

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

SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD



Sadly, the Dryden Town Historical Society lost one of its founders on April 27, 2011 with the passing of Charter Member Rebecca Simpson. Although I never had the opportunity to meet her, I've been told by many people that she was a kind and caring woman who loved her community.

In her Last Will and Testament she bequeathed her home, The Southworth Homestead located at 14 North Street and its contents to the Dryden Town Historical Society. A contingency is that six months from the date of completion of probate, DTHS will establish an office at the "Homestead."

Rebecca's consideration and generosity will be very much appreciated for generations to come through this wonderful gift. Our goal is to have it be *The Southworth Homestead Museum*. Look for our grand opening to be announced at a later date and Thank You So Much, Rebecca Southworth Simpson.

Betsy R. Cleveland, President



Southworth Homestead 14 North Street, Dryden, NY



National Register plaque on Southworth Homestead

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE HISTORY HOUSE

Lt. Henry R. Hemingway 143rd Regiment, NYS Volunteers (on loan from Bill Bailey)

Lieutenant Henry H Hemingway, 143rd Infantry ,
Company I, C New York 1862 - 1865

Henry H Hemingway's service in the war between the states, is documented by this collection of letters and numerous documents, and officers sword and scabbard.

Henry H Hemingway was 28 years old when he was the first to enlist in the 3rd call for volunteers on August 8, 1862 in his home village of Etna, the same muster that listed Captain Harrison Marvin from Dryden.

Henry was promoted to 1st Sergeant in 1863, and on May 25, 1865 earned the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He was discharged from the military July 20, 1865. In his three years of active duty, he walked hundreds of miles and took part in battles in Washington D C, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia. In letters he mentions his pay, buying his sword, and his travels. There are copies of these letters ready to read.

Henry Hemingway died in 1913 and he and his wife are buried in Etna cemetery.

Many thanks to the Bailey family for the loan of all Henry H Hemingway items.



Photo above: Top: Officers of the 143rd Regiment , Capt. Marvin is seated in 1st row on left. Left bottom photo: Capt. Harrison Marvin, Dryden



Henry H Hemingway's officers sword, enlistment document and letters.



Henry H. Hemingway photograph and 143rd Regiment documents

Lieutenant Henry H. Hemingway

By Bill Bailey

My Great Grandfather Henry H. Hemingway served in the Union Army during the American Civil War with the 143rd Regiment New York State Infantry Company I, commanded by Captain Harrison Marvin and was comprised of 65 volunteers from Dryden.

Gramp enlisted for three years on August 8, 1862. The first assignment in October 1862 was the defense of Washington, DC. After the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 the Regiment was assigned to the Western Theater of the war under General Hooker. The 143rd Regiment participated in General Sherman's "March to the Sea" starting in May of 1864 and the Grand March in Washington DC before General Grant and Sherman in May of 1865.

Currently on display at the History House are letters written to his wife Harriet and daughter Alida (my grandmother) starting in March 1864 near Nashville, TN. You might find it interesting to plot on a map Nashville, Atlanta, Augusta, Robertsville, Fayetteville, Goldsboro, Raleigh, Richmond, Alexandria, VA to see how far these men marched on foot! An excerpt, from one letter near Richmond. "We arrived here day before yesterday. We was only 9 days marching about 200 miles."

If you are interested in Civil War History I think you will find the current display to be of interest to you. Gina Prentiss and her committee have done a great job presenting Gramp's memorabilia.

GRAND ARMY REVIEW

On May 21, 1865, Henry mentions the Grand Army review in a letter he wrote to his wife and daughter. On May 23 and 24, 1865, the 150,000 men who had made up Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Potomac, William Tecumseh Sherman's Army of Georgia, and O.O. Howard's Army of the Tennessee gathered in Washington, D.C., for a grand review. The troops marched down Pennsylvania Avenue past President Andrew Johnson and their commanding generals and were wildly cheered by crowds of onlookers who lined both sides of the street. Following the lavish spectacle, the armies were disbanded and sent home.

CONGRATULATIONS

On May 26, 2011 the Carpenter family and Vince and Linda Bruno were presented with Preservation Awards of Merit from Historic Ithaca for the repair and restoration of their historic barns.

Carpenter's 1853 steep gable barn at 2242 Dryden Road looks good with its new roof and siding and foundation re- pair.

The Brunos had foundation and siding repaired to the south side of the steel frame barn at 364 McClintock Road, built by Groton Bridge Company in 1908.

Both barns are still in agricultural use and have been an important part of the DTHS barn survey, barn tours, and DTHS programs on barns.

UPCOMING FALL PROGRAMS

Don't miss these fine programs

**It's a Wonderful Life:
75 Years of the George B Bailey
Agency in Dryden**

Date: September 22, 2011

Time: 7 P.M.

Location: Dryden Village Hall

The Great Flood of October, 1981

Date: October, 2011

Time: 7 P.M.

Location: Dryden Village Hall

The 2011 "Opportunity Sale" was held on June 17th and 18th at the home (garage, actually) of George and Shirley Price. The weather was great and the selection of donations was outstanding. The sale was scheduled to begin at 9 AM on Friday but there were antique dealers on site at 7:30 AM and the sale was underway! On Saturday we continued to reduce prices throughout the day and let it be said that we made our late-arriving customers *very* happy and no child went away empty handed. By the end of the day we had made just over \$700.

We want to thank all our members and friends who contributed to the sale and especially the workers who gave their time to make the sale a success: Sue Morrie, Gina Prentiss, Joan Torello, Maria Ortiz, Shirley Price and Mary Hornbuckle.



Joan Torello, Maria Ortiz, Sue Morrie, Mary Hornbuckle, Shirley Price volunteers at the OP SALE

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

Dryden Lake Festival

August 6, 2011

For the second year in a row the DTHS will be sponsoring the Revolutionary War Re-enactors at the Dryden Lake Festival! This group offers a great sense of military life during one of the most important times of our Nation's history.

Come and be fascinated by these extremely knowledgeable folks and always feel free to ask questions while taking a journey back in time. It's a perfect venue for all ages and you'll be surprised how intrigued you'll be.

They demonstrate how to prepare a meal on an open fire and fire-pit, clean a weapon and they even fire a cannon approximately every 30 minutes. All this in period costumes around their camp tent. Just look for the campfire smoke and you'll know you're there!

THANKS

- George Price for mowing the lawn and much assistance with the Op SALE
- Bob Timmerman of Sunshine Signs for refurbishing the History House sign.
- Jean Warholic for the gift of the R Townley great wheel
- Ruth Allen, Jean Tyler and Wayne Harbert, Blacksheep Handspinners on Dairy Day
- Linda Olds and Mary Hornbuckle for the loan of wool and spinning items

Paul Dupee Wilson

What I know about Paul Wilson

by Bob Watros

Paul was born on September 24 in 1892, the son of Jessie and Hattie Dupee Wilson. He had a sister, Ruth who was a few years older. He first lived on a farm on the Freeville Road (Miller Farm). About 1900, Mrs. Wilson inherited the property located on East Main Street from her mother, Mary Dupee, and Paul and family moved to that location. Paul attended the old Dryden School and graduated around 1911.

While growing up on East Main St., he was known to have a brilliant mind and be mechanically inclined. In his youth, he built a devise that enabled him to ride on a wire between his barn and a tree near the street. As a teenager, he bought his first motorcycle, a used 1907 Barsh-Metz . He also developed an interest in both steam and gas engines. In his youth, he spent time at the Dryden Herald print shop studying the steam driven press. Paul was reported to have installed a gas engine on the family buggy. It has been said that Paul had one of the early motorcycles, made by the Indian Company. He became a close friend of Jack Dolf, a nephew of the banker, J. Dolf Ross.

Shortly after graduation, Paul operated a garage business in partnership with Dolf Ross located on main street west of the old hotel. He developed an interest in early radio and was a pioneer in amateur radio. He installed a radio antenna between his garage and the Methodist church whereby he could receive radio signals. Around 1916, Ross Sherman and others would go to his place to "hear" the World Series. Paul was proficient in the Morris Code and would pass on the play-by-play information he received over the "Wireless." During the last years of the Dryden Fair, Paul was a regular participant. He modified a model T Ford into a racer and drove it around the track with Jack Dolf riding as his mechanic. During



the same period, he had a Harley Davison motorcycle that he rode in the motor dome attraction one year. He then challenged man who regularly rode in the dome to a race around the track. It has been said his Harley easily beat the other fellows Indian.

His first air flight occurred in 1911. Around 1914, when the Thomas Brothers moved their aircraft manufacturing business to Ithaca, Paul developed a serious interest in aviation and enrolled in the Thomas Flying School. He learned to fly on a Curtiss-type "pusher" airplane that was mounted on floats flown from Cayuga Lake. He sold his garage business to W.J. Holmes of Union Street and joined the Thomas Company and served as one of their test pilots. In addition to doing test flights, he was assigned the task of ferrying newly built planes to various government airfields, spending several months each year introducing the Thomas-Morse aircraft. During World War One, Paul and Tex Marshall flew in a several air shows in the promotion of Liberty Bonds. Ross Sherman saw one show held in the vicinity of the Cortland Country Club. Ross said Paul did all the tricks such as the loop-da-loop, upside down and the "falling leaf."

While flying out of Ithaca, Paul occasionally flew around Dryden. According to Ross Sherman, in 1923 Paul landed his plane in a field across the road from the Bordon's milk station and walked to his old garage on Main Street then operated by Ross.

Continued on page 6

Paul Wilson, continued

Paul gathered a group of men to go back to his landing site to hold the plane until he got up enough RPM to take off from the short field. Paul also took part in a publicity stunt involving Dolf Ross, Dryden's bank president. It was arranged for Paul to fly down Main Street in Dryden at a specified time and drop a bank deposit to the banker below. Many people in Dryden were aware of the plan and were able to witness the event.

Paul worked for Thomas-Morse until after World War One when the firm merged with the Consolidated Aircraft Corp of Buffalo N.Y. In 1928 a group including Paul Wilson from Ithaca went to Rochester and formed the Cunningham-Hall Aircraft Corp. Their plan was to build a six-passenger plane designed for commercial use. Paul took the first unit to Leroy, N.Y. for its maiden flight on April 3, 1929. However, just as the second plane was completed, the full effect of the stock market crash took effect and the demand for such aircraft vanished. He then as a lieutenant in the Air Corps Reserve tested government aircraft at McCook field near Dayton, Ohio. Flying airplanes was a risky business in the early days. Paul experienced many emergencies while in the cockpit. Crankshaft failures, electrical malfunctions, were common, and in one case a propeller fell off. However, in spite of all the mishaps, he landed his plane without a crash.

During the depression, Paul moved to Danville, Illinois where he operated a Kendall Oil distributorship. During the 30's, he occasionally returned to Dryden where he would visit Ross Sherman's garage on South St. and advise Ross on the latest lubricating techniques. Paul retired from his business in 1947 and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. He spent his retirement working on motorcycles, restoring automobiles and traveling throughout America. Paul returned to Dryden often for visits. In 1971, while in the Dryden area, he flew for the last time. He was acquainted with Bob Keech, a local aviator who had his plane in Etna. Bob invited Paul for a ride. Bob reported that Paul flew the plane with complete competence over Dryden Lake and the Dryden Village, over Freeville and back to Etna. Bob invited Paul for a ride.

Bob reported that Paul flew the plane with complete competence over Dryden Lake and the Dryden Village, over Freeville and back to Etna. Much of his travel was done on his BMW motorcycle, one of forty various machines he owned in his lifetime. In 1952, he shipped his motorcycle to Cuba and toured the island. Paul lived out his life in St Petersburg with his second wife Vivian, where he died on March 9, 1977.

Paul Wilson was a philanthropist. In 1959, with the assistance of Fay Stafford, Paul formed the J. B. Wilson Trust to provide funds for a public swimming pool in Dryden. It was to be located on land on Lewis St. purchased from Stafford. While there was much hype by A. K. Fletcher of the Rural News, the project was never started. When the plans for a new high school included a indoor pool, the Wilson project was terminated and the land was conveyed back to Stafford in 1968. Another gift by Paul was a large telescope given to the science department at the Dryden School. His greatest gift was to the Southworth Library. Throughout his life he accumulated a large amount of Dryden bank stock worth several hundred thousand dollars. Upon his death, it was bequeathed to the library.

It should be noted that each member of Paul's family made a significant contribution to society. Jess was a long time secretary of the Dryden Fair as well as a village mayor. Mrs. Wilson (Hattie Dupee) was the first librarian of the Southworth Library. And sister Ruth was instrumental in breaking the Japanese code during World War Two.



Tiger Scouts Pack 46 and parents look at the LVRR model at the History House



Tiger Scouts Pack46 Freeville and parents visit History House. Jean Tyler, 2nd from left, demonstrated spinning on the R Townley great wheel.



June 2011 newly refurbished sign in front of History House Bob Timmerman, Sunshine Sign Co



Dairy Day Ruth Allen, center, Blacksheep hand spinner, demonstrates on the R Townley great wheel at History House



Dryden Elementary School 1st graders @ History House 6/21/2011. Ms May, teacher, top row right seated



Mary Lou Taylor looks at Henry Hemingway's civil sword with 1st graders, 6/21/2011

Dryden Town Historical Society

36 West Main Street, PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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607-844-9209

E-Mail: historyhouse@odyssey.net

HOURS AT THE HISTORY HOUSE

Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm

April – November

CURRENT EXHIBITS

- HENRY H HEMINGWAY
- 143rd REGIMENT
- SHEEP RAISING IN THE TOWN OF DRYDEN
- R. TOWNLEY SPINNING WHEEL AND FURNITURE MAKER

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