

Books available at Dryden Town Historical Society (March 2021)

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

This book does two exceptional things. First, its 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. Second, that story is told here largely in local participants' own words, in letters from camps, troopships, carriers, cruisers, foxholes, and hospitals, their voices a quiet backdrop to the horrific war they had been asked to fight. The resulting narrative suggests that those who don't know history - while not always doomed to repeat it - are very likely doomed to live their lives without perspective, to mistake inconvenience for hardship, and hardship for catastrophe, and 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 (\$10.80) By Robert J. Steele in memory of Dewey Dey Steele of Freeville/Malloryville

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 and poignant.

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

In August of 1862, during the second summer of the American Civil War, Gabriel R. Ballard, a teenage farmer from the quiet hills of upstate New York, signed up to fight for the preservation of his country. "Gabriel" is a fictitious interpretation of said soldier's experiences in that war, from the day of his enlistment to his participation as a marauding "bummer" in General Sherman's infamous March to the Sea.

NEW Open House, 35 Historic Upstate Homes, By Chuck D'Imperio. (\$25.00)

Celebrated Upstate New York author Chuck D'Imperio takes readers on a unique tour of some of the most fascinating and little-known historic homes across the state, including our own Southworth Homestead! From the stunning neoclassical mansion of the Clarke family tucked away on a hill in Cooperstown to the ramshackle Catskill Mountains cottage of famed naturalist John Burroughs, this book offers the architectural and historic background of New York's more famous residences. Each one has an intriguing story, and D'Imperio invites you to learn not only about the homes but also about the influential people who lived in them. With detailed information on visiting hours, directions, and the author's own notes, this guidebook is essential reading for all New York State history buffs and the ideal companion for your next Upstate road trip.

Dryden's Second Hundred Years A Central New York Village in the Twentieth Century, By Elizabeth Gutchess, soft cover (\$20.00)

Dryden's Second Hundred Years (Part I) chronicles life in a small farming village in Central New York during the first half of the twentieth century. But along with a close reading of the local scene-its telephones, roads, real and rumored milk strikes, and letters back home from the trenches of two wars-this narrative has a wide arc and rich texture: author Elizabeth Denver Gutchess dovetails local history with national and international events which shaped and countered it-as she explores connections and disconnections between this small community and the world at large. Essentially, in fact, Dryden's Second Hundred Years records a transformation of place, as Dryden's tightly woven social fabric slowly unraveled during the century, while ever-lengthening strands of road and cable reached farther and farther beyond this small hill-rimmed valley-weaving ever wider and more life-enhancing communities for the people who live here. At a time when the process of globalization outweighs all things local, however, it is important to keep balance. The global village, as many have warned, will be enriched not by neglecting the local but by taking care of it. One way to do that is simply to know and understand the local past. Like the body of fine work already produced by Dryden historians-and by local historians everywhere-this book might help us do that.

Who Was This Amos Sweet, research, speculation, conclusions, on a search for the true Amos Sweet, By David Waterman (\$10.00)

The story of Amos Sweet, the 1797 first settler of Dryden, NY, was first reported in the first article of Dryden's first periodical in 1857, sixty years after the fact. The Sweet story was purported to be based on the memories of Dryden old men. Often recounted since, no subsequent authors have questioned the narrative, despite inconsistencies with the Dryden Amos Sweet family described in the 1800 US census. In his booklet, Waterman attempts to resolve the issues, using currently available genealogical and historical information. In the process, a surprising new and more detailed account of Dryden's earliest history is revealed.

The Hired Man's Christmas, 1997, by George Givens. (\$6.00)

A true story by Dryden native, George Givens, about a Gee Hill farm family's holiday experiences.

Around Dryden, historic postcards of the Villages and Town of Dryden, Compiled and written by Harry Weldon. (\$26.00)

Showcases a century's worth of historic postcards of the Villages and Town of Dryden, that captures the evolution of the town, it's villages and hamlets throughout the decades.

Barns of the Dryden Lake Area (and many more), 1988 by DTHS. (\$3.24)

A self-guided tour with area map and photos.

A Glimpse of Carpenter Hill, 1922 – 1928, by Dora Rowley Keyes, 1986. (\$6.00)

An expression of treasured childhood memories and a tribute to her mother and father, Ney and Zula Rowley.

***The Journey at Malloryville Bog: Commitment, Teamwork and Tenacity in Defense of Land and Nature* by Robert M. Beck (\$20.00)**

This is a book about the establishment of the vonEngelin Preserve at Malloryville. It is an illuminating and intimate chronicle of environmental challenge and success. The author and his wife buy a long-desired home within an extraordinary piece of wild nature only to confront plans for a gravel mine and concrete plant next door, adjacent to their pristine wetlands. Faithfully relating a fifteen-year story in first person—a case study of sorts, fully documented with letters and memos of the many participants—this is the author's personal narrative of his home and the collective effort to protect his cherished land. Here is his account of glacier-formed eskers, kames and kettles, of diverse woodlands, swamps, fens and bog, of mining applications and recurring environmental reviews, of uncertainty and long struggle, and of diligence, awesome teamwork and phenomenal land deals. Ultimately, this is a story of conservation success, culminating in the establishment and dedication of The Nature Conservancy's magical and treasured O.D. von Engeln Preserve at Malloryville, located in the picturesque Finger Lakes Region of upstate New York.

***From Richford's Rails to Freeville Stationmaster: Ken Rice Remembers*, edited by Elsie Gutchess (\$2.00)**

Stories, detailed research, photographs and illustrations of the railroad from Richford, NY to Freeville, NY from the mid-1800s to late 1970s. Ken Rice, born in Richford, and eventually becoming the Freeville, NY station agent recalls the impact the important impact railroads had on these local communities.

***WWII Book - More Than Names in Bronze World War II Grange Memorial, Dryden, NY.* (\$4.32).** Bio-sketches of those in Dryden area whose lives were lost in WWII.

***Shall the Murderer go Unpunished!: The Life of Edward H. Ruloff New York's Criminal Genius* by Stephen D. Butz (\$15.00)**

This book is a biography, and criminal study into Edward H. Ruloff, a notorious nineteenth-century thief, murderer, professional impostor, and would-be philologist who was condemned to die and hanged for his crimes. The life of Ruloff is a sordid account of misguided genius and abysmal consequences.

***Shaker "Great Barns" 1820s - 1880s*, By Lauren A. Stiles. (\$20.00)**

Evolution of Shaker Dairy Barn Design and Its Relation to the Agricultural Press. A book that will appeal to all barn enthusiasts, it is a study about an unusual type of dairy barn, concentrating on the remarkable, four level dairy barns built by the Shakers from Maine through western New York during the middle years of the 19th century.

***Dear Friend Amelia, Civil War Letters of Private John Tidd*, By Mary Jordan and Joyce Hatch (\$15.00)**

This book is well designed, beautifully illustrated and backed up with historical research. It contains a treasure trove of excellent reproductions - letters, cabinet cards, prints, etchings and impeccably photographed Civil War relics, all explained and carefully credited. There is the

addition of historical side notes, appropriately placed, which lets the reader have the best of both worlds simultaneously rather than turning back to earlier chapters for historical points. It provides a realistic glimpse into the daily life and struggles of an earnest civil war soldier.

The Centennial History of the Town of Dryden: 1797-1897 First 100 years, Compiled and edited by Geo. E. Goodrich 2010 reprint. (\$20.00)

Tompkins County: Images of Work and Play, Compiled and edited by Tompkins County Historians Assoc. (\$22.00)

Decades of memories culled from attics, albums, and organizations alike are preserved in this charming collection of photographs chronicling the everyday lives of Tompkins County residents. This book showcases images of activity, such as farmers hard at work and people dancing into the early hours of the morning, as well as the more subdued images of universal human connection, such as moments of sorrow, contemplation and reflection. The stories of those from the past unfold as they bring to life a history long forgotten and a sense of continuity and familiarity uniting these disparate worlds.

Great Possibilities. Celebrating 150 years, compiled by Dryden Mutual Insurance Company (\$50.00)

150 Verne Morton Photographs portray farming, recreation, and social life the Towns of Dryden and Groton and surrounding areas. Verne Morton was born in Groton, N.Y. where he and his brother lived on the family farm all their lives.

Marking Bethel Grove Nov. 15, 2009. (\$2.00)

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Bethel Grove School and 70th birthday of Bethel Grove's Community "Home".

Place Names of Tompkins County, By Carol Kammen (\$24.00)

Stories of the place names in Tompkins County,

Explaining Tompkins, Its Growth and Government, By Carol Kammen and Joe Mareane. (\$4.32)