

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

June, July, August,
September 2014
Volume 34 (2014)

Dryden Town Historical Society
14 North Street, Dryden, NY 13053
607-844- 9209

HOURS
Saturdays, 10am - 1pm



Homestead Harvest Festival

September 20, 12 - 6pm

The Dryden Town Historical Society will host the **2nd annual Homestead Harvest Festival** on Saturday, September 20th, from Noon until 6 PM on the grounds of the Southworth Homestead, 14 North Street (Rt. 13) in Dryden. The event will feature bluegrass music by the Mathews Family Tradition, a demonstration of lace making by the Finger Lakes Lace Guild, demonstrations of sheep shearing, goat milking, blacksmith skills, square dancing, and spinning (wool and flax), as well as great food. There will be a pie eating contest, a quilt raffle and games for the kids. Admission is free and everyone is invited to join the fun. Tours of the Southworth House will be available for a \$5 donation.

BARNES OF NEW YORK: RURAL ARCHITECTURE IN THE EMPIRE STATE

Sunday, October 26th

2 - 4 pm at Dryden Village Hall

Presentation by the author, Cynthia Falk

This program is part of Historic Ithaca's, "Book Talk" series, sponsored jointly by DTHS.

ANNUAL DTHS PIE SALE

*Saturday, November 1st, 9am 'til gone
1st National Bank, Main St., Dryden*

Come early, these pies and bread sell quickly.

Always a huge variety of the best homemade pies and breads made by historical society bakers.

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 6

10am - 1pm, Southworth Homestead

Saturday is Dryden Village Holiday Tree Lighting day. DTHS will offer a workshop making unique handmade ornaments at the Southworth Homestead. Free and open to all ages.

HOLLY TOUR

Sunday, December 7th, 1 - 4PM

Visit historic Dryden homes decorated for the holiday. Reception after.

Tickets \$10.00

Southworth Homestead News

Drain Tiles

In preparation for the basement window project, a pile of drain tiles under the north porch of the main building were moved. There are 50 vitrified hexagonal tiles dating to 1920s, 12 inches by 3 3/4 inches. We need your help with ideas and suggestions. Please contact Gina Prentiss, 844-4691.

Summer Visitors

In addition to many guests, this summer DTHS hosted several long time members from out of state. On June 23rd, Marilyn Howser from Florida and family members were our guests. Marilyn grew up next door to the Southworth Homestead and spent many hours playing in the house. On July 13th, the family of Betty Cole Dudas from Florida and Japan visited. Years ago, Betty Cole Dudas gifted a pair of horse hide mittens to DTHS. The family was thrilled to see these mittens that Leland Sweetland wore when he delivered his milk by sleigh to the Borden's Milk Plant. This summer the family donated a book of Betty's writings.

The exchange of information and extending of friendship and support that spans generations is one of the biggest assets Dryden Historical Society offers. DTHS volunteers agree that connecting with members is one of the best rewards for the many donated hours.

Samuel Jansen Miller Information

DTHS has two S. Jansen Miller violins in the historical collection. In 2009, DTHS presented a program, "Jansen Miller and His Violins". Since then there has been exchanges of correspondence sharing information on more than 20 violins. This summer two emails shed light on Miller's construction methods. There is a growing file, but still many unanswered questions. DTHS has presented public programs since 1981 which have focused on people, events and places in the town of Dryden. All programs have been intended to not only inform, but spark additional information on the subject. To add information on Jansen Miller, contact program committee or Gina Prentiss, 844-4691.



Muriel Likel and Mary Hornbuckle making the Southworth Homestead ready for summer visitors.



1920s hexagonal drain tiles



Albert (Skeeter) Heidt (pictured) and Bob Watros laid out the new parking lot at the Southworth Homestead in time for the Antique Fair.



Carlene Brown Skawski stands beside the Kenneth and Libbie Lacey Brown memorial display case. A new addition is the framed needlework piece on top of the case, made by her daughter.



On July 13th, the family of Betty Cole Dudas visited the Southworth Homestead accompanied by village historian, Elsie Gutches.



Mary Hornbuckle and Shirley Price tossed two wagon loads of DTHS mini frisbees to parade watchers. Thanks to Shirley for the float inspiration and donation of frisbees.



Bob Watros pulled DTHS float in Dairy Day parade. Sue Morrie and young friends rode on float.



DTHS Antiques Booth



Mary Hornbuckle staffed the successful DTHS booth in the Southworth red barn at the Antique Fair



On June 25th, we welcomed this Kiwanis group to the Southworth House. Betsey VanSickle (center), Kiwanis president and DTHS trustee, led the tour.



ANTIQUe DRYDEN QUILT FUNDRAISER

Lettie Burch antique quilt Fundraiser. This lovely antique quilt made by Lettie Burch more than 100 years ago was donated by Joan Watros.

Donation Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 tickets for \$10.00. The drawing will be December 13th. Tickets can be purchased at the Homestead Harvest Festival and on Saturdays at the Southworth House.

All proceeds benefit the Southworth Homestead.

To the members and friends of the DTHS

From Bob Watros, President

We have enjoyed a busy summer. Aside from our regular business of serving the interests of the general public, we have been busy with many projects at the Southworth Homestead. The spring "Opportunity Sale" was very successful. Much time was devoted to our second annual Antique Fair in June. We now look forward to the Homestead Harvest Festival later this month. The public has shown great interest in the Homestead throughout the year. As a result, tour committee has conducted numerous tours.

As all the above activities were going on, a considerable amount of progress has been made on the renovation and restoration of the main building and the adjacent grounds. Cedar siding was installed on the exterior of the east section and coat of paint has been applied. Wooden storm windows have been made and installed. New copper eave gutters are now being installed throughout. General grading work is underway on the eastern side of the property.

One major project to start soon, and be finished before winter, is the restoration of the foundation under the brick section. Seven custom made windows will be installed in the basement. The project also involves a considerable amount of masonry work. This vital improvement was made possible by a generous donation of a member.

Assuming ownership of the Southworth property was a major financial commitment by this society. Over the past two years, over \$300,000.00 has been spent on the facility. The amazing thing is how it has been funded. Not by private grants or the general taxpayer, but by our own assets along with many personal financial gifts. Further, we have no debt and still hold a modest savings in reserve.



Eight Brilliant Lights from the Steam Ship Leviathan

Although the Southworth Homestead was built in the 19th century, the unique furnishings and features represent decades of styles. There are eight sconces, metal wall lights with crystal shades, that are in the living room and sitting rooms on the first floor. These unique electric lights were installed in the Southworth House sometime in the 1920s. Their history is an interesting one.

They originally were part of the interior of the Steam Ship Leviathan. This 950 foot long luxury German ocean liner, started her maiden voyage to New York as The Vaterland. Not only was this ship huge and fast, but was noted for its first class interior spaces. She made three round trips, then on her fourth crossing to New York, the Great War (WW I) started. When the United States entered the war, the ship was seized by the government, and converted to a troopship. Her crew, although ordered to damage the ship, so she could not be used, did not do so. She was renamed the Leviathan, and carried thousands of soldiers to the fronts. In 1922 after use as a troopship, all wiring, plumbing and interior layouts were stripped, her engines converted from coal to oil in Newport News Shipyard, and spent the next years in American passenger service. In 1929 she carried more passenger than any other liner. John H Southworth was employed in the shipping business in Newport News, Virginia, where he must have acquired these handsome lights from the Leviathan. John H., Florence and Becky returned back to Dryden to live in the Homestead in 1923. These lights cast a brilliant glow and give an idea of how beautiful the ship, The Leviathan, must have been.

Doesn't Everyone Have an Outhouse in Their Backyard?

By Shirley (VanPelt) Otis Price

Well, you probably did have at one time if your house is 100 years old or older. They are still around if you look carefully, not necessarily being used as their original intent, but now used as a shed or to store garden or lawn stuff, as I do with mine. They were either a one-seater or a family two-seater, some had a window for ventilation and some did not. These buildings needed cleaning out periodically and very often the boys in the family were given the chore of cleaning the outhouse using a rake or a shovel and pails. Think about the convenience today of just flipping a lever compared to the work it took to maintain your outhouse.

My outhouse was built circa 1900 by the Glazier brothers in Dryden. It has resided at three locations in my lifetime. It was located at Laura McKeon's house on West Main Street when my father Harold VanPelt acquired the outhouse. The Dryden Post Office now resides at this location. My father has purchased a vet house on Beam Hill Road from Howard Havington around 1955 and there was not any running water, so he decided to put an outhouse there to use as it was originally intended. We all slept at the cabin (vet house) during the month of August as my father had hay fever and he could sleep better at the higher altitude. We also used the cabin for picnics every Sunday during the summers, so the outhouse was well used. My parents started renting out the cabin and the hardy people who lived there also used the outhouse.

After Bing and I purchased the land from my parents, we continued to rent the cabin to Jared Prentiss. After a couple of years we installed a septic system and installed indoor plumbing. Waking up the next morning Jared made his way to the outhouse where it slowly dawned on him that he didn't need to do that. When I sold the cabin around 1999 to Jared, I sold it without the outhouse included as I wanted to preserve that bit of history. We moved the outhouse back down in the valley to my house. We, meaning my brother Wayne, my husband George and a friend, Fred Terwilliger, loaded the outhouse onto a trailer and hauled it off the hill. George



laughed at the looks they received while hauling an outhouse, it not even being Halloween. I remember hearing stories about young boys at Halloween tipping over outhouses in the village, one of them being Art Hines's, the village barber, only he was in it and he broke his arm.

My outhouse is a two-seater, with a vent in the roof and a sliding window. It is wired for a battery for a light and the interior is wainscoted. The outside is cedar siding painted white with cedar shingles. My daughter Missy and my son-in-law Wayne and I replaced the roof shingles after moving it to my house. It has a hinged door in the back to access for cleanouts. It has a paneled wooden door with an antique latch and no,, there is no moon on it. It is always fun when young children ask about the outhouse and you explain the 100 years ago this was everyone's toilet, rain or snow or freezing cold, and there was always a path from the house to the outhouse.



Listings of Appreciation as of August 30, 2014

CONTRIBUTIONS and MEMBERSHIPS (SINCE April, May, June 2014 newsletter)

from 2013

Alan Avery — Installing door and painting for the Southworth Homestead Project

May 2014

Bob & Gwen Beck — New (Patron) Membership

Ruth Craig — For the Southworth Homestead Project

Dr. Daeon Goldstine — For the Southworth Homestead Project

Carolyn Good— 1) New (Individual) Member; 2) In memory of George Good (for landscaping at Southworth Homestead)

Rita & Ray Harris — A nine foot Christmas tree for the Southworth Homestead

Mary Hornbuckle — Half the cost of tent rental for the Annual Op Sale

Michael E. Lane — For the Southworth Homestead Project

Carol LaPlant — New (Individual) Member

Shirley Price — Half the cost of tent rental for the Annual Op Sale

Susan Quick — New (Individual) Member

Cathy (Marion) Pulido — New (Individual) Member

Betsey VanSickle— 1) A Gift (Individual) Membership; 2) For the Southworth Homestead Project

Jessica VanSickle — New (Individual) Member

June 2014

Brian Howser— For the Southworth Homestead Project

Marilyn D. Howser — In memory of William Danielson & Charlotte Danielson Price

Elizabeth "Betsey" Kiefer — New (Individual) Membership

Joan Watros — An antique quilt for a fund raiser at the DTHS (2014) Annual Antique Festival

July 2014

Dryden Lawn & Recreation— Use of "Gator" for the Annual Antique Fair

Empire Tractor, Inc.— Use of "Gator" for the Annual Antique Fair

John Gutches — Providing night time security & running the shuttle vehicle

John Gutches — Able assistance in many may matters at the Annual Antique Fair

Mrs. Stephen Kiefer— For the Southworth Homestead Project

Robert Watros— In memory of George Price (for the Southworth Homestead Project)

Robert H. Wheeler— New (Family) Membership

The TCAT (Tompkins Cortland Area Tribune) — Free services extended for Annual Antique Fair

August 2014

Mary & William Hornbuckle— In memory of Molly Adams

Gina Prentiss— Donation-in-kind of items for Annual Antique Fair

Many thanks to:

Shirley Price and **Bob Watros** for lawn mowing.

Skeeter Heidt for parking lot preparation.

Southworth Homestead summer tour guides.

A 17th Century Transformation in Dryden

First of a Series by David Waterman, "The Amateur Historian on Lot 59"

Hodеносаunee, People of The Longhouse, The Five Nations Iroquois Confederacy, was established between Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, and Mohawk tribes in about 1586. Their homelands stretched across the Finger Lakes, north to Lake Ontario east to the Hudson Valley and south into Dryden. The Beaver Wars (1638-1711) would extend their hegemony to Illinois, Vermont, Maryland and Kentucky, making them the most powerful native force on the North American Continent. But in the early 1600's they did not yet dominate. Just south of Dryden Village, through the pass to Harford, another Iroquois confederacy consisting of over 20 tribes with 5,000-7,000 population controlled the Susquehanna River watershed. Called Susquehannock by the British, Andaste by the French, their differences in dialect and customs compared to Hodеносаunee indicate long extended separation and enmity. Dryden never held an Indian town. So near the Susquehannock, it would have been both provocative and indefensible. Iroquois towns were located on hills far from border areas, heavily defended and palisaded. Yet archaeologists find an Onondaga/Cayuga seasonal campsite existed on the bluff north of Dryden Lake, on and off, for two thousand years. Maybe the campsite was justified by more than just good hunting and fishing. Hunters could also provide early warning of a Susquehannock incursion. While runners warned the main Onondaga and Cayuga towns of the threat, campsite families could quickly escape down Fall Creek in canoes.

Hodеносаunee ascendancy began in 1628 when Mohawks took control of the upper Hudson River from Mahicans, recently decimated by smallpox. With this victory came a monopoly of the fur trade at Albany, the trading post of the Dutch settlement on Manhattan. Beaver trade was already huge, with over 7500 beaver pelts being shipped from the New Netherlands Colony each year. As beavers became hunted out in their lands, Hodеносаunee became increasingly dependent on the trade items: metal knives, hatchets, hoes, needles, and cooking pots, woolen cloth and blankets, great quantities of wampum beads, trinkets, sweet pastries, alcohol, guns, lead, powder, and flints. In the Beaver Wars, Mohawks and other Hodеносаunee used their acquired weaponry in subjugating neighboring tribes for control of expanded beaver hunting grounds. They also hijacked beaver shipment convoys from western tribes going to the French trading post at Quebec. Continuous inter-tribal and French wars tended to depopulate all sides but European infectious diseases (smallpox, plague, measles, scarlet fever, typhoid, typhus, influenza, pertussis, tuberculosis, cholera, diphtheria, chickenpox, and STD's) were a much bigger factor. The mortality rate for Mohawks in the epidemic of 1633 was 75%.

While negotiating peace with France in 1656, in order to redeploy warriors West against the Eries, Hodеносаunee offered to prove their sincerity by allowing Jesuit missions in each tribe of The Longhouse. That May, as the joyful missionaries prepared to leave Quebec for Onondaga, Huron converts accompanying the mission warned of overhearing Mohawks plotting a deadly ambush. The Mohawks, guardians of the eastern door of The Longhouse, were upset that in going to Onondaga first, the missionaries would be jumping through the chimney instead of entering through the door, a serious error of protocol. Despite a history of Iroquois martyred Jesuits, the missions went ahead. René Menard, the Cayuga missionary, lived at Cayuga Castle in Aurora and traveled a wide loop each year by canoe to outlying Cayugas and to Onondaga Castle, displaying oil portraits of Jesus and Mary, distributing gifts and proselytizing. Menard is believed by some to have visited the Dryden Lake campsite, which has been called the Menard Site by the D.A.R. The temporary peace with New France ended after two years and Menard safely escaped.

In the decade before 1660, Mohawk population was halved again. In The Longhouse organizational metaphor, Oneidas were the nephews of Mohawks and thereby obliged to provide warriors for Mohawk operations. At one point the Oneida warrior class was virtually wiped out. Now Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas, more remote from European contact, provided the manpower to push the Beaver Wars West and South. Following two failed efforts to defeat the Susquehannocks, they were bypassing them in 1677 and ravaging the Delawares of New Jersey and Maryland. The Maryland Colony had peace agreements with both Delawares and Susquehannocks and did not welcome the new

17th Century Transformation continued

violence. So they decided to upgrade Susquehannock arms and, along with Maryland Militia, they could overpower the Hadenosaunee. Maryland should not have needed to be reminded that England, having recently taken over the Dutch Colony, now considered Hadenosaunee to be England's most important native trading partner and buffer to the French. Suddenly Maryland militia withdrew from their offensive, leaving Susquehannocks with nothing but a smallpox pandemic. There is no record of a great final battle. Susquehannocks were absorbed into Hadenosaunee tribes, too few now to make up for all their losses.

Archaeologists studying the Dryden Lake campsite in 1989 found evidence of fire pits, plant gathering, pottery, fishing, food preparation, and stone tool manufacture. The physical evidence does not reveal when the Dryden Lake campsite stopped being visited, but it seems the two thousand year reasons for using the campsite ended about 1677. The hunting season had become shorter using guns, and less wide ranging with populations in decline. And now there would be no enemies of Cayugas and Onondagas south of Dryden until Sullivan Campaign soldiers passed through Owego and Caroline, a hundred years later.

SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

14 North Street, Dryden

HOUSE TOURS AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 6th and OCTOBER 4th
10 AM – 11 AM – 12 NOON
\$5.00 donation

Hello Volunteers**NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD**

- painters - paint the shed red to match the barn
- window washers
- grounds assistants - this fall sweep sidewalks, rake leaves, pick up sticks

Sign up by email gpp@frontiernet.net

In memoriam

DTHS notes the passing of two dedicated and generous DTHS members who gave so much support to our organization.

Molly Adams was a faithful member of the program committee, all DTHS presentations and the Southworth Homestead project. Molly researched, presented a public program and prepared an exhibit on the town of Dryden hamlet and community center of Bethel Grove.

Jean Warholic was a former DTHS trustee and member of the program committee. Jean gifted the R Townley spinning wheel to DTHS historical collection.

Dryden Town Historical
Society

14 North Street
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drydennyhistory@gmail.com

HOURS AT THE SOUTHWORTH HOUSE

SATURDAY 10 AM – 1 PM and
by appointment
call 607-844 -9209

Would you prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, as an attachment in an email, instead of the print version that arrives in the mail?

If so, please send us an email with “Prefer Newsletter Electronically” in the subject line to drydennyhistory@gmail.com.

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