

# DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

Dryden Town Historical Society  
36 West Main Street, Dryden, NY 13053  
607-844- 9209

History House Hours:  
Saturday 10am to 2pm and by appointment

## Main Street Dryden Circa 1960 By Shirley (VanPelt) Price

Think about the businesses on Main Street Dryden, are there any that have remained the same in your memory? Lets' take a walk around town from my memory.

I'll start at the four corners, on the southwest corner, I remember Ramsey's IGA and the Post Office. Ramsey's IGA was owned by William & Betty Ramsey and the grocery store was only two aisles. The first aisle to the right was cereals and canned items and soaps and baking goods and lots more things I can't remember, leading to the back where the meat counter stood, there was also a back door used for employees and sometimes customers, then you turned the corner to the second aisle which my memory is fuzzy as I think Mr. Ramsey kept the essentials in the first aisle, so my father didn't pick up very much in the second aisle. The produce was at the end of the second aisle across from the one check-out counter. I remember the check-out lady was named Leah and there was a tin garbage can filled with lollipops at a penny a piece next to the check-out.

I do not remember what was upstairs over the grocery store and the Post Office. The Post Office was just to the right of the grocery store in the same building. I don't remember going there often as we had rural delivery. I remember the boxes being very ornate and covering the wall. My daughter, Missy, lives in South Butler New York and their Post Office reminds me of ornate boxes of the Dryden but they have many less boxes. There were no keys; you only had to remember the combination of the dials.



Continuing west I remember a vacant lot next to the Post Office, and then you came to Carter's Department Store, the Macy's of Dryden. They had toys, clothing for all ages, shoes, material, all kinds of sewing items; buttons, zippers, etc. I shopped there until they closed; I remember buying little dresses for my first born, Annette, in 1975.

The next stop is Dot & Lloyd's Restaurant where you enter and walk up about six stairs. If you stopped for a piece of homemade pie, it was probably baked by my Mom. There were 3 or 4 booths, 4 or 5 tables and a large counter across the back, then the kitchen in the way back.

The First National Bank of Dryden was in the next brick building. The next stop is Ma's Soda Fountain, where you could get a Cherry Coke, my personal favorite, or a Root Beer Float or your own favorite soda drink and hang out with your friends. Mrs. Bailey lived in the back of the building; I remember a curtain separated the shop from her home.

The next store was Steve's Pharmacy, our only drug store in town that I remember and I believe that they lived over the store. Next door was Dryden CutRate, filled with all kinds of candy, some toys, gift items

*continued on page 2*

### Main Street, continued

and newspapers. Hazel (I don't recall her last name) and Laura McKean ran the counter and lived in a house where the present Post Office is located. My father acquired the outhouse that was behind Laura's house and moved it to our cabin on Beam Hill Road. It was rumored that the outhouse was built by the Glazier's, it is a two-hole and it is wainscoted on the inside and has a battery box for an overhead light, very modern. I moved the outhouse from Beam Hill Road to George Road, where it sits proudly in my backyard.

The next store I believe was George B. Bailey Insurance. I almost forgot the only store that has remained the same business since I can remember, the Liquor Store, it was between the Dryden CutRate and Bailey's. Then there was Sullivan's Variety Store that sold candy and novelty items. Further down the street next to the railroad tracks there was Perkins Funeral Home and then Dryden Agway & Feed Mill. I remember the loading dock that ran the length of the feed building and the store at the end that always smelled like ground grains. We stopped there often to pick up molasses and oats for our animals.

Now let's return to the Four Corners and start down the northwest side of Main Street, the first stop being Tripp & Fellow's Garage. They did repairs and oil changes in the garage area, with a pit in the floor, and there was a couple of gas pumps in front. I remember that they pumped the gas, washed your windshield and checked your oil for you. Next to the garage was Fellows Fuel Service.

The next store was Spangler's Furniture Store in the stone building with a wonderful porch with an awning. Across the next driveway was Malison's Barber Shop, we didn't go there as my Mom always cut our hair. Next door was the Dryden Radio & TV Store, selling and repairs were done by Walt Watson and Carl Stelick. I remember the Watson's lived upstairs, as MaryAnne and I were friends. Next door was another barber shop, Sam's Barber Shop. The next business was Amdur's Law Office.

Across the next driveway was the Dryden Inn, where you could go to eat and if you had homemade pie, probably my Mom made it. Next to the Inn is the Southworth Library, very much like I always have remembered it, but now having so much more room with its' wonderful addition. I remember the librarian

was Opal Bond, she was a friend of my parents. My Mom used to make a grape pie that Opal gave her the recipe for. My parents would trade them potatoes for grapes every fall.

Next, across Library Street, was Hartman's Insurance. The next house was Mrs. Shaw's and she gave piano lessons from her home, which is now the Town of Dryden History House. The next business was the Dryden Hotel, which at that time was a drinking place. It was a little rough at that time as I remember or maybe as I remember Aunt Trudy talking, as she had a front row seat to the parking lot of the Dryden Hotel. I have a very hazy memory of a log cabin store and gas station on the corner of Rochester Street just over the railroad tracks.

Now back to the Four Corners of Dryden, facing South, on the right was Havington's Hardware Store where you could buy anything from nuts and bolts to guns and fishing poles. Way down South Street just before the railroad tracks was the Borden Milk Plant. My father delivered his milk there in milk cans. The cans were put on a roller track to go into the plant where they were emptied and washed and came out on a roller track on the end of the building. We kids used to ride down the roller tracks on our behinds.

Back to the Four Corners of Dryden, now I will travel north. On the northeast side are two churches, the Methodist and the Presbyterian, that have expanded over the years, but are basically as I remember them. Further up North Street was the Dryden Implement in the dome building. I remember my father stopping in to buy mowing machine blades and guards. On the northwest side of North Street, the only business I remember was Dr. Epstein's dental office. Now back to the Four Corners of Dryden turning to the east, I remember Sherman's Restaurant on the southeast side of East Main Street, and again, if you had a piece of pie, my Mom probably baked the pie. On the northeast side of East Main Street there was a grocery store, but we seldom went there as my Father was very loyal to Ramsey's. Further down the street was the Dryden Livestock Barn where my Father would sell bull calves. This was downtown Dryden as I remember it, my memory being over 50 years ago, I am sure some memories are not accurate but they are in my mind as I traveled from our house through the arch of Elm trees.

## 3rd SATURDAYS

In addition to providing current exhibits and family research, once a month on the third Saturday, local Dryden history becomes "History Pick" at the History House.

It is an opportunity to see up close a fascinating town of Dryden resource featured for that day.

Here is a chance to play "History Pick"!

The featured item is a surprise...some possibilities could be:

- Live on the spinning wheel... a **handspinning demonstration!**
- On a wintry day you might see the **original horsehide mittens** worn by Mr. Sweetland as he delivered his milk cans **by sleigh** to Borden's milk plant.
- Take a look at the **1904 Sanborn maps** with details showing building locations in the Village of Dryden from way back when.



DTHS/ scrapbook

## THANK YOU

- Patti Kiefer for leading the sheep ornament workshop at the History House
- Mary Ann Sumner and Linda Olds for spinning on several Saturdays at the History House
- George Price for shoveling
- MaryEllen Rumsey for the beautiful wreaths

## UPCOMING SPRING PROGRAMS

**February 18, March 17 and April 21**

**3rd SATURDAYS at the HISTORY HOUSE**

See the "HISTORY PICK" of the day.

### April 26 Program

"Weather Wise: Memorable Weather Related Events in the Town of Dryden" presented by Simon St Laurent

Thursday, 7 pm at Dryden Village Hall  
Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Everyone is invited to display photos and to share weather-related stories.

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS

### "INTRODUCING THE SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD"

On February 3, 2012, the Southworth Homestead passed from the estate of Rebecca Southworth Simpson to the Dryden Town Historical Society. A small group of DTHS trustees, Betsey and Peter Van Sickle, and Mike Lane gathered around the desk of John Southworth while Betsy Cleveland, DTHS president signed the official papers.

The Homestead is beautiful and has been well cared for, however some areas of the building are in need of rehabilitation. DTHS has commissioned preservation architects, Crawford and Stearnes to complete a conditions assessment report to determine what needs attention first. A student intern is documenting the grounds and will make landscape recommendations later in the spring. Our committee is doing a basic inventory of the contents, recording the history of the house and its occupants, and exploring funding sources and fund-raising plans. Meanwhile the History House will be open for exhibits, collection storage and local history research. With great appreciation and high hopes, we look forward to the coming year when we can open wide the doors of the Southworth Homestead.



February 3, 2012 Betsy Cleveland, DTHS president, Betsey Van Sickle, niece of Rebecca Simpson and Michael Lane, executor of the estate. The ribbon was cut and the papers were signed making The Southworth Homestead the new home of DTHS.

### "THE HERITAGE CRAFT SHOP"

The front page of the Tompkins County Rural News on November 15, 1978 announced the opening of two new businesses in the Shopping Plaza located at 87 west Main Street, Dryden. One shop was Becky's Ceramics, which offered anything and everything to do with ceramics. The owner was Becky Newbury of Harford Road. Handmade gift items by Alberta Sautter were also for sale. The second new (1978) shop is the subject of our upcoming exhibit. The Heritage Craft Shop was run by Kay Ross and Linda Olds. The shop offered spinning, weaving, dyeing, quilting, rug hooking supplies, and spinning wheels.

Linda Olds has demonstrated spinning many times on recent Saturdays at the History House using the Ashford spinning wheel she bought when the shop was operating. MaryAnn Sumner, another spinner at the History House, still uses the loom she bought at the Heritage Craft Shop.

Linda Olds, Kay Ross and MaryAnn Sumner will loan objects for this glimpse of Dryden crafts in the 1970s.



Heritage Craft Shop, circa 1978, on loan from Linda Olds



## Amos Sweet's log cabin by Harry L.D. Weldon

What was to become the present town of Dryden, NY was first a part of the Town of Ulysses. It was in the Spring of 1797 that the first pioneer to settle in the Town trudged from the East with family over the "bridle road" to lay claim to the recently opened lands "out West," that is to say the Military Tracts.

A detailed description of this first pioneer, Amos Sweet, and his log cabin is found in a column, "Old Man in the Clouds," which appeared in Rumsey's Companion newspaper dated January 7, 1857.

This recorded account tells us that when Mr. Sweet arrived on a spring day in 1797 he set about to build a suitable cabin for himself and family. On what he had determined to be his deeded lot, he chose a spot within a stone's throw of a small creek. It is recounted that the cabin was about ten feet square just back on what is now numbered 19 East Main St. in the village of Dryden.

Here the family of Amos Sweet, that is to say, himself, his wife, two children, mother and brother all lived, quite comfortably. The house (i.e. cabin) was built of logs about a foot, or so, thick. These logs were halved together at the ends, with the cracks chinked with split sticks and mud mortar. The structure then was eight logs high and (its roof) covered with bark from elm and basswood trees. Thus, we can deduce that the house was ten by ten by about eight feet high, not including the roof.

The account states that the house had an opening at one corner through which smoke could pass, as there was no smoke chamber (chimney) and there was no chamber floor other than that ground upon which the house had been built.

The fire-place was constructed by propping large hard flat stones turned on edge against the log walls for the back and three, may be four, others of the same type laying flat to form a hearth base. The hearth was laid upon split logs

to raise it above the split logs used for the cabin floor, in such a manner to permit hot embers, if any, to fall through to the bare ground.

The cabin had but one window which consisted of an opening cut through a log wall which was about eighteen inches square and covered with a piece of greased brown paper stretched over the opening.

The cabin door was made of wood slabs from pine logs and hewn smooth as possible with an ordinary axe. Its hinges were fashioned from the same pine, as were the hinge pins. The entire construction of the cabin-house was done without the use of any nails. Benches were fastened to the sides with the use of pine pins (i.e. huge wooden dowels) and tables were made of wood slabs of the same door material.

For nearly four years the Sweet family lived and enjoyed their home. All seemed right with the world until a gentleman by the name of Dr. Nathaniel Sheldon arrived on the scene, by all accounts, in 1801.

Apparently there was some question about the rightful ownership of the land and the Sweets were compelled to vacate the premises. There is some speculation that the property was acquired by its new owner through fraudulent tactics and means. Soon after this exchange Mr. Sweet sickened and died. His remains and those of his mother and two children are now resting in perpetuity in a field across the road from the former Dryden Springs Sanitorium, on Spring House Road.

In 1802 the building was afterwards used as the first schoolhouse in Dryden Four Corners, where a Mr. Daniel Lacy kept school. Later it became a chicken coup and still later a hog pen for the later owners of 19 East Main Street. For the 1897 Centennial celebration a full size replica was on display constructed of modern dimensioned lumber with split shingles, door and a glazed window. Hardly historically accurate!

## LISTINGS OF APPRECIATION

(Contributions received since August, September, October 2011 Newsletter)

### NOVEMBER 2011

**Patricia Hollingsworth** - To Dryden Town Historical Society in general

### DECEMBER 2011

**Barry & Margaret Adams** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**George B. Bailey Agency, Inc.** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**John W. Bailey** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**William G. & Jane W. Bailey** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**The First National Bank of Dryden** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Kenneth & Virginia Barton** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Bruce Beatty** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Jack Bush** - In memory of Leo Olds  
**Betsy Cleveland & Chuck Logan** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Katherine Diamond & Steve Ridone** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.** - In memory of Laurence Beach & Marilyn Adriance; and For the Southworth Homestead  
**Martha Ferger** - In memory of Dr. John Ferger  
**Donald R. Feint** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**George & Maureen Finn** - In memory of Charles & Dora Downey  
**Jean H. German** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Ray & Rita Harris** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Patricia Hollingsworth** - To Dryden Town Historical Society in general  
**Mary Hornbuckle** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Alfred Hotchkiss** - For assistance with family research  
**Sandra Hunt** - In memory of Calvin T. Hunt  
**Diana Williams Landis** - In memory of Meredith Williams Bradshaw  
**Michael & Viola Lane** - In memory of Rebecca S. Simpson  
**Joan Manning** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Joyce McAllister** - To Dryden Town Historical Society in general  
**Elizabeth McMahon** - In memory of Jean Wickenden  
**Phyllis Meekin** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Sue & Sam Morrie** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**David & Linda Olds** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Pamela Shoemaker** - In memory of Belle (Snyder) Wolcott  
**Phyllis & David Smith** - In memory of Laurence Beach  
**Robert & Patricia Robinson** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Sandra Prugh** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Randall & Barbara Shaw** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Mary B. Streeter** - In memory of Francis Streeter  
**Barbara VanPelt** - A gift membership  
**James D. Webster** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Harry L.D. Weldon** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Fred Williams** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Susan R. Yanoff** - For the Southworth Homestead

### JANUARY 2012

**Sharon Andrus** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Dave & Brenda Armstrong** - A gift membership  
**Kathleen Elliott** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Lin Elmire & Renee Corso** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Elsie Gutches** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Jane Harmon** - In memory of Anna & Kenneth Harmon  
**Jeanette Knapp** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Fred & Muriel Likel** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Joyce Perkins** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**Mahlon & Danielle Perkins** - A gift business membership  
**Bard & Gina Prentiss** - In memory of Rebecca S. Simpson; and For the Southworth Homestead  
**Horace & Shirley Shackelton** - For the Southworth Homestead; and Dryden Town Historical Society in general  
**Jack & Carolyn Strong** - For the Southworth Homestead  
**John & Gretchen Young** - In memory of Rebecca S. Simpson; and For the Southworth Homestead

***Did you forget to renew your membership for 2012?***

Your membership renewal form was mailed in November.

**Your membership expiration date is on the address label.**

\_\_\_\$15.00 Individual    \_\_\_\$25.00 Family

\_\_\_\$50.00 Patron    \_\_\_\$50.00 Business

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_E-Mail\_\_\_\_\_

The next newsletter will only be mailed to current 2012 members. Don't miss a newsletter, use this form and renew your membership today!

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**November 5, 2011: Annual Pie & Bread Sale**

This year's annual Pie and Bread Sale was, as usual, an unqualified success. The selection of delicious baked goods ranged literally from "A" (apple pie) to "Z" (zucchini bread) with plenty of tasty stops in between. Other varieties of pie included: blackberry, blueberry, pecan, pineapple, and pumpkin (plain and with either walnuts or sweet potato). In the bread department, we also offered: cranberry, garlic herb, granola, pumpkin, white and whole wheat. Plus we had some delectable cookies. If I've forgotten to mention other generous donations, please accept my apology; in the flurry of arrivals and sales, items were often snapped up before we could make note of them.

Our most sincere thanks go to the members of the Dryden Town Historical Society who pulled out all the stops and made this popular fund-raising event a success. Give yourselves another hearty round of applause.

Special thanks go to: Jean German (calling), Mary Hornbuckle (publicity, calling and sales), Patti Kiefer (calling), Muriel Likel (calling), Sue Morrie (calling), Gina Prentiss (greeting and photography), Shirley Price (calling and sales), Trish Sprague (calling), Ginny Stairs (calling), members of the Program Committee for putting up posters, and, as always, the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Dryden for their generous support in allowing us to use their lobby for the sale. Now mark your calendars for Saturday, November 3, 2012 and begin thinking about what you'd like to bake for the next sale!

**Dryden Town Historical  
Society**

36 West Main Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

**Phone:**

607-844-9209

**E-Mail:**

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## WINTER HOURS AT THE HISTORY HOUSE

January – March

1st and 3rd Saturdays

10 am – 2 pm

DID YOU FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

SEE EASY TO USE FORM INSIDE.

Dryden Town Historical Society

36 West Main Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

### **Board of Trustees**

Betsy Cleveland, President

Gina Prentiss, Vice President

William Bailey

Debbie Fisher

Janet Hollenbeck, Secretary

Robert Jacobson

Muriel Likel

Andrew Seyfried

David Smith

Mary Ann Sumner

Robert Watros

Sandra Prugh, Treasurer





Holly Tour 2011/ Reception was held at Etna Community Church



Holly Tour 2011 dining room at Deeb home, 31 Upper Creek Road



Southworth Homestead, west entrance hall and stairway



Southworth Homestead, east fireplace that was originally used for cooking



Southworth Homestead, exterior view of the north facade



Southworth Homestead, south entrance





Everyone made woolly lamb ornaments at the History House, December 3rd



Sheep ornament workshop, Dec 3rd at the History House



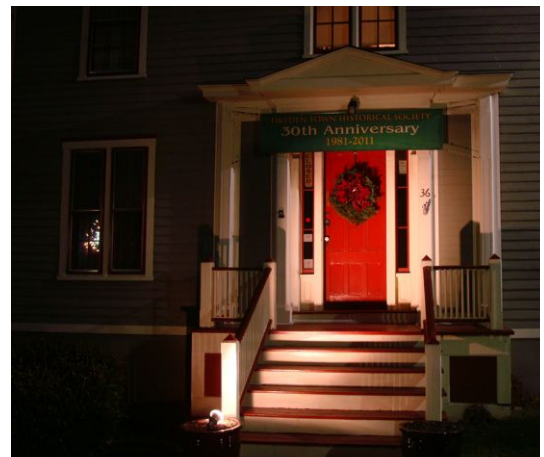
Mary Ann Sumner spinning on the R Townley 1858 wheel, December 3rd

## December 3, 2011 at the History House

On December 3rd things were bustling at the History House. That Saturday was Dryden Village tree lighting day and DTHS added to the festivities.

Patti Kiefer, with help from MaryLouTaylor and Lin Elmire, lead participants in making sheep ornaments from the wool from local Dryden sheep.

More than 16 people, ages ranging from toddler to granny, had fun constructing these woolly lambs. While all this was going on, MaryAnn Sumner and Linda Olds were demonstrating hand spinning, and local history books were selling like hot cakes.



Spot light on front door at History House