

# DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

October, November  
December, January  
Volume 42 (2018/19)

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

## 2018 Homestead Heritage Fair Day

On October 6, 2018 DTHS welcomed all to the 2018 Homestead Heritage Fair Day. It will be remembered as a fine Heritage Fair, and surely the wettest. Dryden experienced a terrific downpour that for a time left people and animals scurrying for cover and water everywhere. DTHS received a Tompkins County Tourism Grant to help with the costs. This year it was an honor to partner with Historic Ithaca and The History Center as one of the Saturday sites of the Ithaca Heritage Tourism event, "Authentically Rural Weekend."

To celebrate this rural Fair, many heritage crafts such as, spinning, blacksmithy, chair caning, falconry, 18th century open cooking and sheep shearing were featured. There was music all day provided by Ithaca Concert Band, Fall Creek Brass Band, and The Cortland Old Timers Band. Tompkins County 4 H youth brought goats, sheep, cows, calf and heritage chickens to meet folks. Cornell Raptor Program and falconry demonstration added insight into the ornithological world. A new "Discovery Shed" provided the opportunity to use wall crank and dial telephones, a stereopticon, wind up phonograph and records, pulleys, hand plunger clothes washer, typewriter and boot jack or just reminisce. Now 2018 Homestead Heritage Fair Day is a memory of the bustle of activity to the rousing sounds of march and band music all day long. Soon it will be time to welcome suggestions for 2019 Homestead Heritage Fair Day.

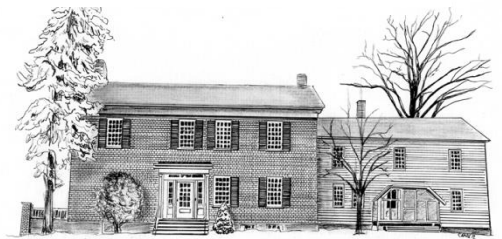
Thanks to participants: Historic Ithaca; The History Center; Fall Creek Brass Band; Ithaca Concert Band; Cortland Old Timers Band; Dryden Community Cafe'; Blacksheep Handspinners Guild; Therapy Thimbles Quilting Group; Kidzone; Tompkins County 4H; Daisy Hollow Farm; Crane's Stable; Cornell Raptor Program; Brooktondale Quilt Raffle; Dryden Agway; Quinn's Irish Hill Farm; Colonial Toys; The Honey Factory; MaryHill Clayworks; Dryden Fire Dept for parking and chairs; Presbyterian Church for parking; Jack D Tents.

**WINTER HOURS (January through March, 2019)**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 10am – 1pm**

**Every Tuesday, 10am – 12pm**

and always by appointment 844-9209



Many thanks to: Prof. Vicki Wilkins; Claire Kuiken, Falconry; Jim Bartsch, Blacksmith; Brian McGee, Sheep Shearing; Will Harding, Heritage chickens; Brenda Carpenter; Wayne Harbert; Mary Hornbuckle; Fred and Muriel Likel; Lance and Trish Sprague; Fred and Janet Rimmel; Carl and MaryLou Taylor; Elizabeth Gutches; Chris Baurle; Haley Harris; Mariah and Joshua Prentiss; Mike Murphy; John Kiefer; Sam and Sue Morrie; Janice Downey; Jan Hollenbeck; Ginny Stairs; Donna Stone; Sharon Shaw; James Kirkwyland; Matt Manzer; Mike Tenkate; 4 H Youth; Jacques Schickle; Susan Holland; Christine O'Malley; and many more volunteers.

Coordinators: Gina Prentiss, Shirley Price, Bob Watros



Fall Creek Brass Band

# 2018 Pie and Bread Sale

This year's Pie and Bread Sale was held on Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. As I recall, it was a rather dreary Fall day that definitely needed some tasty pies and bread to brighten people's spirits and we were happy to comply.

Donations were down a bit from past years but presentation was up. DTHS bakers did a splendid job of creating attractive wares that would have been the envy of any professional establishment. As usual, we sold every morsel and at the end of the morning our efforts netted \$429.00.

Our most sincere thanks go out to everyone who contributed their baking skills, the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank of Dryden for allowing us the use of their lobby (and for being such good customers), and the people who donated their time to help sell and promote this event: Jan Hollenbeck, Muriel Likel, Gina Prentiss and Sharon Shaw.

Thank you!  
Shirley Price and Mary Hornbuckle



DTHS Pie Sale from left: Jan Hollenbeck, Mary Hornbuckle, Shirley Price, Sharon Shaw, Joshua Prentiss



Violet jelly and wrapped dinner rolls make attractive offerings at DTHS Pie Sale



Brian McGee shearing sheep

Cornell Raptor Program



Jim Bartsch stoking his forge

Susan Holland, Historic Ithaca Director, setting up early morning before the downpour



## HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Participants at this year's Holiday Workshop learned the craft of folding squares of paper into functional boxes. The results were beautiful! Some of the younger attendees made beaded candy cane ornaments.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**Wednesday, February 13** at 6:30 pm at the Southworth Homestead.

We invite you to spend an informal winter evening. This program, **"3 for 1"** is an introduction to three recent books by DTHS members. Come and meet the books and their authors, Harry Weldon, Mike Murphy and David Waterman. Refreshments and see new exhibits .

**Wednesday, March 13** at 7 pm at Dryden Village Hall

"The Most Notorious Brain in the Annals of Crime: The Story of Edward Ruloff: Serial Killer, Genius, Specimen" presented by Kate Dawson, Associate Professor, Journalism, University of Texas at Austin

## Our Beautiful Outdoor Decorations

Thanks to Muriel and Fred Likel for the biggest, best ever wreath on the Southworth red barn and to Mary Ellen Rumsey for the beautiful wreaths and urns filled with greens.



Urns filled with greens and four lovely wreaths grace beautiful Southworth Homestead made and given by MaryEllen Rumsey in memory of Becky Southworth Simpson. (Note also the scaffolding in place for brick mortar work scheduled for spring 2019).



On the Southworth red barn. This super wreath made and given by Muriel and Fred Likel. (Thanks to John Kiefer for helping Fred hang the biggest ever wreath)

## Southworth Homestead Tree Planting Update

Those of you who have been reading our newsletters the past few years know that the DTHS Trustees formed a landscape committee in 2017 to create a plan to plant trees and shrubs at the Homestead. Last spring we implemented the first phase of the plan and planted 16 trees including two oaks, two maples, five serviceberries, five crabapples, a tulip and an elm. We intend to plant the remaining trees in the plan this coming spring. They will be located on the east part of the property and consist of three more maples, two oaks, two sycamores and three more crabs. The oaks, maples, sycamores and tulip will someday be giants and all the trees selected for the project are native to our area.

Funding for the project is from gifts and reserve funds if needed and covers the cost of buying the trees. The planting, watering, mulching, pruning, and weeding is by volunteers. So far we've received close to \$2000 in gifts and the total cost of the trees is about \$4000. We will gratefully accept additional gifts for trees! And feel free to stop by and check out our new trees: they are the ones with deer/rabbit guards to protect their tender new bark and twigs.

## West Entry Deck Replacement

When John Southworth built his house in 1836 the main entrance to the house was by way of a wood stair leading to the grand, decorative entrance along North Street. Sometime during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century John's descendants added a new entry on the south side of the house and subsequently closed off the west entry. The change was probably in response to a street widening and transition to motorized traffic on North Street. Rather than simply abandoning the west entry, the Southworth family elected to duplicate the brick pillars and decorative balustrade of already existing north deck and create a small, 10'x10' west deck. Over the years the west deck received little maintenance and by the time the Historical Society inherited the Homestead the harsh street-side environment had done its work. The wood balustrade was badly rotted. The two brick pillars had many broken bricks and the footers had heaved. The concrete deck was eroded, cracked and falling apart. Last summer the DTHS Trustees voted to demolish the deck and tasked several members with documenting the deck and exploring options for deck replacement.

After taking photos and recording measurements of the deck we took it apart, looking for evidence of what might have been there before the deck was built. We found nothing of interest. We discussed replacement options with Randy Crawford, the preservation architect who has been helping us since the early days of DTHS ownership of the Homestead. Randy said we should work to understand what had been there over the years. He advised us to either duplicate what we had just demolished or to build something based on historic photos of the house. He strongly advised us not to install something different in appearance or materials than what had been there at any time in the history of the building.

A search of various historic photo archives yielded images from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that show a simple wood stair (see photos). Several images showed both the wood stair and north deck. Another showed the wood stair and a horse and buggy at the new south entrance. Based on these Randy said a simple wood stair would be a perfectly acceptable approach if we chose not to duplicate the 10'x10' deck.

The Trustees discussed the two options at their monthly meeting last November: duplicate the 10'x10' deck or build a wood stair based on historic photos. As with many of the discussions on how to be good stewards of the Homestead, the discussion was long and the final vote was not unanimous. However, most of the Trustees voted to install wood steps as a solution that is historically correct and more cost effective than recreating the deck. The Trustees tasked several members with preparing a design and cost estimate and bringing it back for final vote this winter. More to follow on this topic in future newsletters.

(See photos on Page 5)

## Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

**Southworth Homestead Project:**

William and Jane Bailey

**Donations:**

Tent Rental Heritage Festival: Shirley Price

**Donations "In Kind":**

Bob Watros: lawn mowing and leaf removal

CNY Signs & Graphics – changing dates on 6 signs for Heritage Festival

**Our Business Supporters:**

Bailey Place Insurance  
CNY Signs & Graphics  
Dryden Pet & Home  
Freeville Publishing Co.

Broom Hilda's Housekeeping  
Dryden Realty-Apartment Co.  
Dryden Wine & Spirits  
Michael Lane, Attorney  
True Renew Homes

Candlelight Inn & Breakfast  
Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.  
First National Bank of Dryden  
North Star Art Gallery

### IN MEMORIAM

Ray Harris  
September 1, 2018

Don Feint  
December 19, 2018

Rita Harris  
December 31, 2018

### West Entry Deck



This ca. 1900 photo shows the west stair.



Close-up of wooden west stair.

Dryden Town Historical  
Society

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**DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

14 NORTH STREET

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Dryden Town Historical Society

14 North Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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