

DRYDEN HISTORY HOUSE AT SOUTHWORTH HOMESTEAD

August, September 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

HOMESTEAD HERITAGE FAIR DAY

September 20, 2025

10am – 3pm

Southworth Homestead

14 North St., Dryden, NY

Once again, we are holding our annual Homestead Heritage Fair Day on September 20 at the Southworth Homestead.

Don't miss this **Free** day full of music, food, demonstrations, vendors, fun and ice cream!

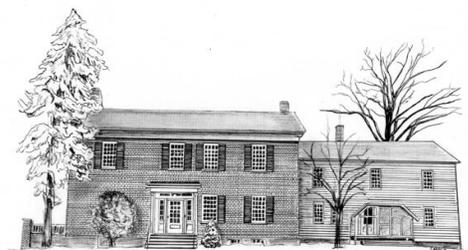
This year hear these great bands:

- Crown City Brass
- Max and the Kats (back for a repeat performance!)

Come and join the fun! Watch a blacksmith at his forge, chair caning, see the magnificent birds of prey from Cornell's Raptor Program, lace making, beautiful woodcrafts, lovely local pottery, balloon animals and magic, 4H animals, jewelry and other crafters, Tractors of Yesteryear, and listen to some great music. Great food from local food trucks, and ice cream from Meg-a-Moos. You can also take a guided tour of the historic Southworth House, Tompkins County's *only* historic home open to the public. All this and much more!

Of course, we can always use help on Friday and Saturday with setting up and tearing down.

See you at the Fair!



Upcoming Dates

- September 20, Homestead Heritage Fair 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
- October 31, Halloween Stories at the Southworth House
- 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. (The previous newsletter had the incorrect QR code.)



Membership/
Donate

The **Southworth Barn project** was awarded an **Historic Ithaca Preservation Award**. Every year Historic Ithaca, Inc. presents awards for sensitive restoration and preservation projects within Tompkins County. There will be a ceremony later in September. Good work Seth Brewster and John Kiefer!



The Last Flight of El Flako, A Tribute to a Gallant Crew on their First and Last B-24 Mission

October 9, 2025

7PM (doors open at 6:30)

Dryden Village Hall

16 South Street, Dryden, NY

Robert Steele will do a presentation on his book about El Flako. He wrote his book in memory of Dewey Dey Steele of Freeville/Malloryville. Bob will speak about his personal journey of history and revelation as he recounts the story of his uncle, Dewey Steele, 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.

Our last **Southworth House tour** will be on **September 20** at 10:30am and 12:00pm. Tours last about an hour. Come see the only historic home open to the public in Tompkins County and discover a house full of treasures from the only family that occupied this beautiful home.

EXHIBITS AT THE DRYDEN TOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ONGOING EXHIBITS

If you haven't stopped by in a while, come and see the informative 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.

NEW EXHIBITS FOR THE SOUTHWORTH BARN

We are currently working on utilizing our newly restored barn to exhibit some tools and implements we rarely have had space to exhibit before. We have some ice tools from when they harvested ice on Dryden Lake and a great model of the old Ice House, camping equipment that the Southworth family used in their travels, and agricultural and farm tools.

DRYDEN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

The Dryden United Methodist Church has stood at the four corners of Dryden for more than 150 years, and recently closed. We have a wonderful exhibit of some interesting items from the church.

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.

The Kid from Freeville: Growing Up On the Railroad

We had a wonderful turnout and a very interesting program by **Danny Armitage** about his years of growing up on the railroad in Freeville with a train station in his backyard and his marvelous adventures.



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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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