

# DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

April, May, June,  
July, August,  
September, October  
Volume 44 (2020)

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

**STARTING NOVEMBER 7, 2020 REGULAR HOURS**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> Saturdays, 10am – 1pm**  
**Every Tuesday, 10am – 12pm**  
and always by appointment

## MESSAGE FROM DTHS BOARD PRESIDENT

### Craig Schutt

What a year! In March, due to COVID-19 we decided to close the Southworth House and DTHS offices. We did not have an annual meeting, but in lieu of that, all of the current board members agreed to continue on with the board, so we did not have a formal election. The Board continued to meet via Zoom, and in July started back with an in-person, socially distanced meeting. The committees did not meet during most of this time as well. The Exhibit Committee started meeting again in July, and the Collections Committee started meeting again in October. We had an extraordinarily successful OP Sale in July with sales of **\$5038.15**, a record. It was an extremely hot and humid weekend for this event, but we had great participation from the community, and everyone wore masks. The Program Committee decided not to hold any events in 2020, but we hope to start back up next Spring with a possible Annual Meeting in May, and another OP sale. They have plans for 2021, and we hope that things will have settled down.

The DTHS also acquired a new museum software called PastPerfect for our very precious database of all of our accessions. David Waterman has been leading that effort, working on converting our current FileMaker database to the new Past Perfect. It is industry standard software, and we are very excited to be moving forward with this. In the future, we hope to be able to have others come in and volunteer with updating the new database.

We are very excited that beginning November 7 we will be reopening to the public, on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, from 10am – 1pm. We will follow all safety guidelines. And as you will see from the 2019 Financial Summary, the Society has done fine financially. We are still looking forward and excited about what next year will bring.

Respectfully, Craig Schutt, President



DTHS is opening to the public!  
Beginning November 7, 2020,  
we will be open 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Saturdays from 10am – 1pm.

## DTHS "OP" SALE 2020

Our annual Opportunity Sale was held on July 10 & 11. It was planned in a short amount of time and I apologize to our members who were not aware of the sale and have given generously in the past, please think about our next sale hopefully in May 2021. Our barn was full thanks to the generous contributions from Blanche Witmers' home and garage, as she moved to Pennsylvania. Also thanks to our members who did hear about our sale and made generous donations. A special thanks to Craig Schutt, Debbie Fisher, Missy & Wayne Young (Isaac & Christian), Marcie Lanham, Kathy Delano, Carl Ritter, Muriel Likel, and anyone else who helped haul, unpack and setup for the sale. Thank you Mary for splitting the tent rental again. Our total sales were **\$5038.15!!**

Submitted by Shirley Price

## Surveying the Dryden Military Lots Part 4 – Sizing Up The Township

### By David Waterman

At the end of part 3, John Konkle's survey team had spent a day running most of a new northern boundary for Dryden, four chains south of an erroneous line previously run by Martinus Zielie. They had spent the night south of today's McLean, near their 9th mile tree (which I mistakenly called the ten mile tree). The team continued measuring eastward in the morning, starting from the 9th mile tree, still wondering how much larger the Dryden township would be. Immediately, they were wading through an "older swamp" which stretched on for 400 yards. Out of it, they entered "*Rough, Poor, Cold Land chiefly hemlock Timbered*". At 550 yards out, they crossed a "*large fine spring Brook [which] runs South'ly*" (Fall Creek near its source.) Then, at 925 yards, they "*Entered a Cranberry Swamp (Nearly Round), run through the middle of it*". Emerging 330 yards later, they "*Struck Cap'n Johns North Line run from the South Bounds to the head of the Scaniateless, 10 Ch. 58 Links North of his 10 Miles Tree.*" This line defined the eastern boundary of Dryden so they set a stake there, and blazed a large black ash tree on four sides to identify the common intersection of the four townships named Locke, Homer, Dryden and Virgil.

There has never been another survey of the town of Dryden since 1790-91. The official town map does not indicate dimensions or GPS locations for its corners. Our Town Clerk suggested I might look up individual property surveys and add them up to get a number to check against Konkle's measurement, but I decided to simply use Google Earth, which may have some systematic errors of its own. Konkle's measurement of the width of the town totals up to 9.71 miles. On Google Earth I measured 9.83 miles. The difference of 1.3% is remarkably close, considering the process. The work was soon over on that day, since there was only the one tree to locate and blaze. The team walked back to Ludlowville, arriving by early evening, and could take Sunday off.

The cranberry swamp they had found was the only one of its kind that Konkle would describe in his Dryden Survey field-book. Today this bog is part of a Cornell Botanic Gardens Natural Area, and said to still contain some wild cranberries. For several thousand years before European contact, the Iroquois population of upstate New York was numerous. Any and all local sources of special foods and pharmaceuticals like this were well known and encouraged or tended in certain ways. The

cranberry growth would likely have been dense, widespread and healthy. By the time John Konkle walked through it in 1790, however, the Iroquois population had been decimated and their ancient culture was in shambles. Remote satellite resources such as this bog would likely have been abandoned for two or three generations. Still this spot was thriving as a dedicated, round cranberry bog. Seven more generations have passed since then yet now, protected, some cranberries remain.

Monday morning the team went back to Moses Dewitt's stake at the northwest corner of the township, this time to head south. This leg of the survey would be problematic because of Zielie's erroneous measurements. The problem had been somewhat corrected by the 4 chains relocation of Dryden's northern border, but the southeastern area of Milton Township, now Lansing, near Moses' base camp, had already been subdivided and the trees blazed making further correction impossible. Any survey rework would have been political suicide, as the whole Military Tract endeavor was already way behind the New York legislature's expectations, nine years after Yorktown. In his field-book, Konkle recorded an official figure of 345 chains down to the Milton/Ulysses border. A Google Earth measurement from Dryden's northwest corner to Lansing's southeast corner is 25 chains greater than that. The 4 chains correction had only reduced Zielie's error from 8.4% to 7.2%. While traversing that erroneous segment, Konkle's team would make no measurements. Work went fast just walking the line and describing the topography, noting brooks, swamps, and foliage.

After they passed the blazed tree which indicated the beginning of Ulyses, the team began measuring again, just the total distance without blazing any trees, which would have created further evidence of the cover-up. Continuing south, Konkle noted crossing "*the fall Creek*", "*the Brook that comes down by Mr. Hindpaw's*" (now Cascadilla creek), the "*road leading from the head of the Lake to Owego*" (now Route 79) and "*a large Creek the inlet of the Lake*" (now Six Mile Creek).

## *Childhood Games* By Shirley (VanPelt) (Otis) Price

As I watch my 8 year old grandson, Isaac, play a video game where he sees how many bananas he can accumulate, I think back to when I was a child and what I did to entertain myself. Since we didn't have electronic games or even a television until I was about 10 years old, it was up to us to entertain ourselves.

Being from a family of 7 children, there was always someone thinking of something to do. I don't ever remember anyone whining to my parents that they had nothing to do because my parents would find lots for us to do. We did have chores as we lived on a farm, but we also had time for play.

We were always playing outside in all the seasons. Winter was sliding down hill on sleds, flying saucers, cardboard; and anything that we could ride down the hill on. We played duck, duck, goose. We built snow forts and had snowball fights. We built snowmen and other animals. We dug snow caves. We plopped in the snow and made snow angels. We played in the snow and depending on the consistency of the snow dictated our fun for the day, packing snow for snowball fights and snowmen, crusty snow for rides down the hill. When we were stuck inside we would play card games or marble games on wooden boards or a puzzle; or read a book or magazine.

Spring was for mud puddles and watching everything come to life. Pussy willows and spring flowers and lilac blossoms and frogs and worms and bugs all come out in the spring. We would just lay in the new grass and look for four-leaf clovers, to see who could find the most, and soak up the sunshine as the days got longer.

Summers there was no school and lots of things to do. We were always in Virgil Creek by June 1<sup>st</sup>. In between haying and our chores we swam, played baseball and rode horses. We did not have a trampoline, but we did have two large tractor tubes that we jumped on in the yard and then took them to the creek and had wars trying to knock each other off the tubes. Summer nights we would play hide and seek in the lawn with the light pole as the free spot. At one point the bulb blew out and I remember one of my siblings running into the light pole on a really dark night. We would catch fireflies in our hands as Mom didn't want us using her glass jars, whether she was afraid we would break them and get hurt or if she just wanted to keep them clean for canning. We would catch snakes.

I especially liked the little green grass snakes and the little red bellied snakes. We would catch land turtles and my Dad would drill a hole in the side of their shell so that we could tie them to a stake with a piece of rope. Somehow they always escaped and as I look back I think my Dad let us play with them for a day or two and then let them go. We could always know which turtles we had caught before as they had the hole in the side of their shell. We always had a dog and kittens in the barn which would entertain us for hours. We had sheep, goats and baby calves to play with and observe. We had horses to ride, what little girl didn't want a horse? Dogs are very loyal and were our constant companions, going with us on our adventures to the creek or wherever else we went.

Fall was back to school and our play time was limited. The days became shorter so we played indoors again, dusting off the marble boards; and lots of reading.

Isaac is a great reader and loves to play cards and jump on his trampoline and plays board games and loves his Legos and his video games. His mother regulates how long he is allowed to watch TV and play video games so I know he will be okay.

The **Collection Committee** is back hard at work accessioning items that have been brought to the History House. We are meeting every Tuesday morning between 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We continue to accession 8 boxes donated to us from Lois Fox. The boxes contain information and materials about the extended families and descendants of Jeremiah Snyder. They were being worked on when COVID19 shut us down back in March. We welcome anyone with time and an interest to stop by and see how accessioning works.

## Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

(for March 2020 through October 2020)

### Donations in Memory:

Ann Brady	in memory of <i>Philip and Julia Brady</i>
Kay Cleland	in memory of <i>Betty Hurst</i>
James Emm	in memory of <i>Betty Hurst</i>
Chris Irving	in memory of <i>Betty Hurst</i>
Shirley Price	in memory of Jane Bailey, Betty Hurst, and David T. Smith
Gerald and Bonnie Roe	in memory of <i>Irene Dann Dedrick</i>
Rosemarie Tucker	in memory of <i>Elsie Gutches</i>
Shirley Shackelton	in memory of <i>Horace E. Shackelton, Jr.</i>
Fred Williams	in memory of <i>David Smith</i>

### Contributions to DTHS

Sharon Andrus and Daniel Trembly  
 Mary Hornbuckle for tent rental for the OP Sale  
 Marcie Lanham for table rental for the OP Sale  
 Shirley Price for tent rental for the OP Sale  
 Jeanette and Warren Knapp

### Our Business Supporters:

Bailey Place Insurance	Broom Hilda's Housekeeping	Candlelight Inn & Breakfast	CNY Signs & Graphics
Dryden Realty-Apartment Co.	Dryden Mutual Insurance Co.	Dryden Pet & Home	Dryden Wine & Spirits
First National Bank of Dryden	Freeville Publishing Co.	Michael Lane, Attorney	
North Star Art Gallery	True Renew Homes		

### Special Thanks

- *To Chris Lowe for building the new west stairs. As many of you know, Chris is a master carpenter and a true friend of the Society.*
- *To Jeff Walden (Walden Works construction), for installation of the shutters. Jeff has been a great partner and friend of the Society and has done many projects in the east addition.*

### In Memoriam

**Betty Hurst** June 2020

Betty was a friend of Dryden Historical Society and was well known for her paintings of barns and local scenes. In Spring 2021 there will be an exhibit of many of Betty's paintings in DTHS Exhibit Room.

**Jane Wight Bailey** July 2020

Jane was a DTHS member. The donation of her 1954 wedding costume is an important addition to the historical collection. Jane, with husband William Bailey, participated in DTHS exhibits and programs. Their contributions are a great benefit to DTHS.

**David T. Smith** July 2020

David was active in DTHS. as a trustee, member of the Southworth Homestead committee and editor of the DTHS newsletter. DTHS is grateful for his devoted participation.

Part 4, continued from page 2

At 455 chains, 85 links, they reached the southern limit of the Military Tract. It was delineated by a line that Moses Dewitt himself had run eastward from the southern tip of Seneca lake in the previous year, with trees marked each mile from the lake. Konkle's team "*struck the line at 23 ch 39 L E of Moses 21 mile tree*". From this point there would be no more precise measuring nor tree blazing required, so most of the team headed back north along the nearby Owego Road to a place where they would be setting up a new base camp that would be more convenient for the future subdividing task.

Now heading East along Dryden's southern border, Konkle referred to Moses' mile numbers to situate his field-book descriptions of the land. Eleven chains past mile 30 he once again arrived at "*Cap'n Johns North Line*", Dryden's Eastern border. The total width of Dryden's Southern border, as previously measured by Moses DeWitt, was about 10 chains greater than Konkle's measurement of the northern border. About half of this difference is to be expected due to the convergence of magnetic lines as they approach the pole, so we can conclude that John Konkle's surveying precision was within 1.4% agreement with Moses Dewitt's work.

While following Captain John's line of blazed trees north from Moses DeWitt's line, John Konkle's descriptions of foliage became very brief. Now he had all the data he needed for planning the subdivision of the township. It was a hurried 10 miles and 220 yards up to the northeast corner stake he had set the previous week, then a quick walk back to Ludlowville to confer with Moses DeWitt on subdivision plans.

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

### Etna Bridge Model

DTHS historical collection contains several hand made models. One fragile model is of the Etna bridge, DTHS Accession # 91.093.

In 1991 it was given to DTHS by Barbara Northrup Bredbenner. She relates that it was in the home of her maternal grandmother, Mary Adelaide Van Tine Sperry, who was the daughter of Zina B. Sperry. The story is that Zina died, April 8, 1864, at 42 years old, resulting from a fall while inspecting the bridge construction.

The model is 11 inches wide by 30 inches long by 4 inches high. DTHS has not been able to find information or photographs showing this bridge. It is a DTHS treasure and it would be interesting to know more. Some DTHS questions are which Etna bridge, was it under new construction in 1864, is the model to scale, who made the model, for what purpose, was the bridge of wood construction, what bridge has replaced this one?



Etna bridge model, detail DTHS 91.093

### Dryden Town Historical Society 1981 to 2021

2021 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dryden Town Historical Society, established in 1981. A year full of public programs, events and activities is planned. A book talk with Chuck D'Imperio, Mary Hill barn tour, Crosby Cabin history, OP sale Holly Tour and more will help us celebrate.

## Buildings and Grounds Update Summer/Fall 2020

Last summer we completed two very visible projects at the Homestead, the west exterior stair and installation of the shutters we purchased in 2019. The west stair replaced a masonry deck that was severely deteriorated. Our first step in the project was to decide whether to replace the deck in-kind or to install a stair. The deck was similar to the north deck, with brick pillars and a railing with turned balusters. The deck was concrete. To support our decision we searched through our photo archive of the Homestead. We learned several things. First, we learned that we have very few photos of the Homestead property and none prior to about 1900. We found several pictures from around 1900 that showed a wood stair at the west entrance.

Once we decided to replace the west deck with a stair we needed to design it and find someone to build it. Modern building code requires a railing and we chose a simple design with rectangular balusters and newels. For the construction work we turned to Chris Lowe. As many of you know, Chris is a master carpenter and a true friend of the Society. In addition to building the stair Chris built a perfect replacement for a missing section of the balustrade on the north deck and he repaired damaged/missing millwork on the west entranceway.

For installation of the shutters we gave Jeff Walden (Walden Works construction) a call. Like Chris, Jeff has been a great partner and friend of the Society and has done many projects in the east addition. While installing the shutters Jeff made sure the window trim was in good shape.

Looking ahead to 2021 and beyond we have a variety of masonry repair projects including the foundation of the barn, the two chimneys on the brick house, the columns supporting the north deck and the brick pavers at the south entrance. We are also planning another round of tree planting. We are pleased to report that the 27 trees we planted in 2018 and 2019 are all growing nicely.



Southworth Homestead ca 1900 showing the west (and south) stair.



West deck in 2018 showing broken brick, rotted balustrade



West Stair and New Shutters

**DTHS EXHIBIT**

**Centennial Celebration of Women's Voting Rights**

The exhibit, "**Women Vote**" consists of 10+ posters provided by the Smithsonian Institute National Museum. 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution that guaranteed women voting rights. Women's suffrage began in 1848 at the Women's rights convention in Seneca Falls until 72 years later on October 18, 1920.

DTHS invites you to stop in to view and read the posters which illustrate the national legacy of women's constitutional right to vote. Many Town of Dryden women were active in promoting women's rights through their leadership roles and participation in thoughtful organizations, leaving their mark locally.

**SPRING 2021 EXHIBIT**

**Paintings by Betty Hurst**

DTHS has several Betty Hurst paintings in the historical collection. Betty made many paintings that are held privately. For the exhibit we seek to borrow Betty Hurst paintings from individuals to put on display. We invite those who would be willing to loan paintings to contact DTHS Exhibit Committee. The exhibit committee consists of Trish Sprague, MaryLou Taylor, Deb Fisher, and Gina Prentiss. First we must begin getting the information, such as title, measurements, medium, and any stories about Betty and the painting. We would not need to borrow the actual painting until spring. We think this will be an exhibit of local interest by a local painter.

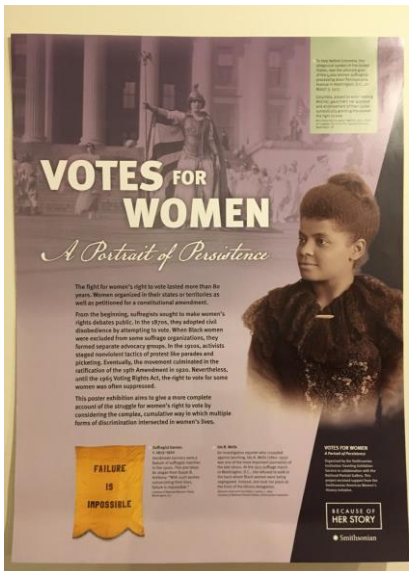
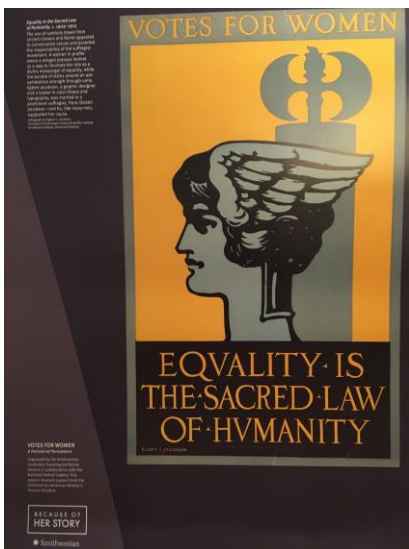
Thanks to all would are interested in participating Please contact

Gina Prentiss  
[ginaprentiss@gmail.com](mailto:ginaprentiss@gmail.com)  
 844-4691  
 820-7328

The "Votes for Women" poster exhibit commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U S Constitution that guarantees women the right to vote. The posters were provided by the Smithsonian Institute National Museum Archives and are on view now at DTHS.



Painting by Betty Hurst "Main Street, Dryden". DTHS 2020.09



Although women had the right to vote in 1920, it wasn't until 1937 that these Tompkins County women could serve as jurors.

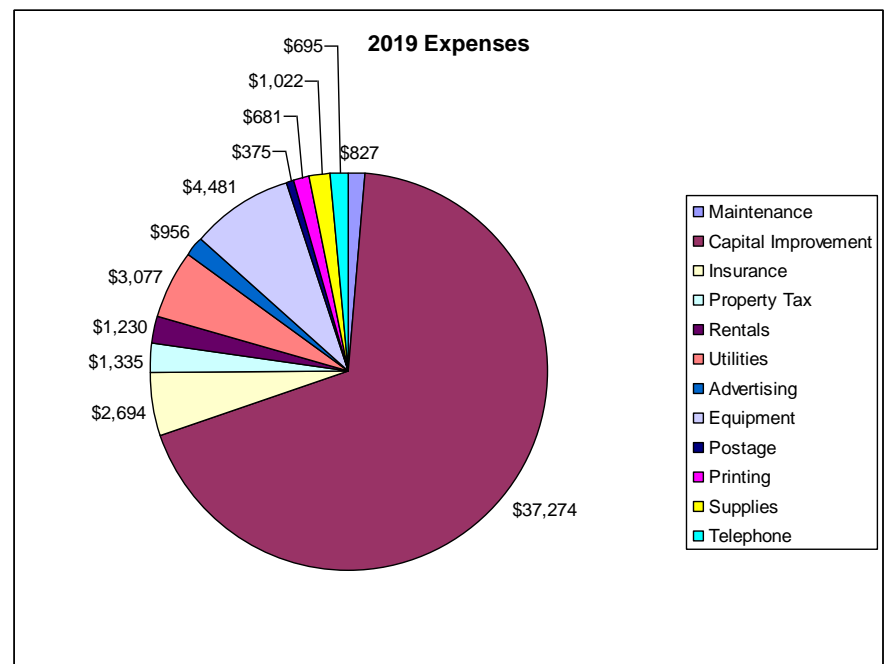
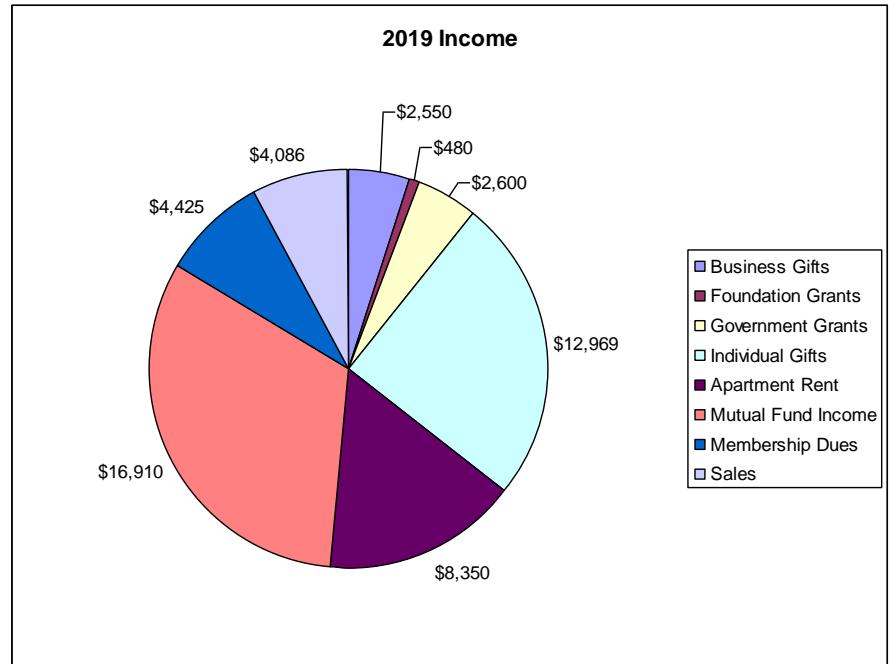


Left to right, back row: Mrs. Bernice Kirk of Etha, first woman court officer; Mrs. Neva Laue of Ithaca R. D. 5; Mrs. Ethel Rockefeller of Dryden. Front row: Mrs. Alice Prince of Freeville, R. D. 3; Mrs. Alice Licht of Trumansburg; Mrs. Doris Hall of Groton, and Mrs. Julia Lueder of Jacksonville.

## DTHS 2019 Financial Summary

Total income for 2019 was \$53,370. The pie chart shows our dependence on Gifts and Membership Dues contributed by our members. Business Gifts are from Dryden businesses. Government Grants are from the Town of Dryden and Tompkins County. Sales income is from our annual Op Sale and Pie Sale, and from sales of books. 2019 was a good year for the stock market as you can see from our Mutual Fund Income.

Total expenses for 2019 were \$54,648. As you can see from the Expenses chart, by far the largest expense category is Capital Improvement. Major projects for 2019 included the exterior stair at the North Street entrance, repairs to the brick exterior, and purchase of the shutters. The next largest category, Equipment, was mainly for replacement of our 20 year old computers and purchase of an inventory database application called Past Perfect. Other major expenses are utilities (heat and electricity) and insurance. As most of you know, we are a 100% volunteer organization and have no employee expenses. Looking forward, we still have a large list of Capital Improvement work to do, including more brick repairs and work on the barn.





## DTHS PROGRAMS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Program Committee has postponed all programs and events until 2021. We are, however, opening up the DTHS Exhibits starting November 7TH, as social distancing will be possible to maintain with small groups. We ask everyone to please wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and maintain a distance of six feet from one another while touring the exhibits.

We do have a projected lineup of fabulous programs for 2021! Although the March 2021 program is yet to be determined, we welcome suggestions from members! The April program will feature the Crosby Cabin on Hammond Hill; in May, at the Annual Meeting, Chuck D’Imperio will discuss his book, “Open House”, and we will have copies for sale at the meeting; the annual OP sale in May; Dairy Day in June; the annual Homestead Heritage Day Fair, day to be determined; Pie Sale on November 6th; the Holiday Workshop and Dryden Village Winter Celebration on December 4th; and last but not least, the Holly Tour on Sunday, December 5th (tentative date). We always welcome ideas for programs from our members, as well as suggestions for homes to add to the Holly Tour. Please contact Maria Ortiz, email [maria elaine designs@yahoo.com](mailto:maria_elaine_designs@yahoo.com), or Gina Prentiss, at [ginaprentiss@gmail.com](mailto:ginaprentiss@gmail.com) with suggestions.

### SOME INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE SOUTHWORTH HOME

Each newsletter we will feature some interesting items from the Southworth Home. Come in for a tour when we open next year!



In the parlor, a Franklin cast iron fireplace insert, c. 1800-1820 fitted within the fireplace. “Neille & Hildreth” formed into the exterior is likely the name of the foundry. The piece includes side inset panels with acanthus leaf decoration. Intended to bring the fire “out to the room”. Relatively rare, other examples are concentrated in New England and upstate New

Parlor fireplace showing insert



Acanthus leaf detail of insert



Photo shows the brass finials atop the pillars on the exterior of the fireplace insert

Dryden Town Historical  
Society

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**DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

14 NORTH STREET

**Starting November 7, 2020**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 10 AM – 1 PM**

**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](mailto:drydennyhistory@gmail.com).

Dryden Town Historical Society

14 North Street

PO Box 69

Dryden, NY 13053

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