

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

September, October
November
Volume 43 (2019)

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

HOLIDAY WORKSHOP DECEMBER 7 (Saturday), 10am - 1pm

During Dryden Holiday Celebration in the Village on December 7, visit Dryden Historical Society at the Southworth Homestead, 14 North Street.

We invite you to make a **unique holiday ornament** with all supplies provided. Check out the **holiday display: "Nutcracker Sweet"** and enjoy holiday **refreshments**.

Get your Business Passport stamped here to be eligible for wonderful prizes!

Local books make great gifts. DTHS has a fine selection. All proceeds from sales benefit the Southworth Homestead and DTHS. See our website for our listing of books, or come in and visit, and find other wonderful gift ideas.

<http://drydennyhistory.org/membership/>



Board members Amy Dickinson, Maria Ortiz, and Committee member Helena Ortiz judging pies at the Annual Dryden Community Café Apple Pie Contest!

WINTER HOURS STARTING JANUARY THROUGH MARCH, 2020

**1ST AND 3RD Saturdays, 10am - 1pm
Every Tuesday, 10am - 12pm**

and always by appointment 844-9209



Homestead Heritage Fair a great success!

Please join us in planning the **2020 Homestead Heritage Fair day (January 9, 2020)**.

We would like to thank all the many wonderful groups and artists that participated in the Homestead Heritage Fair on October 5, and the many volunteers leading up to, during, and after the event that made this day possible .

Sponsors

Tompkins County Tourism Grant
Dryden Mutual Insurance Company
Empire Livestock
Other anonymous donations

Sunshine Sign Company	Banner-
Chris Baurle	Hay Bales -
Cortland Old timers Band	Music
Jim Hull	Music
Dryden Community Café	Food
Meg-a-Moo's	Ice Cream
4-H of Tompkins County	Animals, Heritage Chickens
Cornell Raptor Program	Birds of Prey
Brian Magee	Sheep Shearing and Pumpkins

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New mini exhibit in Southworth Homestead Second Floor east bedroom

Edwardian travel dress

This Display uses the tall plexi case given to DTHS by Tompkins County History Center. A two piece Edwardian travel costume, made of beige colored faille fabric, had been stored in a dresser drawer in the east bedroom. The dress form is placed in front of the mirror as if the wearer were looking in the mirror. The back of the dress has beautiful sewing details and is visible to tour guests entering the room.



An Edwardian costume that had been stored in a dresser drawer in the East bedroom of the Southworth House.



Board members Maria Ortiz and Amy Dickinson (assisted by Maria's daughter Helena, a DTHS committee member) started what they hope will be an annual tradition of trick-or-treating at Southworth House.

Annual Pie Sale

As always, there were lots of yummy pies and breads, and customers, and we made over \$600 for DTHS. Great success!



Mariah Prentiss, Jean German, and Trish Sprague trying to make a choice!



Joshua Prentiss shows his choice - a Key Lime Pie

Demonstrations and Art

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Cathy Whalen and Lace Guild | Lace Making |
| Gene Ritter | Woodworx |
| Bard Prentiss | Prentiss Woodworks |
| Fred and Janet Rimmel | Colonial Toys |
| Shirley Price | Indian Artifacts |
| Jim Bartsch | Blacksmith |
| Ginny Stairs | Quilting |
| Carl Taylor | Chair Caning |
| Tom and Pat Quinn | Dutch Oven Cooking |
| Jacques Schickel | Mary Hill Clayworks |
| Wayne Harbert | R Townley wheel spinners
and Blacksheep Handspinners Guild |
| Sue Quick | Flax Spinners |
| Honey Factory | Beehive Demo |

Other Organizations and Contributions

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Town of Dryden Agricultural Committee | |
| Vicki Wilkins, SUNY Cortland | Kids Games |
| Bob Jacobssen | Fencing |
| Dryden Fire Department | Parking and chairs |
| Presbyterian Church | Parking |
| Muriel and Fred Likel | Harvest decorations |
| Trish Sprague | Canopy loan |
| Shirley Price | Donation of tent rental |

PHOTOS FROM HOMESTEAD HERITAGE DAY



Tom Quinn and Dutch Oven Cooking



4H Goats



One of the many vendors on display



Cornell Raptor Program



David Waterman and the Dryden Military Lots

Surveying The Dryden Military Lots –by David Waterman

Part 2 – Taking Care of Business

It was September 16, 1790, by the time John Konkle signed the agreement with Moses DeWitt, to subdivide the Dryden Township. Though he had arrived at Moses' base-camp on the East shore of Cayuga Lake, near present day Ludlowville, in early August, he had made only a verbal commitment to do the work, "because of Maj. Hardenbergh not being Present", according to Moses' log-book. Major Abraham Hardenbergh was Moses DeWitt's partner in the Military Tract surveying project. He was not a DeWitt or a Clinton, but he was an in-law. The veteran soldier added necessary muscle when protesting Indians or squatters needed to be strong-armed to keep the survey going. It is curious why Konkle was so concerned and why DeWitt allowed the six week delay. In the interim time, Moses had given him another surveying task to do, and now he needed to gather up his notes, write a field-book and make a map for Moses before the Dryden subdividing task could finally commence.

By this time John Konkle knew the men camped out around the base-camp looking for work, and he could quickly assemble a surveying team. He probably needed two chain bearers, two or three axe-men, and a couple of other helpers for cooking, moving and setting up camp, and other odd jobs. The crew could make preparations while John completed his paperwork. DeWitt and Hardenbergh occupied DeWitt's survey cabin, preparing for a field trip of their own and would soon be leaving. John needed a dry place to ink his map, and a trusted person to hold onto it until Moses returned. He decided to spend the night with Peter Hinepaugh, at the head of the lake. Small sailboats waited on shore below the base-camp, offering rides North to the trail toward Albany, or South to the head of the lake. If the wind cooperated, it was a faster and more pleasant way to travel to Hinepaugh's than walking the East Shore Trail.

Peter Hinepaugh's mill was located at the bottom of the falls of Cascadilla Creek, known then as Hinepaugh's Mill Creek. It marked the start of the road to Owego, and first leg home for both Moses DeWitt and John Konkle. A small log cabin nearby housed Peter and his wife and five children, and they also found room to put up guests. Konkle could use this dry place for his work, then trust Hinepaugh to give the materials to DeWitt when he came through.

Hinepaugh and his two half brothers, Jacob Yaple and Issac Dumonde, had just finished their third summer at Cayuga lake, planting crops in former Native clearings and building four log cabins and the gristmill. Last fall they had brought in their families, in all four men, four women and twelve children, who were the very first families to settle in Ithaca. The grueling two month long trip from Owego for them had involved a widening of the "Warriors' Trail" into a road to enable their ox carts, loaded with tools, supplies and toddler children to pass. Soldiers and refugees, veterans of the Clinton/Sullivan campaign, they had seen a promised land at the head of Cayuga Lake.

The family migration to Cayuga Lake had been Peter Hinepaugh's idea. Now he feared it might all be for naught. Their applications for deeds to the land had not yet been approved, and New York's legislature was considering settler families in the conquered Iroquois homelands to be "squatters". Ever since the previous year, when Moses had stayed at the cabin while redoing a survey of land patented to Martinus Zielie, Peter had been imploring Moses for help obtaining his patent. Understandably beside himself, he wanted to quiz John about Moses' intentions. Why had Zielie's 1400 acres adjacent to Peter's been approved, but his 400 acre tract was in limbo? John Konkle certainly wished he was tight enough with the powerful young DeWitt to have known his plans, but he did not. He did know something about Martinus Zielie, though. The DeWitts were extremely angry with him. Not only had his plot been much larger than it was supposed to be, but Zielie's surveyor had also done erroneous work for the Military Tract, affecting township boundaries of Ulysses, Milton, Dryden, and Locke. Milton Township was already mostly subdivided, so a correction Konkle would be making would only partially correct the problem. The issues were costs, delays and political fallout.

There was another question which surely crossed Hinepaugh's mind. How did John Konkle get his land in Chemung? That area, south of the Military Tract, was going to various deserving veterans who were not on the bounty land list. These included generals and career officers, men who ran gunpowder factories, etc. and spies. Where did John Konkle fit in? Maybe John had ready answers to questions about his war record, but maybe he demurred. Better to think of tomorrow's boat trip back down the lake, and get some sleep.

Konkle, Part 2, continued on page 5

Konkle, Part 2, continued from page 4

Both men probably felt troubled that night. Konkle wondering if he should not have spilled the beans on Zielie, though maybe it was necessary to deflect questions about himself. Indeed, how could he explain being awarded his land in Newtown, next to General Clinton's son Charles, and Col. Henry Wisner's son Jeffery? And why would he have taken Annie and their three children from New Jersey to the uninhabited Chemung wilderness after the war anyway? Begging for work, he had written Moses, *"I do not know how to support my family, I have no farming utensils."* There is more to the story. Hinepaugh could not have known it, but right beside John Konkle's plot in Newtown, an identical plot of 197 acres was designated for Adam Konkle, his cousin. In 1792, Adam will apply to the British for "United Empire Loyalist" status, be awarded 200 acres in Beamsville, Ontario and emigrate there. How could John's cousin Adam Konkle be awarded land by both sides of the conflict? Maybe more will come up as the survey begins.

Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations:

Sandra Prugh

Granger Northrup

Diana Landis

Our Business Supporters:

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

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 Dryden Realty-Apartment Co.
 Dryden Wine & Spirits
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 True Renew Homes

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 North Star Art Gallery

In Memoriam

Carol Turk Rogers October 2019

In Clemson, SC under the care of her brother, Donald Turk. Carol grew up on Mill Street in Dryden and was a DTHS member.

Cyle Prugh October 2019

He was the son of Sandra Fulkerson Prugh, life-long Dryden resident and DTHS member and past board member.



Dryden Cafe' offered good eats at Heritage Fair



Cortland Old Timers Band played rousing music at Heritage Fair

Crosby Cabin on Hammond Hill

Michael Roberts, Cornell Botanic Gardens Natural Areas Project Manager, Christine O'Malley, Historic Ithaca Preservation Specialist and Ann Georgi Leonard, an advocate for Hammond Hill, NYS Forests Land trails and the Crosby cabin visited the cabin on November 6th.

Crosby Cabin is located on Cornell Botanic Gardens property on Hammond Hill in the town of Dryden. The property abuts New York State Land, is near the Park Preserve and Six Mile Creek. As a natural area it has been used by Cornell classes and Cornell Outing Club, birders, skiers, hikers, and native plant explorers.

The accompanying photographs were taken on a bright November day.

The cabin is constructed of chestnut logs, has a stone fireplace, parquet flooring, heavy plank doors and shutters. There is a spring nearby that runs west. The roof, floor and area surrounding the stone fireplace are in need of repair and stabilization, but the beauty and charm of this unique 1940 recreational camp remains. The area surrounding the camp has changed, the access roads are no longer maintained and Hammond Hill Road does not go through. Since it has been unoccupied many folks have visited the camp and groups have made efforts to make repairs over the years. Stewardship of the built environment often partners with the appreciation and protection of the natural environment. There is a hope that through cooperation of diverse groups dedicated to education and the natural and built environment there will be a future for this unique cabin that has been a part of so many lives for almost eighty years.



We know some facts about the history of Crosby Cabin. Henry Crosby purchased 43.35 acres on Lot 88, subdivision No. 4, in 1939 from Benjamin Rightmire who had purchased the land from Adelia Cooper in 1898. In 1996, Armina Crosby Williams, daughter of Henry Crosby, gave the land and Crosby Cabin to Cornell Plantations.

On February 19, 1996, Hunter Rawlings III, president of Cornell (1995-2003), wrote to Mrs Williams:

"I want to thank you for the commitment to give your land in the Town of Dryden to the Cornell Plantations, to be used as a natural area. The Plantations is a vital link between the University and the community, and I am grateful that you have chosen such a meaningful way to strengthen Cornell's mission of teaching, research, and service. At a time when we need to consider carefully the use of our natural resources, I am heartened by your generous and enlightened gift."

Yours sincerely, Hunter R Rawlings III



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The Williams Preserve is described in the Fall 1997 Cornell Plantations Notes, Number 69. "Chestnut Logs, Goldenrods and Steep Hollows. Recent Additions to Plantations Natural Areas." This sentence ends the notes.

"A hand-hewn log cabin built entirely of chestnut logs reminds us not only of the ecological changes wrought on our forests over time, but also of the economic consequences of losing this species.

As we begin to plan a Spring 2020 DTHS program sharing the history of the cabin and families' earlier use of the Hammond Hill area, we welcome everyone's interest. If you have had association with the cabin or Crosby family or activities at the site, please contact: Gina Prentiss, DTHS program committee.

ginaprentiss@gmail.com

607 844-4691, 607280-7328

Thanks



Buildings and Grounds Update Fall 2019

They say time flies when you're having fun and that is certainly the case at the Southworth Homestead. This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Historical Society moving from the History House to the Homestead. In recognition of our milestone year the following paragraphs offer a brief walk down memory lane from the perspective of the DTHS Buildings and Grounds Committee (Bob Watros and John Kiefer).

2012 On February 3, 2012, the Southworth Homestead passed from the estate of Rebecca Southworth Simpson to the Dryden Town Historical Society. DHTS Trustees immediately put themselves to the task of developing a plan to care for the property and to adapt the house to accommodate offices and archives, exhibit spaces and meeting rooms. A first step was to hire Crawford and Stearns Architects and Preservation Planners to prepare a Condition Assessment Report. Other tasks included preparing a space program to define our building needs, project lists and cost estimates in preparation for a work plan, and of course fundraising.

2013 A year later the Trustees were ready to present a plan for preserving and adapting the Homestead to the DTHS membership. The plan was not complete. While we had a good handle on our approach to repair and maintain the main "brick" part of the house, the east "clapboard" addition was in such poor condition we were unsure whether to demolish it or repair it. We held two all-hands meetings that spring, each with over a hundred members of the Society, to present options and seek feedback. A straw pole at the conclusion of the second meeting indicated the DTHS members were evenly divided on the repair/replace issue. A month later the Trustees agreed on a plan to repair the east addition based on a set of principles to guide the work. The crumbling foundation and crawl space would be replaced with a full basement and new masonry foundation. The rotted sill plates, corner posts, wall studs and flooring would be replaced in kind, using historically accurate timbers and joinery. The windows would be refurbished. The deteriorated north second floor deck would be replaced with a two story addition to house an office, meeting room and lavatories. The second floor would be adapted for use as an apartment to generate much needed income.



East Addition resting on steel beams in preparation for excavation of a new basement. Note the new sill plates, posts and studs. Summer 2013

2014 DTHS moved from the History House to the Homestead in the spring. The History House was sold to help provide funds for ongoing work at the Homestead. The repair, restoration and adaptation of the east addition is a wonderful story of expert craftwork, countless hours of volunteer labor, and a rural community of generous, caring individuals stepping forward to preserve a local treasure.

2015-2018 Even though we moved into the Southworth House in 2014 that didn't mean we were done. The big milestone for 2015 was the occupancy of the second floor apartment. Projects in 2016 included stabilization of the French scenic wallpaper in the west parlor and rebuilding of the china cabinet that was disassembled prior to the addition rebuild. More recently we planted 26 trees on the property, installed and paved parking areas and driveways, and realigned the driveway curb cuts on North Street.

2019 Which brings us to the present. This year we completed a major project to repair and repoint the exterior brick walls. As is the case with many aspects of working on historic buildings, the closer you got to the bricks the scarier they looked. The south wall had a bulge over the main entrance. Many bricks were broken or cracked and there were many voids in the mortar. A big lesson learned during the work is that the brick walls at the Southworth House are fragile and that our repair project was very timely. The other big project this year was construction of the west exterior stair. Built by local expert carpenter Chris Lowe, the stair design was based on photos of the original 19th century staircase at the house.

Looking to the future we will continue our work. We purchased new shutters and will install them this fall weather permitting or in the spring. Next we will turn our attention to the barn and in particular to repairs to the crumbling stone foundation. Although our list of completed projects is much longer than the list of work remaining, we still have lots to do. As always, our ability to be good stewards of the Southworth Homestead is dependent on the generosity of our members. We speak with great pride when we say that virtually all of the work we have accomplished at the Homestead was done with local funding and lots of help from volunteers. A hearty and well deserved Thank You to all who have participated!



East Addition
nearly
complete.
Spring 2014

Dryden Town Historical
Society

14 North Street
PO Box 69
Dryden, NY 13053

Phone:
607-844-9209

E-Mail:
drydennyhistory@gmail.com

DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

14 NORTH STREET

WINTER HOURS (January through March, 2020

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Every Tuesday, 10 AM – 12 PM

and always by appointment 844-9209

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.

Dryden Town Historical Society

14 North Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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