

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

January, February,
March
Volume 44 (2020)

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

STARTING APRIL, REGULAR HOURS
Saturdays, 10am – 1pm
Every Tuesday, 10am – 12pm
and always by appointment

Dryden Town Historical Society has decided to close until further notice. We will not be open to the public, and meetings have been postponed. We will keep everyone posted when we re-open.



2020 ANNUAL MEETING

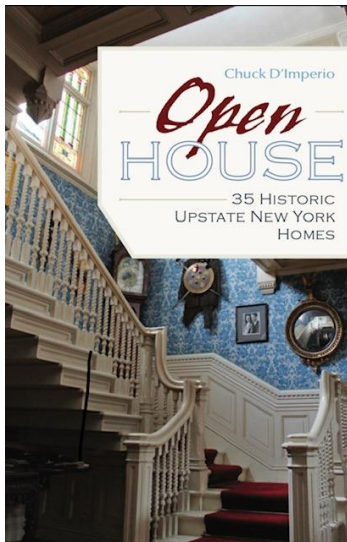
MAY 14, THURSDAY

BOOK TALK by Chuck D'Imperio

Dryden Village Hall, 7 pm
Doors open at 6:30 pm for light refreshments and meet the author

A new book, *Open House*, features the Southworth Homestead as one of 35 lesser known historic house museums in upstate New York. The author of many books about upstate and a fun speaker, Chuck D'Imperio, will give a talk about his new book and be on hand to sign books, which will be available for purchase.

NEW BOOK will be available at DTHS soon.
Proceeds benefit Southworth Homestead.



DTHS Program

APRIL 16, 2020

"Crosby Cabin on Hammond Hill"

Dryden Village Hall 7 pm.
Doors open at 6:30 to enjoy refreshments and chat

Since 1939 the lodge on Hammond Hill in Dryden is a deteriorating structure in an uncertain future. It is a 12-acre parcel owned by Cornell University. Come to the program to learn about the history of the Hill, the past uses of the land and all about the cabin built by Henry Crosby.

**POSTPONED TO A
LATER DATE**



Holiday Workshop DECEMBER 2019 Program

On this past December 7th, DTHS took part in Dryden Winter Celebration. Activities throughout the village filled the all day event, including a packed crowd in the Activity Room. Patti Kiefer, MaryLou Taylor, Debbie Fisher and Jane Converse led folks in making a holiday ornament. Upstairs there were holiday refreshments and a collection of Nutcrackers on display. Animated musical winter critters held the attention of our young visitors.



MaryLou Taylor, Jane Converse and Patti Kiefer leading families in the Holiday Workshop



Trustee Maria Ortiz and young visitor at Winter Celebration

Meet The Timesmith. FEBRUARY 2020 Program

It was a full house on a cold February 12th evening, when more than 40 folks filled the History House to listen to a presentation from Chad Sopp. Chad held us amazed as he told about the parts, the tools and workings of timepieces. Chad has a shop on Ellis Drive where he repairs clocks and watches.



Chad Sopp with Lawyer Byington clock



"Timesmith" audience 2/12/20



Chad explaining a singing bird automaton

Surveying the Dryden Military Lots Part 3 – Beginning The Survey

By David Waterman

I must apologize, having discovered an error in my timeline. The interaction between John Konkle and Peter Hinebaugh detailed in part 2 did not take place for another month. The letter Konkle left at Hinebaugh's with his other paperwork is dated October 29.

The corrected timeline says it was immediate, probably the very next day after signing on with Moses DeWitt and receiving an advance for supplies, that John Konkle, with axmen and chain-bearers, departed Moses' base camp near Ludlowville to begin the Dryden Township survey. They headed east on a Cayuga footpath, now route 34B, carrying their work gear and sleeping blankets. It was Friday, September 17th, peak autumn foliage time in 1790, a few weeks earlier than today with the Northern Hemisphere's "Little Ice Age" still ongoing. About five miles in, they reached the western boundary of Dryden. A marked trail led directly north another mile from there to a stake set earlier in the year by Moses DeWitt, indicating the northwest corner of Dryden, where Konkle's survey work was to begin. Assuming they got an early start that morning, the team could have been there by ten o'clock. Brush had grown up around the stake since it was driven, and the axmen set about clearing a large circle and blazing the trees all around facing it. Page 1 of John Konkle's survey field-book outlines multiple confirmations that the work would begin in the right place:

"Beginning at a Stake in the East bounds of Township No 17. 345 Ch. (with one chain Allowance) from the S.E. Corner thereof, 33. Chains North from the Corner of lot No 85 & 89 in Township No 17 made by Mr. Hartt, 3 Ch. South of a fine large Brook run'g westerly, 4 ch. South of one of Cap'n Zeilies (pretended) Township lines & 7 links west from a black ash tree Marked on the S.E. side N.W cor.r 1790 Township No 23 and on the N.E. side S.W. cor.r Townsh'p No 18."

From DeWitt's stake, Konkle's crew was to define a new northern boundary for Dryden, which would be "run from thence as the needle points East" and located 4 chains (88 yards) south of Zeilies "pretended" line. That word, by the way, carried no playful connotation in 1790, only pretense for willful gain, as in "pretender to the crown".

While marking the new boundary, the team would also be measuring the width of the Dryden township, which was oversized, as were all the townships. Simeon DeWitt, the Surveyor General, had given himself some necessary leeway in defining the 23 townships, each at least 60,000 acres, as square and equal as possible, and fitting them in between the finger lakes and reservations for Cayugas, Onondagas, and Oneidas. In doing so, he had drawn lines south from the tips of Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes which defined Dryden's east and west borders. They would be slightly over ten miles apart.

John Konkle spiked one end of the Gunter's chain to the ground at the starting stake and positioned his tripod above the spike. He mounted his compass, rotated it to Magnetic East and peered through slits, motioning to the chain-bearer to move left or right in order to stay on course, as the chain was extended to its full 22 yards length. Axmen helped by cutting brush and moving fallen branches. When tree trunks got in the way, the chain could be snaked slightly to pass by without causing much error, but the compass view was blocked, so the tripod and compass were carefully repositioned further up the chain. Whenever the line went up or down a significant slope, the surveyor needed to mount and level a clinometer on the tripod and measure the slope angle. Then, using trigonometric tables, he calculated a hypotenusal adjustment, in links, to correct for the foreshortening of the chain as seen from above. Each time the chain was extended out 80 times and the accumulated adjustment, in links, added to the distance, they drove a mile marker stake. Axmen blazed the closest large tree with the mile number. Surveying and marking, the team probably advanced at about 1-1/4 miles per hour at best.

Meanwhile, Konkle also took notes to provide "description of the Courses and Distances of Brooks, Soil and Timber &c" in the field-book. Along the northern boundary of Dryden he noted beech, hemlock, maple, linden, and white pine. He identified good soil in some areas and middling soil or swamps in other places. The information

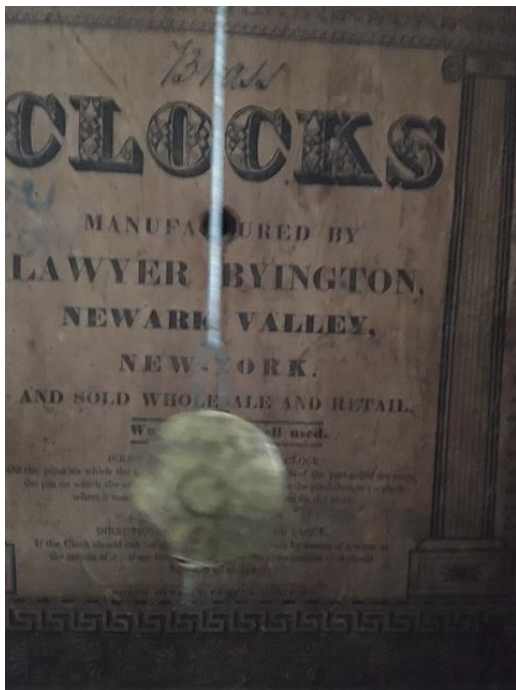
Continued on page 7

Southworth Homestead Lawyer Byington Clock

On the mantle above the fireplace in the west bedroom, on the second floor of the Southworth House there rests a clock made by Lawyer Byington of Newark Valley probably in the 1830s. Chad Sopp, the Timesmith, shared this information from the book, An Empire In Time.

"Lawyer Byington was born in Connecticut in 1799. Lawyer and his bride, Savilla (Woodford) of Canton CT, were married September 1826 and soon moved to Newark (later called Newark Valley), Tioga County New York, where he pursued a career as a merchant, land speculator and farmer." His house and store located side by side on Main Street in Newark Valley are still standing. Initially Byington bought complete clocks made by Chauncey Boardman in Connecticut, over-pasted his own label and resold them in his store. Later, Byington fabricated his own cases, many grain-painted, and continued to have the movement supplied by Boardman & Wells, Bristol, CT...

It is not certain how long Byington sold and made clock cases, but likely the period ran from 1820s through the mid 1840s." The Southworth clock may have a replaced pendulum and cables holding the weights. The key is missing, so we don't know whether the almost two century old Lawyer Byington clock keeps good time. Another Southworth Homestead treasure that needs more research.



DTHS "OP" SALE 2020

It is time for our annual "Op" Sale coming up on **Friday May 15th and Saturday May 16th** at the Southworth Homestead at 14 North Street Dryden under the tent and in our barn where we sell chosen items for our "Collector's Corner". Once again, we are asking for donations to the sale. We are looking for any "saleable" items that you no longer want. The proceeds go to help sustain the Dryden Town Historical Society in presenting programs and maintaining the Southworth Homestead.

We have already filled up the barn through a generous donation of a whole house given to us by Blanche Witmer, who has moved out of our area, thank you again Blanche. If you are dropping off items, please place them in back of the barn underneath the barn. No clothing, older TV's or mattresses: when in doubt, call **Shirley Price (844-8700)** or **Mary Hornbuckle (898-3461)**. Arrangements can be made for picking up donations or for dropping off items at the barn. Mark your calendar and get ready for the Op-portunity of the year!



Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations in Memory:

Marsha Ashbarry	in memory of <i>Frances Schutt</i>
Thomas and Linda Clougherty	in memory of <i>Connie Currier</i>
Amy Dickinson	in memory of <i>Jane Dickinson</i>
Bradley Griffin	in memory of <i>Dr. Walter Bauerle</i>
Eric McAllister, Jr.	in memory of <i>George Robertson</i>
Brad and Kathy Perkins	in memory of <i>Joyce Perkins</i>
Cassie Prugh	in memory of <i>Victor Fulkerson</i>
Sandra Prugh	in memory of <i>Victor Fulkerson</i>
Mary Ellen Rumsey	in memory of <i>Gwen Sandsted</i>
Barbara Shew	in memory of <i>Elsie Gutchess</i>
Pamela Shoemaker	in memory of <i>Elsie Gutchess</i>
Rosemarie Southworth	in memory of <i>Dr. and Mrs. Chauncey Southworth</i>
Richard Sweetland	in memory of <i>Judge Sweetland</i>
Donald Turk	in memory of <i>Carol Rogers</i>
Ann and James Zwart	in memory of <i>Frances Mary Schutt</i>

Contributions to Southworth Homestead

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Beatty
 Leslie Chatterton and Allyson Ford
 Eleanor Day
 Paul Dedrick
 Mark and Alice Goldfarb
 John and Patti Kiefer
 Claudia Melin and Charles Smith
 Sam and Sue Morrie
 Mariah Prentiss and Michele Hochstetter
 James Webster

Contributions to DTHS

Dryden Community Center Café
 Jody and Brian Earle
 Empire Livestock Marketing (for the Homestead Heritage Festival)
 Amy Gutchess
 Elizabeth Gutchess
 Mary Hornbuckle (for restoration on the Southworth Silhouettes)
 Michael Lane
 Joyce McAllister
 Ken and Cathy Paddock
 Bard and Gina Prentiss
 David Weinstein
 Fred Williams

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING DTHS EVENTS

April 16	POSTPONED TO A LATER DATE Crosby Cabin on Hammond Hill, 7pm, Dryden Village Hall
May 2	Southworth House Tours begin, 1 st Saturdays of the month, 11am, 12pm, 1pm
May 14 –	Annual Meeting and Book Talk by Chuck D’Imperio, 7PM Dryden Village Hall
May 15/16	“OP” Sale, Southworth Homestead, Friday 8am – 5pm, Saturday, 8am – 3pm
September 19	Homestead Heritage Fair Day, Southworth Homestead, 11am – 4pm

HELP NEEDED

DTHS is starting on an exciting path. We have installed new software called PastPerfect. Why do we members care about that? As we position existing data and enter all Southworth Homestead data, DTHS information will be more accessible. It is a huge undertaking for a small organization. But then, from its start in 1981, DTHS has not just existed, but planned to be the best local historical society. Through recording and sharing the history of the people and events of our area, we placed our town within the happenings of American history. To be able to easily access that unique local history is what we must do now.

Please, help DTHS attain this goal. We need volunteers to help with computer tasks and data entry. No special knowledge is needed, we are entering information into a database which is very user friendly. We are setting up a team of volunteers right now. Please Call DTHS at 844-9209 and leave a message or make contact through our website drydenhistory.org.

DTHS Membership Report through March 2020

Our membership drive has sent renewal letters and forms for 2020. We have received renewals to date for memberships: 43 individuals, 38 family, 24 patron and 4 business. Thank you for your renewals and if you have not renewed, please do, as your support is greatly needed and appreciated. If you think of anyone who may have an interest in the Dryden Town Historical Society, please give me their name and address and I will send them a letter and a membership application.

Shirley Price, Membership Chair (607-844-8700)

Comprehensive Plan Meeting with the Dryden Town Historical Society Trustees

Town of Dryden Planning Board member John Kiefer gave a presentation on the *Update to the Town of Dryden Comprehensive Plan*. The Town is seeking input from residents from all over the Town, and will be hosting a community wide meeting later in the Spring. Visit the webswite at <https://www.dryden2045.org/> to find out more information. John asked Trustees to respond to the following questions in writing. We had a brief discussion on each topic.

Following is a Truth/Trends/Unique Ideas analysis of the responses.

What makes Dryden a good place to live/do business? Truths: The people, strong sense of community Trends: Diverse population, proximity to Ithaca and Cortland, beautiful rural community

What are the biggest threats facing Dryden in the coming years? Truths: Traffic, Loss of business/tax base Trends: Housing cost Unique Ideas: Loss of volunteer fire and ambulance, conflicting priorities

What projects should the Town undertake or promote? Trends: Business development, climate resiliency, internet, improve transportation

"Preserve the Rural Character of Dryden" was the main goal for land use planning in the 2005 Dryden Comprehensive Plan. Is that still the main goal? If not, what is? Truths: Rural character is important but is not in great jeopardy compared to other issues such as loss of business, housing cost, deteriorating buildings and infrastructure.

Buildings and Grounds Update Winter 2020

Military Lots, Part 3, continued from page 3

In last Fall's Newsletter we took a look our preservation and rehabilitation work at the Homestead over the past five years since DTHS received ownership from the estate of Rebecca Southworth Simpson. In this Newsletter we look to the future. While our list of work completed is longer than work yet to be done, we still have significant tasks that require planning, management and fundraising.

As you can see in the list of our planned maintenance projects, we will complete the east exterior stair project, install the shutters we bought last year, and repair the north deck balustrade. We will also take bids for removal of the giant oak on the north property line and possibly the maple between the barn and house. While it is sad to lose these ancient trees, there is a silver lining in that the loss inspired us to create and execute a tree planting plan. We completed the planting of 26 trees last spring and someday many of them will be giants.

Our next big project is to repair the foundation under the barn. Next time you are at the Homestead take a walk around the barn and look at the stone foundation. You will see crumbling stone, rotted window and door frames and signs of amateur repair work. While the barn, which is pushing 185 years old, is not yet in danger of collapse, it clearly needs work. We plan to completely rebuild the east stone wall and install a new door large enough to pass a riding mower. We will repoint the rest of the stone both inside and out and replace the north windows.

For those of you who are regular readers of our Newsletter the following words will be familiar to you. Our ability to be good stewards of the Southworth Homestead is dependent on the generosity of our members. 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!

contained in the surveyor's field-book, when completed, would enable a person to estimate the value of each lot, information that would not be available to the soldiers, who were to be dealt the lots randomly. The value of this knowledge to land speculators, as lots went on the market, was astounding and Simeon DeWitt, Moses DeWitt, Major Hardenbergh, family members and allies would profit greatly from it. John Konkle himself would soon have intimate knowledge of the hundred lots of Dryden, which might also be turned to some profit for him long before being paid for the survey.

If they marked the tenth mile tree that day, the survey team was on a rise southeast of today's McLean. With the sun sinking down and wetland ahead, not knowing how soon they would hit the eastern line of the township, the men needed to set up camp, collect wood and start a campfire. John Konkle reviewed and edited his notes. He must have been feeling elated. His letter seeking this job, had disclosed, "*It has been my lot to deal with Dishonest People, whereby I was greatly Injured*". Something bad had happened in Sussex County, NJ after the war to make him take refuge in Newtown, NY, but now he was working with the most powerful families in New York State. His life seemed turned around.

(Quoted passages from: DeWitt Family Papers,



Families enjoying the Holiday workshop in December

**Southworth Homestead Planned Maintenance Projects
Winter 2020 Update**

Current/Future Projects

Main Brick House

Status/Priority

Shutters, install replacements (purchased Spring 2019)	\$2,000	In Process
North Deck, install east ballustrade to match existing	\$2,500	In Process
Complete East Stair	\$1,000	In Process
Replace south porch brick deck	\$10,000	Medium
French scenic wallpaper, restore	\$25,000	Medium
Attic access, relocate and enlarge	\$2,000	Medium
East and west chimney, repair damage, repoint	\$10,000	Medium
North deck, reinforce deck joists and repair piers	\$10,000	Medium
Interior plaster repairs	\$10,000	Medium
Rebuild windows	\$50,000	Medium
Replace roof	\$15,000	Future

Total Main House \$137,500

East Addition

Replace Roof	\$10,000	Future
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Total East Addition \$10,000

Barn

Stone foundation, repair, replace windows, add door	\$15,000	High
Siding and trim, repairs and paint	\$5,000	Medium
Stairs, repair/replace	\$1,000	Medium
Replace roof	\$5,000	Future

Total Barn \$26,000

Site

Remove Diseased Giant Oak and Maple	\$5,000	High
Pave front drive and south parking lot	\$20,000	Medium

Total Site \$20,000

GRAND TOTAL \$193,500

WOODEN WASHER

DTHS recently was given a wooden washer from the Chemung Co. Historical Society. It is a Barnard & Wallace Washer manufactured by Bower Miller & Co of Dryden, NY in 1889.

Here is a description of the washer from and 1889 article in the "Baldwinsville Era" (thank you Elizabeth Gutches for the wonderful research on this washer). We just have the actual wooden box, not the workings, but it is interesting.

For the benefit of our lady renders we will endeavor to give a description of this little gem. Standing on four legs is a water tight box, about four feet long, eighteen inches wide and fifteen inches deep In the bottom. There is a set of wooden rollers, eight in number, in a slanting position in the center of the box. From the underside of the box are two line, one on either side, running up to a pair of handles, to which is attached in the centre a board with grooves in the bottom. Enough scalding water is placed in the box in which clothes are immersed with about the same amount of soap that is required to do the same washing with a wash board. The clothes, after being thoroughly wet are placed upon the rollers and the board connected with the handles is placed upon them and the operator then pushes and draws the handles to and fro thus giving the clothes the same usage they receive from a woman and a wish board, save the machine does not wear them out one-half as fast.

We might go on for some length showing our readers that this machine is all that is claimed for it, but we think it will suffice to say that while our reporter was present Mr Wright washed twenty-five cuffs in five minutes by the watch and Mrs. Lock wood pronounced them to be perfectly clean. The following testimonial, unsolicited, will probably have more weight with our lady readers, coming as it does from a lady who fully appreciates any machine that is labor-saving to her sex, than all we can say • To THK PUBLIC—This is to certify that I have seen and used the Barnard & Wallace washing machine and have carefully examined its most minute details and I am free to say that it is the best washing machine I have ever seen I would mortgage my home before I would be without one. It does its work nicely and when the clothes leave the machine and pass through the wringer, they are ready to be hung up to dry I cheerfully recommend this machine to all women above any other kind on the market, as it has no competitors in my opinion. Yours Truly, MRS E. P. LOCKWOOD



TRANSCRIPTION HELP:

Volunteers are needed to transcribe audio tapes of past DTSH programs. Marilyn Adriance did a wonderful service by transcribing all audio tapes up until she moved from Dryden. Since then several good folks have put in time, but now the tapes are piling up. These transcripts are a very important historical record, and should be part of our collection.

DTSH has a transcribing machine and a procedure all set up for transcribing. It is something you could even do at home. If this seems like a good past time, let us know. Please call DTSH at 844-9209 and leave your name and contact info or go to DTSH website: drydennyhistory.org

Dryden Town Historical
Society

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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
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