

# DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE

## AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

July, August, September

2015

Volume 37 (2015)

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

### Heritage Day Festival 2015

**Saturday, September 19**

**10am - 4pm**

**Southworth Homestead**

Come celebrate Dryden Town heritage at our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heritage Day Festival. There will be wonderful activities, demonstrations, music and food all day long! Major sponsorship of this event is provided by the Town of Dryden AND Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.

We have Jimmy Decker Band playing bluegrass music, food from the Dryden Community Center Café, kids games, and demonstrations of all sorts of skills and crafts like sheep shearing, Blacksheep Handspinners, R Townley spinning wheel, Finger Lakes Lace Guild, chair caning, quilters, and knitting, to name a few.

There will also be guided Southworth House tours that day at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, and 2pm.

### 2015 SOUTHWORTH HOUSE GALA

**Saturday, December 5**

**6pm - 9pm**

An evening of holiday celebration with fine food, wine, live music, special raffles, and holiday decorations. All in support of the preservation of the Southworth Homestead, 14 North Street, Dryden.

The entire \$60 per person ticket fee will go towards the effort because of generous donors. Invite your friends. Be sure to make your reservation by sending your check to the DTHS, PO Box 69, Dryden, NY, 13053. Or contact **Bob Jacobson, 844-9189, Betsy Cleveland at 844-5334** or [drbobjacobson@gmail.com](mailto:drbobjacobson@gmail.com).

### HOURS

**Saturdays, 10am - 1pm**



### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

#### First Ever Fundraiser

#### Homestead Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, October 18**

**7am - 10am**

**Dryden Fire Hall**

We will have Chef, Peter Zon, from Benn Conger Inn in Groton join us in a pancake breakfast to support the DTHS. Yummy pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice, and of course, coffee!

We can always use volunteers. Please contact Betsy Cleveland at 607-227-1621.



#### Annual Pie Sale

**Saturday, November 7**

**1st National Bank of Dryden, Main Street**

**9:00am - gone (and they go early!)**

Fresh baked pies and breads.

## 2015 Raffle to benefit the Southworth Homestead

This year there are two items in the Benefit Raffle. Buy a ticket and take a chance on either an antique quilt or a framed copy of a locally famous photograph.

- The colorful pieced and tied quilt is signed : *C J Knettles, 1891*, donated by Gina Prentiss.
- The photograph shows Dryden Lake and many surrounding farms. Ross Sherman took the photo from Carpenter Hill in 1955. It was Hand tinted by Mildred Sherman. This framed copy was donated by Bob Watros.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Each ticket is a chance to win either the quilt or photograph.

Drawing will be December 5.



## New Southworth bedstead information revealed by Mary Lou Taylor, most observant DTHS volunteer!

You just never know where volunteer tasks will lead at Southworth Homestead.

When DTHS was bequeathed the Southworth House, there were small rugs scattered throughout the house. MaryLou Taylor took on a spring volunteer project to vacuum, roll and store the many extra small rugs. One day as she was on her hands and knees, she raised her head and stared straight at the bed post of the maple rope bed in the middle bedroom. What she saw for the first time amazed her and added a bright new fact. All four bed posts were inscribed with O. Westcott Truxton, NY. Now we knew the maker of these beautiful sturdy 19th century rope beds.

MaryLou did some research and found that Owen Westcott was born in Providence, Rhode Island in 1803. His large family moved to Truxton about 1816. In 1830, he married Emily Stewart, and was the father of seven children. He lived in Homer and the Truxton area known as Westcott's Mills. The census lists his occupations variously as carpenter, mill owner, farmer, and manufacturer of churns. Owen Westcott died in 1894 at Homer, NY. Mary Lou would like to find out more about Owen Westcott and the maple bedstead. Volunteers have endless opportunities to discover more history and surprises at the Southworth Homestead, sometimes where you least expect them.

Do you have a story about life in Dryden, or research about an historic home in Dryden, or any other family tale you would like to share? We would love to put it in the newsletter! Just send it to [drydennyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:drydennyhistory@gmail.com) or leave it at the Southworth House offices.

## A Dog Howled All Day By Sandra Pugh

In September 1943, Victor G. Fulkerson, my Dad and farm boy from West Dryden, joined the United States Marines. Three boys from West Dryden joined the Marine Corps in the same year – my Dad, Richard Niemi and Arnold Kannus. All three survived World War II.

Dad received training at Parris Island, South Carolina and Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He was assigned to the 41<sup>st</sup> Replacement Battalion and deployed to the Pacific Theater. The replacement battalion joined the First Marine Division on Pavuvu in the Russell Islands. On September 15, 1944, the First Marine Division landed on Peleliu. Dad's company was in the first wave ashore. His platoon got ashore with very few casualties. They moved inland to a dispersing area next to the airport. The next waves never got ashore.

Some of the worst fighting was at Bloody Nose Ridge. Several attempts to take the ridge failed. Colonel "Chesty" Puller commanded the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division. He ordered three companies to line up, one behind the other, and take the ridge at all costs. The companies took off in 10 minute intervals and took the ridge. By the time the fighting was over, approximately one company was left. Dad left Peleliu after 15 days and returned to Pavuvu. Dad had become an old Marine at the age of 18.

In November of 1944, training started with beach landings and long marches with full gear. This training lasted until the end of February 1945. Around March 1, the Division boarded a ship and left Pavuvu with no idea where they were going. The ship stopped after several days. Dad went up to the top deck to see what was going on. The sea was full of ships of all kinds – aircraft carriers, battle ships, destroyers, cruisers and troop ships. They were then briefed that they would be landing on Okinawa.

On April 1, 1945, the Marines and Army landed on Okinawa in a joint operation. The landing took place in the middle of the island. The objective was to cut the island in half. The Marines would go north and the Army south.

On May 10, 1945, Dad's company had just taken a small ridge and were setting up for the night. He dug in with one of his friends from his original platoon. At this time there were only seven guys left from that platoon. At this point they were close to Shuri Castle and could see it in the distance. Sometime during the night a Japanese soldier got

close enough to throw a yardstick mine into Dad's foxhole. He and his friend jumped out just as it went off. Both of them were hit but got back in the foxhole and started throwing grenades.

The same day, almost 7,500 miles away on the farm in West Dryden, a dog howled all day. Grandma (Nellie Gibson Fulkerson) said Dad's dog, Snooks, sat at the northeast corner of the farm house and howled all day long for no reason that she or Grandpa could determine. Days later they received a telegram from the Marine Corps saying Dad was wounded that day.

Dad recovered from his injuries and received a Purple Heart. He later re-enlisted to serve in the Korean War. We recently celebrated Dad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with family and friends – he was born June 29, 1925.



Diana Williams Landis, and her daughter, Susan stopped to share memories with Bob Watros in the DTHS reference room following a tour of the Southworth House. Diana makes her home in Idaho now, but grew up in Dryden.



## CURRENT EXHIBITS

### "For the Young People: Mementos of Youth"

Games, building blocks, play costumes, and marionettes are a few mementos from five generations of Southworth youth who lived at the Homestead.

### "Civil War Union Infantry Accoutrements"

on loan from Brad Griffin

### Fancy Woven Coverlets from the Southworth collection

Coverlets made by Archibald Davidson and Jacob Impson, 1836 - 1839

### Silver from the Southworth Homestead collection

4 piece coffee set and tureen, Meridian silver-plate, ca. 1870s

### Beautiful small objects: silver, glass, and china

Becky's collection of smalls



DTHS had a prominent location near the chain saw sculptor and the civil war cannon at the Dryden lake Festival



Here is another great thing about Dryden! Every Saturday Dryden has a Farmers Market located at Dryden Agway right next to the Butterfly Garden. DTHS was there on August 8th with the 2015 Quilt and Dryden lake Photo Raffle. Thanks to Kelly at Agway and everybody who stopped by.

## Follow the Beavers and Find Dryden Ancestors By David Waterman

Beaver laden Cayuga canoes going through Dryden and crossing the Dryden/Harford portage in the early 1700's were destined for trading in the Upper Minisink Valley, near where NY, PA and NJ borders come together. The journey would eventually necessitate a subsequent portage to get from the Susquehanna Watershed to the Delaware River Watershed. This portage was a crucial location throughout colonial history and the scene of major events. Coincidental evidence links both ends of the portage to ancestors of early settlers south of Dryden Village. You follow the beavers to discover them.

From Harford, the canoes continued down East Owego Creek and entered the North Branch of the Susquehanna River at Owego, "where the valley widens" in Onondaga language. Gliding downstream through lands conquered from the Susquehannocks, the Iroquois warriors need not carry provisions. They "ate from the bowls" of friendly people in newly reestablished towns along the way. While these towns held a few Mohawks, Cayugas and other Haudenosaunee, they were mostly populated by adopted people of other tribes, either defeated or being rescued from European expansion in the Southern Colonies. An important town named Tioga, meaning "at the forks", was located at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chemung rivers, now Tioga Point in Athens, PA. Below Athens, the Susquehanna bears East and enters Wyoming County, PA, near a town named Laceyville. Wyoming is a Delaware word for "place of the great meadows", a wide, fertile valley. The Haudenosaunee used it for cycling in newly adopted tribes, keeping them under close supervision for a time to manage their new tribal acculturation before moving them elsewhere.

The portage to the Delaware Watershed began at Adjouquay, a widening of the Wyoming valley later to be called Tripp's Flats, at the mouth of the Lackawanna River, now Pittsfield, PA. This place was of great importance to the Haudenosaunee. Not only did the fur trade portage begin here, but another trail called the Warrior Trail came down the Lackawanna and crossed here as well. The Natives rigorously guarded against white map makers and surveyors, who they considered spies, allowing visits only from good friends such as their trading partners from over the portage.

*Continued on page 8*

Over the next few years, we will be including excerpts from Bob Watros' Life Story. We hope you will enjoy reading these stories about growing up and raising a family in Dryden. Bob lived his early years in Varna, and Ithaca. Following is his story when they moved to Dryden in 1946.

### **“Our Move To Dryden” by Bob Watros**

In 1945, I only had a limited impression of Dryden village. I knew there was a cannon on the Village Green, a big ice cream cone sign on Main Street, and Weavers Drug Store with the big bottles of colored water in the window. During that summer, the man who would become my stepfather, Harold Pulling, introduced us to the rest of Dryden. As he was an active fireman, we visited the fire trucks at their temporary quarters at Walt Hutchings place of business on Elm Street. The original fire station had burned in 1944.

On Christmas night 1945, my mother and Harold were married. I was eight years old and remember the event well. Harold came to the house with his suitcase, and left it in the hall. He and my mother left the house and picked up their friends, the McKinneys. They proceeded to the home of the minister of the church in Varna and were married.

I shall be eternally grateful for Harold's willingness to take on our ready-made family. My father rarely met his commitment in providing child support. The burden of providing for us fell to Harold alone. Before Harold entered our lives, the only home we had was that of my grandfather and grandmother Moulthrop. Harold's means were limited, but he stepped forward and willingly shared what he had with us. I had an extremely strong bond with my grandfather, having spent eight years with him. Our close relationship lasted until his death. While I was never as close to Harold, I had a great deal of respect and admiration for him. He went out of his way to insure we did about everything a father and son normally do. He was a hard worker and provided well for us. We always had proper clothing and all we wanted to eat as well as a pleasant home.

In early 1946, my grandfather sold the house in Varna and bought a chicken farm on West Hill in Ithaca. It consisted of an orchard, two large chicken houses and a very large home. The plan was for Harold to manage it with some assistance from my grandfather. Betty (Bob's sister, more about here in further excerpts) and I transferred to the Ithaca school on West Hill. While living there, we got a toy collie named "Boots". While I had two dogs when living in Varna, I had each only a short time before they were killed on the highway. Boots was our all-time favorite. She was smart, well trained and went everywhere with the family. The chicken business was a major failure. Feed costs were high and egg prices were low. There was also conflict between my grandfather and Harold over management of the operation. As a result, my grandfather sold the farm at a substantial loss, and we all moved to Dryden village in September of 1946.

We arrived in Dryden just in time for me to start fourth grade. My grandparents bought the double house on Elm Street, and we rented the Burlingame house on the corner of North Street and what is now Lee Road. The house was owned by Lewis Gridley and undergoing remodeling. As this home was the first household of Harold and my mother, it was sparsely furnished. We had an old-fashioned icebox and some new and used furniture given to us by Harold's mother.

In the spring of 1947 we moved to the double house on Elm Street. We lived on the east side apartment previously occupied by "Grandma" Hulslander. My grandparents lived on the west side. My grandparents, the Moulthrops, had purchased the property from Betsey Clark the previous fall. The structure was originally a large barn and converted into a two large apartments around 1890 by Betsey's father. Both units needed updating as there was no central heat and the two outhouses were still in service. By the time we moved in, those two improvements had been installed. My grandparents were very generous and charged my folks a modest rent; I think thirty-five dollars a month. The apartment consisted of eight rooms, a bathroom and a large hall. Once settled in my new home, I set about getting acquainted with the local kids.

## DTHS Partners with Southworth Library

Diane Pamel, Southworth Library director, invited DTHS to present two programs. Since Jennie's Book Club meets at the library, the book chosen to read was The Centennial History of the Town of Dryden, 1797-1897 by George Goodrich. David Smith, DTHS member, led a program on the book on August 25. The Goodrich book is one of the first sources we turn to when we researching family histories or preparing exhibits and programs. The maps that are included in the book are particularly helpful.

On August 27 we fast forwarded 125 years when Bob Watros gave his talk on the West Main Street he knew in 1946. Bob referred to a Goodrich map to illustrate some changes. Some of the 19th century buildings are now gone, were still there in 1946.

DTHS really appreciated this opportunity to co-sponsor these programs in the beautiful new Southworth Library. We look forward to more shared programs. Dryden is fortunate to have both a library and historical society that are up to date and filled with activity. The Library's new digitalization of the Dryden newspapers will be a wonderful tool for local research. And many fine historical photographs and useful local research can be found in the reference room of Dryden Historical Society.

## Exhibit at the History Center

The History Center in Tompkins County is opening a new exhibit, *"In Memoriam: Cemeteries of Tompkins County."* Dryden Town Historical Society has loaned several items from our historical collection. Stop in and view this county wide exhibit on Gallery Night, Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5 – 8pm. The exhibit runs through February 20, 2016. The History Center is located at 401 East State Street, Ithaca, and is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, 11am – 5pm.

DTHS appreciates the opportunity to share with The History Center.



The old sign has been stored at Sunshine Sign Co. since DTHS moved from West Main Street. Bob Timmerman has made it "new" again. Be sure to notice it hanging at its new location on 14 North Street. Thank you, Bob.





**Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS**

**Ending: September 4, 2015**

**FOR THE SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD PROJECT:**

- Randall & Barbara Shew — For the Project.
- Diantha S. Southworth — For the Project.
- Bob Timmerman — For the Project (DTH Society Named Sign on East Wing).
- Bob Timmerman – For the Project (Roadside banner – Heritage Day Festival)
- Donald Turk — For the Project.
- Betsey VanSickle — For renovation of the French wall paper.
- Bob Watros — (Donation 1) For the Project.  
(Donation 2) For the Project.

**FOR MEMORIALS:**

- James Holman & Dorothy Buerk — In memory of Willis Marion
- Kenneth & Catherine Paddock — In memory of Jean Warholic.
- Bard & Gina Prentiss — In memory of Willis Marion.
- Diantha S. Southworth — In memory of Dr. & Mrs. Chauncey Robert Southworth.
- Rosemarie Southworth — In memory of Dr. & Mrs. C. Robert Southworth (For Southworth Project).
- Fred A. (Ben) Williams — In memory of Willis Marion

**FOR MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE DTHS:**

- Dryden Mutual Insurance Co. (c/o Bob Baxter) — Towards cost of 2015 programs.
- Mary Hornbuckle — For program (tent rental).
- Betty Marion — For program (tent rental).
- Shirley Price — For program (tent rental).
- Saino Zazzara — To the general fund.

**THANK YOU!**

- Mary Ellen Rumsey, front entrance garden plants
- Bob Watros, lawn mowing

**Membership Update through August 31, 2015**

Our total membership through August 31, 2015 is 191 members. Thank you everyone for your renewals and welcome our new members:

Steve Trumull	Freeville, NY	Patricia Ard	Dryden, NY
Vilasini Mills	Lansing, NY	Buzz & Linda Lavine	Ithaca, NY
Douglas Barton III	Freeville, NY	Paul Dedrick	Groton, NY
Reba & Ken Taylor	Dryden, NY	Denise Teeter	Burdett, NY
Wayne & Joan VanPelt	Freeville, NY	Roger & Debbie VanPelt	Groton, NY
Brad Griffin	Groton, NY	Moira Scheuring	Dryden, NY
Diantha Strickland		Marlene Munson	Westland, MI
Southworth	Wilmington, DE		

Your support is appreciated.

*Follow the Beavers, continued from page 4*

The Wyoming Valley will eventually be settled by white men around 1769. Two contingents of colonists, one called “Pennsylvanians” and one called “Connecticut” will settle here and engage in armed conflict with each other, the land changing hands back and forth repeatedly right up to the revolution. Among the 200 earliest Wyoming settlers, surnames include *Phillips, Hunt, Brown, Johnson, Baker, Knap, Thomas, Sweet, Smith, Backock, Stevens, Beach, Lewis, and Tripp*, matching names of some early Dryden settlers, but it is problematic to prove direct family links. During the Revolutionary War, genealogical records were lost in a massacre, with churches and farms of Wyoming burned and survivors scattered as refugees. We might call the above list a statistical cluster.

The portage is described as follows in a 1756 quote of Oghaghadisha, a Haudenosaunee sachem:

*“Adjouquay, where there is a good situation and fine soil at the entrance of a deep creek on a level plain five miles extending and clear of woods...An old woman may carry a heavy pack of skins from thence to the Minisink and return to Adjouquay in two nights.”*

If “two nights” means 3 days of hiking to go out and back, the length of the portage must have been about 50 miles maximum. Sure enough, topographic maps depict a deep pass through the Moosic Mountains a little above Pittsfield. It commences at the mouth of Roaring Creek in Scranton. About fifty miles from the start, the route comes to a pond in the Minisink Valley, coincidentally named “Harford Pond” on the 1928 map. Springtime flow there would be sufficient to carry beaver pelts down Wallenpaupack Creek to the Lackawaxen River and on to the Delaware, or for Dutch traders inhabiting the upper Minisink Valley to push their small boats up the creek to Harford Pond and trade.

During the Revolution, the Minisink side of the portage was just as vulnerable as Wyoming. Upon word of the Wyoming massacre, the settlers there panicked, loading young children and what possessions they could fit on makeshift rafts and launching them down the Delaware River.

with women wading in to disentangle the rafts from logs and rocks, while men walked both sides carrying loaded guns. Most found refuge in Sussex County NJ, where many would remain. A large number of Dryden’s early settlers came from Sussex County, which encompassed Warren and Hunterdon Counties at the time. These families include *Carmer, Space, Beam, Lacy, Thomas, Bowlby, Carhart, Hart, Hiles, Hunt, Luce, Maybury, Primrose, Snyder, and Decker*, and probably by association, *Baker, Dusenbury, Cole, and Cotanch/Kotanch*. Dryden’s *Tripp* family came from Dutchess County NY, also part of the upper Minisink.

The 1853 Dryden map depicts Dryden almost two generations after original settlers arrived. Still, it appears as if many of the family names noted above are living in the hilly areas of Dryden south of the village and around the start of the Dryden/Harford portage. Somehow land titles, randomly balloted out to Revolutionary War soldiers, became somewhat unrandomized and a community of people from Sussex County and the Minisink Valley, at the far end of the beaver journey, settled here. What brought them together and why did they choose this place? Maybe it was the hills and the lumber. But it is fun to imagine that a seed was sown generations before Dryden was ever settled, when a Cayuga warrior visited the cabin of a trading partner and friend in the Minisink Valley. Sitting by the fireplace in the evening, smoking tobacco together, drinking rum, and sharing stories before falling asleep next to his bed, might he have mentioned a beautiful wooded valley with a lake, far upstream, where fish and game were forever plentiful?



See this green transfer ware platter on the Southworth House tour



## Antiques Flea Market

Our 1st Annual Antiques~Flea Market was a success. We had 23 vendors that set up their wares on a beautiful summer day. We sold tickets for the quilt/picture drawing and gave Southworth house tours.

The vendors asked that we invite them back next year for the 2nd Saturday in July. We hope to make this an annual event each year. Mary Hornbuckle sold over \$600 in our booth that was set up in the barn!



Antiques Flea Market, July 11. The grounds of the Southworth Homestead were filled with vendors under bright canopies.



Descendants of John Southworth family visited the Southworth House on August 1st for a private tour



Maria Ortez, DTHS volunteer and vendor at the Antiques Flea Market, July 11

### SOUTHWORTH HOUSE TOURS

**Last tour of the year – October 3!**

10 am, 11 am, 12 noon

Donation \$5.00

Join us for the last Southworth House tour of 2015 season

#### **Becky's Birthday Tour**

Everyone receives a gift to celebrate DTHS Benefactress, Rebecca Simpson



Muriel Likel staffs the DTHS booth at Montgomery Park during Dairy Day. Always good local history books for sale at the DTHS, including the Goodrich Dryden history books.

Dryden Town Historical  
Society

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**DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

14 NORTH STREET OPEN HOURS

Every Saturday 10 AM – 1 PM

or by appointment

**2015 TOURS AT THE SOUTHWORTH HOUSE**

SEPTEMBER 19 Tours: 11 am, 12 noon, 1 pm, 2 pm

OCTOBER 3 Tours: 10 am, 11 am, 12 noon

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](mailto:drydennyhistory@gmail.com).

Dryden Town Historical Society

14 North Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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