

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

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

Southworth House Stabilization-Preservation- Modernization

After several months of evaluation, plans for the Southworth House are crystalizing. A modest grant application for technical assistance has been submitted. A much larger environmental preservation fund grant is being prepared for submission to the Regional Economic Development Council. A summary of that application provides an overview of the work required at the Southworth House.

The goal is to present a permanent, well-preserved, historic landmark to the Dryden community. It will be a benchmark of the enormous presence of the Southworth, Dwight and McGraw families in the 19th century, and the Southworths/Simpsons in the 20th.

Rebecca Southworth Simpson's generous gift of the family homestead on North Street is at once a great opportunity, and a challenging responsibility. The house must be stabilized, preserved and modernized, while maintaining its 19th century character, and displaying the life-style of the Southworth family.

The initial goal is structural stabilization of the house and barn. The work that must be accomplished is outlined in the grant application now under preparation.

- Reinforce, repair and repoint the main house masonry walls
- Rebuild the east wing foundation
- Rebuild the east wing first floor joist and sill system
- Rebuild east wing southeast corner including studs and interior/exterior finishes

History House Hours:
Saturday 10am to 2pm and by appointment



- Repair split joists and water damage in the east wing attic
- Repair east wing windows and frames
- Repair/repoint the three brick chimneys, improve access to the main attic
- Repair roof flashings and drip edges, install new gutters at all eaves
- Repair the north basement entrance, renew the basement door and windows
- Repair barn including foundation, door and window repairs and gutters
- Repair west porch piers and wood balustrade
- Repair north porch brick piers and wood lattice/balustrade
- Replace heating system, add heat to east wing
- Replace plumbing system
- Replace obsolete electrical wiring in house and barn

The renowned wallpaper in the front parlor will be repaired under a separate contract once it is determined how that may best be preserved, and funding is secured.

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Southworth House, continued

Plans for moving the History House programs to the Southworth House will be formulated with the help of the \$3,500 Technical Assistance Grant already submitted. The Southworth Committee is anxious to move expeditiously to vacate the History House. Stabilization of the Southworth east wing must be accomplished before this may be done. Initial study indicates that floor space is adequate. Organizing various program functions is complicated. A decision to rent or sell the History House will be made in the future.

The Environmental Protection Fund grant draft request totals \$447,500. The application is based on findings of two evaluations, Mechanical Systems Survey, by John Kiefer, and Structural Conditions Assessment, by architects, Crawford & Stearns.

DTHS members will be welcomed at the Southworth House this summer (details elsewhere in this newsletter.). Preparing to host other visitors at the Southworth House is a priority. Visitors are important to maintain public interest and provide ongoing income. Informed volunteers are needed to act as guides (docents) and to assist with security. Maintaining the grounds, other than mowing, will be an important opportunity for volunteers.

Once structural work begins, local people and businesses may be recruited. Because preservation is a primary consideration, professional expertise will be required for much of the work. Crawford & Stearns will provide architectural/preservation leadership.

Preserving and presenting the Southworth House, a community treasure, will command the interest and energy of DTHS members for years to come.

Southworth House Committee
Dryden Town Historical Society

CALL FOR DOCENTS

Our wonderful new facility, the Southworth Homestead, will be in need of added docents to staff it during open hours. We want to be able to share it with the community when it is ready. To do so will require a significant additional number of people who are willing to serve as docents. Those of us, who do it, find it an enjoyable and rewarding experience, but it takes some orientation in Dryden history and the routine of being a docent (not difficult!) Those willing to sign on now as a docent will partner with existing, experienced docents. Then all will have the same knowledge of the society and docent routine when we start learning about the Homestead.

Thanking you in advance for signing on.
Muriel Likel 844-9518



Fred Likel repairs the History House stair tread behind the pretty pots of pansies

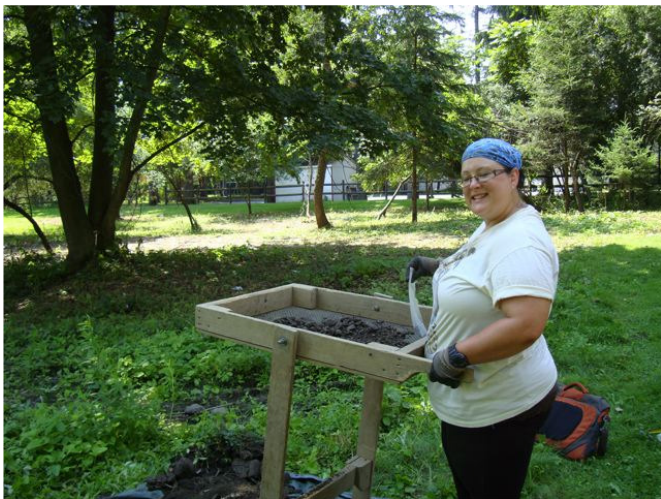


Students in PAF Archaeology Field School, Binghamton University

PAF Field Archaeology School from Binghamton University held a preliminary dig at Southworth Homestead, 14 North St, Dryden on June 29



Finding sheep bones



Sifting, Dig @ Southworth Homestead



Brenda Armstrong, exhibit committee member, records measurements of 1872 Phoebe Doxtader Snyder wedding dress



Dairy Day parade. Walt Toello drives his restored 1931 Model A pick up truck with John Southworth and Nancy Ellis Southworth along for the ride

CURRENT EXHIBITS

Every 3rd Saturday is **"History Pick"** at the History House. In addition to current exhibits, an interesting item from the collection is featured. April and May "Civil War call for volunteers" was on display.



"Local Painters" exhibit at History House. Paintings by David Armstrong, Liz Bayley, Bob Cardwell, Sue Cardwell, Betty Hurst, 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" Dryden inspires some residents to put brush to canvas. This exhibit features paintings on loan from David Armstrong, Liz Bayley, Sue Cardwell (Bob Cardwell), Joan Manning, Gina Prentiss, and Shirley Price. Betty Hurst, Gladys Dennis, and Nancy Maas paintings are from the DTHS collection. As some paintings are returned to their owners, additional paintings will be added to the exhibit during the year.

"Fancy Weave Jacquard Coverlet Made by J Impson in 1848" on loan from George Chevalier

Civil war Sesquicentennial 2011 - 2015: Local Volunteers served in the Civil war 1961 - 1865 "Colonel Daniel Webster Barton, NY 109th Volunteer Regiment". Items are on loan from the Barton family.

Lieutenant Daniel W. Barton was the son of Colonel Lewis Barton who owned and ran the Blodgett Hotel on West Main Street, Dryden, and in 1858 owned the house at 39 West Main Street.

Daniel Webster's brother, Charles, married Isabel Miller, and so joined the Barton and Miller families. Daniel W. Barton, was 27 years old when he enrolled August 5, 1862 at Dryden to serve in the civil war for three years. He was mustered in the 109th Regiment as Sergeant, Company F, on August 14, 1862. He was commissioned as Second Lieutenant, January 29, 1862. Daniel was killed at the awful battle near Spotsylvania, Virginia on May 12, 1864.

Mini Exhibit & sale

DTHS takes part in the Garden Gate Garden Tour each year. We prepare a mini exhibit and have Nature Photographs donated by Bard Prentiss and Garden Glass ornaments donated by George Price for sale.

This year on July 14 the historical society will be at Gwen Sandsted's garden. MaryLou Taylor is doing research on Lyman Sanford, early owner of Gwen's property for the mini exhibit.

UNSETTLED QUESTIONS AT DRYDEN

The spring newsletter told the story, from John's 1923 diary, of the return of the Southworth family to Dryden.

John H. Southworth was employed by Furness Withy Company, Newport News, Virginia, when his niece, Sarah B. (Becky) Wood was born on October 6, 1918. He arrived in Dryden two days later. His letter of 16 October to Furness & Withy described the catastrophes that had befallen the family, and urged that his position be filled.

His sister-in-law, Fanny Montgomery Wood, had died soon after Becky's birth. His father-in-law, Daniel R. Montgomery, had sustained head bruises and broken ribs in an automobile accident on the previous day. His letter urged that his position be filled due to "...so many unsettled questions ahead".

He went on to say he and Mrs. (Florence Montgomery) Southworth found it necessary to stay in Dryden for the foreseeable future. Mrs. Southworth must care for her father. The family will have to decide about the care of her sister's children, Genevieve and Becky. Their father, Walter Wood, may decide to take them to their grandmother or the Southworths may take one or both of their nieces.

The 1920 federal census reveals their decisions. Genevieve, the seven, was living with grandmother Rockwell. Becky was living in Virginia with her aunt and uncle, John and Florence Southworth.

John continued at Furness Withy Company until 1922 when his position was vacated due to declining shipping business. This led to their return to The Homestead in April 1923.

From correspondence files of John H. Southworth.
David Smith

LISTINGS OF APPRECIATION

(Contributions received since February, March, April 2012 Newsletter)

May 2012

- **Betty W. & Paul J. Fuda** — For cleaning a donated family wedding dress
- **Belinda Gross** — a Dell Dimension E521 PC Computer CPU to & a Dell Dimension 1100 PC Computer CPU tower
- **Nancy N. Maas** — Four watercolor paintings of Dryden structures
- **Natalie Rose** — For Genealogy research
- **Shirley Shackelton** — A computer printer cable & a folding table
- **Frank & Laurie Smith** — For assistance with family history research
- **Mary Ann Sumner** — Dell Dimension E520 PC Computer CPU tower
- **Betsey VanSickle** — For the Southworth Homestead
- **Varna Senior Citizens** — Honorarium to DTHS' guest (Harry Weldon) program speaker
- **Frank & Laurie Wilson** — For assistance with family history research
- **Saino Zazarra** — Of a replaced ventilation floor grate to the History House office-library area

Thank you...

For participating in these DTHS programs

- for April 26th "Weatherwise" - **Simon St Laurent**
- for May 25th "In the Neighborhood: Willowbrook Manor" - **Bob Watros, Mark Goldfarb, and David Smith**

Thanks for planning and organizing the June 2nd "Opportunity Sale" - **Shirley Price and Mary Hornbuckle**, and all those who worked, donated items and shopped.

The Op Sale raised more than \$2,000.00!

Our Sunday Picnics on Top of the Mountain

By Shirley (VanPelt) Price

As far back as I can remember we had family and friends for picnics on our property at the top of Beam Hill Road. My father purchased most of the 220 acres from his grandfather, Elmer VanPelt, for seven dollars an acre. We had a cabin at the top of the hill, where the seasonal road begins. The cabin was one half of a veteran house duplex that had been moved from Cornell University by the previous owner Howard Havington, who used it for a hunting cabin. The cabin had electricity and no running water, but we had an outhouse. The hill was always special to my father, he suffered from hay fever and the air was always cleaner at the higher altitude. We often slept in the cabin in the month of August, during the ragweed season.

Our picnics would start Memorial weekend and go through Labor Day weekend, every Sunday when the weather was fair. Curiously, I don't remember all what we ate, but we always had lots of food. I do recall potato salad, macaroni salad and other things that as a kid I wasn't interested in eating. We also have hot dogs, as we would go break off a branch and sharpen it with a jackknife, so that we could roast them over the fire, and there were always marshmallows to cook over the flames. We had a campfire that was keep burning all day, my brothers would argue about who got to build the fire. We had two large picnic tables with benches; one table was solid slate that sat on four iron tubes that were driven into the ground. The story is that the table was originally a top to a vault from the Willow Glenn Cemetery where my father worked for awhile. The table has been moved to my backyard, where we use it for our annual picnics, surrounded by milk can stools. The picnic area was in the corner of the woods next to the cabin and I remember the pink azalea bushes that bloomed there every spring.

We always had company to our picnics on the hill, sometimes relatives, and often friends of my parents or of our siblings. We would celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, engagements and anything else that needed celebrating. After my father started working at Cornell University, we would have people from England, India, Ireland and people from across our country came to our picnics. I remember one picnic; Mr. Ball and Mr. Bashran of India (complete with turbans) came to our picnic and my mother sent me in to the cabin to get the sugar that was in a mason jar for their coffee. Well, didn't I grab the salt instead of the sugar?

After they added 2-3 teaspoons each to their coffee and took a big sip and promptly spit it out, we found out my error. Luckily, we had lots of coffee, as Mom kept an enamel pot of coffee brewing on the campfire all day.

We would sometimes ride our horses up through the woods to our picnics especially in the early summer then the bugs weren't out yet. One Sunday, as a friend and I were riding through the woods to a picnic, we came upon a large Cadillac car in the woods with all the windows down. We could tell it had been there awhile. My father had woods roads all through the woods, but they are not suitable for a car. After the police investigated, we learned that the car had been stolen from the Jamesway parking lot in the fall.

After eating, we would set out after my Father for at least an hour walk in the woods. There are so many interesting places to go. There is the amphitheatre, it is where they used to mine sandstone blocks for foundations. It goes around a base of a hill and it is almost straight up. Then there is the Boy Scout lean-to that my father helped build out of chestnut logs in 1946 overlooking a ravine. It was always fun to climb onto the roof and look around. Over the side of a hill was a spring and we kept a drinking cup there, the water was so clear and cold. You could lift almost any rock and find salamanders, the brown ones, the orange ones and sometimes a spotted one. There were the back fields with diversion ditches where you might see a deer. There were the two stone bridges that my father built with a culvert pipe that the water ran through all year and near them is the white oak that took three of us kids arm to arm to reach around it. Then there was the big rock sticking out of the ground that we would climb up on and my father always mentioned that most of the rock was below ground. We learned the different kinds of trees, where the blueberries and the blackberries were. We visited the pond site that my father had cleared and always dreamed of putting a four acre pond there, and beyond there to the falls on the State

continued on next page

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

We've got some exciting opportunities coming up this summer and fall!

August 5, Sunday, 1 - 3PM

DTHS Member Day at Southworth Homestead

On Sunday afternoon, from 1 pm - 3 pm will be MEMBER DAY at Southworth Homestead. DTHS members only, are invited to see the Homestead in small group walk-through tours. *Please, no children at this time.* There will be time to walk the grounds and check out the barn and enjoy ice cream under the tent while you wait for each group. Docents will guide the groups and there will be volunteers to talk about the grounds.

This is the opportunity for the membership to finally see the Southworth Homestead just as it was bequeathed to DTHS, and with no admission fee. Soon the Homestead will become a "work in progress." As soon as possible, it will be prepared for public viewing with admission fees charged. Then, member- docents will be greatly needed.

September 22, Saturday, 9AM Start

Golf Tournament benefit for Southworth Homestead at Dryden Lake Golf Course

- 4 PERSON - CAPTAIN & CREW --\$50.00 PER PERSON (\$200 TEAM)
- INCLUDES: FOOD AND CART - 18 HOLES OF GOLF AND LOTS OF FUN!
- 9:00 AM START - - PRIZES FOR: MALE/FEMALE AND MIXED TEAMS
- QUESTIONS: CALL DAVE AT [607-844-9508](tel:607-844-9508) AND LEAVE A MESSAGE

October 6

Harvest at the Homestead

Old time fun, wagon rides, agricultural fair at the Southworth Homestead.



SUNDAY PICNIC, continued

land. We visited two foundation sites, one was Amos Sweet's brother's homestead and the other was my Great- Grandfather's where a spring ran under the house. Uphill, downhill, all around the hills, it was always an adventure. I learned if you every get lost in the woods, follow the water downstream, it will lead to civilization.

(I hope that you are not getting bored by my stories. I am hoping to inspire other members to write about their experiences and family members and friends growing up in Dryden.)

QUILT RAFFLE

to benefit Southworth Homestead

This quilt is a combination of hand appliquéd flowers on a vine and pieced blocks, surrounded by a border of hand appliquéd sprays. Phyllis Smith created this beautiful quilt and has donated it to DTHS as a fundraiser for the Southworth Homestead. Many thanks, Phyllis.

Tickets are \$5 each and 3 tickets for \$10. The drawing will be October 6th at the DTHS event, "Harvest at the Homestead." We can all help! Sell quilt tickets at your event or organization meetings.



Quilt, hand made by Phyllis Smith/ Raffle to benefit the Southworth Homestead. Raffle Drawing will be October 6th.



Snyder Wedding dress top, 1872



Snyder wedding dress top, back, 1872



Painting in the current History House exhibit by Betty Hurst looking south from Hart Road. On the left: Dedrick farm, Freeville Road. On loan from Shirley Van Pelt Price (daughter of Nancy Dedrick Van Pelt).



Simon St Laurent preparing for the DTHS program, "Weatherwise"



4/26/12 DTHS program: "Weatherwise". Sue Morrie, Shirley Shackelton signing guest book.



Dairy Day at the History House/ Mary Ann Sumner spinning on the R Townley great wheel

**Dryden Town Historical
Society**

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HOURS AT THE HISTORY HOUSE

Saturdays

10 am – 2 pm

Dryden Town Historical Society

36 West Main Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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