

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

TOWN OF DRYDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLOATS

By
Shirley (VanPelt)(Otis) Price

The Dryden Grange started the Dryden Dairy Days 20 plus years ago. The parade has grown over the years, getting larger each year, involving many local organizations and businesses. Being a recently established organization at that time, it was decided by the Board that a Historical Society float would generate interest in our group. Willard Downey volunteered to drive his tractor and wagon, so we only had to create the float. We had a whole building full of ideas, some years the float was an extension of our most recent display at the History House, perhaps enticing someone to come and take a closer look. Someone once told me not to start a job unless you wanted it for life, so it became my job to put together an idea for a float each year. That was 20 plus years ago. I have enjoyed creating a float for the Historical Society over the years and fondly reflect on my favorites.

In the beginning I remember a float that carried Willard Downey's replica of the Dryden icehouse, it was built by Willard and is quite a marvel, and still at the History House. Then there was the float with the woodcutting equipment with Bob Carpenter using a bucksaw which might not have been my idea. My late husband, Bing & I built a replica of a saw mill with a water paddle with a banner stating there were 154 sawmills in the Town of Dryden circa 1900.

(Continued)



“I REMEMBER”

We would like to invite readers (or anyone with an interest) to submit a story or recollection about any person or subject having to do with the Town of Dryden. We would like this to become a regular column in our newsletter. It could be a person, a memory, something of interest about the Town of Dryden. Send your article to historyhouse@odyssey.net or mail to DTHS, PO Box 69 Dryden, NY 13053, and indicate it is for the “I Remember” feature.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

DTHS PROGRAMS ARE ALWAYS FREE
AND OPEN TO ALL

Dryden Mutual Insurance Company, 1858 – 2008

Mr. Robert B. Baxter, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager, Dryden Mutual Insurance Co will speak about the 150 year history of Dryden Mutual which was celebrated in May.

In celebration of the anniversary, Dryden Mutual sponsored publication of 150 Verne Morton photographs. These depict rural and village life in Dryden and Groton in the early 20th century.

Date: Wednesday, September 15

Time: 7 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. to view exhibit

Location: Dryden Village Hall

Corner of South and George Streets

“FAMOUS PIE EVENT”

Date: November 6



Molly Adams, Ginny Stairs, Sue Morrie, Mary Hornbuckle, Marilyn Adriance, Beachy

IN MEMORY

Laurence H. Beach

February 13, 1917 – June 10, 2010

Ruth VanPelt Beach

December 9, 1919 – March 12, 2010

Beachy and Ruth were keepers and sharers of family histories and local lore of Dryden. They came from early Dryden families and passed on their heritage. Beachy conjured up a connection with just about every family and event in the town of Dryden.

Beachy was a story teller who was fascinated with local history. He saw the humor and drama in every day events. Who will forget the wonderful DTHS program, “Barbershop Stories” when Beachy and Bob Watros held our attention with their tales?

Beachy and Ruth will be remembered for the many kind deeds, always done with good humor, and their dedication to DTHS and the history of the town of Dryden.



Bob & Beachy, DTHS program “Barber Shop Stories”, 10/13/05

THE EXHIBITS IN THE DR. DONALD CRISPELL ROOM

HOME GARDENS OF DRYDEN

See the New Exhibit in the Dr Crispell exhibit room at the History House, "Home Gardens of Dryden"

The DTHS photograph collection has many images of gardens near homes and farms in the town of Dryden. People are almost always included in the photographs, sometimes as the main focus, but often placed as yet another interesting part of the garden. In one Anna Chatfield Ellis has a sweet smile that reflects the bunch of sweet peas in her hands. In another, Eva Stairs and her daughter, Lillian, stand centered with hands clasped amidst hollyhocks. In a photograph taken in 1873, it is almost impossible to tell Grace Luthea Griswold apart from her garden. In an enlarged photograph, Lettie and Leland Burch stand pleasantly beside their backyard fish pond complete with small sailboat and water bird. In another, Lou Weber is framed by the plants that climb the front porch at C.F. Cole's.

Working the soil and growing good produce called for documenting with a photograph. Mr. Trapp at 94 and half years old, takes off his hat for a photo as he plows his garden on Lewis Street. John Hunt family plants and harvests potatoes and picks tomatoes on their Beam Hill farm. Nye and Zula Rowley proudly show the good sized watermelon grown in their garden.

In addition to these delightful images from DTHS collection, this exhibit features the very fine photographs taken by Clinton Stevens. His photos do justice to the wonderful gardens of Eva Stairs and Lillian Stevens, many of the photographs are hand colored by Lillian.

Sven Loman, master gardener at George Junior Republic for 40 years was a Cornell trained horticulturist who made the grounds of the Republic locally famous for garden displays. In the 1940s, Sven collected over 1,000

specimens of plants growing locally. Those mounted specimens have been given to Cornell and will be included in the Tompkins County Flora website. When Sven retired in 1979, a plaque was placed in his honor in the apple orchard at GJR. In the exhibit, there are photographs of the gardens he created, both at the Republic and at their home on Weber Street. Sven and his wife, Alice Dann Loman, were noted for their beautiful gardens. Sven wrote about his life in a story he called "Odyssey."

Photographs of the Stairs family gardens, Sven and Alice Loman gardens, the Rowley gardens, and the aerial view of GJR are on loan for this exhibit. We extend our thanks for sharing. Stop in the History House, view the photographs of home gardens, houses surrounded by plants, and residents proud of raising beautiful flowers and vegetables. They illustrate some of the reasons why the landscape of the town of Dryden has always been so picturesque.

SNYDER FAMILY EXHIBIT

A current exhibit features a pioneer family in the town of Dryden. Christopher and Peter Snyder arrived in 1801. They settled on Lot 43 and Lot 42 at the corner of Pinckney Road and Lower Creek Road. Their story is an interesting one and their descendants have added much to the history of the town. The exhibit features photographs, objects, letters and papers from 1789-1870, and so much more information about this early Dryden family. Our thanks to Lois Fox, Willis and Betty Marion, and Shirley Dickens for the loan of all items.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dryden's Victory Gardens

DTHS mini exhibit

July 17, Open Gate Garden Tour

DTHS will have DTHS exhibit panel, nature photographs by B. Pentiss and George's Garden Glass.

Dryden Lake Festival

August 14, Dryden Lake Park

DTHS will be sponsoring a Revolutionary War reenactment.

The Festival will also have:

Classic Car Show

Petting Zoo

Fishing Derby

Square Dancing

Water Dogs

Canoe Races

Morning Races

Music on the Lake

9PM Fireworks

And Much More

VOLUNTEERS/DOCENTS NEEDED

Thank you to all who volunteer at the History House. Some members not only volunteer on Tuesday morning, but also volunteer as a committee member and as a Docent on Saturday when the house is open from 10-2 for visitors. (Docents do 2 hours shifts).

The History House not only exists for the membership but for those who are interested in the history of the Town of Dryden.

Out of approximately 180 members we have 20 members who volunteer as Docents. We need more people who are willing to contribute a few hours a year to make Dryden's history accessible to our community.

We can partner new Docents with an experienced Docent. You will find it easy, fun and informative, and you only have to give 2 hours every couple of months.

Muriel Likel
844-9518

MEMBER SURVEY

We are very interested in your thoughts about the Dryden Town Historical Society. We would very much appreciate if you could fill out the form below, and either respond through email or by regular mail. If you respond through email, just copy the questions below into the body of your email, and provide the responses. If you respond by regular mail, just cut out the form below, and mail it to Dr. Bob Jacobson.

What role should the Dryden Town Historical Society play in our community?

What improvements in current activities would you suggest?

Any random thoughts and suggestions?

Please reply by email to drbobjacobson@gmail.com or by regular mail to Dr. Bob Jacobson, 136 North Street, Dryden, NY 13053

NEW LOMAN ANNEX

We now have a beautiful new 10' by 24' storage shed off the back parking lot. Materials were supplied by DTHS with the labor being done by the Cortland BOCES senior carpentry class. Donald Smith spearheaded this valuable project. The Annex is named in honor of Alice Loman and Family.



HOME GARDENS OF DRYDEN



Nettie Hunt hoeing potatoes, Nye & Zula Rowley with watermelon photos



Lettie and Leland Burch by their fish pond, Stairs family gardens on North Rd and Cortland Rd



"Victory Garden Shoot to Kill" poster



Photographs on west wall 6/5/10, "Gardens" exhibit

DTHS DAIRY DAY FLOATS PAST TO PRESENT



1987 Dairy Days Float



Dairy Days 2006, DTHS Float



1993 DTHS Dairy Days Float



Dairy Days 2008, DTHS Float



1995 DTHS Dairy Days Float



2010 Dairy Days DTHS Float. On float - Annette Otis, Missy & Wayne Young, Issac Otis Clark Young, Shirley Price, Mickey Gazzo



Harrison D. Trapp was born and lived most of his life in McLean, NY. He was born on Abraham Lincoln's 48th birthday in 1857. In 1887 when he was 30, he married Ida Scofield and bought an 87-acre farm a mile south of Mclean. He always said he was a dairyman first and foremost and all trades could go to the wind so far as he was concerned. He retired from farming about 1917 and moved into the village of Mclean where he and Ida lived until they bought their home at 10 Lewis Street in the village of Dryden in 1933.

Ida passed away in 1943. Years after Ida passed Harrison was heard to say "The most important thing that ever happened to me, the part that helped me most in life, was when I was lucky to get such a good wife." After Ida passed away Mr. Trapp's niece Miss Stella Trapp, a former Syracuse school teacher, came to live with him.

Note the large photo in the "Gardens" exhibit at the history house of Mr. Trapp plowing his garden at 94 and ½ years old on Old Home Day, 1949. He even took time from plowing to remove

his hat for the photographer. Mr. Trapp first voted in a presidential election in 1880 for Winfield Scott Hancock and continued to vote in every election to the extent that he voted in 81 elections. He was honored by Governor Harriman in 1956 for having voted the greatest number of years of any state voter. Mr. Trapp said, "I have always felt it a matter of honor to vote." Mr. Trapp, known as "Uncle Harry" to many Drydenites passed away 5 days short of his 102nd birthday on February 7, 1959.

Stella Trapp, local author and niece of Harrison Trapp

by MaryLou Taylor

Miss Stella M. Trapp was born and raised on the Trapp homestead three miles southeast of McLean, NY. She attended a one room school in the Gee Hill district; Mclean Union; Dryden High graduating class of 1900 and Cortland Normal, graduating class of 1904. Courses in Auburn School of Religious Education, the University of Rochester and Syracuse University. She taught 1904-05 in Port Washington, L.I., N.Y.; home keeper on the Trapp farm 1905-1924. She returned to teaching in 1925 in the Syracuse public school system until 1944. Note the post card in the tall display case at the history house, "A Garden of Friendly Thoughts" by Stella in 1964.



LISTINGS OF APPRECIATIONS

CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED (since February, March, April 2010 Newsletter)

Barry & Margaret Adams – In memory of Ruth Beach
 Lucy Bowen – In memory of Croswell Bowen
 Sally Guzetta -- In memory of Paul & Angie Stearns
 Sven Loman estate – via Louise Mose, estate Trustee
 Sandra Prugh -- In memory of Laurence Beach
 Gretchen Resendes -- In memory of Marilyn Adriance
 Donald Smith -- Cash cup contents from bottles of water

DONATIONS IN KIND RECEIVED (since February, March, April 2010 Newsletter)

Betsy Cleveland – Rigid vinyl signs and stakes for 2009 Holly Tour
 Chester Hayes -- Moving Loman Annex from Cortland to Dryden
 Elizabeth Gutchess -- Copies for sale: "Dryden's Second Hundred Years"

THANKS:

- *FOR LOANING PHOTOGRAPHS AND OBJECTS FOR THE NEW "GARDENS" EXHIBIT:*

Doug and Ginny Stairs,	Louise Mose,
Walt and Joan Torello,	George Junior Republic
Muriel Likel	Vladimir Dragan, A Book Barn of the Fingerlakes
Anna Statler, Cornell University	Bard Prentiss
Carl Taylor	Jason Lill, Arnold's Florist
Trish Sprague	MaryLou Taylor
Gina Prentiss	

FOR ASSISTING WITH ENLARGING PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE EXHIBIT

Josh Bogdan, GIS Technician, Town of Dryden

- *FOR THE CREATIVE DAIRY DAY FLOAT, "BLAST OFF TO THE MILKY WAY"*
 Shirley and George Price
 Riders: Dr Annette Otis, Wayne and Missy Young, Issac Otis Clark Young, Mickey Gazzo
- *TO THE DRYDEN BEAUTIFICATION BRIGADE* who planted the History House planters for "Dryden in Bloom"
- *TO BETSY CLEVELAND* for painting the History House steps

*** Please forgive any omissions!***

HISTORICAL SOCIETY FLOATS, continued

The saw mill spent many years in my flower garden. Our one room schoolhouse float was fun, our mannequin Hillary was the school teacher and Kerri & Justin Loomis were the school children. When wagons are pulled they tend to shake a little and by the end of the parade Hillary was leaning forward at a precarious position and her hand kept falling off. That was Hillary's last trip on the wagon.

Another fun float was our wash day float. Elsie Gutches had an old washstand with the galvanized tubs and the hand crank ringer. I added a clothes line and some old cloths and did the wash while driving down the main street, only the water in the tubs was splashing all over. I think my favorite float was the Dryden birthday cake. Willard Downey & I created a 3-tier cake out of plywood and spackling and decorated with caulk and flowers and red, white and blue for Dryden's bicentennial in 1997 and we assembled the float in Ruth Sweetland's garage. Willard drove the float with his lawn mower that year. I remember the year I made sunflower headbands and needed some kids to ride on the float to throw the candies and Beachy offered to find the kids. Well, he found me about 6 10-13 year old boys and it took a little convincing to have those boys wear those sunflower headbands, but they did in good spirits. It was also the year my husband George bought a cut off barrel spreader to use as a wagon. The wagon was decorated with sunflowers and George painted it red and you could hardly tell it was a manure spreader originally, but one boy did ask "Is this wagon what I think it is?". One year George & I built a replica of the first log cabin in Dryden out of pine logs in 3 days before Dairy Day. Alexandria, Lauren & Miranda Seymour dressed up as pioneer girls and tossed candy.

The Grange started doing a theme each year, so our floats were designed around their theme. The next year the theme was "Wow the Cow", so I designed the float with a giant milk carton, giant string cheese, giant cream cheese and a giant ice cream carton. I cut out the top of the ice cream carton and Alexandria, Lauren & Miranda Seymour rode in the carton and tossed candy. The last 3 years my grandson Isaac Otis Clark Young and his family, my daughter Missy & her husband Wayne, have ridden on our floats and tossed candy, along with Bambi Avery one year and this last year another daughter, Dr. Annette Otis, was in town and also rode the float which was a giant milk carton rocket blasting off to the Milky Way.

My husband, George Price, has pulled the floats for the last 10 years with his 1950 Farmall M tractor in all kinds of weather and putting up with me dressing him up, one year as a scarecrow. Over the years I have bounced my ideas off many people and have had numerous people helping me put together the floats, society members, friends and family, and have had fun putting my creativity to work. Thanks everyone.

IRA WINFIELD ARNOLD

By Toni Arnold Greg

Ira Winfield Arnold was born in Rio, Illinois in 1880. His parents had moved from Towanda, PA by Conestoga wagon to the prairies of Illinois. They built and lived in a sod house.

Peddlers from Chicago would fill wagons with hay and go to the Gulf to sell and purchase and return to sell citrus fruit in the city at Christmas. In return for putting them up overnight they would give Grandmother a lemon. The children received an orange. She made the lemon go as far as possible. This is her recipe.

Lemon Curd Cookies

(Pop Arnolds's Mother's recipe)

Mix in 1 ingredient at a time. Drop on greased tins. Bake 400 degrees for 10-15 minutes until just brown on edge. Glaze while hot (on tins) w/confectioners sugar mixed with the remains of the lemon juice. (Very good keepers).

¼ c. butter

¾ c. sugar

½ c. cottage cheese

Grated peel and white of lemon

¼ tsp lemon extract ** (my addition)

1 c. flour sifted w/

½ tsp. baking powder and ½ tsp. salt

CARTLEDGE FAMILY INFORMATION SOUGHT

Ross Johnson, from New Jersey is searching for information about the Cartledge family who lived in Dryden early 20th century.

The family was given a chair that was included in a set given to George Washington at the time of his marriage. A Cartledge created the marble sarcophagus that decorates Washington's tomb at Mt. Vernon. This Cartledge was given one of the chairs.

The branch of the Cartledge family to whom the chair was given came to Dryden and lived on Southworth Rd. Joseph Cartledge cut hair with Art Hines.

The chair disappeared. Ross Johnson has been searching for the chair for 30+ years. There are many interesting Dryden connections. Some of the "boys" were contemporaries of Ray Rockefeller.



**Dryden Town Historical
Society**

36 West Main Street
PO Box 69
Dryden, NY 13053

Phone:
607-844-9209

E-Mail:
historyhouse@odyssey.net

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

**[www.odyssey.net/subscribers/
drydenNYtownHistory](http://www.odyssey.net/subscribers/drydenNYtownHistory)**

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.

Established in 1981; Incorporated in 1983; granted an Absolute Charter by the NYS Education Department in 1987

Dryden Town Historical Society

36 West Main Street
PO Box 69
Dryden, NY 13053

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