

August, September, October 2010
Volume 30 (2010)

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

CARRIAGE HOUSE TOUR WAS WELL ATTENDED

Historic Ithaca and the Dryden Historical Society co-sponsored a horse and wagon tour of carriage houses in the Dryden Village Historic District, Sunday, October 24. Charles Pomada, Historic Ithaca board member and barn expert, Sara Johnson from Historic Ithaca, and Gina Prentiss narrated the tour.

This past summer Caitlin Schickel, an intern at Historic Ithaca, conducted a survey of carriage houses in Ithaca, Trumansburg and Dryden. Her research showed that there are many 19th century horse barns remaining in the Dryden's historic district and throughout the village. Behind the handsome Greek Revival style residences on Pleasant Street and the large Italianate style houses on Union Street still stand the buildings that were necessary in the day of horse and carriage, and now serve as garages for automobiles.

For information on carriage houses and other structures in Tompkins County, contact Sara Johnson at Historic Ithaca. Go to historicaithaca.org to learn about Historic Ithaca's resources, services and workshops.



DTHS carriage house tour/Crane's horse&wagon10/24/2010

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 6, 2010

Dryden First National Bank

Main Street

9am – 11am

Annual Pie and Bread Sale

Dig out those mixing bowls and pie tins; it's almost time for the annual Pie and Bread Sale! As usual, this year's event will be held on the first Saturday in November (the 6th) in the lobby of the First National Bank of Dryden, Main Street. We will be calling our local members to ask for donations the week prior to the sale which, as we all know, is more of an "exchange" as no one goes away empty handed. This is one of the easiest ways for members to make a significant contribution to the DTHS while bolstering our reputation of producing some of the finest baked goods in the county. See you on November 6th! COME EARLY!

APPRECIATIONS

The floor in the Hunt Reference Room at the History House has been refinished by Edgewater Refinishing. Harry Weldon, Shirley Shackelton, Irene Gleason, Jean German, Bob and Lois Fox, Mack Elliott and Betsy Cleveland, Saino and Judy Zazzara accomplished the difficult task of removing and returning everything to the room. While the room was empty, Betsy, Harry, Saino, and Judy painted the walls. Thanks to the collection committee members and friends for the great job.

Thanks to David Armstrong for mowing the History House lawn.

Thanks to "Dryden in Bloom" for planting the flower pots.

IN MEMORY

Barbara Ensign October 4, 1929–September 4, 2010

Ruth Sweetland January 21, 1920–September 24, 2010

Christine Slocum December 25, 1924–October 7, 2010

Barbara Ensign, a charter member and secretary from 1987 – 1991 was always active in programs, exhibits and as a docent. *Ruth Sweetland*, a charter member and past trustee, was an invaluable resource to local history researchers. She was always willing to share family stories and treasures for exhibits and programs. *Christine Slocum*, DTHS co-founder, past president, past trustee, committee member, and docent was active in every facet of DTHS. DTHS will miss these three members who passed within the month, and who had been part of the backbone of our organization since its beginnings in 1981. For thirty years they gave their support so freely. Their willingness to share information, enormous volunteer hours and generous and dependable spirits made such a difference.

LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

- Centennial History of the town of Dryden, 4th printing
- The Hired Man's Christmas
- Rails to Freeville
- Shall the Murderer Go Unpunished!
- Dryden's Second Hundred Years: Part I (1897 – 1942)
- Tompkins County, Images Of Work And Play
- Great Possibilities, photographs by Verne Morton

CURRENT EXHIBIT IN THE DR. DONALD CRISPELL ROOM “Food For Victory: one girl’s garden, 1946”

Lois Marion Fox has always planted a garden. Starting when she was a little girl, her father turned out an area of the family’s big garden just for her to work. During WWII, when Lois was a young teenager, 4 H Club members were encouraged to plant “Victory Gardens.” In the Cornell Junior Extension 4 H Bulletin, a Victory Garden Contest was announced. Sears Roebuck would give free seeds and supplies. 4 H participants would agree to use the seeds to grow a Victory Garden, preserve the harvest, and complete a 4 H “Home Garden Diary.” A General MacArthur award medal from the National Garden Institute would be given for outstanding achievement in gardening and for completing the Green Thumb Record sheet.

Lois took Sears up on their offer. She grew and tended the garden. She kept a record of all seeds planted, their planting and harvest dates and the amount of produce. She entered her canned beans, carrots, her cucumbers and greens in the Cortland County Fair and won blue ribbons. And in January a letter congratulated Lois on winning the Sears Roebuck Food For Victory Garden Project award.

The exhibit at the History House reflects the pride and participation in Victory Gardens as part of the war effort by so many people of all ages, including a young girl named Lois Marion.

BETSY CLEVELAND AT DRYDEN COMMUNITY CAFÉ CHILI-COOK OFF

Betsy Cleveland represented the History House at the 4th Annual Chili Cook Off at the Dryden Community Center Café on October 16. She took 3rd place! Congratulations Betsy.



Lois Marion Fox, 1946 news article, showing produce from her victory garden



Victory Garden mini EXHIBIT 8/2010/HH



Lois Marion Fox ribbon, Victory Garden



MacArthur award for Excellence, won by Lois Marion, 1946



“I REMEMBER”

I was reading through the notes that I started keeping when we acquired, moved and fixed up the History House in 1988. It was such an exciting project. We were taking something that was really neglected and making it into the Dryden Historical Society headquarters. It would take huge amounts of volunteer hours and labor, but I think we were all very positive that it would turn out looking great. We eagerly showed everyone the project, always willing to stop and visit and share our optimism.

I remember an afternoon on a cold day twenty-one years ago. On February 28, 1989 at the end of the school day, I met Cub Scout Pack 24 at the school for a walking tour down Pleasant Street and South Street, then through the post office, and across to 36 West Main Street. As we walked, we talked about foundations, exterior sheathing, roofing materials, windows and architectural details of the houses we passed. At the History House the boys were to see construction – hand hewn posts and beams, plank walls, lathe and plaster. I promised that this was a house “in transition, saved from demolition, but not completely fixed.”

When I last saw the house a few days before the tour, it was quite orderly. Bob Carpenter had been working on removing the door frame and molding of the stairway, but it was still in tact and all floors were swept clear. When we arrived at the History House, I flung open the front door and the boys all drew an audible gasp. The first thing we saw was a gaping hole where Bob had removed the door frame, leaving only stairs. We walked into the west room and there was a pile of rubble where Bob had removed the remaining cement and block from the chimney. So, I showed the boys plaster– complete with hair, lathe, wide floor boards, square nails, etc. Next we went into the east room. It was pretty tidy except there sat the old toilet bowl, without a tank, right in the front window. So, I pointed out the fine window molding behind the toilet. Next we were to go to the second floor to look at all the exposed posts, beams, and rafters. They looked at me in disbelief when I said, “go upstairs; it’s perfectly safe.” When we got upstairs, Historic Ithaca workers had taken down the old west chimney and left it in piles. One of the boys said, “This is scary.” So, we talked about chimneys and old cupboards and low windows and wide plank boards.

Mary Fellows was leader of Den 1. The scouts there that day were Nathan Damery, Jonathan Ley and Ben Highfield, with two absent. The boys were really interested in construction, architecture and old houses. The History House surely did look like a “house in transition.” In fact worse than I had seen it since before the move! It was a good tour, but a surprise one for me. We laughed a lot, and I invited them to come back for another tour, not so scary, next year to see the house completed.

Gina Prentiss

"I REMEMBER"



History House, February 1989, Stairway to 2nd floor, before removing the door frame.



History House, before February 1989, 2nd floor interior



February 1989, Cub Scout Pack 24 on walking tour with Prentiss. Leader, Mary Fellows and B. Highfield, N. Damery, J. Ley on temporary plywood platform.



History House all decked out with newly repainted front steps, flowers and balloons on the day of the Open Gate Garden Tour - 7/17/10



This 48 star American flag was flown at the Hunt family home on Pleasant Street. "Victory Gardens" EXHIBIT currently at the History House

**Dryden Town Historical
Society**

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Dryden, NY 13053

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NEW WINTER HOURS at HISTORY HOUSE

(STARTING DECEMBER 4TH)

NEW HOURS: 10 AM – 1 PM

NEW DAYS:

OPEN 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS

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.

Dryden Town Historical Society

36 West Main Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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