

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

March, April, May,
June, July 2025
Volume 49 (2025)

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

HOURS

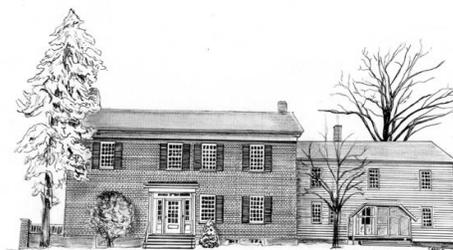
1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10am – 1pm
Every Tuesday, 10am – 12pm
and always by appointment

The Kid from Freeville: Growing Up On the Railroad

July 10, Thursday

Dryden Village Hall

Program at 7pm, doors open at 6:30



Join us for a presentation by **Danny Armitage** on growing up on the railroad in Freeville. Danny grew up in Freeville, NY, with a train station in his backyard. As a young boy, he would hang around the station, becoming friends with the train crews, and was given his first locomotive ride at the age of five. Over the years the crews looked after him as one of their own, allowing Danny to ride the locomotives hundreds of times. Please welcome Mr. Armitage as he describes his adventures on the railroad from his unique perspective.

Plenty of parking
Handicap accessible

Upcoming Dates

- July 10, “The Kid from Freeville: Growing up on the Railroad”, with Danny Armitage
- September 20, Homestead Heritage Day
- October 9, “The Last Flight of El Flako, A Tribute to a Gallant Crew on their First and Last B-24 Mission” With Robert Steele
- November 1, Annual Pie and Bread Sale
- December 6, Holiday Workshop

We can now accept credit card and PayPal payments for memberships, memorial gifts, and other donations. Go to our website, <https://drydennyhistory.org/online-payments>, and click on the link. You will be able to pay your membership renewals and make donations and memorial gifts. You can also scan the QR code to the right and it will take you to the payment system.



Membership/
Donation

“OP SALE” HELD JUNE 26, 27 AND 28

Our annual tent sale/flea market was a wonderful success this year! Lots of folks stopped by, and countless volunteer hours go into the success of our annual event. This year we made over **\$12,000!** Enough to pay for the new boiler we need for the heating system in the House. Many thanks to Shirley Price and Mary Hornbuckle for their efforts on gathering items, sorting and pricing. And thanks to the young men from The William George Agency for their strong backs and enthusiasm in helping move heavy items. Look for us on the lawn next June!

Restored portrait of original John Southworth

A portrait of the John Southworth who built the Southworth House had been hanging above the fireplace in the living room for generations. We received a grant from the NYS Council on for the Arts via Greater Hudson Heritage Network for a restoration of the portrait. We have now taken back the portrait and it hangs proudly above the fireplace once again.



Restoration of the Southworth Homestead Barn

At our annual meeting on May 15, John Kiefer had a wonderful presentation on the year long restoration of the historic barn at the Southworth Homestead.



We always need volunteers for the **Homestead Heritage Fair Day on September 20.** We are starting our planning now. It would be great to have some fresh ideas. We are lining up the crafters, vendors, performers and food. Please contact Debbie Fisher at 607-351-0699 or send us an email. We would love to have you join in and be part of the fun! Our next planning meeting is **July 30, 1PM.**

EXHIBITS AT THE DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have a new exhibit at the Exhibit Room featuring the **Dryden United Methodist Church**. If you haven't stopped by in a while, come and see the new exhibits we have put together. The exhibit office is open on 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10am - 1pm, and we are also open most Monday afternoons from 1pm - 3pm, and Tuesday mornings from 10am - 12pm.



ONGOING EXHIBITS

FALL CREEK WHITE WATER DERBY

The Etna Creek (Fall Creek) White Water Derby was held in the spring from 1970 to 1985. It was a five mile race which began at the bridge in Etna and ended at the bridge in Varna.

DOLLS OF THE SOUTHWORTH FAMILY

We have uncovered some sweet dolls that were in the Southworth House. Dolls used by the children, and collectibles from Madame Alexander.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

John Southworth was a very -prominent businessman and had some interesting items in his desk, remaining there for decades.

One of the more interesting items we have, and have never exhibited before, is a very large ball that used to be on a lightning rod on top of the Dryden United Methodist Church. It was made by a janitor in the Dryden School shop in the mid 1930s. It is made of wood and covered with copper. After a storm in 1969 that damaged the steeple, the ball was removed and given to Dewitt Perkins, and eventually donated to the Historical Society. We also have some wonderful programs that were done about the church, old cookbooks, and a other memorabilia.

Welcome to New DTHS Board Members

At our Annual Meeting on May 15 we voted in 3 new board members - Steve Bissen, Armida D'Angelo, and Ann Zwart. We are looking forward to a good year. The current Board: Debbie Fisher, *President* Maria Ortiz, *Vice-President* Amy Dickinson, *Secretary* John Kiefer, *Treasurer (Ex-Officio)*, Steve Bissen, Amida D'Angelo, Cindy Kjellander-Cantu, Sue Morrie, Kim Schenck, Robert Slocum and Ann Zwart.

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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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Board of Trustees

Debbie Fisher, President

Maria Ortiz, Vice President

Amy Dickinson, Secretary

John Kiefer, Treasurer, *Ex-Officio*

Steve Bissen

Armida D'Angelo

Cindy Kjellander-Cantu

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