DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

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

IMPORTANT MEETING NOTICE

2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 23, Dryden Village Hall

REPAIR or REPLACE: That is the QUESTION

The Southworth House committee is studying options to move Dryden Town Historical Society from the History House on West Main Street to Southworth Homestead at 14 North Street.

It has been a year since the Southworth Homestead became available as the new home of the DTHS. In December, high hope for a half-million dollar "preservation" grant was disappointed. The grant proposal was based on extensive investigations* by architects and engineers and consultation with a dozen recognized authorities in various aspects of utilizing historic structures. This process has established the dire necessity of stabilizing and repairing the frame wing of the Homestead. Substantial updating of heating, plumbing and wiring will also be required. Access and rest room facilities have to be provided for use as a public building.

Two options are being discussed with architects, engineers and contractors. One is to restore the foundation, underpinning and floor system of the frame wing. The other is to remove and replace the frame wing with a structure resembling it in appearance. Proposals are being developed for each option. In either case, a successful fund raising campaign will be necessary to go forward.

At 2:00p.m., Saturday, March 23, at the Dryden Village Hall, a meeting for DTHS members will be held. Preliminary budget proposals will be available at the meeting. This will be an opportunity to learn of the proposals and advise the board of trustees. A decision is expected to be made at the April meeting of the board.

History House *Winter* Hours: 1st and 3rd Saturday 10am to 1pm and by appointment Starting **April 6**, Open Regular hours Saturday, 10am –2pm





1/12/13 Bradford Snyder's desk arrives at the History House with a generous assist from Bernie Hicks and Josh Russell. The desk was made for Bradford Snyder in 1862. Willis and Betty Marion donated the desk to DTHS. Willis is great grandson of Bradford Snyder.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING Wednesday, May 22, 7:00PM Dryden Village Hall Doors open at 6:30 pm. Come early for refreshments and chat

PROGRAM: Plans for Moving the Historical Society to North Street

- We will be electing officers for 2013-14
- We will be voting on whether to move the Historical Society to the Southworth Homestead

Cindy Kjellander-Cantu' is project leader for a TC3 modern media class called Dynamic Media with an assignment focusing on sites showing the history along the former Lehigh Valley Railroad line, now the Jim Schug trail, to create an interactive mobile app. The students felt it was important to give back to the community using their knowledge and creativity. Harry Weldon assisted with documenting photographs and information from DTHS historical collection.

LOOK FOR THESE UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Dryden and The War of 1812
- Memorable Characters in the Town of Dryden (We would like to include, Florence Montgomery Southworth, John H Southworth. If you have stories or memories to add, please let the program committee know).
- New York State Cheese History and Today
- Southworth Antique Fair
- Harvest Fest at the Southworth Homestead

ANNUAL OP SALE

Keep a lookout for an email soon with the date and location for the annual DTHS OP Sale!



Dana McCord selecting photographs at the History House on a recent Saturday

Continued from Page 1 – Important Meeting

The program at the annual meeting in May will be devoted to plans for moving the Dryden Town Historical Society to North Street.

*Structure Conditions and Mechanical Systems, among others

Southworth Homestead Committee
Betsy Cleveland Sandy Prugh
John Kiefer Robert Watros
Robert Jacobsen David Smith
Gina Prentiss

Docent Thank You

Many thanks go to David Smith and Gina Prentiss for covering the 1st and 3rd Saturdays during our winter hours: January, February and March, and, to Mary Hornbuckle for being a sub. We return to regular hours on Saturday (10-2) April 6th. As usual we are always looking for coverage for those Saturdays. We have a very short list of dedicated docents. We would love to see more of our membership volunteering to help. It is easy!! We have staff to orient you and work with you the first few times and help is always a phone call away if any questions arise. So please consider volunteering.

Thank you,

Muriel Likel (844-9518)

We have a nice selection of books and stationery in our book case in the front hall at the History House and at the Second Knob on North Street in the antiques section downstairs.

Josh Russell, Bernie Hicks, John Kiefer, Bob Watros at the History House. They moved the Bradford Snyder desk from Irish Settlement Road to the HH. Bradford Snyder, great grandfather of Willis Marion, was the secretary of the Dryden Mutual Insurance Company and of the Etna Butter and Cheese Factory. The desk will be the central object in the upcoming exhibit, "Dryden Area Cheese Factories." Willis and Betty Marion donated this family treasure to DTHS. Willis is great grandson of Bradford Snyder.

In Memory

Robert Slocum passed away January 15, 2013. Robert was a charter member of DTHS. He and Christine were active volunteers, financial supporters and contributors to programs and events. In 1988 when the History House was acquired and moved 50 feet west, Robert was one of the volunteer workers who took up hammer and tools. With his humor, we met the challenge to create DTHS headquarters.

Judith Crispell passed away February 5, 2013. Judy served DTHS as a trustee and active volunteer. In 1988 when we acquired the History House she and her family gave a gift that became the exhibit room in memory of her late husband, Dr. Donald Crispell. Judy will always be remembered for her generous support and community service.

George Price passed away March 7, 2013. George was a dependable and often unseen DTHS volunteer. For years he has kept the History House lawn mowed, steps shoveled and salted, and the heat on when docents arrive on winter Saturdays. One place he was seen was towing the DTHS float in the Dairy Day parade. DTHS is fortunate to have been part of George's wide circle that benefited from his generous donation of time and skills.



EXHIBITS

Learning about Cheese Factories In the Dryden Area

In preparation for the upcoming exhibit, we are finding the subject of Cheese factories to be very interesting. During the mid 19th century and early 20th century, creameries and cheese factories could be found in Dryden and Etna, and in the surrounding communities of McLean, Ellis Hollow, Peruville, and Harford. The exhibit committee is using DTHS collection, documents, photographs, maps and census records to learn more.

Look very closely at an 1897 town of Dryden map in the Centennial History of the Town of Dryden book. On Lot 59 near Dryden Lake, you will see the words "C. Factory."

Using Town of Dryden Assessment records for the years 1912 - 1921, we found that John Tripp had a farm in Lot 69 and 70 with 116 acres. The full value of that property was \$3,250. He also had a creamery on Lot 59 valued at \$600. In 1921 Assessment record, the 1 acre in Lot 59 is called the Dryden Cheese Factory Co. (John Hunt, president).

At the History House there is a March 13,1919 Dryden Herald News article that announces, "The Dryden Lake Creamery Company, Inc, has been organized and is ready to do business at the old Dryden Lake Creamery, which the company has purchased from John Tripp. This creamery was built by the late Martin E Tripp and for many years handled the milk production of the farms in the vicinity of the lake."

Searching sources helps answer questions, but adding family or local stories rounds out the picture. In a 1998 letter, Eleanor Tripp Johnson added this information. "In the early 1900s, there was a cheese factory on the dirt road leading to the lake, where my father told of square dancing on Saturday nights - by families around the lake. He and his sister walked through the snow, but many came by horse and sleigh."

Mary Lou Taylor and Gina Prentiss



Harry Weldon, Dana McCord and Cindy Kjellander-Cantu' in the Hunt Reference Room at the History House



"Remembering 1957" was the Third Saturdays HISTORY PICK on 1/19/13 at HH

LISTINGS OF APPRECIATION

As of: 8 March 2013

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (since October, November, December 2012 Newsletter)

December 2012

George B. Bailey Agency, Inc. — For the Southworth Homestead

Sharon Andrus — For the Southworth Homestead

Dryden Apartment Co. — For the Southworth Homestead

William G. & Jane W. Bailey — For the Southworth Homestead

Bruce Beatty — For the Southworth Homestead

Leslie Chatterton & Allyson Ford — 1) For the Southworth Homestead; 2) For the DTH Society general fund

George Chevalier — For the Southworth Homestead

Betsy Cleveland — For the Southworth Homestead

Bob Donnelly — For the Southworth Homestead

Jean German — For the Southworth Homestead

Mark & Alice Goldfarb — For the Southworth Homestead

Elsie Gutchess — 1) In memory of Clair & Irene Gutchess; 2) For the Southworth Homestead

Ray & Rita Harris — For DTH Society general fund

Broom Hilda's — For DTH Society general fund

Dryden Mutual Insurance Co. (c/o Bob Baxter) - In memory of Marilyn Adriance & Laurence Beach

Diana J. Landis — For the Southworth Homestead

Mrs. Louise McGee — For the Southworth Homestead

Joan Manning — For the Southworth Homestead

Sam & Sue Morrie — For the Southworth Homestead

Louise Mose — A Gift Membership

Cathy & Kenneth Paddock — For the Southworth Homestead

Bard & Gina Prentiss — For the Southworth Homestead

George & Shirley Price — For the Southworth Homestead

Sandra Prugh — For the Southworth Homestead

Horace & Shirley Shackelton — 1) For the Southworth Homestead; 2) For the Collection Committee

Pamela Shoemaker — In memory of Belle (Snyder) Wolcott

David & Phyllis Smith - For the Southworth Homestead

Mary Ann Sumner — For the Southworth Homestead

Donald E. Turk — For the Southworth Homestead

 $\textbf{Harry L.D. Weldon} - 1) \ \text{For the Southworth Homestead; 2) Donation-In-Kind (a five caster Leatherette Office Chair)}$

Donna Stone & Glady West — For DTH Society general fund

Fred A. "Ben" Williams — For the Southworth Homestead

Shirley Yaeger — For the Southworth Homestead

January 2013

Dave & Brenda Armstrong — A Gift Membership

Bruce Catania & Celia Baldwin — In memory of Robert Slocum

Carol Dornbusch — For the Southworth Homestead

Martha Ferger — In memory of Robert Slocum

 $\textbf{Joan \& Jeff Keno} - 1) \ \textbf{For the Southworth Homestead; 2) Punch \& Flowers for Southworth Homestead Open House}$

Mary Slocum — In memory of Robert Slocum

Jack & Carolyn Strong — In memory of Harold & Helen Strong

Betsey VanSickle — In memory of Robert Slocum

February 2013

William & Jane Bailey — In Memory of Robert B. Slocum

March 2013

Kathleen C. Elliott — In Memory of Judy S. Crispell

My View of Dryden By Shirley (VanPelt) Price

As I look around at the rolling hills surrounding our Dryden area, I see beautiful hills covered with hardwoods. We truly do live in a pretty part of the world. During the spring and summer the trees are many shades of green, changing as they age and when it rains. In the fall on a sunny crisp day with their fall colors, the trees can take your breath away. In the winter the trees are bare but there is still a beauty in the contrast of the brown and the white of the My favorite views coming into town are from snow. Cortland on Route 13 seeing Dryden nestled in the valley between the rolling hills, then coming into town from Virgil on Route 392 looking toward Ithaca showing Route 13 going up the hill and the church steeples, and the most spectacular view is from the top of Hart Hill Road seeing a panoramic view of the valley and the rolling hills.



This painting, "View From Hart Road" is on exhibit at the History House. It was painted by Betty Hurst and is on loan from Shirley Price.





2012 Dairy Day parade

In addition to the physical view of Dryden, is my view of the people of Dryden. I view the people of Dryden as friendly, helpful and caring. You only have to look as far as the many organizations that we have in this community that help anyone in need. These are people volunteering their time and energy, they are our community members doing good for the community, and in turn are supported by the community who support their fundraisers and/or donations. I see our community as family oriented, a community that looks after our youth and listens wisely to our elders. I see the people who support our community from the scout leaders to the volunteer firemen and wish to thank them all for keeping our community strong.

Horse shed in winter along the Jim Shug Trail

The Town History Corner by Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian

There is a little bit of the Adirondack Mountains right here in our Town of Dryden for sure, that's for sure! At least it is a place that when walked along the shoreline reminds one of the many lakes and ponds in the great north woods. From a hillside above it—well, not so much, you have to find one of the coves that surrounds itself with pine trees, marshy areas and waterfowl. On a late spring evening, sit there at a picnic table and sheer imagination allows one to hear the blood curdling call of a loon; a water bird so indicative of any northern forest.

History lends itself with a true tale of pre-historic record of Dryden Lake in the Town (a.k.a. Township) of Dryden, NY. This lake is what is geologically referred to as a "kettle lake." It was formed when gigantic blocks of ice, buried in the outwash in front of a glacier, melted and receded. The last glacier that covered this Town retreated northward; leaving great blocks of stagnant ice broke which off and became buried in the accumulating sediment. This sediment was composed of what is called glacier tillage, insulated the buried ice blocks and as the climate warmed the tillage fell away.

The melting waters washed the tillage off, further exposing a concentration of ice to become a water puddle. A huge mud puddle, if you will, that settled out to form a pond or lake. Such is the case with our Dryden Lake. Scientists tell us that the last glacier to have covered this area to a depth of somewhere between one and half to two miles thick, before the start of the meltdown happened about 12,000 years ago of approximately 5,200 to 7,800 feet deep; about twice the length of Dryden Lake.

Sometime when you go out to the lake lay back on the grass as close to the water level as possible and look across to the farthest shoreline; doing this ought to give you an idea of what it would be like to be at the bottom of such a pre-historic glacier and looking up to the surface. It gives one quite a sensation.

Dryden Lake, since its discovery by early settlers has been deepened by the addition of a "spill-over dam" and enlarged in acreage from its earlier size.

There is no record known of any permanent Indian (sic. Native American) any place in Dryden town. There is abundant evidence that the aborigines used it as a hunting ground. Arrowheads of flint are occasionally found along banks of the many streams and particularly on the slopes overlooking Dryden Lake, where an archeological dig was done by the State of New York before a portion of the adjacent lands were made into a fairly recent housing development.

Many a town resident can attest to finding such stone implements during the spring plowing on the lands over the years before these lands were subdivided for building lots. A photo that I took in the late spring of 2001 shows a probable cove site used by the Indian canoes before traversing up the hill to a seasonal campsite. This campsite was undoubtedly the largest such site used by the early native inhabitants in this area. A prize possession of mine is an arrowhead found in a roadside bank off the Virgil Road; another, a fish net-weight. This arrowhead and others like it took its first humble beginning some 325 million years ago, well before our time in the Paleozoic Era of Earth's history!

It is told something like this: "Gradually, bed after bed of sand, mud, lime and salt accumulated and were compressed into rocks reaching heights upwards of 8,000 feet. Then about 200 million years ago, the land heaved and this time drainage flowed south..." Then, it seems, over 100 million years the uplifted land was eroded into a plain, which was then disrupted by yet more uplifting. Then about ten million years ago the climates grew colder for some unknown reason. By two million years ago, the formation of a series of Ice Ages evolved—the last ending about 10,000 or so years ago. In scattered pockets, over the earth can be found glaciers of lesser magnitude. Glaciations have been determined to have reached its peak about 21,750 years ago. In New York State, geological terms—it was only yesterday!

In other places in the Town can be found a number of glacial hanging valleys, "drumlins" (cigar shaped hills), "eskers" (narrow ridges formed by water flowing under an ice shield), "kames" (long, low steep-sided mounds of sand and glacier stone and gravel) and several mini-"kettle ponds" and "moraines" (ridges of glacier tillage and "dropped" rock and stone debris).

Truly these are historical treasures!

"The Life of Gabriel R. Ballard" by Matthew J Watros

Using journals kept by Gabriel Ballard, Matthew James Watros has written a short biography called, "The Life of Gabriel R. Ballard." The following excerpts include his ancestor, Gabriel Ballard's participation in the civil war. Thanks to Matthew for permission for DTHS to share this edited version. The entire nine page document can be found at the History House.

"In 1861 the great Civil War broke out between the states, and men and boys from across the country were being called to arms. Gabriel was one of these young men and he enlisted into Company I of the 143rd New York Infantry on August 15, 1862 in Dryden. He was 19 years old and according to his company records was 5ft 9 ½ in. tall with brown hair, blue eyes and a fair skin complexion. His term of enlistment like most volunteers of the time was for three years. The young farmer was now a soldier.

Gabriel was not the only Ballard to join the fight from his family either, because for about the next month after he joined up, and on different days, two of his uncle's William H. Ballard and Richard Ballard along with his father John C. Ballard, enlisted into Company E of the 157th New York Infantry, in the Village of Harford. His father was older and was discharged early before he saw any action. His uncle William, who too was older, was sent to the Veterans Reserve Corps for sick and wounded soldiers. Richard Ballard, however, being Gabriel's youngest uncle, only one or two years his senior, served to the very end of the war, and was wounded twice; once at the Battle of Chancellorsville in his "breast" and then again a few months later at the battle of Gettysburg in his left side.

On October 8th, 1862 Gabriel was mustered into service in Monticello, New York, where he along with the rest of his regiment, left for Washington D.C. the very next day, on October 9th. The 143rd was initially part of the defense of the Capitol and were stationed at Upton Hill, Virginia, until February 1863 when they moved to Cloud Mills, Virginia. They spent most of their time at both of these places drilling, and standing numerous sorts of army duties. Gabriel began keeping a journal on March 10th 1863.

On April 12, 1863 the 143rd took to the field. They took transports down the Chesapeake Bay to Fort Monroe, Virginia and from there to Norfolk, and then to Suffolk, Virginia, their final destination. While in Suffolk they built entrenchments and fortifications and took part in the siege of the city. For the next couple months they remained on the Virginia Peninsula, in towns like White House, Yorktown, and Williamsburg. On May 13th Gabriel went on a foraging expedition...Foraging was another word the army used for acquiring civilian property for use of the army. Although Gabriel did not know it then, this would be something he would be well accustomed to by the end of the war. After the Battle of Gettysburg, even though it was a Union victory, the Army of the Potomac was reeling from its great loss of life, and new regiments were needed to fill the void left from the thousands of casualties. Four days after the battle Gabriel and his regiment were sent to reinforce their victorious brothers. Again they jumped on transports to Washington and then went to Frederick City, Maryland where they were assigned to the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division of the 11th Corps. From there they took part in Yankee pursuit of General Lee's army into Virginia and on July 25th after the tiring and exhaustive chase the 143rd New York went into camp at Warrenton Junction, Virginia. It was here that Gabriel became sick. From August 12th to the 15th his journal simply reads "I lae in my tent" and from the 15th to the 25th he was bed ridden, never getting up. According to Gabriel's medical records he was sent to the famous Harewood Hospital in Washington. D.C, and was assigned to ward 6, bed number 24, under the attention of Army Surgeon Ira Terry. Gabriel was diagnosed with Typhoid Fever, a common sickness at the time that ran rampant through the ranks of both armies. He was described by the doctor as "weak", "feverish", and "unable to walk alone". Gabriel recovered and after a furlough home, he again joined his regiment. Fourteen days of traveling brought Gabriel through many big cities like Columbus, and Cincinnati, Ohio, Louisville, Kentucky and Nashville, Tennessee. When he finally reached his regiment on the 28th of October he found himself in Bridgeport, Alabama where his comrades were now encamped. While in and about Chattanooga the 143rd took part in two battles. On the night of October 29th, the Battle Wauhatchie, and then again in the Battle of Chattanooga where the Union forces broke through and repulsed the Confederate siege lines around the city. After Chattanooga the 143rd "fixed winter quarters" in Bridgeport, Alabama.

From March to June he is detached to the Pioneer Corps at 20th Corps Headquarters. With the coming of spring, 1864 General Sherman and the Army of the West, 20th Corps and Gabriel included, moved into the line of march again in May and fought their way south toward Atlanta. Sherman's army left Atlanta on November 15th traveling in two wings. The 20th Corps, with Gabriel, was in the left wing under the command of General Slocum. The March to the Sea, was quick and short lived, for by December 21st just under a month and a half after beginning the campaign, Savannah was surrendered by its mayor to General Sherman in return for the protection of the city, its citizens, and their property, by the Union Army. Gabriel's role in the Atlanta and Savannah Campaigns was in the pioneer corps...The pioneer corps had to build bridges, and corduroy new roads for sometimes every mile of travel. Despite the difficulties Sherman's boys kept chugging along at sometimes twenty miles a day. Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston, who was also the commander of Confederate forces facing Sherman's Army, was so impressed by their fortitude that he was later quoted as saying, "there had been no such army since the days of Julius Caesar". Another piece of evidence that Gabriel was also a "bummer"** comes from his journal entry on January 12th in which he writes "I turned in my horse on 12 jan 1865". Horses were animals reserved only for officers, cavalry, orderlies, and foragers.

Ballard continued from page 8

According to the 143rd New York records, Gabriel remains on detached service to the pioneers and 20th Corps Headquarters until May and June 1865. On June 25th he receives eight months of back pay of \$111.25 and on July 11th Gabriel signs over six of those dollars for his Springfield Rifle. His rifle wasn't the only weapon Gabriel took home either because in the memoranda of his journal he writes down the serial number, 21395, for a .36 caliber Colt Revolver. The pistol was no doubt his second weapon of choice. Many "bummers" stayed heavily armed, because they were so hated by the Southerner's during Sherman's March. On July 20th, 1865, Gabriel writes, "we was mustered out of the US servis this afternoon". They started for home the next day via Baltimore, Maryland, Jersey City, New Jersey and Finally New York City after a brief stay in the Army Barracks on Harts Island. On the 27th of July they received their discharge papers. After almost three years, dozens of battles, and thousands of miles marched, the war for Gabriel, and his duty to his country was officially over.

** From Wikipedia, online encyclopedia. **Bummers** was a nickname applied to foragers of Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's Union army during its March to the Sea and north through North Carolina and South Carolina during the American Civil War. The designation "bummers", although originally used to describe soldiers officially appointed to foraging duty by the Army, was used, both by soldiers and civilians, to describe Sherman's soldiers, official and unofficial, who requisitioned food from Southern homes along the route of the Army's march. Sometimes highly destructive in nature, these bummers became notorious among Southerners, and did much to shatter the illusion that the Confederate Army was defending its territory on all fronts. The bummers' activities in Georgia and the Carolinas helped ensure that the South would be unable to sustain its war effort; additionally, bummers' destruction of industrial property rendered the garrisoning of southern cities largely unnecessary by destroying most, if not all, of those facilities in their path that replenished the Confederate war effort (such as cotton gins, farms, foundries, lumber mills, etc.).





Florence Montgomery Southworth and Becky

There are two parts to Bradford Snyder's desk. Bernie Hicks and Josh Russell place the desk in the exhibit room at the History House.

For a future DTHS program on Memorable Characters in the Town of Dryden, we would like to include, Florence Montgomery Southworth, John H Southworth, and Rebecca Southworth Simpson.

If you have stories or memories to add, please let the program committee know.



Rebecca Wood Southworth rides her tricycle, Newport, VA

Dryden Town Historical Society

36 West Main Street PO Box 69 Dryden, NY 13053 Phone:

607-844-9209

E-Mail:

drydennyhistory@gmail.com

WINTER HOURS AT THE HISTORY HOUSE

1st and 3rd Saturdays 10 am - 1pm

Returning to regular hours on **April 6** Saturdays, 10am – 2pm

Remember to visit our new website at drydennyhistory.org!

Dryden Town Historical Society 36 West Main Street PO Box 69 Dryden, NY 13053

Board of Trustees

Robert Jacobson, President
Robert Watros, Vice President
Betsy Cleveland, Secretary
Sandra Prugh, Treasurer
Harry Weldon, Assistant Secretary
Debbie Fisher
John Kiefer
Muriel Likel
Andrew Seyfried
David Smith
Mary Ann Sumner
Betsey VanSickle