

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

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

DUCKLINGS AT THE SOUTHWORTH HOUSE

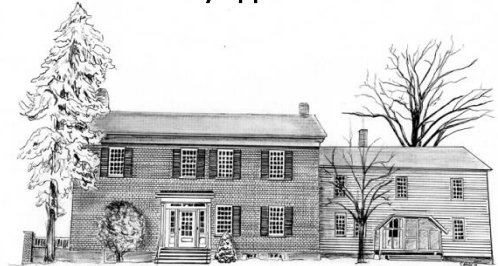
Well, sometime after 9:30 pm on May 20th and before Saturday morning, May 21, mama mallard had 8 fuzzy ducklings. As we watched, little heads kept popping up from under her as she would tuck them back under her. She created her nest from the straw that Skeeter Heidt supplied. Skeeter has been leaving cracked corn and fresh water every day since she started "setting."

We were all so curious when the first egg appeared tucked in the very southwest corner of the outside steps and south facade of the east wing of the Southworth House. Each morning there was another egg, but no sign of the owner. Where was the mother? Why wasn't she tending to this clutch of eggs which kept growing in number? We looked to the internet to explain this duck behavior. Mother Mallard lays up to 20 eggs in a nest, before she proceeds to set. From then on, she only leaves the nest to feed and drink. She regulates the temperature of her eggs by turning them, so that the outer most have a turn in the center. She has a "hatch patch" on her underside that has no feathers so she can keep the eggs warmer. If the day is chilly, she hunkers down and fluffs out her feathers. If the day is hot, she partly stands above the eggs for air circulation. The gestation period is 25 - 28 days. On Saturday, April 23rd, she started to set on her nest. Day after day we waited. She tolerated all the comings and goings up the steps with barely a hiss.



Mama duck with about 5 newly hatched ducklings. 15 or 16 was grand total.

Saturdays, 10am - 1pm
Or by appointment



Upcoming Events

Antiques~Flea Market

July 9, Saturday, 8 am - 4 pm

Admission Free

Southworth Homestead grounds filled with sales tents, food vendors. DTHS "Collectors Corner" featuring items of local interest.

Southworth Homestead Guided Tours

11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm

\$5 Donation

Homestead Heritage Day

September 24 Saturday, 10 am - 3 pm

FREE admission

Music, spinning, sheep shearing, craft demonstrations, blacksmithing, kids games and more. Join the fun!

Southworth Homestead Guided Tours

11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm

\$5 Donation



A beautiful desk, just one of the many antiques to be available at the Antiques Flea Market.

CURRENT 2016 Exhibits at DTHS

"Love of the Open Road: Auto Touring with John H Southworth family" includes photographs and entries from the 1924 and 1925 diaries of John H Southworth, and objects from Southworth Homestead. John H Southworth and family were constant travelers. John H bought a Chenango Car Trailer in 1924 to make the annual trek to St Petersburg, Florida. John H carefully documented that and other trips touring Florida, the Adirondacks and Canada.

"Libbie J Sweetland, Educator Most Admirable"

Miss Sweetland was elected School Commissioner in 1899, the first woman commissioner. She served for 10 years in that position. Educated at Dryden, Cortland Normal School and Cornell, she was an extraordinary educator who inspired her students. She was well remembered for her love of poetry, reading, nature, and her generous support of local WWII service men and to those in need.

MINI EXHIBIT

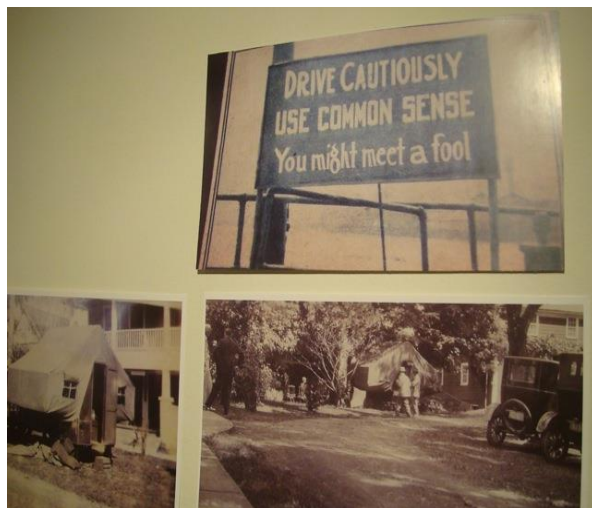
"A K Fletcher, Newspaperman, Community Promoter and Local Hero"

A K Fletcher was editor, publisher, and printer of the Rural News of Tompkins County from 1931 - 1970. He kept the heart-beat of the Dryden area always in the news. Fletcher began to paint local scenes using old postcards and photographs for reference after he retired and moved to Florida. Six of his paintings are on display.

CONTINUING MINI EXHIBITS

"Great Wheel made by Richard Townley, 1858"

"Silver from the Southworth Homestead"



DTHS Survey

In an effort to understand the community perceptions and understanding of the Dryden Town Historical Society, we have designed a community survey to gather some information about the future of the DTHS.

Please go to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7S6Y7Y>

and participate in the survey. We also have copies available at the Southworth House.

Your input will be valuable in planning our future!

OP Sale 2016

The sale was great fun - as always. Shirley Price and Mary Hornbuckle were assisted by: Sue Morrie, Muriel Likel, Shirley Shackelton, Bob Watros and John Kiefer. We had fewer donations this year but there was more nice furniture (several antique pieces we'll hold over for the Antique Flea Market in July) and things sold well. Our sales were over \$2,100!! Thanks to all who brought items for our sale, you make it the success it is.



This photograph shows the Chenango Camp trailer owned by the John H Southworth family. Read the patent for the Chenango Camp Trailer, see many Southworth photos and camping objects, and learn more about auto camping in this current exhibit.

Photographs from the "Love of the Open Road" exhibit, currently on display in the Exhibit Room.

Libbie J Sweetland DTHS Exhibit

At a time when women didn't even have the right to vote, Libbie Jayne Sweetland was elected District #2 School commissioner, the first woman to do so in Tompkins county, and a position she held for 10 years. In an open election, Miss Sweetland ran against her male opponent who was an incumbent. She won by a majority of 600.

Miss Sweetland published a book using the poetry of Phoebe and Alice Cary in teaching her classes, she took further studies at Cornell to augment her skills as a keen observer of the natural world. She used her limited resources to help others in the community. Many appreciated her letters of support and encouragement to the area WWII Service men stationed far from home.

"This is an age of great things, great thoughts, great inventions, and great events. New ideas are crowding out old... What was up-to-date in the closing years of the old century is rapidly being left behind in the opening years of the new. "To keep up with the race of events, we must possess the necessary means of progress, and of these means the best are books – books of reference, of information... "You must keep gathering Knowledge..."", The Twentieth Century Cyclopedia of Practical Information, published in 1901.

Libbie Jayne Sweetland, although born in the nineteenth century in 1869, was a perfect example of these words. Born at Dryden Lake, she received her education at Dryden High School, Cortland Normal School and Cornell University. She was a well-loved teacher at area schools and at Dryden. Libbie was a true educator, who encouraged her pupils in life skills through her love of reading. While attending the 1909 Teachers' Association meeting, Commissioner Sweetland gave an address entitled, "The Value of Teaching Good Literature." She was a founding member of the Dryden Literary Club in 1907. The motto of the organization was, "there is an art of reading, as well as an art of thinking and an art of writing." On December 31, 1908, Miss Sweetland opened the literary program with the conversation topic, "George Elliott."

She used her appreciation of nature to inspire curiosity in all things. Several of her specimens are included in the Cornell Liberty Hyde Bailey Horatorium database. She offered premiums referring to nature in the school department at the tremendously popular Dryden Agricultural Fair.

Libbie J Sweetland was a true educator who encouraged her students, the educational community, service men, fellow Literary Club members, and all who knew her "to keep gathering knowledge." She was an educator, most admirable.



See the new 2016 exhibit, "Libbie J Sweetland"



Trish Sprague, exhibit committee member, works on the A K Fletcher exhibit in the Dryden Historical Society Exhibit Room. A K Fletcher was featured in the Chalk Festival held at the Dryden High School on May 30th.

New displays for Southworth House Tour goers

"Blue and White coverlets by Archibald Davidson"

"Silver dresser sets"

"Refreshed Doll House"

The Doll house was designed by architect John Vredenburg Van Pelt for his daughters who were cousins of Becky. This family treasure was passed on to Becky when the girls grew older. Becky received the dollhouse on Christmas 1925 when she was seven years old.

Jack Lowe has volunteered his talents to refurbish the circa 1910 doll house. Mr. Lowe has made precise Revolutionary War era ship models, completely done by hand, every plank, each piece made specifically to scale.

Many hours and much skill were needed for this project. The fabulous doll house was missing window parts and in general showing signs of the results of more than a hundred years of serious play. Mr. Lowe repaired the missing parts, made it look cared for again, and now the fireplace glows again, too.



Becky's doll house before repair

Becky's very heavy doll house descending into Jack Lowe's work shop

Becky's Doll House at Southworth House

Among the many special things included in the Southworth Homestead contents are two things that are linked together. Becky's doll house and John H Southworth diaries. The large two-story doll house is obviously one of a kind, complete with fireplace, electricity and attached pergola. The house has six rooms and a large attic. After the roof lifts up, the house cleverly opens. Upon seeing it, visitors would ask, who made it, how old is it, and when did Becky get it? Now we know some of the answers.

It resided in the play room and folks who visited Becky and her family remembered playing with it as children. From them we learned that it was not made for Becky, but for her older cousins. Those cousins were the daughters of Betsey Southworth and John Vredenburg Van Pelt, the noted architect. We are told that Mr. Van Pelt designed the house and it was built in his studio by his staff. He and his family lived in Patchogue, Long Island. His architecture firm was there and also in NYC. Mr Van Pelt was the second dean of the newly formed Cornell architecture school.

From the careful records of the day to day happenings of the Southworth family covering the year 1925 kept by John H Southworth we learn not only that Becky received the doll house on her 7th Christmas, but that it arrived in Dryden by express on December 16th. Her mother made the curtains, her sister, Genevieve worked on it in secret, and that Kate Monroe bought furniture for it from Rothchild's.

Take the Southworth House guided tour and see Becky's doll house!





Hanging lamp in the Southworth dining room bought in 1900 at Vantines



Thanks to Vlado and the crew from Treeforms. They volunteered to move Becky's doll house to Jack Lowe's workshop in Ithaca and back again to Southworth House.



Jack Lowe, on right, made the ship model that Vlado Novosel admires.

VICTORIAN HAIR COMBS by Mary Hornbuckle

Prior to WWI, women grew their hair very long; after all, it was considered their “crowning glory.” Tending to these long locks was not easy. Women were encouraged to shampoo their hair once a month using a good shampoo made from pure white Castile soap.



Decorative hair combs became necessary objects when their long hair was wound and braided into elaborate styles worn on top of their heads. Victorian (1836-1901) and Edwardian (1901-1910/1918) hair combs were produced from ivory, precious metals, pewter, aluminum, brass, tortoise, amber, coral, jet, bone, horn, gutta-percha, and wood.

The Southworth collection contains three hair combs made of sterling silver.



The comb on the left is asymmetrical with graceful swirling pierced work and an incised border. It is 6" long by 1 ½" wide with two “teeth” that are twisted half way down the shaft for greater stability. The piece is marked: 95 STERLING but no maker’s mark could be found.

The large comb in the center is styled after a Spanish *mantilla peineta*. It is 6" long by 3 ½" wide tapering to 2" where it adjoins the 6 teeth. The curved crest of the comb is fashioned from pierced work framed with incised bands. The solid center section is decorated with finely incised floral designs. The back carries a simple design of swags and tear drops. This comb is fully marked: D&H 1877 60 STERLING indicating the maker was Dominick and Haff (New York 1868 – 1928) and was made in 1877.

The comb on the right is 3" long by 2 ½" wide with seven teeth. The front is decorated with an incised floral design. The maker’s mark [C.B. Gorell – N.Y.] is found on the reverse side under teeth. While this piece gives every appearance of being sterling silver, no mark was found. However, there appears to be a piece broken off across the back – possibly a clasp – which might have carried a silver mark. Research did not turn up any information of the maker aside from a comb with the same mark being offered for sale on eBay.

[Note: the women in these photos are not of members of the Southworth family.]

The Rockwells by Betsey van Sickle

Having met and learned about the history of the Montgomery Family in Dryden, we are now to meet the Rockwells. They are an adjacent family to the Montgomerys as Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson was actually born into the Rockwell family on October 6, 1918 at their home at 52 West Main Street, Dryden, New York.

Her father was Walter Wood, the son of Georgianna Thomas Rockwell by her first marriage, her mother, Fanny Montgomery Wood, daughter of Daniel Montgomery of Civil War fame, and she already had a sister, Genevieve, born in 1912.

The house which now stands at 52 West Main Street is called The Rockwell House, and is occupied by Betsey Van Sickle, the daughter of Genevieve. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the New York State Register of Historic places in 1984.

The history of the Rockwells begins in 1791 right after the Revolution. History tells us that the first Erastus and his brother Chester Webb made their way across the Hudson from Connecticut and over the difficult terrain of eastern New York State, which had just been given to the U.S. by the Oneida Indians. It was difficult terrain, with many small streams, and rolling hills, as it was the foothills of the Catskills. No one was sure at that time where the US territory ended and the Iroquois Confederacy territory started, but they settled in a place they were to call Rockwells Mills, near Mt. Upton. There they built a woolen mill which was to be rebuilt 4 times in the next hundred years.

Erastus had a son Erastus. He also had a son, Chester. The second Erastus and Chester continued on at Rockwell's Mills until about 1840, when Erastus decided to leave and move westward with his wife to Dryden, coming up through Whitney Point, and Harford. He probably came by ox cart, for that was the main means of hauling large loads at that time. They also may have come up the Otisco River where it joined the Chenango River at Whitney Point, hence the name of Whitney Point. Roads then were rutted and dusty in the summer, muddy in spring and fall and impassable in the winter.

Erastus and his wife Esther, first settled in a small log house along one of the creeks in Dryden. They were to have 5 children, Sara, Sanders, Melvin etc. He was to build a woolen mill along Virgil Creek on West Main Street where the plaza now stands. This mill was in operation for a number of years into the 20th century. Erastus purchased land on the corner of Lewis and West Main Street in 1863 from Daniel Bartholomew, and built a large house with a carriage house and gazebo. The contractors were Rochester and Marsh. The architect was Darius Givens. It was to be considered a two family house with an apartment on the west side, and was Italianate and Victorian. Considered quite grand with ornate woodworking on the porches and overhangs. Had four chimneys from which stoves were used to heat the house before central heating came in with steam radiators (1908).

This house was willed to his son Melvin and his wife, Georgianna. Georgianna became the owner when Melvin died in 1905 and passed it on to one of her sons, Walter Wood when she died in 1939. When Walter died in 1950 it was passed on to his daughter, Genevieve Wood Van Sickle. She was living there then with her husband, Kenneth, daughter, Betsey and son, Peter. She died at age 58 in 1970, passing it on to Kenneth, Peter and Betsey, Kenneth died in 2000, Peter in 2012, thus leaving the property to Betsey.

The Rockwells ran a lumber and coal yard at the west end of town after the railroad, the Lehigh Valley, came through in 1930.



Rockwell house today



Georgianna Rockwell, Genevieve Wood and Mary Baker Thomas



Saunders, Chester and George Rockwell

Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

NEW --- ending: May 31, 2016

Bill & Jane Bailey — In memory of a) Betty Marion & b) Suzanne A. Cardwell.

Candlelight Inn & Breakfast — In memory of Seraphin "Sam" Nitsios.

Countryside Veterinary Hospital — a) Two gift memberships & b) to DTHS general fund.

Betsey Cleveland — In Memory of Horace Shackelton.

Nancy M. Crosen — In memory Willard & Wanita Downey.

Paul T. Derick — For the Southworth Homestead Project.

Dryden Mutual Insurance Co. — In memory of a) Marilyn Adriance; b) Laurence Beach
& c) Donation-in-kind ("Great Possibilities" books for resale).

Myra J. Fincher — For the Southworth Homestead Project.

Elizabeth Gutches — For the Southworth Homestead Project.

Ray & Rita Harris — To DTHS general fund.

Debra Jo Saltsman — In memory of "Sib" Stewart.

Harold Shepard — In memory of Horace Shackelton.

Betsey VanSickle — For the Southworth Homestead Project (French wall paper).

Robert Watros — For the Southworth Homestead Project.

James D. Webster — To DTHS general fund.

MANY THANKS TO:

Jack Lowe for refreshing Becky's doll house

Skeeter Heidt for painting John H Southworth office

Mary Hornbuckle for researching and polishing silver items

Patti and John Kiefer for DTHS program

Vlado Novosel for transporting the doll house

Chris Lowe for china cupboard project

Skeeter Heidt for Ms. Mallard Duck care

Bob Ellis for photographs



35th Anniversary sign on the red barn at Southworth Homestead.

Dryden Town Historical Society proudly celebrates 35 years of documenting the people, places and events in the town of Dryden.

DTHS is gaining even more momentum as we are now located in the Southworth Homestead, the only Historical House museum in Tompkins County.

IN MEMORIAM

John Young

Betty Marion

2016 DTHS QUILT RAFFLE

AMISH QUILT

9' X 9'

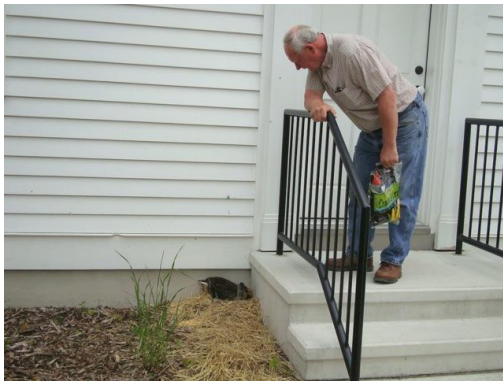
(FITS HIGH QUEEN OR KING BED)

Tickets ~ \$5.00 each

or 3 for \$10.00

Proceeds benefit Southworth
Homestead

Drawing: December 3, 2016



Skeeter
assumed
care and
protection
of mama
duck for
more than a
month



Antiques~Flea Market

July 9, Saturday, 8 am - 4 pm

Do you have a collection that you would like to sell or just a lot of stuff and you would like to downsize? You can rent a space for the day at our Antiques~Flea Market on Saturday July 9, 2016 at the Southworth Homestead at 14 North Street Dryden, New York.

Fill out the enclosed form and send it to Dryden Town Historical Society, **PO Box 69, Dryden, NY 13053**. We are also accepting antique or collectable donations for our own Antique Corner booth in the barn.

A few of the
beautiful
items to be
found at the
Antique Flea
Market



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Society**

14 North Street
PO Box 69
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Phone:
607-844-9209

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DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

14 NORTH STREET

OPEN HOURS

Every Saturday, 10 AM – 1 PM

or by appointment

Guided House Tours, first Saturdays,

May – October, \$5 donation

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.

Dryden Town Historical Society

14 North Street

PO Box 69

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