

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

Gala Evening at the Homestead December 7, 7-9pm

The Dryden Town Historical Society will host a fund raiser for the Southworth Homestead. Music, food, wine and other beverages will be available. The House will be beautifully decorated for the holiday. Special raffle for those in attendance. Limited to 50 guests. Tariff: \$50 per person.

Contact Bob Jacobsen or Betsy Cleveland for further information.



TOMMY COMES HOME

Thursday – September 27th , 6:30 – 9pm

The Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation is working to restore a piece of local aviation history. The Scout, affectionately known throughout the world as the “Tommy,” was originally built in 1917 – 18 by the Thomas-Morse Aeroplane Company of Ithaca, the 4th largest supplier of aircraft in the US during WWI. The “Tommy” was used to train U.S. pilots before being sent overseas. Paul Wilson of Dryden was one of the early test pilots so it is fitting that the restoration of the “Tommy” is now taking place in Dryden. The Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation is dedicated to restoring this aircraft to flying condition and bringing attention to the story of early aviation in the Finger Lakes Region.

On Thursday, September 27th, the Dryden Town Historical Society will host Donald Funke of the Ithaca Aviation Heritage Foundation who will share the story of this legendary aircraft and explain the work that has been accomplished to date.

The event will be held at the workshop on **97 Southworth Road** in Dryden beginning at 7 PM; however, the doors will open at 6:30 PM to view the work in progress. Parking space is available and the event is free and open to all. For more information call Gina Prentiss (844-4691).



UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Saturday, October 6th Quilt Raffle Drawing and Tour at the Southworth House

Everyone is invited to share in the excitement of learning the winner of the beautiful Quilt, created by Phyllis Smith. This will be the last possible chance to buy quilt tickets. Let's make this a really great Fundraiser to benefit the Southworth Homestead.

The drawing will be at 1 p.m. on the Southworth House front porch (weather permitting).

One tour of the house will be available at 1 p.m. right after the quilt drawing.

Tour Donations per person:

\$8.00 for non-members

\$5.00 for members



SH Quilt raffle 2012 made by Phyllis Smith. All proceeds to benefit the Southworth Homestead

Saturday – November 3rd: ANNUAL PIE AND BREAD SALE

As usual, we will be setting up shop in the lobby of the 1st National Bank of Dryden with a mouth-watering array of baked goods. The sale will begin as soon as the bank opens at 9 AM and will continue until everything is sold – usually by 10:30 AM. Come early for the best selection

DTHS members are encouraged to contribute pies and bread but all donations are gratefully accepted. For more information call Mary Hornbuckle (898-3461).

Wednesday – November 28th – The Photography of Verne Morton

Rosemarie Tucker and April Scheffler of the Groton Historical Association will share their research on this brilliant local photographer.

August 5th was DTSH Member Day at Southworth Homestead with tours of the house and ice cream social for members only. This was an exciting day for everyone who was a docent or a tour member. More than 50 people took part in the afternoon gathering. We hope that tours will prove popular with the public in the future.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

1923-1952

John H. and Florence Montgomery Southworth returned to Dryden from Virginia in April of 1923. Rebecca was five years old. John's war-time position at Furness-Withy had ended the previous fall. Walter Wood, Rebecca's father and Florence's brother-in-law, had seen to preparation of the Homestead for their return.

John H.'s voluminous files revealed a list of "Capital Improvements - John Southworth Residence". In June 1923, within a couple months of their arrival home, electrical service was installed. Soon afterward coal-fired, steam heat replaced coal stoves. A stoker was added in 1933. Conversion to oil occurred in 1947 and to natural gas in 1952.

<i>Electricity:</i>	1923 "Libby & Paul"	\$ 200.00
	1944 Sayre Electric	\$ 102.73
	1947 Barn	\$ 16.14
	1948 Barn basement	\$ 10.44
<i>Heating:</i>	1925 Myers Steam	\$ 1,435.00
	1933 Iron Fireman	\$ 350.00
	1947 Oil heat	\$ 500.00
<i>Gas range</i>	1940 Atlantic States	\$ 208.30
Total		\$ 2,822.61

January 16, 1951 Drake Electric - extension to
Rebecca's drawing room, Glass
Wool Insulation

After John Southworth died in 1877, his extensive estate remained unsettled for decades. His grandson, John Howard Southworth, became owner of the Homestead in 1924. A sheet tucked in John H.'s financial records, labeled "Homestead", provides the details of his acquisition of the Homestead:

"Lot 39 Dryden Tompkins

Deed Book 196, Page # 585, August 23, 1924

Purchase price \$10,000 Deed dated January 23, 1924

Taken in Division of Estate at \$5,000

My residence"

The Homestead was divided between John H. and his sister, Betsey Southworth VanPelt.

David Smith, Southworth Homestead Committee

President's Message

Greetings fellow DTHS members. These are exciting times for the Dryden Town Historical Society. As we develop new activities and enlarge old projects to develop the needed revenue to support the Homestead, I ask you all to participate. Pick one that appeals to you. Enjoy and support our efforts. In the near future we will host an evening fund raising Gala, as well as a Holiday Open House. Talk to your friends and attend. I'm excited, and I hope you are too.

- Bob Jacobsen

LISTINGS OF APPRECIATION

(Contributions received since last newsletter)

June 2012

- **Joan Shroyer-Keno** — A Donation-In-Kind (A display base and frame stands)

July 2012

- **Dr. Bob Jacobson** — For the Southworth Homestead
- **Robert Slocum** — For the Southworth Homestead
- **Betsey VanSickle** — For three (3) Gift Memberships
- **Robert Watros** — For the Southworth Homestead

Historic Ithaca Annual Fundraiser, October 7

Historic Ithaca will hold its annual fall fundraiser on Sunday October 7th. Titled *Historic Ithaca Speaks Greek*, events include an interior/ exterior tour of 10 Cornell fraternities and sororities and a gala at the historic *Greystone Lodge*, home to the Sigma Chi Fraternity in Cayuga Heights. You can go to the website, www.historicithaca.org/ to view the invitation or to register. You can also contact Kristen Olson at 273-6633 if you have any questions about either event.

CURRENT EXHIBITS



"Local Painters" exhibit at History House. Paintings by David Armstrong, Liz Bayley, Bob Cardwell, Sue Cardwell, Shirley Price, and Joan Manning are on loan for the exhibit. Paintings by Gladys Dennis and Nancy Maas are from the DTHS collection.



Civil War exhibit: Daniel Webster Barton, 2nd Lieut. 109th NY Regiment, Company F. Framed photograph on loan from the Barton family

"Local Painters Paint"

Two paintings, "Fall Creek Below Werninck Bridge" by A. B. Genung and "The Downey Farm" by Janice Downey have been added to this exhibit. Paintings by Liz Bailey have been returned with many thanks for the loan.

We will continue to change paintings in the exhibit. So be sure to stop in often.

"The Civil War Sesquicentennial Observance Exhibit"

The Observance runs for four years as did the civil war. At the History House, with this exhibit, we attempt to bring attention to the huge number of volunteers who served in the civil war from the town of Dryden. In his book, Centennial History of the Town of Dryden, 1797- 1897, George Goodrich devotes a section on the civil war and Dryden Soldiers. There are twelve pages of names of those who served from the town of Dryden. More than 60 were volunteers in the 109th Regiment. Of those 60, seven died in the battles of Spottsylvania or Petersburg in 1864. In our upcoming exhibit we feature three who lost their lives, Daniel Webster Barton, Nathan L. Griswold, and John W. White.

We began in 2011, and plan to extend exhibits of Dryden volunteers until 2015. We invite members who have family records or memorabilia to share with us. We welcome the opportunity to learn more about these brave civil war soldiers and to include them in History House exhibits.



8/5/12 Member tour @ SH. Mike lane, docent, talks to Tour Guests about the Southworth family in the living room



8/5/12 Member tour @ SH. Betsey VanSickle points out the portrait of Nancy Ellis, first wife of John Southworth, in the sitting room.



8/5/12 Member tour. Southworth Homestead docents: Joyce Perkins, Betsey VanSickle and Mary Hornbuckle go over notes before the August 5th Members Tour.

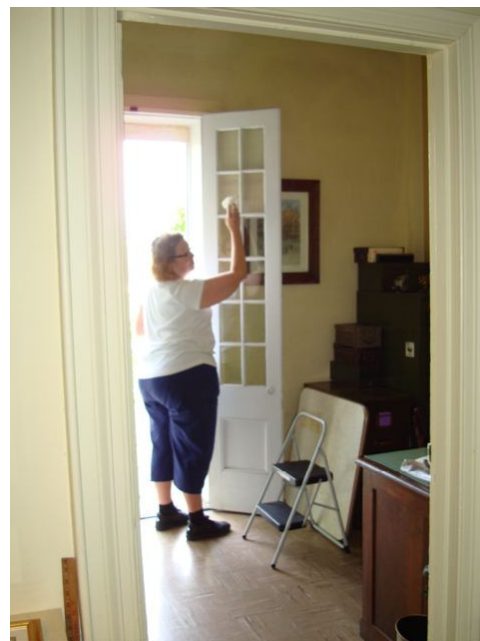


8/5/12 Member tour @ SH. Docent, Bambi Avery, points out the East wing from the 2nd floor back bedroom window



Southworth Homestead wallpaper detail: pattern above dado

9/14 Lots of docent opportunities at the Southworth house. Joan Keno washing windows in the office.



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 the twice length of Dryden Lake.

Sometime when your 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 adjunct lands were made into a fairly a 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 site such 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 unfound 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. Glaciation has been determined to have reached its peak about 21,750 years past 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, "durmlins" (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!

**PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT
DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

	Price*	Postage
"From Richford's Rails to Freeville: Ken Rice Remembers" 2000; by DTHS, edited by Elsie Gutchess; illustrated, soft cover; 88 pages	___ \$5.40	\$2.00
"The Centennial History of the Town of Dryden 1797-1897 First 100 years" ; Compiled and edited by Geo E. Goodrich, 2010 reprint	___ \$20.00	\$5.00
"The Hired Man's Christmas" , 1997, A true story by Dryden native, George Givens, about a Gee Hill farm family's holiday experiences, soft cover, 92 pages	___ \$6.48	\$2.00
"Barns of the Dryden Lake Area" 1988 by DTHS with area map and photos, soft cover, 21 pages	___ \$3.24	\$1.50
"A Glimpse of Carpenter Hill" , 1922 – 1928, by Dora Rowley Keyes, 1986; An expression of treasured childhood memories and a tribute to her mother and father, Ney and Zula Rowley, 62 pages	___ \$6.48	\$1.50
"WWII Book – More Than Names In Bronze" Bio-sketches of those in Dryden area whose lives were lost in WWII	___ \$4.32	\$1.75
"Dryden's Second Hundred Years" A Central NY Village in the Twentieth Century By Elizabeth Gutchess, soft cover	___ \$19.44	\$3.50
"Shall the Murderer Go Unpunished" The Life of Edward H. Rulloff New York's Criminal Genius by Stephen D. Butz	___ \$15.07	\$2.25
"Images of Work and Play" Compiled and edited by Tompkins County Historians Assoc.	___ \$23.75	\$4.95
"Great Possibilities" , Celebrating 150 years, Dryden Mutual Insurance Company, 150 Verne Morton Photographs	___ \$53.95	\$10.70
"Marking Bethel Grove Nov. 15, 2009" , Celebrating the 50 th Anniversary Of Bethel Grove School & 70 th birthday of Bethel Grove's Community "Home"	___ \$2.16	\$1.75

*Includes any applicable taxes

Make checks payable to *Dryden Town Historical Society* and mail to: PO Box 69, Dryden, NY 13053

Date of order _____ Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

**Dryden Town Historical
Society**

36 West Main Street

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Dryden, NY 13053

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607-844-9209

E-Mail:

drydennyhistory@gmail.com

HOURS AT THE HISTORY HOUSE

Saturdays

10 am – 2 pm

We have a new website! www.drydennyhistory.org. Come and visit.

We also have a new email address:

drydennyhistory@gmail.com

Dryden Town Historical Society

36 West Main Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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