

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

June, July,
August
Volume 43 (2019)

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

Saturdays, 10am - 1pm
Every Tuesday, 10am - 12pm
and always by appointment 844-9209

Homestead Heritage Fair Day OCTOBER 5, 10 am - 3 pm

Don't miss this **Free** day full of music, food, demonstrations, fun and ice cream!

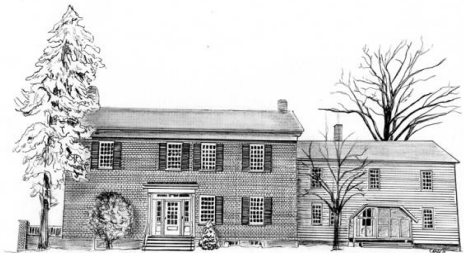
This year hear these great bands:
BACK PAGES AND CORTLAND OLD TIMERS BAND

Come and join the fun! Watch spinners turning sheep's fleece into yarn or a blacksmith at his forge, watch demonstrations of sheep shearing, the ancient art of falconry, chair caning, see the magnificent birds of prey from Cornell's Raptor Program, play with toys that your great-grandparents might have enjoyed and listen to some great music. You can also take a guided tour of the historic Southworth House (donation charge), Tompkins County's *only* historic home open to the public. All this and much more!

We are looking for both business and individual sponsors to help defray the cost of this special day. If you would like to become a Homestead Heritage day sponsor please contact Muriel Likel at 607-844-9518 or mlikel@twcny.rr.com or Craig Schutt at 607-379-5965 or schutt61@gmail.com.

We look forward to seeing our community come together to celebrate our Dryden Homestead Heritage.

Sponsored in part by a grant from Tompkins County Community Celebration Grant.



Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are needed for Homestead Heritage Fair Day, October 5, 2019, for setting up, (October 4th), throughout the day of the event, tearing down and parking attendants. If you would like to volunteer for any of these duties, please contact one of our coordinators, Craig Schutt at 607-379-5965 or schutt61@gmail.com or Fred Likel at Flikel@twcny.rr.com or 607-844-9518.

We look forward to hearing from you.



MaryLou Taylor and Sharon Shaw packing Jane Bailey's wedding dress from 1954. Thanks to Bill and Jane Bailey for donating the cost of the archival box.

“Recent Gifts: New to the Collection”

A most interesting and historically important object in the K and LL Brown display case is the Major Grover civil war sword. This was left to DTHS by the will of Victor G. Fulkerson estate. Included with the gift of the sword was a write up by Victor Fulkerson entitled: “Fulkerson Connection to Capt. A J. Grover, 76 Regiment, Union Army, 1861/1863.” For this gift and document DTHS is most grateful. There is a interesting story about the local provenance of the sword.

Victor Fulkerson wrote more about Andrew Grover and the history of the 76th Regiment. Please stop in and view this unique gift and read the entire document.

PLAN AHEAD – DON’T MISS THESE IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Military Tract Lots in the Town of Dryden by David Waterman, October 24
(SEE Page 3)

Pie Sale, November 2

Get on your baking and buying shoes and buy some wonderful baked goods.

Holly Tour – December 1 (Sunday). This year will feature several historic homes in the town of Dryden dressed up for the holidays. Among one of the homes open for touring will be Rhodes End, an Italianate from the 1800’s owned, restored, and decorated by Maria Ortiz. Rhodes End is named after one of the founding families of Dryden, the Rhodes family. If anyone has a recommendation for a home they believe should be on the tour, please contact Maria Ortiz through the historical society. This year’s tour will be concentrating on the Etna-Freeville area.

Dryden Village Community Celebration – December 7. DTHS will host a **Holiday Workshop** Come and make a wonderful holiday ornament, or miniature scene thanks to Patti Kiefer. Refreshments.

2019 “OP” Sale a GREAT Success!

The **2019 “OP” Sale** was held on May 17th and 18th under an eye-catching green & yellow striped tent on the lawn of the Southworth Homestead ... plus a Collector’s Corner of books, LPs, and antiques in the barn.

Once again, our members dug deep and donated items were piled high throughout the tent. Initially, we envisioned countless trips to the Salvation Army and Rescue Mission after the sale to off-load unsold merchandise. We needn’t have worried. We had amazing foot traffic and were told by a local dealer that other sales in the area were short of buyers – everyone was at the Op Sale!! Our customers were in a buying mood and we even sold items we had been storing in the barn for years. When the dust settled, we made **\$3,245.00** and had sold roughly 99% of the donations!

This year we had a lot of help with setting up, selling, and taking down. Shirley and Mary want to thank: Deb Fisher, Jan Hollenbeck, Fred and Muriel Likel, Sam and Sue Morrie, Mike Murphy, Maria Ortiz, Gina, Mariah and Joshua Prentiss, Craig Schutt, and Bob and Joan Watros. We couldn’t have done it without you.



“Op” sale 2019 lots of great items for sale

PHOTO WORKSHOP

On July 10, sponsored by a grant from Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund, Luisa Casella, a paper conservation expert from Westlake Conservators lead a “Sun Print” workshop for children at the Dryden Recreation Summer Camp. Bringing special photographic paper, the children placed all sorts of shapes on the paper, exposed them to the sun, and the negative left a white print of the shape on a blue background. It was a beautiful sunny afternoon, and all enjoyed this time to learn about cyanotype photography.



Luisa Casella demonstrating early photography to children at Dryden Recreation Summer Camp



DTHS at Dryden Dairy Day. Gina Prentiss, Mary Hornbuckle, Craig Schutt.

John Konkle, Military Tract Lots Surveyor, October 24 Presentation by David Waterman

On the evening of October 24th, David Waterman will be presenting a program about the local land surveyor John Konkle. John Konkle's Dryden survey field book details his observations of soil, trees, and other items as he walked every square mile of Dryden Township to survey and mark the Military Tract lots in the late 1700's. David Waterman will read descriptions of North, South, East, and West Main Streets and the Dryden lake area, then take requests from the audience for any other place in Dryden. We are inviting members and the public to bring their own land surveys to this event, and David will help locate current properties on the map from John Konkle's survey. Maps aids and plant identification graphics will be projected. Learn what your favorite part of Dryden looked like in 1790, before white settlement.

7PM at Dryden Village Hall. Refreshments will be provided.



Anita Loscalzo, from Massachusetts, visited the DTHS with her “Dryden Names” quilt top to do some research. It is a quilt from the 1850s with names and dates from the Town of Dryden embroidered on it. Gina Prentiss, Anita Loscalzo, and MaryLou Taylor.

Surveying The Dryden Military Lots by David Waterman

Part 1 – John Konkle Gets the Job

John Konkle was the surveyor who marked out the Dryden Military Lots in 1790-91. He lived in Elmira, NY, then called Newtown. His log home was on lot #85, east of Newtown Creek. The Konkle family had been one of the first to settle in Elmira two years earlier and John worked surveying lots for other people. Their home in Newtown doubled as an inn, with a liquor license issued by the town of Chemung in 1790. Surveyor work was sporadic and seasonal, sometimes taking John away from home for long periods of time, and his wife Annie probably did most of the inn-keeping work while taking care of their three children, then ages 10, 6, and 4. Newtown had been a Cayuga and mixed Iroquois town named Kannawalohalla (head on a pole) before Generals Clinton and Sullivan brought their armies through in 1779. Sullivan himself renamed it Newtown, and the Newtown battle site, scene of the only major engagement of the campaign, was 6 miles from where the Konkle's made their home. By 1790 some Natives had returned and were living peacefully at the fringes of the rapidly filling town.

Less than a mile from Konkle's land, a 700 acre tract was called DeWittsburgh, after Moses DeWitt, who owned the land but never lived there. Moses was a young cousin of Simeon DeWitt, the Surveyor General of New York, who was a nephew of DeWitt Clinton, the Governor of the state, who in turn was son of James Clinton, the Clinton/Sullivan general. Moses was a surveyor, like John Konkle, and employed in 1790 by his cousin Simeon as field-manager on a huge project for their uncle, the Governor. They were dividing 4 million acres of Iroquois homeland into 26 townships, as square as possible, each subdivided into 100 square lots of a square mile each, to be given by lottery to a list of deserving revolutionary soldiers.

John Konkle met with Moses DeWitt at Wyncoop's Inn in Newtown near Christmas of 1789, but he did not get a chance to discuss some important business with him, so on January 2nd he wrote a letter. The letter informed Moses of *"Male Contents of this place [who] are determined to carry their designs into execution against the Commissioners &c."* The commissioners had been authorized to settle land disputes between settlers of the Chemung area. One of the three commissioners was General Clinton, who had personally taught both Moses

and Simeon their surveying skills. John's letter asked Moses to *"intercede in my behalf for some of the land whereon I now live...and I will reward you for it to your satisfaction."* He added a postscript, *"And if any Business is to be done in this place I should be happy to serve you in any thing that Laid in my power."* Thus began a working relationship between the 24 year old Moses DeWitt and 33 year old John Konkle. The commissioners subsequently awarded Konkle 297 acres where he had originally settled.

John Konkle and Moses DeWitt both hailed from distinguished families. Konkle's great grandfather had been a wealthy German and a man of letters, when he landed in Philadelphia in 1748 at age 66 with two sons and their wives. Though he had traveled in style, the old man was appalled at the conditions encountered by other emigrating Germans packed in the ship. He wrote a long and scathing letter about the horrors of the passage and human trafficking of Germans being indentured. This letter was published in Germany and virtually shut down German emigration to America for years. These Konkles acquired a large tract of frontier land in the New Jersey part of the Minisink Valley, which became the predominantly German community of Hardwick, Sussex County. German immigrants were largely pacifist or loyalist sympathizers during the revolution, having come to America to escape the chaos of civil war back home. John's father ultimately emigrated to Canada. John stayed out of the war, marrying Annie Wurtz in Sussex County at its height in 1779. Moses DeWitt's great grandfather had been the chief of an Irish extended family, who paid the passage for 93 people on their 1729 crossing, following two years of famine in Ireland. In his log he chronicled 98 deaths during the May 1st to Oct 4th voyage, many of whom were his people. Moses was the oldest son of Jacob Rutsen DeWitt of Mamascotting, in the NY portion of the Minisink Valley. DeWitt family fortunes grew with their patriotic war efforts, though Moses DeWitt himself was too young to have fought.

By the summer of 1790, Moses had marked the peripheries of the 23 Military Tract townships. Then, from his base camp on the east shore of Cayuga Lake, he began hiring surveyors to subdivide them. Konkle sent DeWitt another letter in July. It said, *"I am informed with*

Continued on page 5

Part 1 - continued from page 4

with Pleasure that you have arrived at the Lakes, in order to Survey the Soldier Land, and likewise that you are in want of more Surveyors. I have an Extra ordinary Set of Instruments and I am in no kind of business at Present, and unless I Can get to do Something in that Line I do not know how to support my family [IF you will] Employ me in that line I will Endeavour for to give Satisfaction as much as is in me lies, and I shall be able to procure hands for chainbearers &c. in this place." John got the job. On September 16th, Moses wrote in his field notebook: "Mr. John Konkle Entered into written Articles of Agreement for the Subdividing Township No. 23. [Dryden] for 160£. payable in two years. if not then paid for 190£. and wait until the same can be Collected by Law - advan'd some provisions & Cash as part pay." The survey of Dryden would now begin.

(Quoted passages from: DeWitt Family Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Syracuse University Libraries)



Fred Likel and Shirley Price find a minute to relax at the "Op" Sale

Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

Southworth Homestead Project:

Chris Lowe, new front steps

Donations "In Kind":

Bob Watros: mowing Southworth Homestead grounds

In Memoriam

Elsie Gutchess April 2019

Joan Manning June 2019

Elsie Gutchess and Joan Manning were local history keepers. DTHS will miss their strong interest in the Dryden and Freeville area.

Our Business Supporters:

Bailey Place Insurance
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Michael Lane, Attorney
True Renew Homes

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

We would also like to thank Shirley Price, Mary Hornbuckle and Craig Schutt for another wonderful Dairy Day float.

And please welcome our new Trustee Board Members – Amy Dickinson and Maria Ortiz!

Dryden Town Historical
Society

14 North Street
PO Box 69
Dryden, NY 13053

Phone:
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E-Mail:
drydennyhistory@gmail.com

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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
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Dryden, NY 13053

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