

# DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

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

History House Hours: Tuesday 9am to 12noon  
Saturday 10am to 2pm and by appointment

## SHEEP AT GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC

Residents at George Junior Republic raised Dorset sheep in the 1980s. They began with just a few lambs until the number grew to 500. According to an article in the GJR TIMES, October 1982, approximately 30 sheep were born twice a year. In a September 1982 article, the results of the Tompkins County 4-H Fair were very favorable for GJR students. They won one trophy, one silver cup, and over 15 blue ribbons. The awards were Reserve Champion Showmanship First year, Reserve Champion Showmanship Second Year, Champion Ram, Third Place Yearling Ewe and Third Place Ewe Lamb. They were then chosen to go on to compete at the State Fair. During this period, some of the sheep they had raised from lambs were sheared and their wool made into yarn. The students turned that yarn into items available for sale in their own



Knitted Purse made from wool from Dorset sheep raised at GJR, ca 1980s. New mini exhibit at history House

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## Two New Mini Exhibits at the History House

### “Musical Saws”

(display located in the Ken and Libby Lacey Brown case)

The heavy wooden, hand-decorated box was made by Eber J Wells to carry all the equipment he needed to perform on the musical saws. The case is double sided, 38 inches long, 10 inches wide and 4.5 inches deep. It was fitted so that each item was held in place during transport. It opens from both sides and was carried by a handle on the vertical side. On the interior of the lid are designs and the inscription, “Eber J Wells”. The box is open and reveals the contents of Side A and Side B.



"Musical Saws" new exhibit at History House

### “Bethel Grove”

Molly Adams has prepared this display of photos and text regarding the Bethel Grove School, students, community center and recently installed plaques. Also featured are items associated with Harlow, Belle, Cora and Grace Snyder, students, at Bethel Grove in the 1890s. They and their parents, Theodore and Irene Sharpe Snyder lived on German Cross Road. There are cards, books, pencil drawings, and diplomas on display. Also shown is Cora's autograph book, filled with verses signed by family and friends. This has been transcribed by Pamela Shoemaker who gave the Snyder family items to DTSH.



"Bethel Grove School/ Cora Snyder" new exhibit at History House

## DTHS CELEBRATES 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY at Annual Meeting MAY 2011

DTHS was established in 1981 with the goal of documenting and sharing the history of the town of Dryden in the most professional manner a small organization could muster. In 1988 the History House was acquired to house the ever-growing collection and research material and feature exhibits about the history of Dryden people, places, and events.

Many things have changed in 30 years. We miss our early founders and hard working volunteers who have passed away. But the dedication to being an invaluable resource and active participant in recording and preserving the unique history of the town of Dryden remains. Let's celebrate 30 years of collections, family records, exhibits and programs!

Many thanks to Bob Timmerman of Sunshine Sign Company for updating our 30th Anniversary banner!



30th Anniversary banner and new "OPEN" flag at the front door of the History House

**The new "OPEN" flag is  
flying**

Return to Regular Hours at the  
History House

History House is open  
Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm  
April - November

There's always something new  
to see. It's free, doesn't take  
very long and guaranteed to  
be interesting.

The **Dryden Town Historical Society** would like to thank the following local businesses for allowing us to display our event posters on their premises.

Your continued support is sincerely appreciated.

1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Dryden

Arnold's Florist

Back to Basics

Bailey's Insurance

Book Barn of the Fingerlakes

Bright Day Laundry

Brookton's Market

Clark's

Creative Touch

Dryden Agway

Dryden Apt. Company

Dryden Community Center Café

Dryden Wine and Spirits

Dunkin Donuts

Fingerlakes Physical Therapy

Freeville Family Chiropractic

Kinney Drug

Lehigh Valley Apts

Ludgates Produce

McDonald's

Nice N' Easy

Pete's Tire Service

Phoenix Books

Plantation Inn

Rite Aid

Shears

The Dryden Queen Diner

The Dryden Dollar Store

The Orchid Place

Todi's Pizza

Tompkins Trust Co.

Treeforms

Wildflowers

**New exhibit - "The R Townley Great Wheel"**



The Richard Townley wheel, a gift to DTSH from Jean Warholc, is set up and ready for spinning at the History House.



Jean Currie delivering the 1858 spinning wheel to the History House



## Tompkins County Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission

The Tompkins County Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Commission was established by the County Legislature to spearhead activities to educate and enlighten residents about the significance of the Civil War, its causes, and how it affected the people of Tompkins County. The Commission is currently co-chaired by County Historian, Carol Kammen, and County Legislator, Michael Lane, and plans, among other things, to underscore the role that women and minorities played in the conflict.

Although operating on a very limited budget, the Commission will be sponsoring a number of activities over the next four years including a twice-yearly public lecture series; a new marker for the grave of Daniel Jackson, the former slave who rescued his mother from slavery; nursing scholarships at TC3 to commemorate Civil War nurses from the county; and a program to restore or replace Civil War soldiers' gravestones, to name but a few. A website for the Commission is being developed.

The first lecture will be held on Monday, April 11, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. at the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library. The Speaker will be Professor Pearl Ponce. It is free and open to the public.

## Remember!

### Dairy Day on June 11

Be sure to visit the History House.

Members of the Black Sheep Spinners Guild will be spinning on the 1858 Townley spinning wheel at the History House on Dairy Day. The new exhibit, "Sheep and Wool and Things Related" will be ready to be viewed. Sheep and Spinning at Montgomery Park, too. See you there.

### Garden Tour on June 25

Open Gate Garden and Art Tour

Dryden, NY

Saturday June 25th 2011, 9AM-1 PM

Tour Four Country Gardens for just \$5

Enjoy the beautiful gardens and original art on display and for sale in each garden.

Starting point:

Municipal Parking Lot on George St.,  
Dryden

Tickets: \$5/ person

Ride the Free shuttle or drive yourself to each garden.

Maps: Available the day of the Tour.

Contact [DrydenBeautification@gmail.com](mailto:DrydenBeautification@gmail.com)

One of the gardens is on a dairy farm. Bring the kids for a wagon ride on the dairy farm, bunnies to pet on another farm, and a working beehive in one of the gardens. The beehive can be viewed nicely from a sunroom as well!

This garden tour is sponsored by the Dryden Beautification Brigade.

## Upcoming Spring Programs

Don't miss these fine programs planned for this spring!

### "No Place for a Woman: Civil War Nurses from Tompkins County"

*Date:* APRIL 14, Thursday

*Time:* 7 P.M.

(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

*Location:* Dryden Village Hall

Presented by Carol Kammen  
Tompkins County Historian

This program is a reminder of the many residents who left Dryden to take part in the civil war, and marks the sesquicentennial (150 years) anniversary of that event.



MaryLou Taylor reading about the radio station WEAI at Cornell's RMC library. In the 1930s, Eber Wells supplied the music for the WEAI Saturday noontime radio program.

### 30th Annual Meeting and Program

"Dryden's Notable Character, Paul Wilson, mechanical genius and early test pilot"

*Date:* May 25, Wednesday

*Time:* 7 p.m.

(doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

*Location:* Dryden Village Hall

Presented by Bob Watros

We are all looking forward to the May program. Several years ago DTHS initiated "The Notable Character Series." All will agree that Paul Wilson clearly belongs on that list. Bob Watros has been busy in Florida these past few months putting together a program on the Dryden resident and aviation pioneer, Paul Wilson. Paul Wilson was born in 1892 and grew up in Dryden. He was interested in all things mechanical, engines, radio, motorcycles, planes and flying. His friends, Jack Dolph, Dale Hunter, John Ellis, and later Ross Sherman were involved in his mechanical feats. Paul Wilson was an early test pilot for the Thomas Aircraft Company. He was nationally known and respected. In this program, we will become reacquainted with a notable Dryden character.

*Sheep at GJR continued*

“Fashion Shop.” Mr Art Purinton, a local weaver, helped the students make weavings from their wool. A knitted wool purse made by a resident in 1983 is on display at the History house.

The sheep and lambs were a daily part of GJR life during the 1980s. This humorous article is from the same student produced newsletter, GJR TIMES. September 1982.

*“ON THE LAM”*

Between 7:30 and 8:00AM on September 8, several reports came in stating that ‘little fuzzy things’ were sighted trespassing near the pavilion. It appears that a flock of sheep had broken out of their pasture across from the Auto and Lawn Maintenance Shops and were grazing happily on their own. In a short time, Mr Gordie Hollern, Mr Millard Dayton, and Mr Merle Negus had arrived on the scene and with a bucket of grain in hand Mr Negus had the flock back to their proper place. It was a beautiful picture if anyone had a camera. Thanks to the quick thinking of the staff involved, possibly the largest attempt at skipping bonds in the history of the G.J.R. was foiled. Numerous charges are being considered, but none as yet have been brought against the flock.”



"Bethel Grove School" new exhibit at History House



photograph, Eber Wells playing his musical saw, new exhibit at History House

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Society**

36 West Main Street  
PO Box 69  
Dryden, NY 13053

**Phone:**  
607-844-9209

**E-Mail:**  
historyhouse@odyssey.net

**RETURN TO REGULAR HOURS AT THE  
HISTORY HOUSE**

Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm  
April - November

**30th ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM  
of the Dryden Town Historical Society  
Wednesday, May 25, 2011  
Village Town Hall**

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