellum elegance. I looked at all the paintings, the dishware, books, and was fascinated by all the elaborate pieces there. Uncle John had gone hunting from time to time, and there was a bear rug and a tiger rug up in the back of the house. I was scared of them. This part of my childhood sort of faded away, like a distant dream and I only recall faint glimmers of those lovely days. The whole world changed after the war.

FROM THE SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

March 2017

Dear Valued Supporter,

We are writing you in an effort to keep you updated on how your generous donations are being used for Southworth Homestead Project. We are able to operate in a successful manner because of support from annual membership dues, events, the dedication of an all-volunteer staff, and your valuable contributions.

Progress Update: The steps and landing of the main entrance were replaced sometime over the past 20-30 years but the bricks were never sealed to resist damage from freeze-thaw. Some had broken apart. Damaged bricks were chipped out and local mason, McKinney Masonry, provided and installed matching bricks at no cost. McKinney also provided the appropriate sealant and which we applied. Scott McKinney is a third-generation mason. His grandfather came to the area from NYC to build stone buildings at Cornell. McKinney's prices are reasonable, their references check out, and Scott works with us personally to insure a successful project.

Southworth Project Wish List

- Exterior brick
- New windows
- Entrances
- Shutters
- Chimney repair
- West porch
- South Porch
- North deck.
- Interior plaster
- Eave repair
- Replace roof
- Barn foundation
- Barn roof
- Barn stairs
- Driveway relocation
- Settler's cabin replica
- Office photocopier
- PC Laptop

Current Project: You may recall in the last letter, we noted the critical need to re-point the Southworth House exterior brick. Failure of mortar joints is a particularly serious matter because the brick at the Homestead is *structural*. The brick supports interior beams which carry the floor joists. It also supports the upper plates that carry the roof rafters. Here's an interesting link about brick versus brick veneer construction:
<http://diy.stackexchange.com/questions/69326/how-do-i-tell-if-my-house-is-brick-or-brick-veneer>

The joint between the window frames and the brick has failed in many locations letting water into the wall. While there are about a dozen locations where missing mortar allows water into the interior of the brick wall, a close inspection of the brick clearly indicates that the entire building needs to have the loose grout removed and replaced. This photo shows failed mortar underneath a window.

John Kiefer investigated potential companies to perform the work. Eventually McKinney Masonry of Cortland made the final cut. They guarantee high-quality masons for every project. All masons and labors have the correct certifications for each position they work. It would be best to re-point the entire structure but that would be about \$50K.



We have \$20K and plan to re-point the south face of the building this spring. We had originally wanted to do the work last fall but postponed it to avoid possible added expense to protect the work from early frost. We are so grateful to all our supporters who have made this task possible! It's very exciting to complete this portion of preservation!

DTHS Receives Tompkins County Tourism Grant!

DTHS is pleased to have received a Tourism grant to fund the **2017 Homestead Heritage Fair Day**. It will be held at the Southworth Homestead grounds, **Saturday, October 7th, 10 am - 3 pm**.

Just five hours to experience this free community event. We are planning a day filled with activity, the grounds filled with tents, the tents filled with artisan craft demonstrations, animals and kids games. An emphasis on the natural world with displays of Indian artifacts, fossils, rocks, and a visit with rescued wildlife. Nature hunts, puzzles and activities similar to those offered at the Dryden Agricultural Fair a hundred years ago will be especial attractions for the young folks. And inside, guided Southworth House tours and historical exhibits all day.

If you would like to help, contact: DTHS program committee 844-4691.

New Dryden History Research Released

Many retellings of the story of Dryden's first settler, Amos Sweet, have been produced. They are all based on the same series of articles published in 1857, which, it turns out, is inconsistent with census data. David Waterman has researched this issue, applying online genealogical resources and historical references to a search for the true Amos Sweet family, in order to tell its story. A booklet detailing his research, speculations and conclusions, entitled, "Who Was This Amos Sweet?" is now for sale at the Southworth House. This Amos Sweet narrative adds much fascinating new detail to our understanding of Dryden's earliest history. (illustration by David Waterman)



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE

Your membership is important to the Dryden Town Historical Society. Thank you all who have already renewed and if you have not renewed yet please send in your renewal form soon.



The famous sandwich board. The message changes with the activities. Whenever DTHS is open, the board will be out front and the "OPEN" flag will be flying.

Winter Hours continue through March. Come and visit, the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in March. **April 1**, we will be open every Saturday.

SOUTHWORTH TOURS START MAY 6!
Guided Southworth House Tours begin
May 6, 10 am, 11am, and noon
see the French scenic wallpaper
\$5 donation

Holiday Ornament Workshop, December 3

Patty Kiefer led a very successful Holiday Workshop this year.



Eager participants wait in line for room to make holiday ornaments at the door of the DTHS Activity Room. These visitors had just come from the festivities at the Dryden Hotel where Santa paid a visit.



MaryLou Taylor assists guests in the ornament workshop.



Patti Kiefer leader of the DTHS Holiday Workshop encourages these cheerful participants.



Patti Kiefer helps our young guests decide on how to begin making an ornament.



Gwen Beck helped a steady stream of holiday ornament makers on December 3rd



Southworth Homestead mugs make great Christmas gifts. There are still plenty more for sale at DTHS.

DRIVEWAY COLUMNS BEING TAKEN DOWN

In order to make room for the new sidewalks being installed in the Village of Dryden, the columns at the driveway entrances to the Southworth Homestead needed to be removed. They will be rebuilt when the sidewalks have been completed, hopefully this Spring.



Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

ending: February 17, 2017

Southworth Homestead Project "Circle(s)"

Thomas & Linda Clougherty	Paul Dedrick	Steven & Diane Kilts
Jeanette Knapp	Bard & Gina Prentiss	Frank & Sandra Prugh
Joan Shroyer-Keno	Donald Turk	Rosemarie Southworth
Frederick & Muriel Likel (paper Silhouettes conservator project)		Myra Fincher
Eleanor V. Day	Elizabeth Gutchess	Carol T. Rogers

DTHS General Fund

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Joan Shroyer-Keno	Letha B. Sutton	Elizabeth Schermerhorn
Brian & JoAnn Earle	Sam & Sue Morrie	Michael E. Lane
Annette Otis		

Donation-in-Kind:

- Dryden Mutual Insurance Co. (10 copies of "Great Possibilities" for resale)
- C.C.S.N. Woodworking Specialities (Repairs to west entrance)
- Annette Otis

In memory of:

Betty Barton: Kenneth & Virginia Barton	Philip & Julia (Weed) Brady: Ann Brady	Charles & Dora Downey: Maureen Downey Finn
Willard Downey: Fred "Ben" Williams	Horace Shackelton: Shirley C. Shackelton	Judge Sweetland: Richard Sweetland
Belle (Snyder) Wolcott: Pamela Shoemaker	Clayton & Elva Pond Dann: Gerald & Bonnie Roe	John Young: Gretchen Young
George & Alice Bailey: William & Jane Bailey	Michael J. Dick: Jennifer B. Dick	Margaret E. Murray: Dryden Senior Citizens
Laurence Beach: Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.	Marilyn Adriance: Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.	

Gift Membership

Richard Sweetland
David & Brenda Armstrong
Annette Otis

Family History (Genealogy) Research:

Peter Ames



Beautiful wreath made by Mary Ellen Rumsey



Fred Likel hanging the wreath on the Southworth Red Barn. Thanks, Muriel and Fred for making this fabulous four foot wreath.

Dryden Town Historical
Society

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DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

14 NORTH STREET

WINTER HOURS

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Starting April 1, every Saturday

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

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