

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

November,
December, January,
February, March, April
Volume 45 (2021)

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

STARTING APRIL 3, 2021 REGULAR HOURS
Saturdays, 10am – 1pm
Every Tuesday, 10am – 12pm
and always by appointment

New Books

We have 3 new exciting books at DTHS, all by local authors.

NEW *Dryden's Second Hundred Years (Part II)*, By Elizabeth Gutchess, soft cover (**\$10.00**)

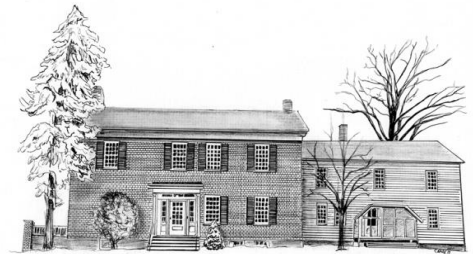
This book's tight focus on local participation in World War II paradoxically chronicles the entire war, a conflict which drew its combatants from small rural townships like Dryden NY, assigned and scattered them throughout the world, and then delivered the survivors back home again, creating in every small American community a microcosm of the entire conflict, an eye-witnessing of the whole story. To be blind to the miracle of everyday normal life.

NEW *The Last Flight of El Flako, A Tribute to a Gallant Crew on their First and Last B-24 Mission* By Robert J. Steele in memory of Dewey Dey Steele of Freeville/Malloryville (**\$10.80**)

From the tragic loss of courageous airmen who gave their lives for our freedom to the gentle breezes that swirl through graves in a quiet cemetery in Belgium's countryside, Bob Steele takes us on a personal journey of history and revelation as he recounts the story of his uncle, a gunner on a World War II bomber, and his own personal quest to uncover the fates of the crewmen, their families, and gracious Europeans who honored them. Any fan of Eighth Air Force history and the sacrifices made by American airmen in the defeat of the Third Reich will find this story informative, poignant, and well worth the read.

NEW *Gabriel, A Novel of The American Civil War*, By Matthew Watros (**\$27.00**)

Gabriel Ballard is a fictitious interpretation of a teenage soldier's experiences in the American Civil War, from the day of his enlistment in August, 1862 to his participation as a marauding "bummer" in General Sherman's infamous March to the Sea.



Spring Hours return to DTHS

Historical society open hours are Every Saturday 10 am. – 1 pm.

Visit the reference room for historical photographs and documents. See the selection of local books by local authors. Look at the new exhibits. **Always Free and Open to All.**

ANNOUNCING 2021 SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD TOURS

First Saturdays May through October

May 1, June 5, July 3, August 7,
September 4, October 2

Tours start at 10 am, 11 am and 12 noon and take about an hour.

Fees: \$10 per person, \$8 Seniors and DTHS members, \$5 Students.

Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

Upcoming programs

Chuck D'Imperio and his new book, "Open House"
 DTHS Annual Meeting and election of officers
May 20 (Thursday), 7PM

Chuck D'Imperio was our speaker several years ago and delighted us with his tales of upstate New York. On May 20, he will be speaking about his new book, "Open House" in which Southworth Homestead is featured. Books will be available for sale and signing.

Location: Dryden Village Hall
 Time: 7 pm (doors open at 6:30)

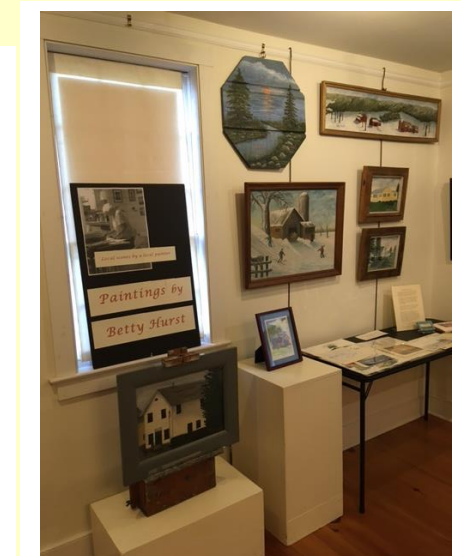
Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

Stay tuned for these future programs and activities....

- Know Your Photographs with Luisa Casella
- Walking tour at Schickle barn
- Op Sale
- Crosby Cabin on Hammond Hill
- Homestead Heritage Fair

CONTINUING ON DISPLAY IN THE EXHIBIT ROOM

- "Photographs from DTHS Collection and Two Photographers"
- "Women Vote"
- "Local Women Leaders"



Upcoming exhibit in the DTHS Exhibit room, "Betty Hurst, Local painter of Local Scenes".

SPRING 2021 EXHIBIT

"Paintings by Betty Hurst...Local Paintings by a local painter"

An offering of watercolor, acrylic paintings and sketches by Betty Hurst are on view in the Exhibit Room. Daughter, Lisa Hurst Stelick, has worked all winter compiling an extensive inventory of her mother's paintings and craft items. Selected paintings are on loan for the exhibit from Lisa and members of the Hurst family. In addition, paintings by Betty are on loan from Dan Armitage, Amy Dickinson, Muriel Likel, Shirley Price and Dryden Town Historical Society. Later this spring an open house is planned to exchange reminiscences about the paintings.

Photo of Betty Hurst with paint brush in hand. Betty has passed away, but left a legacy of paintings.



SPRING 2021 EXHIBITS CONTINUED

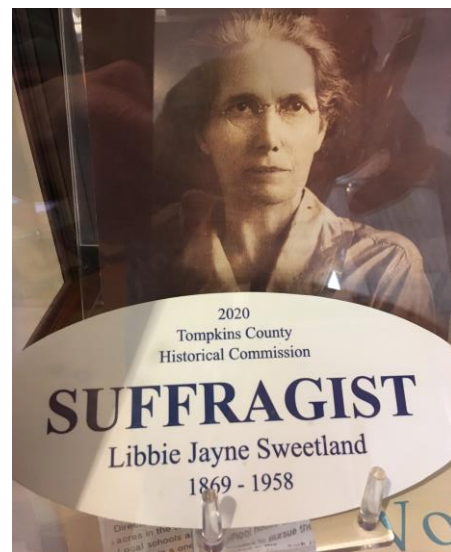
“Southworth Family Silver ...

Reposse’ and Victorian Designs “

Sterling silver coffee and tea set, flat ware, carving sets, pitchers, bowls, tea caddy and napkin clip, all bring to mind the meals served at Southworth, Dwight and Montgomery tables.

The fluted sides, the ebony handles, the raised designs, the carved ivory all speak to elaborate meals of the 19th and early 20th century and the amount of labor needed to maintain them. Imagine the men and women behind the scenes, preparing the meals, and polishing these elaborate utensils.

Find this exhibit in the Ken and Libby Lacey Display Case. Thanks to DTHS board members and behind the scenes polishers, Mary Hornbuckle and Amy Dickinson.



On view in Exhibit Room

Tompkins County Historical Commission designated several county women who made a difference in the struggle for women’s right to vote. DTHS proudly displays the plaque, “**Libbie Sweetland, Suffragist.**”

Annual Opportunity Sale

June 4 (8am to 5pm)

June 5 (8am to 3pm)

DTHS is having our annual "Op Sale" on Friday June 4 and Saturday June 5. Our red Southworth Homestead barn is already over 3/4 full, so this year we are asking for your donations to be dropped at Shirley’s garage at 287 George Road where she can sort and mark the items. If you have larger items, you can call Shirley Price, at 607-844-8700 or 607-279-7655 and she can meet you at the Southworth Homestead barn or arrange to have them picked up. DTHS can also pick up any other items, please call Shirley to arrange. Your support & contributions always make our sale very successful. Thank you.

Shirley Price

The gardens in front of the Southworth House are a focal point for visitors. They are in need of some TLC. Anyone who would be willing to come and join a workday to plant in the spring, and volunteer once a month to weed and work with the plants, please let Debbie Fisher know (351-0699). We hope to make the gardens a more welcoming centerpiece.

Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

(for November 2020 through April 2021)

Donations in Memory:

Dryden Senior Citizens	in memory of Lois (Marion) Fox
Shirley Price	in memory of Lois Fox
Marsha J Ashbarry	in memory of Frances Mary Schutt
William G Bailey	in memory of Jane Wight Bailey
Jack Bush	in memory of Viola Lane
Shirley A Shackelton	in memory of Horace E Shackelton
Marsha Smith	in memory of David T Smith
Rosemarie Tucker	in memory of Elsie Gutchess
Amy Dickinson	in memory of The Genung Sisters
Robert & Dorothy Slocum	in memory of David Smith
Ann & James Zwart	in memory of Frances Mary Schutt
Charlene Jeffris & Mary Lynch	in memory of Betty Hurst
Micheal Delahanty	in memory of Elizabeth C Delahanty-1st President DTHS
Cassie Prugh	in memory of Victor G Fulkerson
Pamela L Shoemaker	in memory of Belle (Snyder) Wolcott
Ann Brady	in memory of Phil & Julia (Weed) Brady
Richard Sweetland	in memory of Judge Edwin Sweetland
Zenobia Trust	in memory of Elsie Gutchess

Contributions to DTHS

Ann Brady	David & Brenda Armstrong	Leslie Chatterton & Allyson Ford
Nancy Pilling Brown	Steve Ridone & Katie Diamond	Amy Reading
Brian & Jody Earle	Bard & Gina Prentiss	Sandy Prugh
Lauren A Stiles	John & Patti Kiefer	Michael E Lane
James Webster	Jeanette Knapp	Sam & Sue Morrie
Ken & Cathy Paddock	Joseph & Michelle Pescatrice	Joyce H McAllister
Donald Turk	Paul Dedrick	

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 Fred and Muriel Likel for the beautiful holiday wreaths on all the Southworth doors. And for the fabulously big and beautiful wreath on the Southworth red barn
- To Bob Timmerman and Sunshine Signs for donating the DTHS 40th Anniversary banner
- To Shirley Price and Fred Likel for hanging the banner on the barn.
- Joshua Prentiss for taking some of the newsletter photos

In Memoriam

Lois Marion Fox September 28, 1929 - February 21, 2021

Lois was a descendant of the Peter Snyder family who settled early in Etna area. She was the keeper of the family history and willing always to share that history with the historical society. Lois served on the DTHS collection committee for years and helped with research for several exhibits.

Joyce Holmes McAllister January 16, 1931 - March 24, 2021

Joyce shared information and photographs about the farm on 364 McClintock Road. The steel framed barn built by the Groton bridge Company in 1908 is located there and still stands. Joyce kept a real interest in Dryden and loaned objects for DTHS exhibits.

CELEBRATING DTHS

40TH ANNIVERSARY 1981 – 2021

In March 1981, an invitation was advertised to discuss starting a historical society that would gather, preserve and present information about the people, places and events in the town of Dryden. It was a sure sign that interest ran high because 37 people packed the reading room at the Southworth Library with standing room only!

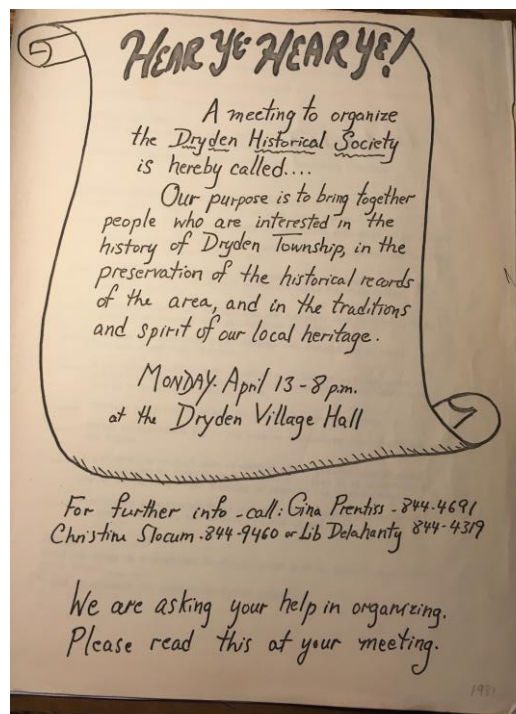
The first official meeting of the Dryden Town Historical Society was held on April 13, 1981. Lib Delahanty presented the idea that the 1976 centennial celebration had generated a lot of interest and information and there was a small local history collection at the library to build on and share.

When looking back on forty years of activities, it is astounding to note the vision and depth of commitment from the beginning, and without the help of computers, copy machines or even a budget! The goal to make the Dryden Historical a “best “ local town historical society took huge determination. All these ambitious goals depended on devoted members and volunteers.

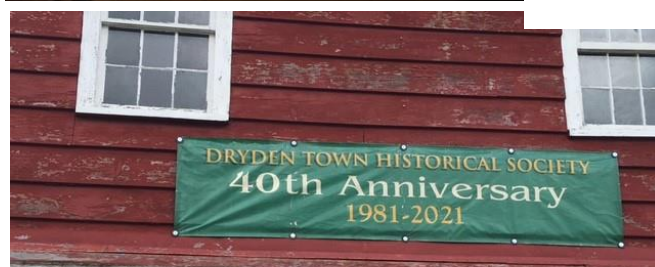
The plan was to record and preserve history from all 97 square miles of the town of Dryden and make all information available to all without charge. To present monthly free public programs and tape-record them all to add to our local history knowledge. To produce Quarterly Newsletters and announcements to keep us informed. And DTHS would be a voice for preservation of our historic structures that reflect our local heritage.

DTHS is proud of its accomplishments made possible by dedicated and generous members. While continuing all of the original goals, new challenges have been added: stewardship of the Southworth Homestead; expanding the database of our archives; maintaining a website and an ever growing historical collection. Another 40 years of “best”, Dryden Town Historical Society beckons.

Gina Prentiss 2021



First official meeting of Dryden Historical Society, April 13, 1981



Banner donated by Bob Timmerman

Lib Delahanty in doorway of first History House on W. Main Street.



Left to right Elsie Gutches, Robert Slocum, Chris Slocum, Bob Slocum, David Grosvenor, Gina Prentiss, Shirley Otis Price

Surveying the Dryden Military Lots Part 5 – A Race Against Time

By David Waterman

Now it was a race against time. New York legislators were pushing hard on the governor, DeWitt Clinton, to get promised bounty lands to the Revolutionary War veterans. Now nine years since Yorktown, the soldiers were getting old, dying, or acquiring other frontier lands. Simeon DeWitt, the surveyor general, needed to provide a map defining the lots before a lottery could be performed to give out titles. Moses DeWitt, Simeon's hands-on survey manager and himself an active surveyor, had made it clear to John Konkle, the Dryden Township surveyor, that speed, not accuracy was needed going forward. Konkle's team, which had just finished accurately sizing up Dryden, knew there was plenty of leeway in the oversized township for the subdivision to be somewhat unequal and no soldier would get less than the 600 acres promised. In fact, the average soldier would get about 50 acres excess land.

Konkle's field-book pretends every lot boundary line is exactly 77 chains, 46 links long, the length of a side of a 600 acre square. The actual lengths were not recorded, nor was the order in which the lines were walked. Marking lot lines with tree blazes and writing descriptions of the lot features were the important tasks for Konkle. These descriptions could be used to estimate the value of the lots, which varied considerably since they existed in a grid pattern lacking any relationship to topography. Many of the soldiers would quickly put their lands on the open market, and insiders with this information could profit greatly from it.

Four dates are given in the field-book, indicating starts of periods in which work was performed. The first line walked was the South bounds of lot 81. Beginning on the west boundary of the town, and facing *"as the Needle pointed on the 24th of September 1790 Magnetic East"*, they crossed *"a Dry brook bearing SW'ly, the Owego Road"* (now Route 79), *"timbered chiefly with oak"*, and the land *"good but something stony"*. Next there was *"a Spring Drain in a Deep gully"*, followed by *"Rising ground Chief Timbered pine, a large valley S'ly"* with *"level land thick Under brush"*. This typifies the level of description given for each and all of the lot lines of the Dryden Township. A copy of John Konkle's field-book is kept at the Southworth Homestead where a docent can help you

look up places of personal interest to see their 1790-91 description, whenever the facility is open.

There are a few interesting tidbits in the field-book, though most of the descriptions are of hills, water courses, land quality and lumber types. There are no mentions of Indian trails crossed, which would have been interesting, but near the South line of lot 73, Konkle tells of an *"Indian Sugar Works"*. Iroquois Natives harvested maple sap long before Europeans arrived, by using bark spouts and extracting excess water by setting the sap out to freeze at night. However, long before 1797, they would have acquired and been using the same tools as whites.

Konkle's base camp was located near the place where the subdividing began, conveniently close to the road home or to Hinepaugh's Mill for supplies. He wanted to do the southern, hilly parts of Dryden first, before the weather worsened, making walking the hills treacherous. The steep hills made it difficult to level the surveying equipment and some lines in Southern Dryden were pretty far off course. On the Eastbounds of lot 71, Konkle *"entered a bawld hill (so called by the people of Cyuga)"*. This was the hill between Genung Rd. and Quarry Rd., not to be confused with Bald Hill in Caroline. During the later years of native occupation, when Cayugas possessed some horses for traveling, the tops of some hills near trails were burned off to allow grasses to grow for grazing. As a result, several hills in Cayuga controlled areas are or have once been called bald.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

Correspondences during the time of the survey indicate a deteriorating relationship between John Konkle and Moses DeWitt. DeWitt visited Konkle's home in Newtown (Elmira), looking for a lost letter and map and later, while in Elmira, he checked some of Konkle's other work and found a surveying error.

After responding with excuses and promises to do better, it was hard for John Konkle to finally give up and write the following letter:

Owego Dec. 22nd. 1790

Dear Sir/

Offer my Respects to you - I am under the disagreeable Necessity to Inform you that winter Set in about six days too soon for me to make a finish of the Town of Dryden - after you left the Cayuga, I got out of Provision and Could get no Supply there, and I had to Send to Newtown - and at the mean Time winter approached to That began that it was not in my Power to Compleat the work - But as Soon as the Weather Moderates and the most part of the snow gone, I will Endeavor to accomplish the work and make a return of the field-Book as Quick as Possible.

I had made a map & field-Book of the Several Locations which I Surveyed for Coll' & others whilst I was at the head of the Lake and left it in the care of Mr. Hinsbaugh but he neglected to give them to you - and afterward I Sent them to Newtown expecting you to be there - But as I have not got them with me here I will Send them By the first Oppertunity - I remain with respect your Humble Servant Jno. Konkle

P.S. I will Endeavor to make a return of Dryden field-Book before you leave N. York, and hope that you and Maj'r Hardenbergh won't think hard of my not making a finish as Soon as Expected - I laboured under just disadvantages on accn't of getting Provision and the weather was Excessive bad for the most part of the time I was out.

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



This distance view of the Southworth Homestead includes the village green, fountain and Presbyterian Church.



In addition to many, many local history books, DTHS offers mugs and wineglasses for sale. Style your table the DTHS way!



Spring is in the air on Lewis Street!

SOUTHWORTH SILHOUETTES UPDATE

There are many objects in the Southworth house and In DTHS historical collection that are unique and special treasures.

A pair of hollow cut silhouettes, circa 1815, hang in the living room of the Southworth House. They are always an interesting part of the house tour. The idea of precise, dainty cut out images of two women mounted over black silk and framed, intrigued us all.

The 2016 Fall DTHS newsletter had photographs of the silhouettes on page 8. It was mentioned that they were in need of conservation. Thanks to the generosity of members, the silhouettes were sent to Westlake Conservators where Luisa Casella, the paper conservator spent hours working on them.

The happy 2021 news is that the silhouettes hang again in the Southworth Homestead living room - cleaned, repaired, conserved.

Be sure to take a 2021 Southworth Homestead guided tour to see the newly conserved silhouettes.



PLEASE WELCOME...

Laura Major is getting her masters degree in library science online from Clarion University. She is taking an Archival Studies class which requires her to volunteer in an archive. Happily, Laura chose to use her more than 10 volunteer hours at DTHS. She is making an inventory of the contents of the built-in cupboard in the parlor and will enter in the database. We hope Laura will find more time to be a DTHS volunteer in the future.



Luisa Casella,
paper conservator
at Westlake Conservators
with the repaired
silhouettes.



Mary
Hornbuckle
and Gina
Prentiss with
silhouettes

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE SOUTHWORTH HOME

Each newsletter we will feature some interesting items from the Southworth Home. Come in for a tour starting first Saturdays May through October.



Detail of small hole. Prisms would have hung from every tip of leaf design.

Southworth family used gilded metal girandoles, with prisms, to brighten up the mantles in the parlor and living room.



Girandoles above the fireplace mantle in parlor. Girandoles are branched candelabra. Prisms would pick up and reflect the candlelight.



Large figural girandole missing prisms, found in a cupboard at Southworth House.



10th Anniversary Cake made by Waneta Downey. From left: Lib Delahanty, Gina Prentiss, Sybil Gould

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Be A Docent. Spend time at DTHS on Saturdays. Pair up with a seasoned docent to welcome visitors.
- Be a Tour Guide. Learn about the Southworth Homestead and share the fun of walk-throughs with guests.

If you would like to know more, stop in or leave a message, 844-9209.

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

Starting April 3, 2021

Every Saturday, 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.

Dryden Town Historical Society
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