

History Corner

by Harry L.D. Weldon, Town Historian, Town of Dryden

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS--20 October '09 (2-4 pm): First meeting ("ever") of the History Committee, Town of Dryden. Present: Clayton Danns (Freeville Village), Ann Leonard (Town at-large), Cam Viall (Dryden village) and Harry Weldon (Chair).

Questions were made about the relativity of the Town's early history.

- How far back does the Committee want to deal with and what is to be done with that history?
Answer: 1780 to the present, as being the date that the Town was first delineated as a part of the Military Tract and to make our findings available to the general public.
- What is the tie to the Dryden Town Historical Society? Answer: There is no tie whatsoever, other than cooperation between the two entities. Both are independent of each other!
- Will adjunct areas be included, such as Virgil, etc.? Answer: Only in as so far as might be included in some mutual venture; case in point: The Town of Dryden was at one time a part of the Town of Ulysses and was set off in 1803 and as in the Town of Dryden setting a portion off to the Town of Caroline in 1882.
- What can be done about some of the deplorable conditions of some of the rural cemeteries?
Answer: Make a study and report same to the Town Board with any reasonable suggestions and/or recommendations.

Open discussions were then opened on the following areas of present interest to those present. Priorities deemed by a consensus are noted with a triple (***) asterisk.

1. Historic preservation of buildings and structures.
2. *** Roadside historic markers—At least two are missing!
3. *** Update cemetery listings and Town Historian's map of the same.
4. *** Assist the Town Historian in gathering things for an "on going history scrapbook."
5. Proposal of placing a highway marker ("Road of Veterans Valor") on Route 38.
6. *** Make known those land tracts and buildings on the National Register of Historic Places.
7. Determine how to protect historical buildings (e.g. Crosby cabin) and Jennie McGraw's birthplace on current NYS forestlands.

The enthusiasm and interest of the committee members was certainly refreshing and perhaps overwhelming at times.

NEXT MEETING: 24 November '09; 2:00-4:00 pm, meeting room/office used by the Town Historian in the Town Hall.