

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

May, June, July,
August
Volume 45 (2021)

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

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

MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED INSIDE AT THE DTHS

An Historic Barn Tour at Mary Hill Farm

Sunday – August 29, 2021

4 to 6 PM

Mary Hill Farm
85 Ferguson Road
Dryden, NY

This spectacular barn, built around 1820 in the "bank barn" style popular in the area, has two levels; the lower level used for housing cattle (and for storing milk), and the soaring upper level used to store feed and equipment. The barn once featured a wooden Unadilla silo, which is now just a memory.

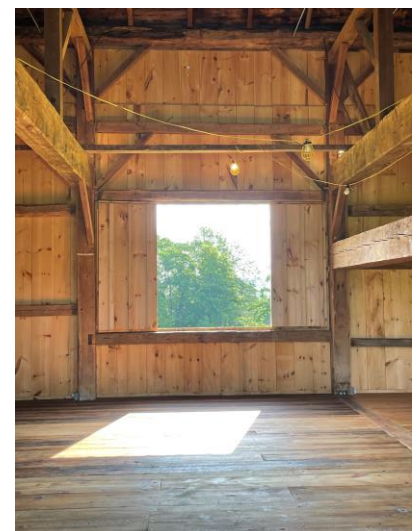
Bruno Schickel and a crew from Schickel Construction worked for eight months to restore the barn, which involved removing siding, jacking it up, replacing the foundation, "straightening" the barn's substructure, and replacing the siding and flooring.

Please join hosts, Amy Dickinson and Bruno Schickel, for a tour and talk outlining the restoration of this large dairy barn on the family's farm in Dryden.

Rain or shine. Refreshments will be served.



Historic barn at 85 Ferguson Road.



Light filled newly rehabilitated barn.

HOLLY TOUR RETURNING!

On December 4th, 2021 DTHS will be hosting The Holly Tour. Join us for a tour of several historic homes in the town of Dryden, beautifully decorated for the holidays.

HOMESTEAD HERITAGE FAIR Postponed until 2022

Southworth House Tours

Tours on September 4th at 10am, 11am, and noon.

Last tour of the 2021 season will be held on October 2. Called "Becky's Birthday Tour" it celebrates DTSH benefactress, Rebecca Wood Southworth Simpson, born October 6, 1918. Each year the dining room and doll house sport birthday decorations and each tour participant receives a free gift.

Tours are at 10am, 11am and noon.

Cost is \$10, members, seniors and students are \$8.

Children are free.



Gifts await participants in Beck's Birthday Tour



Becky's doll house decorated for a Halloween birthday

Chuck D'Imperio

On May 20, 2021 DTSH hosted well known author Chuck D'Imperio. Chuck talked about his recent book, "Open House, 35 Historic Upstate New York Homes." Chuck traversed the upstate area to focus on lesser known homes open to the public. His descriptions of the historical and architectural surprises found in every house, personal encounters and greetings with museum hosts made a fascinating program and a wonderful journey. The Southworth Homestead is featured on page 189 of his informative book. DTSH is proud to be included in this newest Chuck D'Imperio upstate book for sale at DTSH.

Exhibit Reception

"Betty Hurst Paintings"

On June 11, 2021, more than 50 people attended a reception for the exhibit, "Betty Hurst Paintings" held in the DTSH exhibit room. For this exhibit, the paintings were on loan from Betty Hurst family members and friends, and two from DTSH historical collection.

Even though a thunderstorm raged outside that caused an electricity outage, it didn't keep folks away. Betty was a well-loved local painter of local scenes who painted the places and buildings, many now gone, that were known by all. Many stories were shared that brought back memories of Betty Hurst and past decades in the town of Dryden.

We appreciate the many hours, daughter, Lisa Hurst Stelick, spent documenting the whereabouts of Betty's paintings and gathering all together for the exhibit. An interview with daughters Lisa (Hurst Stelick, Gail (Hurst) Hall and Pam (Hurst) Tingley by Jessica Wickham appeared in July 7, 2021 issue of Tompkins Weekly.

If you own a Betty Hurst painting, Lisa would like to hear from you. She hopes to continue to document information about the paintings.

Lisa Stelick LStelick@gmail.com 423-2352

Please stop in to see the paintings and other exhibits on view. The exhibit will remain up through December 2021.

Pictures of the evening on page 7.

Surveying the Dryden Military Lots Part 6 – Finished!

By David Waterman

After failing to complete the survey of Dryden in 1790, John Konkle's relationship with Moses DeWitt continued to deteriorate. On January 24th, 1791, he wrote:

I am very uneasy on acc't of being frustrated in my Designs, (to wit) not Compleating the Township of Dryden - ... as for the uncommon Early & Severe fall & winter Season is well known to your Self - hope therefore that you will not think hard of it - I will Endeavor to make a finish as Early as the Season will admit - I have taken great Pains to do the business accurately - I have Chained every foot of the Interscition Lines, which if I had omitted, as others have I could have made a Compleat finnish.

Meanwhile, he was asking DeWitt for favors - first, to secure his land in Newtown (Elmira).

If I mistake not all Lands in Chemung are forfeited which are not Cleared out of the Office this Ensuing Spring - in Consequence wherof I have Sent you my Certifycate together with a Power of Attorney for you to act in my behalf.

Also, to be nominated for a government position.

Whereas there is Something of a Prospect of having this Country Laid off and Organized into a County - and a Number of Nominations has been made for the Several County offices but I have not understood of any application being made for the Office of Surrogate which is requirred in Every County although of no great Consequence at Present, But as I expect remaining in This Place it may be of Some Benefit in time to Come - and as I have been Somewhat Acquainted with the Nature of that Business, I should therefore be happy if you could Intercede for me with the Honorable the Council of appointments to fill that Station.

And Konkle wished DeWitt to hire him for surveying additional Military Tract Townships:

Wheras I have been Something unlucky about the Township I have undertaken - I should be glad to try another - Next Summer in order to mend the matter - and if agreeable to you and Major Hardenbergh - and reserve one of the Townsh's for me, will be acknowledged as a great favor

Despite promises of punctuality, Konkle did not restart the Dryden survey until June, only completing it on July 2nd.

In haste I Embrace this opportunity to Inform you that I have made a finish of Dryden, I am Now about making the Field=Book, and Expect as Soon as I Can Possibly Compleat it to make a return of the Same to you.

But upon returning home to Newtown, he found over 1400 Seneca and Cayuga, men, women and children were camped along the riverbank and on the flats, 1/2 mile from his house. A treaty meeting had been planned to take place at Painted Post, but following a dry early summer, the Chemung River was too low to carry the flat bottomed boats full of supplies further up river. Food, gifts, and barrels of rum were unloaded at Newtown, and the meeting was relocated. The Iroquois, who had already been forced and coerced by New York State to give up most of their land in exchange for retaining some reservations within it, had many grievances and were unsure where the Federal government stood on State matters. George Washington wanted desperately to avoid any public confrontation with the Iroquois while in the process of negotiating with other tribes further west to peacefully give up other lands. Following instructions from Washington "to declare to them the friendly disposition of the Federal government towards them, and its readiness to extent protection to them on all needful occasions", large quantities of merchandise had been given to the Indians as a token of "peace and unity". Supplies included "four barrels of rum, one box of pipes, two kegs of tobacco, and one keg of spirits." Also "three gross of large silver brooches with which to decorate the Indians."

The Newtown meeting began June 21st and lasted about 3 weeks. There were speeches by many notable Native orators including Red Jacket, Farmers Brother, Big Tree, Fish Carrier, and Cornplanter. Col. Timothy Pickering, for the Federal side, comes off as surprisingly unaware of Iroquois culture for someone who had been captured as a child and lived as a Seneca for years before escaping. From Newtown, he wrote to his wife, seemingly astonished, that "they have sent a message that their ladies will make me a visit... I must receive them in the same manner as the chiefs." He also wrote, "The Indians all appear to be well disposed, and were it not for their inordinate love of rum, they would be very easy to deal with;"

(Continued on Page 6)

Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

(for May 2021 through August 2021)

Donations in Memory:

Brad and Kathy Perkins in memory of Joyce Perkins

Contributions to DTSH

Aiden Payne

Eric McAllister

Susan Yanoff

Blanche Witmer

David Fogel

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

Sunshine Sign Company

North Star Art Gallery

True Renew Homes

Special Thanks

- *Bob Watros* for all of his mowing and tending the Southworth Homestead grounds.
- *Tim Rogers* for the gift of digital copies of three Dryden Footlighter Productions: "L'il Abner" 1980; "Carousel" 1982; and "Guys and Dolls" 1984. Tim appeared in all three productions. He visited DTSH in July to look at Footlighters photographs. Because of Tim's thoughtful gift, the DVDs are available to view at DTSH.
- *Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund* for the grant that made possible Sunprint Photographs Workshop led by paper conservator, Luisa Casella at Dryden Recreation Summer Camp.

In Memoriam

Johanna Mesmer

Johanna passed away **June 4, 2021**. She was associated with Dryden Footlighters Theater in many capacities. Her knowledge of that organization helped DTSH prepare programs and an exhibit.

Jan Hollenbeck

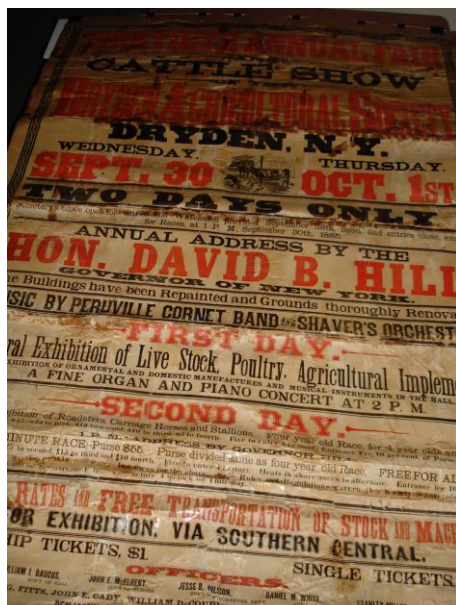
Jan Hollenbeck passed away **August 1, 2021**. She was a longtime DTSH member. We will miss her faithful presence as a member of the DTSH Program committee, and past member of the Board of Trustees.

Welcome to new Trustee – Cindy Kjellander-Cantu

Cindy is a long time resident in Dryden, and brings great knowledge and experience to the DTHS Board. Her skills as the curator at The History Center, her education as a graphic designer and her deep knowledge of social media and all things digital will be a welcome addition to our board.

1885 Dryden Agricultural Fair Poster

A one of a kind poster in the DTHS historical collection has been taken to Westlake Conservators to be evaluated for conservation. This handsome 1885 Dryden Agricultural Fair poster is in very deteriorated condition (at some time the poster was laminated and attached to craft paper). The poster is 136 years old and has been stored at DTHS and last viewed by the general public in 1976. After the treatment work and archival framing has been completed, we hope to display the poster in Spring 2022. Large and multicolored, this old poster lists many attractions, including the appearance on the second day of New York State Governor David B Hill. The Dryden Agricultural Fair was a very important event that flourished in Dryden from 1855 until 1917.



Poster, Dryden Agricultural Fair held on September 30 and October 1, 1885 from DTHS historical collection 1997.012

OP SALE 2021

This year's OP SALE, held June 4 and 5 was a HUGE success! Great weather and lots of wonderful donations from members. We made over \$8,000. Thank yous go to Shirley Price, Mary Hornbuckle, and Shirley's hardworking family.



Photography program with Luisa Casella

Luisa Casella, a paper conservator with Westlake Conservators did a "sunprint" project with children at the Town of Dryden Recreation Dept. Summer Camp on July 28. A beautiful sunny day, and lots of great prints for the children to take home, along with knowledge of early photography. Thanks to a generous grant from the Dryden Youth Opportunity Fund.



Luisa Casella demonstrating the SunPrint Photographs for Dryden Summer Rec Camp

(Continued from Page 3)

For John Konkle, the experience of drunken Indians in his neighborhood was terrifying, and he wrote to Moses DeWitt:

... I Should have been with you Before Now but [for?] the Indian Treaty &c. Being here made it So Defen[se req'd?] that I Could not leave home.

Was this the last straw for Moses DeWitt? Probably the camel's back was already broken. Konkle would never get more work from DeWitt, who was also losing interest in his holdings in Newtown known as DeWittsville. His eyes were on a large tract of Onondaga land near Syracuse which would become the town of DeWitt.

And Simeon DeWitt, upon seeing Konkle's survey work, abandoned the possibility of a canal through Dryden and concentrated on the future Erie Canal route, though he continued interest in Ithaca, eventually owning 1,932 acres there, including most of the erroneous surveyor Martinus Zelig's tract. Yapple and the first settlers of Ithaca were displaced.

But John Konkle landed on his feet, as they say, becoming the town clerk for two years, and the first Postmaster of Elmira. The first meeting of Freemasons was held at his house, and he is described in Elmira history as "public spirited and influential".

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

Citizen Transcription Project

The DTSHS has numerous diaries, letters, and other documents that we would like to have available digitally for research purposes, and for preservation of the items.

If you have an interest in history, you could work from home and transcribe any number of diaries, letters and family documents. We can provide you photocopies of these documents.

If you would be interested in this, please call Debbie Fisher at 607-351-0699.

History Forge

Are you interested in genealogy and genealogy research?

Developed by The History Center in Ithaca, HistoryForge is an innovative digital history project combining maps, archival records and census data that allows any community to explore its local history through the individual who lived there and the buildings and neighborhoods they lived in.

<https://thehistorycenter.net/HistoryForge>.

DTSHS has always welcomed the opportunity to join forces with The History Center in Tompkins County. They would like to add in Census data for the Town of Dryden and are looking for volunteers to work on their easy to use database, from your home or regular volunteer sessions at either The History Center or at our offices, using easily available Census data records, to do database work for this important project.

If you would be interested in this, please call Debbie Fisher at 607-351-0699, or email drydennyhistory@gmail.com.

Contributions for Upcoming Projects

If you are interested in contributing to the success of any of the projects below, please send in your contribution along with a note indicating which project it is for.

BUILDING PROJECTS

- Rebuilding the brick stairs on the front (South) entrance
- Rebuilding the brick columns on the north deck
- Painting the barn and stabilizing the foundation of the barn

PRESERVATION PROJECTS

- Conservation of the 1885 Dryden Agricultural Fair poster
- Digitization of films, both from the DTSHS collection and the Southworth Family films. There is a need to convert these 20th century films to a digital format before the films degrade.
- DTSHS collection of VHS tapes is also in need of digitalization.



Gina Prentiss talking with Betty Hurst's daughters, Lisa Stellick, Gail Hall and Pam Tingley at exhibit of Betty Hurst Paintings. Missing is Susan Hurst.



Thank you to members, Donna Stone, Muriel Likel, Mary Hornbuckle, and Deb Fisher for the cheerful flower gardens.



Gail Hall, Dan Armitage, and Pam Tingley talking with Craig Schutt at exhibit.



Enjoying refreshments in the Southworth House sitting room at Betty Hurst Exhibit.



Luisa Casella explaining original photography methods to Dryden Rec Summer Camp



Gail Hall explaining the paintings.

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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.

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