

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

September,
October, November,
December 2021
January, February,
March 2022
Volume 46 (2022)

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

VINTAGE PHOTOS

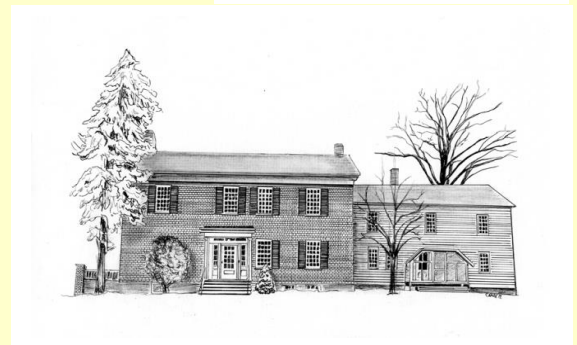
Sunday, April 10, 2pm

Dryden Village Hall

16 South Street, Dryden, NY

Come join us as we host **Luisa Casella**, Photographs Conservator at West Lake Conservators in Skaneateles, NY, a nationally recognized firm specializing in the preservation and restoration of historic and artistic works. Luisa specializes in the conservation of photographs, and has been a research scholar at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC, and is a Fellow with the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works. She will lead a presentation about identifying and preserving vintage photographs. After a slide presentation, join Luisa in a show and tell discussion of members' own vintage and antique photographs. Members are welcomed and encouraged to bring in one or two of their own vintage photos to the share at the program.

Free parking available
Refreshments will be provided



Ten Years at the Southworth Homestead

Dryden Town Historical Society

Annual Meeting

May 17, 2022

7:00 PM Dryden Village Hall



John Kiefer will present a look back at the last ten years of the Southworth House and Homestead Property and restoration plans for the Barn.

Refreshments will be provided

WHEN WORDS MATTERED AUTOGRAPH BOOKS FROM OUR COLLECTION

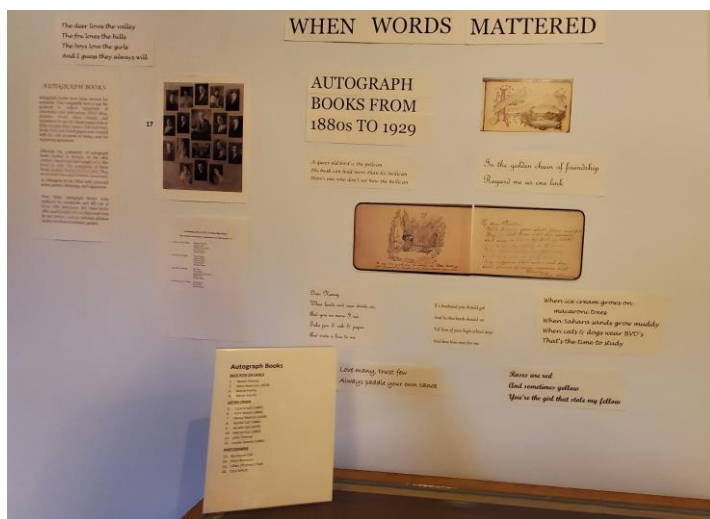
Our new exhibit is titled *When Words Mattered*, displaying autograph books from the 1880s to the 1920s. Family names include Thomas, Brectman, Schutt, Call, Fox and Loomis. Each book has a unique cover, some are quite plain, some are colorful with interesting designs. The books have poems, autographs, and sometimes drawings inside.

Next to the exhibit we have placed an autograph book for our guests to sign if they wish. Please come and add to our collection of rhymes and signatures that we will pass on to the next generation!

We are planning an exhibit of Baseball in the Town of Dryden featuring the old town teams from the 30s, 40s and 50s in late Spring. Do you have any interesting memorabilia or stories you would like to share with us? Please send us an email, and we'll be sure to include your contributions.

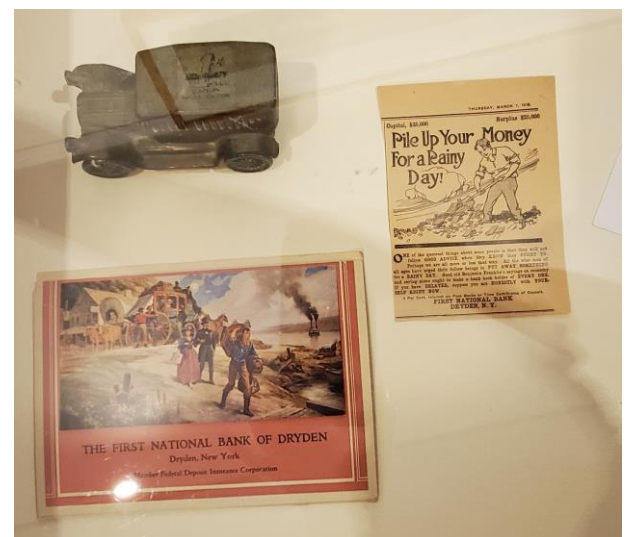


Autograph books from the DTHS collection, on display in the Exhibit Room.



CELEBRATING 120 YEARS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF DRYDEN

2022 is the 120th anniversary of the First National Bank of Dryden. To help celebrate this milestone we have created an exhibit of bank memorabilia of items from our collection. Also, a copy of a program about the bank done by the Historical Society in 2003 will be available to read, both at the exhibit and online at our website. The display includes objects given out by the bank over the years, advertisements from past newspapers and bank calendars.



Display of a few items of First National Bank of Dryden memorabilia

Annual Opportunity Sale
June 3 (8am to 5pm)
June 4 (8am to 3pm)
Southworth Homestead

DTHS is having our annual "Op Sale" on Friday June 3 and Saturday June 4. There will be many bargains for shoppers. All proceeds help support the DTHS. And contributions from our members make all the difference. Donations can be dropped off at the barn at the Southworth Homestead. 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 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.

**RESEARCH PROJECT WITH
 SOUTHWORTH LIBRARY**

The Southworth Library and Dryden Town Historical Society recently received a grant from the South Central Regional Library Council for a collaborative project on Women in Rural Agriculture in the Town of Dryden from the 1880s to the 1920s, featuring the Dryden Agricultural Fair. We have two women from Southworth Library, Allison Payne and Elizabeth Altier, working through our archives to gather information for both an exhibit and program on this interesting topic, as well as an exhibit and program at The Southworth Library for families. We enjoy having research happening at the DTHS. We will let you know of details.

Holiday Workshop & Open House 2021

We couldn't have asked for a nicer December day; the temperature was mild, the sun came out, and best of all – no snow!

The exhibit room and the dining room were ready to greet the public with red bows, poinsettias and a miniature display. The inspired idea to open up two rooms in the Southworth House (sitting room and living room) gave people a tempting taste of what they can see on a full house tour next year.



Children were wide-eyed with all we had to offer *for free!* And I can't tell you the number of new comers who said they had always meant to come sooner and were so happy they stopped today.

It was a lovely event. The only thing missing was Gina.

Mary Lou Taylor, Trish Sprague, and Mary Hornbuckle were ably assisted by Amy Dickinson and Maria Ortiz. We had piles of cookies and candy, apple cider and the all-important holiday ornament kits - from the creative mind of Patti Kiefer - to offer our guests. Forty-five people signed the guest book but there might have been a few who got past unnoticed. There was a general mood of good cheer and everyone wore a mask without complaint. People enjoyed the exhibits and stayed to chat.



Listings of APPRECIATIONS and CONTRIBUTIONS

(for September 2021 through February 2022)

Donations in Memory:

Marsha J Ashbarry	In Memory of Frances Mary Schutt
William G Bailey	In Memory of Jane Bailey
Ann Brady	In Memory of Philip & Julia (Weed) Brady
Shirley Price	In Memory of Robert "Bob" Donnelly
The Candlelight Inn, Doris A Nitsios	In Memory of Serafin Nitsios
Brad & Kathy Perkins	In Memory of Joyce M Perkins
Shirley Shackelton	In Memory of Horace E Shackelton Jr
Pamela Shoemaker	In Memory of Belle (Snyder) Wolcott
Richard Sweetland	In Memory of Judge Edwin Sweetland
Ann & James Zwart	In Memory of Frances Mary McKinney Schutt
Bruce Hollenbeck	In Memory of Janet Hutchings Hollenbeck
Joan Shroyer-Keno	In Memory of Jan Hollenbeck
Sandra Prugh	In Memory of Jan Hollenbeck
William G Bailey	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Gladys Birdsall	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Richard & Joyce Church	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Enfield Elementary School	In Memory of Gina Prins Prentiss
Sharon & Peter Favretto	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Deb Fisher	In Memory of Gina Prentiss (garden fund)
Deborah Fox	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Jean & Gene German	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Margaret Hobbie	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Abby Homer	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Patti & John Kiefer	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Nancy Leeming	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Tom & Nancy Mann	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Ken & Cathy Paddock	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Debra W Prentiss	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Shirley Shackelton	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Robert & Dottie Slocum	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Lauren A Stiles	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Robert & Joan Watros	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Ben Williams	In Memory of Gina Prentiss
Nita & Brad Griffin	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss
Richard & Julie Heidt	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss
Mary & Bill Hornbuckle	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss
Char Jeffris & Mary Lynch	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss
Mike Lane	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss
Shirley Price	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss
Sandra Prugh	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss (barn work)
Susan Quick	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss
Joan Shroyer-Keno	In Memory of Gina & Bard Prentiss

Contributions to DTHS

David & Brenda Armstrong	Les & Kay Cleland	Jody & Brian Earle	Maureen Finn	Michael Lane
Steve Ridone & Katherine Diamond	Stuart Staniford	Saino & Judy Zazzara		

Contributions for the Southworth Homestead

Leslie Chatterton & Allyson Ford	Jim & Judy Hogan	Sue & Sam Morrie
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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	

Edward Griswold – The Father of Dryden Village – Part 1 of 2

By David Waterman

The title “Father of Dryden Village” was applied to Edward Griswold (1758-1843) by the writers of The Centennial History of the Town of Dryden (published 1898). They deemed he deserved this title for his active role in ensuring that Dryden village would be situated in its present location in the valley, rather than at Willow Glen. He conveyed nearly ¼ acre of land on the four corners of the village to “The Good People of the Town”, on which was established the Presbyterian Church, where his wife and son were charter members, and later the Methodist church as well. Mr. Griswold also donated 40 acres of land to a blacksmith, in order to convince him to reside in the village, and he provided an acre of land for a public graveyard “[so] that all sects and denominations have the privilege of burying their dead.” This graveyard, off East Main Street, is now called the “Pioneer Cemetery”. At the time of the Centennial book, it was described as “a second wilderness... likely to be entirely forgotten,” but thanks to Leland Tripp, Walter Hunt, and Bob Watros, it was restored in 1966 and is a must visit today. Looking at the old gravestones, one may note that in those days of fresh air, exercise and natural foods, people could live to a very advanced age, if they didn’t die first.

Nineteenth century history books generally contain glowing accounts of pioneers venturing west, seeking a better life and taming the wilderness. The information we

have on Edward Griswold in Dryden is of that vein. Griswold, it is claimed, “was early a sea captain”, but after the war “his wife, Asenath (Hurd), prevailed upon him...to abandon his sea-faring life and cast his fortunes in the undeveloped West”. He is described as honorable and upright, though short and thick-set in his make-up. He first came to Dryden with his son Abram and daughter Asenath probably in 1802, before other members of the family, and constructed a plank house near Lee Road. An industrious man, he established four orchards and built a cider mill, and had a sugar bush, producing up to 1000 lbs. of maple sugar each year. He also raised a great deal of stock, hogs, calves, sheep; also corn and wheat. His market was Albany, a long way to take his goods by wagon. He would return with merchandise for Parley Whitmore, Dryden's early merchant, druggist, postmaster, justice of the peace, and scrivener, who seems to have been somewhat financially dependent upon Edward Griswold.

It is reported that, though he could reckon up the price of a load of wheat as quickly in his head as others could with paper and pencil, Edward did not know how to read when he was married, but learned from his wife, so as to be able to read the scriptures. He had a stand on which lay his Bible; and when he came in tired, he would generally sit down and read. He read slowly and would always read partly aloud, but only for his own benefit. Every word had an affix, uh as in and'uh we'uh, etc. There exists one hand-written document at the Dryden Town Historical Society attributed to Edward Griswold. It is a sermon for the Presbyterian Church on the subject of, wouldn't you know it, industry.

The deed to Edward Griswold of Lot 39, including the northeast quarter of Dryden Village, is dated October 16, 1805, conveying six hundred forty acres for a consideration of \$2,250.00. It was said



Griswold Family Reunion, 1905

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that he must have been prosperous, and a man of considerable means for those days to have paid that much, which then brings up the question of his backstory. What events of his past made this man wealthy, industrious and civic minded? What was his Revolutionary War experience and why did he choose Dryden to move to after the war? This part of his story has never been detailed and will be the subject of part 2 of this two-part series on Edward Griswold, to be continued in the next DTHS newsletter.

To end part 1, regarding Edward Griswold's life in Dryden, he died at the age of 84. His wife Asenath survived him to the age of 95. They are both interred in Green Hills Cemetery, the bodies having been moved at some point from their original resting places, probably in the Pioneer Cemetery.

UPCOMING SUMMER PROGRAMS

in mid-July, DTHS welcomes Anita Loscalzo at the Village Hall, for a presentation of her research into an 1800's quilt top that she found in Massachusetts, but originated in Dryden. This quilt contains inscriptions of names and dates, mostly of Dryden town inhabitants. How exciting that this quilt was found in Massachusetts, and has found its way back home! Exact date to be announced in the next newsletter.

In August, we hope to have a program on the Crosby Hill Cabin, along with a separate day to explore the cabin on-site. If there is anyone with information and/or contacts regarding the Crosby Hill Cabin, please email DTHS.

Calling on members for assistance with Homestead Heritage Fair

The **Homestead Heritage Fair Day** has been held for many years at the Southworth Homestead to connect to our Town's roots in agriculture. It has showcased many craftspeople and entertainers over the years, as well as drawing visitors into the Southworth Homestead and the Dryden Town Historical Society.

We are calling on members to step up now and volunteer to assist with preparations for the Fair, which we hope to hold on September 24. There is a small group now working on plans, but we can't go forward without more commitment and help from others. Some of the needs are to help with the planning, reaching out to vendors and entertainers, and some needs are the day of the Fair in terms of helping to set up and tear down. It isn't a large commitment of time, but it needs folks to step forward and show your support now.

If you are interested please contact **Donna Stone**, dms44@cornell.edu. If we don't have enough additional volunteers by **March 31**, we will likely have to **cancel** the Homestead Heritage Fair this year, and in the future.

In Memoriam

We are very saddened and miss the lost members and all the support they have offered to Dryden Town Historical Society over the years.

Bard Prentiss, November 20, 2021 and **Gina Prentiss**, December 8, 2021. Gina and Bard Prentiss were charter founding members of the Dryden Town Historical Society.

Robert "Bob" Donnelly, January 15, 2022 was a long time member and great supporter.

SOME INTERESTING ITEMS FROM THE SOUTHWORTH HOME

Each newsletter we will feature some interesting items from the Southworth Home.

This newsletter we are featuring some items found in **John Southworth's Office**.

Portable Remington Model 5T Typewriter

Remington typewriters were initially produced in Ilion, NY beginning in 1873. Remington was the first typewriter to include both upper and lower case letters via a "shift" key, and introduced the QWERTY keyboard.



L.C. Smith Typewriter

L.C. Smith & Bros. Typewriters was established in 1903 in Syracuse, NY. Twenty years later, they merged with Corona, the leading manufacturer of portables, to become Smith Corona.



This is the "junk" drawer in the oak desk in John Southworth's office. Does your junk drawer at home look like this?



Dryden Town Historical
Society

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DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

14 NORTH STREET

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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