

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

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

HOURS
Saturdays, 10am - 1pm



HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL
SAT., OCTOBER 7 • 10-3PM
Southworth Homestead, Rt. 13., Dryden, NY

Great Food by Dryden Cafe • Visit with Rescued Wildlife
 Indian Artifacts, Fossils, Rocks • Horse & Wagon Rides
 Kids Games From the Dryden Agricultural Fair
 Sheep • Heritage Craft Demonstrations
FREE Local Quilt Show at Dryden Presbyterian **FREE**

Music by CORTLAND OLD TIMERS
Historic Southworth House Tours - \$5 Donation
Free Community Event Made Possible By
A Tompkins County Tourism Grant!

HIGHLIGHTS UNDER THE BIG TENT
 10 - 12 Noon Cornell Raptor Program
 12 - 1:30 PM Cortland Old Timers Band
 1 - 3 PM Pamela L. Pulin Portrays Amelia Bloomer
11 AM, 12 Noon, 1 PM, 2 PM
Becky's Birthday Historic House Tours
\$5 Donation | Free Gift For Each Participant
CONTINUING ALL DAY

Eats By Dryden Community Cafe
 Heritage Craft Demonstrations - Spinning, Cross-stitch,
 Chair Caning, Quilting, Blacksmith
 Animals - Goats, Sheep, Lambs • Horse And Wagon Rides
 Kids Games, Colonial Toys • Leaf Search For Young Folks
 Art Show - Maryhill Clayworks, JSK Wind Chimes
Historical Society Exhibits, Local History
Dryden Fire Department Display
QUILT SHOW AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sponsored by the Dryden Town Historical Society and
made possibly by a grant from Tompkins County Tourism

HOMESTEAD HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL

We hope you will share our enthusiasm for Homestead Heritage Day on **Saturday, October 7th**. Dryden Historical Society has been in existence since 1981, focusing on local history exhibits and programs, and now we are housed in the Homestead built in 1836. The goal of Heritage Day, a free community event, is to welcome folks to the grounds of this 19th century brick treasure, to focus on skills such as spinning, caning, blacksmith, and be part of community activities. This year there will be lots of new excitement, all made possible because for the first time we have received a **Tompkins County Tourism grant**.

This year we hope lots of visitors will spend the day, **October 7th from 10 am - 3 pm** at the Southworth Homestead. Kids games, old time toys, animals and new this year, horse drawn wagon rides to Dryden Fire station. Leaf searches, Indian artifacts, and Cornell Raptors Program are sure to entertain and remind us of our heritage and natural world.

The **Cortland Old Timers** band will play music made popular by 19th century marching bands. This band made up of sixty or so of area musicians has existed for years and always pleases.

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Society
14 North Street
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DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

14 NORTH STREET

HOURS

Saturdays, 10 AM - 1 PM

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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Betsey VanSickle
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Also, **Pamela L. Poulin**, Ph.D. (Professor Emerita, Peabody Conservatory of Music of Johns Hopkins University) will portray, in historic dress, suffragist Amelia Bloomer (1818-1894), the first woman to own a newspaper (Seneca Falls), for whom the dress reform of short dress and trousers is named. 'Bloomers' changed men's perception of women forever! The portrayal will culminate in Poulin singing 'bloomer' songs.

And **Becky's Birthday Historic Southworth House Tours** at 11 am, 12 noon, 1 pm, 2 pm. Tour the only historic house museum in Tompkins County. To mark the day, receive a free gift. Donation \$5.



The cottonwood tree that stood near the Southworth Homestead south parking lot measured 7.5 feet across at the base. The plan was to make a tree house about 8 feet tall to have as a reminder of this huge tree, but the hollow base split and made that an impossibility.

Southworth Homestead Tree Work

Those of you living in the Dryden area probably noticed we had a tree contractor on site last summer working on the four largest/oldest trees at the Homestead. We know many of our members share our concern for the trees on the Homestead property so we thought it appropriate to write about the tree work in this newsletter.

When the Historical Society moved into the Homestead in 2013 we noticed many of the larger, older trees were in decline. The red oak on the north property line had lots of dead limbs, as did the giant cottonwood tree on the south property line. In summer 2015 we noted several limbs in the sugar maple next to the barn didn't leaf out. That summer we hired a tree contractor to prune out the dead limbs in the oak and maple. Then, in mid-summer 2016 we noted the two sugar maples between the house and barn, including the tree mentioned above, appeared to drop their leave early. This past spring more than half of the limbs on the sugar maple closest to the house failed to leaf out.

In May we met at the Homestead with an arborist from Cornell who cares for the trees on campus. Our goals for the meeting were to try to understand what was happening to our trees and determine what we should do about it.

Tree work continued on page 3



Food, continued from page 3

Easter was coloring eggs, making a bunny cake and a large Easter basket (I still have it) filled with the colored eggs, jelly beans and chocolate and gathering for a meal of ham, potatoes, vegetables, rolls and lots of condiments. The bunny cake was made by splitting a round cake in half and put them together with cupcakes for the head and tail; frost and then sprinkle coconut flakes all over the bunny, then dye coconut flakes with green food coloring and put around the bunny for grass effect and add jelly beans. The ears were made from white paper with a pink crayon accent. Memorial Day was going to the cemetery to put flowers on the graves of our ancestors and our first picnic of the year on Beam Hill Road at the cabin. We would have barbeque chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato and macaroni salads, applesauce, coleslaw and pies for dessert. We would choose just the right limb of a tree to whittle to use to cook our hot dogs and later for roasting marshmallows. Our birthdays were made special as we got to choose our cake and our favorite flavor of ice cream. When choosing our cake it meant whatever flavor and the design. It could be a butterfly, a horse, a boat or whatever we could imagine and my Mom would make it. My mother also made all but one of our wedding cakes. Labor Day usually was the end of our picnics on the hill. Thanksgiving was our next feast with a huge turkey and all the trimmings and the whole family gathered together. I remember eating till I was stuffed. I think Christmas was my Mom's favorite holiday to cook and bake for. She would make popcorn balls, some in red and some in green. She would make cookies and fudge. Our gifts were minimal but our Christmas dinner table was loaded with a feast of ham, or turkey, or duck, or a roast with all the trimmings. Dessert was often bread pudding or suet pudding with a caramel sauce.

My father took much care and pride for his part in growing our own meat, vegetables and fruit. His garden was nearly ½ acre and he tended it with great effort. He had an orchard of miniature fruit trees, blueberry bushes and current bushes.

We were probably considered poor but we ate like royalty. Thank you Mom and Dad, miss you.

Annual DTHS Pie Sale

Saturday, November 4

1st Natl. Bank of Dryden

9:00am – gone (and they go early!)

Fresh baked pies and breads.

All members are encouraged to donate their specialty, be it a pie, a loaf of bread, or the baked treat of their choice. Bring your donation to the bank as early as possible and, while you're there, buy something tasty to take home with you.

For more information or to arrange for your donation to be picked up, please call Shirley Price (844-8700) or Mary Hornbuckle (898-3461).



Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

ending: September 26, 2017

Southworth Homestead Project "Circle(s)"

Charles R. Smith Michael J. Delahanty Louise McGee
 Leslie & Allyson Chatterton James D. Webster
 Robert Watros (To cover cost of engineering to relocate entrance driveways)

In memory of:

Donald R. Feint – In memory of Helen Feint
Robert S. Slocum – In memory of Robert Slocum, Sr. & Christine Slocum
Candle Light Inn & Breakfast – Seraphim "Sam" Nitsios

DTHS General "un-Specified" Fund:

Patricia M. Ard	James D. Webster	<i>Estate of:</i> Gwen Sandsted
Elsie Gutchess	Martha Ferger	Historic Ithaca
Dryden Realty-Apartment Co.		Thomas & Julie Sinclair

Contributing Membership:

Diana J. Landis

Gift Membership:

Betsey VanSickle

Genealogy Research:**Thomas & Barbara Slocum** – Research of Trapp family"Our Business Supporters:

Bailey-Place Insurance	Broom Hilda's Housekeeping	Candlelight Inn & Breakfast
Countryside Veterinary Hospital	Dryden Realty-Apartment Co.	Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.
Dryden Pet & Home	Dryden Wine & Spirits	First National Bank of Dryden
Freeville Publishing Co.		

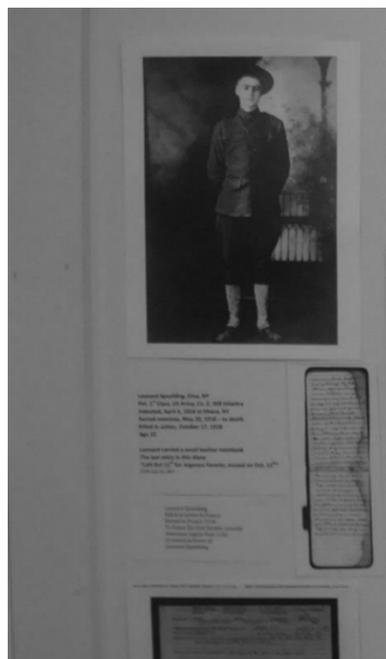


Photo of Leonard Spaulding and entry from his small leather note book, part of WWI exhibit currently on display. The last entry in his diary: "Left Oct 11th for Argonne Forests, moved on Oct. 12th. Pvt. 1st Class Leonard Spaulding, Etna, NY, US Army, Co. E, 309 Infantry. Age 22, was Inducted, on April 4, 1918 at Ithaca, NY, went overseas on May 20 and was killed in action, October 17, 1918. He is buried in Argonne Cemetery in France.

WWI
 Uniform of
 Sgt George
 B Bailey,
 included
 in WWI
 exhibit.
 DTHS Gift
 from son,
 Bill Bailey.

*Tree Work continued from page 2*

We learned there have been two weather-related factors that are especially hard on older trees. During recent winters, we have had significant mid- and late-winter thaws that have "fooled" trees into beginning their spring growth cycle, only to have the growth halted by return of normal cold temperatures. Alternating temperature cycles cause trees to expend extra energy to complete the spring growth cycle and some older, weaker trees lose limbs or worse. The second factor is the severe drought in the spring and summer of 2016. The Cornell arborist noted trees such as sugar maples have shallow root systems and are particularly susceptible to damage from drought.

Then came the really bad news. The arborist told us the giant cottonwood tree was mostly dead and represented a significant hazard. He recommended we have it removed as soon as possible. He said over half the limbs on the sugar maple closest to the house were dead and the tree would continue to decline. He said the sugar maple next to the barn and large red oak were in somewhat better condition but they, too, would continue to decline. He said that, aside from watering if we have another severe drought like we had in 2016, there is little we can do. After a lengthy discussion, the DTHS Trustees voted to remove the cottonwood and the one sugar maple, and prune the dead wood out of the oak and the other sugar maple. The work was done last July.

We will continue to monitor the oak and sugar maple and the other trees at the Homestead. We will water during drought periods and continue to prune out dead limbs. If there is a bright side to the topic of trees at the Homestead it is that we have appointed a landscape committee to recommend a plan for planting new trees. Goals for the committee include replacing trees we have lost since moving to the homestead. Nineteenth century farmhouse properties generally did not have much in the way of ornamental plantings. Trees were planted for food production, windbreaks and shade. Lilacs were planted next to the outhouse. The landscape committee will use these guidelines to create a plan to renew the Southworth tree population. We will report on our progress in future newsletters.

Food for Thought

By Shirley VanPelt (Otis) Price

We didn't have a lot of money growing up, but we always had plenty to eat. I grew up on a farm with my family of nine that grow every year as I got older; as we all married and had children. My parents raised their own meat and grew their own vegetables and fruit. We had good well water and lots of milk from their own cows. My mother made our own butter and baked our own bread and rolls; cinnamon rolls being one of my personal favorites. She made our own cottage cheese, applesauce and pickles. Desserts were always served with dinner and supper. We grew our own potatoes and stored them in the basement all winter, along with the squash, pumpkins, onions, carrots and cabbage that were stored all winter.

Few people left our house without being fed. As a child, I have vague memories of hobos coming to our back door for food. As a child I never wondered how they knew to leave the railroad tracks to track over a half a mile to our door, but as I grew older I learned that the hobos left markings on the railroad trail to indicate the houses that would give them food. All of our friends loved to come to our house so they could eat my Mom's homemade bread, while we always thought it was a treat to go to their house and have store bought bread. My father went to work at Cornell University and would invite graduate students from all over the world for our Sunday dinners. I remember one in clearly as he was from England and he would eat 3 platefuls of food each time that he came to dinner.

I remember hearing stories about the threshing crews that went from farm to farm each fall and how they loved coming to our farm because of the food they were given. Imagine feeding a crew of hard working hungry men every day for a week.

Every holiday was made to be special by food. My parents were married on Valentine's Day 1940. We gathered every February 14th to celebrate their day. Sven & Alice (Dann) Loman were also married on Valentine's Day and they would also come to celebrate. Alice always made a large delicious heart shaped cake to share.

Food continued on page 7

Find Out The Early History of Your Lot

In 1776, the United States Congress set quotas for each state to provide troops for the war for independence. New York was to provide four regiments, but as late as 1781, only two regiments had been activated. The NY legislature decided to offer recruits one square mile lots from the vast upstate area. This offer was also extended to men currently fighting, if they remained in service for the duration. Salting the land with veteran soldiers had another perceived benefit -- helping to ensure the area would not someday fall back into British or Iroquois control. Most of the soldiers, however, sold their land rights, even before the lots were balloted out. Dryden is composed of a ten mile by ten mile grid of 100 military lots, it being one of the townships defined within this Military Tract.

At the Homestead Heritage Fair, you will be shown how to use "The Balloting Book" and maps to find out who was awarded the land you live on, what unit he served in, and who subsequently received his deed. This can make a great jumping-off point for further research. Many of the soldiers, especially officers, have biographical information on-line. You can find out details of the engagements these NY soldiers experienced. Speculators who bought up much of the land also have colorful stories. Local history is engaging for the whole family because it happened right here, under your feet.

TREE SEARCH CHALLENGE

The DTHS sponsored a Tree Search activity for kids (of all ages) at the Dryden Lake Festival this year. Children were given clues – field marks – to help them identify eight different species of trees growing along the Jim Schug Trail and were rewarded with badges (saying 'Dryden Lake Forester'), with candy, and with small wildlife figures. We're planning to do something similar at the Harvest Fest – only this time, the focus will be on identifying leaves and on creating yard maps that inventory some of the amazing diversity in the natural world that surrounds us. Our motto is – The DTHS: Giving Voice to Dryden's People, Places, and NATURAL WORLD.



Elizabeth welcomes a family to the DTHS table at Dryden Lake Festival.



Local children successfully completed the Tree Search at Dryden Lake Festival, and received their Forester Badge and prize.



Elizabeth Gutchess, DTHS trustee, explains the tree search strategies at Dryden Lake Festival.



Michelle Pescatrice was at the history house this summer. She donated a treasure trove of Footlighters's video tapes, programs, costumes, posters and photographs that belonged to her mother, Sally Guzetta, musical director of Dryden Footlighters for many years. DTHS already holds much material associated with the Footlighters and this makes the collection even more valuable. DTHS plans an exhibit and possible programming in the near future.

Matt Watros (on right, Bob Watros in background) met with relative, Bob Watros. He was particularly interested in the civil war letters belonging to Bill Bailey that had been on exhibit several years ago. Matt found out about the exhibit by reading back issues of DTHS Newsletter posted on DTHS website. Matt has since transcribed all the Henry H Hemingway civil war letters. Copies are available for research thanks to Matt and Bill Bailey. Matt has also written a family history of Gabriel Rumor, available at DTHS.



Karen Spaulding Knout met at DTHS to donate photographs and documents associated with the Carl Spaulding family from Etna. Karen is the grand niece of Leonard Spaulding, WWI casualty, for whom the Dryden VFW post is named. Karen is holding a cast iron toy from the Spaulding farm in Etna.