

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

Dryden Town Historical Society
36 West Main Street, Dryden, NY 13053

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

DRYDEN WEDDINGS EXHIBIT

On March 25, DTHS was pleased to host Ruth Dann Shaheen, her two daughters, Ruth Ann Pugliese, Paula Farnsworth, her grand daughter, Olivia Farnsworth, her three nieces, Louise Dedrick Mose, Jane Dedrick Yaples, Bonnie Dedrick Roe and nephew, John Dedrick. They had all gathered to view the "Dryden Weddings" exhibit. Mrs. Shaheen came to see the wedding dress of her mother, Elva Pond Dann for the first time. She doesn't recall her mother ever talking about her wedding or her wedding dress.

Ruth grew up on the Dann farm at 164 Dryden-Harford Road and graduated from Dryden High School and the nursing program at Syracuse. She is the youngest daughter of Clayton and Elva Dann who were married May 17, 1909. Her siblings were Irene Dann Dedrick, Alice Dann Loman. Mark and Claud Dann.

This exhibit was initially inspired by the family's gift of Elva Dann's beautiful and fragile wedding dress. This happy reunion was a fitting conclusion.

DTHS thanks all for coming to the History House and for your generosity.



Ruthann Pugliese, Ruth Shaheen, Olivia Farnsworth, Paula Farnsworth and Elva Dann's wedding dress, 4 generations "Weddings" exhibit @ HH



2009 Holly Tour

By Betsy Cleveland

The historical Society's fundraiser THE HOLLY TOUR on December 13th was once again a great success.

Architecture is an inherent part of our combined histories and seeing the homes decorated for the holidays was a delightful plus.



Many thanks to all of the "tourists" as well as the homeowners and greeters for making this a fun semi-annual event. And thanks to the volunteers at the Presbyterian Church for the reception as it brought folks together to share a snack and their thoughts of the day.

Please look for our posters in late November of 2011 for the next HOLLY TOUR and a chance to satisfy that age old curiosity of "I wonder what that house is like inside"!

Holly Tour Photos



12 E. Main St. – the Dwight House, now the home of Elizabeth and Gary Gutches welcomes guests.



Lots of decorated trees at 122 Lake Road - home of Rav and Rita Harris



Beautiful Greek revival at 8 Library St. is now a Bed and Breakfast hosted by Elora Scholet.



Reception with punch and holiday cookies held at the Presbyterian Church.



Santa arrives by truck at 24 Lewis St - home of Walter and Joan Torello.



30 East Main St – home of Bob Ellis and Wendy Martin decorated with gingerbread men.

Fred and Muriel Likel donated fresh evergreen wreaths for tour. Thank you!

Upcoming Programs

DTHS PROGRAMS ARE ALWAYS FREE
AND OPEN TO ALL

SOUTHWORTH LIBRARY AND THE LINCOLN CONNECTION

Mike Lane will talk about the connection between the famous 19th century Lincoln paper and the 21st century Lincoln addition of Southworth Library.

Date: April 21

Time: 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Come early to chat and look at construction plans

Location: Dryden Village Hall

Corner of South and George Streets



ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM: “GREAT GRAVES OF UPSTATE NEW YORK”

Following a brief annual meeting, Chuck D’Imperio, the author of the book, “Great Graves of Upstate New York” will entertain us with fascinating, informative and often humorous tales of interesting people buried in upstate cemeteries. His recent book will also be available for sale.

Date: May 19

Time: 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Come early to chat and check out the book

Location: Dryden Village Hall

President’s Corner

By Harry L.D. Weldon, DTHS President

I am truly amazed at the number of people who have come up to me and wanted to know why there wasn’t a President’s Corner in the last issue of this Newsletter. It was definitely missed for sure, that’s for sure!

With this issue you will notice a significant change in format and style, for the better. The same people (Irene Gleason, et al) are pretty much involved ... involved still, with the addition of some new ideas and talent with the addition of Society members Debbie Fisher and Wendy Martin. A draft copy presentation left me with one word to say; “Wow!”

Our Web page site is another matter. Now that the newsletter is taken care of and I as step down as President at the May 19 Annual Member, I should be able to find ample time to spend in designing a likeable page, as once was realized. Looking to volunteer for this valuable task? Please let me know ASAP (as soon as possible).

During the past month of March it was found necessary to change all the entry door locksets to the History House. Lost and missing keys (never turned back-in, for whatever reason, etc.) became too burdensome to replace. The old mechanical locks had been in place since 1997. Now installed are mini-computerized electronic entry sets on each door entrance. Worrisome lost or missing keys will never be a problem, ever again!

In the near future, likely before the end of this public school term, look for a new storage shed being be built for the Society by the Cortland BOCES; it is to be placed on the History House rear lot site. Trustee Donald Smith has “spear headed” this project. I’m sorry that I don’t have a photo to share with you at this time.

Continued page 4

President's Corner Continued:

As this corporate year wanes, I would be remiss not to say "Thank You" to everyone that has made these past two years very enjoyable, indeed. To the eleven other Trustees a heartfelt THANK YOU for each and every task that you have taken on, to all the members of the Collection Committee that I chair who work as a "well oiled machine" always willing and able to take on just about any task given to them to complete and of course to all the other committees and their yeomen members. Names are listed in the Society's Annual Report to be distributed at the May 19 Annual Meeting.

For the record my being President has set a record for the Society, by completing two sets of consecutive years for a total to date of four years. Our Constitution and By-Laws only allow a person to fill two consecutive one-year terms at any given time. In May of 2011 will be the completion of my twenty-third year as a Trustee, also a record for the Society.



Snyder Family Exhibit in Dr Crispell Exhibit Room.
January 2010

THE EXHIBITS IN THE DR DONALD CRISPELL EXHIBIT ROOM

SNYDER FAMILY EXHIBIT

A current exhibit features a pioneer family in the town of Dryden. Christopher and Peter Snyder arrived in 1801. They settled on Lot 43 and Lot 42 at the corner of Pinckney Road and Lower Creek Road. Their story is an interesting one and their descendants have added much to the history of the town.

Jeremiah, the youngest son of Peter, served in the militia from 1820 - 1830. He was a prosperous farmer and civic minded, serving as supervisor, highway commissioner, and active in the Agricultural Fair. He married Elizabeth Middaugh. They were the parents of three sons and two daughters. Their youngest son, Bradford, attended Ithaca Academy and spent his life doing secretarial work, in addition to managing the home farm. He was secretary of the Dryden - Groton Insurance Company for 38 years, secretary of the Creamery, Director of the Telephone Company, and active in public affairs. Bradford married Ann Doxtader, a cheese maker by trade.

The exhibit features photographs, objects, letters and papers from 1789-1870, and so much more information about this early Dryden family.

Our thanks to Lois Fox, Willis and Betty Marion, and Shirley Dickens for the loan of all items.

LISTINGS OF APPRECIATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (since March 2009 Newsletter)

Margaret B. Adams – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Mildred Adriance – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Bob Baxter (Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.) – Honorarium for Marilyn Adriance
Bob Baxter (Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.) – Honorarium for Laurence Beach
Shirley A. Bowser – In memory Marilyn Adriance
Barbara Brisee – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Michael O. Brown – For doing genealogy research
Jack A. Bush – In memory of Ronald William Bush
Benjamin J. Chapman – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Donald Chu Family – To defray cost of violin repair (*Repeated from September Newsletter*)
Betsy Cleveland – A gift in general
Donald & Barbara Ensign – A gift membership
Betty J. Griffin – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Elsie Gutchess – 1st) A gift membership
Elsie Gutchess – 2nd) In memory of Claire & Irene Gutchess
Barbara Hanson – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Ray & Rita Harris – A gift in general
Peg Hill – In memory of Ed Hill (*Repeated from September Newsletter*)
Homemakers Hobby Club of Dryden – For a program presentation
Mary Hornbuckle – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Sandra R. Hunt – In memory of Calvin T. Hunt
Lori A. Jubic – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Diana J. Landis – A gift membership
Robert & Margaret Lorenzen – A gift membership
Willis Marion – A gift in general
Susan Morrie – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Karen A. O'Connell – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Gina Prentiss – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Mary G. Pancoe – In memory of Bonnie Clift
Elizabeth J. Reynolds – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Jacalyn Reynolds – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Professional Insurance Agents (Nancy Reynolds) – In memory Marilyn Adriance
Pamela Shoemaker – in memory of Belle Snyder Wolcott
R. Allen Sholtes – In memory of Marilyn Adriance
Frederic A. "Ben" Williams – A gift in general
Evelyn S. Wood – In memory of Marilyn Adriance

DONATIONS IN KIND RECEIVED (since March 2009 Newsletter)

Bob Baxter (Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.) – (For DTHS Sale Shelf)
 --- 16 Books; "Great Possibilities, 150 Vern Morton Photographs"
Carolyn Carver – Tall display case
Irene M. Gleason – Used HP 3 in 1 Scanner, Printer, Copier
Elsie Gutchess – 1st) Display bodice form & molded clothing hangers
Elsie Gutchess – 2nd) (For DTHS Sale Shelf) 10 books;
 --- "Tompkins County, Images of Work and Play"
Mary B. Streeter – Used Dell Computer System & used printers
Wolcott Civic Free Library – Book; "Great Possibilities, 150 Vern Morton Photographs"
 * Please forgive any omissions

News from Bethel Grove

By Molly Adams

(For newcomers, Bethel Grove was a farming community which flourished in the 19th Century along the Catskill Turnpike between Ithaca and the Besemer train station, in the southwest corner of Dryden. Glenn Norris described it as a growing community in 1951, but since World War II, it has become largely residential.)

There was a meeting on November 15 to celebrate the installation of the historic marker at the Bethel Grove School (built in 1851) and a plaque for the "Community Home" (70 years old in 2009). We had good attendance and a lot of good stories about the old days!

- a. Linda Juhl Brown and Jane Juhl Posner and June Guest Berggren swore there was a footpath leading from German Cross Road (where they lived) to the Center. They "practically LIVED at the Center."
- b. Halloween was a BIG event in Bethel Grove. Caroline Rightmyer nearly always won a prize for her costume. Caroline ran the store at the corner of German Cross Road for many years before selling to the Winters.
- c. Everyone remembered the summer bus trips to Buttermill and Treman State Parks. The community paid for the bus (probably a Crispell bus?) to take the kids for a full day at the park, which would include swimming, of course.

In corresponding with the "old-timers" around the country who sent contributions for the marker and the plaque, I also came across good stories!

- a. Doris Giles wrote that a poor family "could afford the 2-cent suppers put on by the Bethel Grove ladies at the Community Center. They were excellent cooks. Each serving of your choice was 2 cents, so you had a feast for 10 cents."



- b. Grace Saatman, who used to live in Faye Grover's house (1585 Slaterville Road), wrote that her neighbor Hugh Wyllie said his house had been a school house. (Down the hill on the Old Burns Road.) Since the original Bethel Grove School had been located on that 1585 corner, it is possible that Mr. Wyllie lived in a remodeled version of the original school!
- c. Bob and Kay Marion wrote to remind everyone of the annual Marion Reunion, held for MANY years at the Community Center on January 1. There was a large crowd of Marions in those days. Bob also remembered that his father Russell had his face blackened for his role in one of the Vaudeville Shows put on by the Center.

Thinking that current members of the Bethel Grove community might not realize what a fine resource their Center is, a group who attended a meeting there in February agreed to apply for financial support from the Town of Dryden Recreation Department. They hope to continue improvements to the property and to conduct a survey of the community with an eye to providing more recreational activities at "Home."

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Bethel Grove from page 6

Postscript: The Dryden Town Historical Society has received many items which relate to Bethel Grove from Pam Shoemaker, whose great aunt Belle Wolcott once taught at Bethel Grove. Belle married and moved away, but her sister Cora remained as a fixture of the community for a long time. She is pictured in the 1959 reunion picture published in the Ithaca Journal. More about Cora Snyder anon.



HOME GARDENS, FLOWERS AND LANDSCAPES OF DRYDEN

The DTHS photograph collection abounds with images of gardens of the homes, farms and landscapes in the town of Dryden – Mr. Trapp plows his garden, Nell Townley stands beside her graduation bouquets, and Lettie and Leland Burch admire their backyard water feature. These are just a few of the delightful images. Some folks were well know for their roses and hollyhocks and proud of their potato fields and florist shops. Some raised flowers used in weddings, some grew Victory Gardens.

This exhibit will be ready in June. We would like to hear from our membership and friends about the gardeners and gardens they remember. If you have stories or photos that could be included in this exhibit, please contact the History House, or Gina at 844-4691.



Tiger Scouts, Dryden Pack #24 and their leader, Theresa Sornberger, visit the History House on March 2. This is the 60th anniversary of Pack #24 in Dryden.

Genealogy

By Harry Weldon, pro tempore Chair

The advent of the computer age has made a major impact on the Genealogy Committee. It seems that people have become accustomed to finding free information on the www Internet and expect the same with their contacts to this Society.

A recent typical query reads: “I am searching my family history and need everything that you have on the...line.” No mention: Of paying for the cost of photo copies and return postage, let alone anything about giving a reasonable research fee donation to our Society.

At the present time two of the researchers are “snow birds” (i.e. gone south for the winter), one has a schedule conflict, and one has taken a respite from the committee. That leaves at best two others, one of which is I and the other person can’t always make the called meetings. It is no fun, whatsoever, to work alone on someone else’s family lineage pedigree.

Therefore, the Genealogy Committee is declared **INACTIVE** until further notice, as there are at the present time no outstanding queries with the potential of remuneration.

Around My Kitchen Table

By Shirley VanPelt (Otis) Price

It is just an oak mission style table, 4 foot by 4 foot square. It was not always a kitchen table. I have pictures of my Grandmother Maggie and my Uncle Carl sitting at the table in my grandmother's dining room. The table moved to my parent's home after my grandmother passed away and became my parent's dining room table. Of course, with seven children, my mother added leaves to accommodate all of us, and whenever we had company, or at holidays, my Mom would add all 5 leaves to the table.

The memories that the table brings to mind seem endless, spanning five generations that I can remember. Every new member to our family was welcomed to that table, where dish after dish of food was served. We ate every dinner and supper at that table while we were growing up.

The table never rested in between meals, as it was a place to cut out a new dress, or it was a place for to sit and read, or it was a place to sit and have a conversation with whoever was there, or it was a place



to do your homework, or it was a place to hold a giant bouquet of the newest in season flowers, or it was a place to hold a ping pong game.

The table was usually draped with a tablecloth; the most common was the vinyl fabric backed tablecloth from the local store, replaced as they wore out, at least a couple times a year. The white linen tablecloth, that had to be sprinkled and ironed, was used for holidays and special events. I remember it was used when my parents celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1965, laid out with candies and nuts and the good silverware, along with the punch bowl filled with red punch and the three tiered cake. Then there was all those wedding and baby showers hosted around that table. My mother made all but one of our wedding cakes and she assembled them all on that table.

It was my fathers' favorite place to sit and read cover to cover his National Geographic magazines. I believe that is where I got my love of reading. We still receive National Geographic every month, and we send our grandchildren magazine subscriptions every year to encourage reading. It was at the table, as we were looking at old pictures early one evening, that my Dad had his stroke. I held him in the chair until the ambulance crew arrived to take him to the hospital. It was where my Mom and other family members were gathered when we returned home to give them the prognosis, that my Dad would live, but he had a life-changing stroke.

Cont.....



Clockwise beginning at the lower left hand side - Marcie Otis, Annette Otis, Isaac Otis Clark Young (the baby standing on the table) George Price and Shirley Price

Around My Table Continued:

The table now resides at my home in my kitchen where it still is the center of our family. My family still uses the table to sit and read, or play fun family games, or put together a pie, or a cake, or hold a conversation, or share a meal, or view their laptops, or work a crossword puzzle, or share a bottle of wine, or a cup of coffee. I still add leaves as needed, for gatherings many times each year, although maybe only 3–4 leaves. My kitchen table is a symbol of years of laughter, conversations, meals and a few tears that make a family through the generations.

SPECIAL THANK YOUS:

- To Dave Armstrong who kept the History House free of snow and warmed up for the docents all during the winter long.
- To Maryellen Rumsey for the beauty wreath on the front door of the History House.
- To Josh Bogdan, the “main mapper” at the town of Dryden for his help in preparing the 1897 map.
- For their generosity in opening their houses for The Holly Tour 2009:
 - ✓ Elizabeth Gutchess
 - ✓ Ray and Rita Harris
 - ✓ Wendy Martin and Bob Ellis
 - ✓ Elora Scholet
 - ✓ Walt and Joan Torello

Our Mission

The objectives of the Society shall be the discovery, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge about the history of the Town of Dryden in the State of New York. More particularly, its objectives shall be:

- To discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and in war, and their progress in population, wealth, education, arts, science, agriculture, manufactures, trade and transportation;
- To provide for the preservation of such material and for its accessibility, as far as may be feasible, to all who wish to examine or study same, and to encourage the preservation of historical and/or genealogical documents and records, structures and artifacts;
- To cooperate with other historical agencies.



Joan Torello, Mary Lou Taylor, Carl Taylor and Bard Prentiss in the Dr Crispell exhibit room, at DTHS Open House

**Dryden Town Historical
Society**

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.odyssey.net/subscribers/
drydenNYtownHistory](http://www.odyssey.net/subscribers/drydenNYtownHistory)

MAY 19 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

We will elect new officers and trustees

Come see the new program - Great Graves in Upstate New York

Established in 1981; Incorporated in 1983; granted an Absolute Charter by the NYS Education Department in 1987

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



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

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