

Annual Events and Festivals

- June** – **Dryden Dairy Day & Parade**, Montgomery Park, Elm St, Dryden. 607-844-8049.
- **Rally Day**, CNY Spiritualist Association, 2 Cook St, Freeville. 607-844-4658. Festival, food, and readings.
- June–Aug** – **Summer Concerts in the Park**, Wed eves, Montgomery Park, Elm St, Dryden. 607-844-3303.
- **Music in the Hollow**, Thurs eves, Ellis Hollow Community Center, Ellis Hollow and Turkey Hill Rds. 607-844-3303.
- Aug** – **Eight Square Schoolhouse Festival**. 607-273-8284. Tours, homemade ice cream. See #7.
- Sept** – **Ellis Hollow Country Fair**, Ellis Hollow Community Center. 607-539-7316. Crafts, pony rides, apple pies, quilt raffle.
- Freeville Harvest Festival**, Freeville schoolgrounds. 607-844-8301.
- Dec** – **Christmas Open House**, Town of Dryden Historical Society. At various historical sites. 607-844-9209.

Museums

Freebrook Farm, 39 Fall Creek Rd, Freeville. 607-844-8754. Private collection of the Marquis family, who will share their buggies, sleighs, and wagons if you call ahead. Horse-pulled rides available.

Freeville History Room, Freeville Village Hall, 5 Factory St, Freeville. Small exhibition area and local photos. Call Joan Manning, Village of Freeville Historian, 607-844-9334.

The History House, 36 W Main St, Dryden. 607-844-9209. Town of Dryden Historical Society and its collection. Changing exhibits of local interest. Saturdays 10–2, or call for appointment.

Lodging

Amazing Grace, 136 Hunt Hill Rd, Ithaca NY 14850. 607-277-8888. www.amazinggracebnb.com. Poetry, piano, hiking, horses. Livestock Cowboy Jamboree, May; Poetry Workshop Weekend, June.

Candlelight Inn B&B, 49 Main St, Dryden NY 13053. 607-844-4321. www.candlelightinny.com. Near walking trail..

Embassy Inn Motel, 1083 Dryden Rd (Rt 13), Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-272-3721.

Foxglove B&B, 28 Main St, Freeville NY 13068. 607-844-9602. www.foxglovebnb.com. Gardens, picnic, creekside.

Stone Quarry House, 26 Quarry Rd, Ithaca NY 14850. 607-272-0556. www.stonequarryhouse.com. Apartments and stone cottage, equipped with kitchens.

Varna Inn, 933 Dryden Rd (Rt 13), Ithaca, NY 14850. 607-273-0595.

Yellow Barn B&B, 125A Yellow Barn Rd, Freeville NY 13068. 607-844-4943. www.yellowbarnbnb.com.

Specialty Shops

- Book Barn of the Finger Lakes**, 198 North Rd, near TC3. 607-844-9366. Old, new, first edition, rare books.
- Captain Matt's Treasure Cove**, 2186 Dryden Rd (Rt 13). 607-844-9500. Collectibles, baseball cards, coins, and more.
- Laser and Brewer Sportswear**, 1384 Dryden Rd. 607-347-4154. Women's regular and large-size clothing.
- The Orchid Place**, 1274 Dryden Rd (Rt 366). 607-227-2529. www.orchidweb.org. Greenhouses and showrooms.
- Phoenix Books**, 1608 Dryden Rd (Rt 13). 607-347-4767. Thousands of old, new, used, rare books.
- Treeforms Country Furniture and Gift Store**, 1302 Dryden Rd (Rt 366). 607-272-2913.

Farm Stands

- BB Farms**, 1418 Dryden Rd (Rt 13). 607-347-4957. May–Oct.
- Fall Creek Farm Market**, 397 Fall Creek Rd, Freeville. 607-838-8203. May–Oct.
- Ludgate Farm Market**, 1552 Hanshaw Rd, Ithaca. 607-257-1765. Year round.
- Sweeney Farm Produce**, 1831 Peruville Rd, Freeville. 607-838-3677. May–Dec.

Recreational Areas and Activities

(Recreational Areas feature hiking, skiing, birding, nature watching.)

- Barton Valley Farms**, 560 Irish Settlement Rd, Freeville. 607-844-9931. www.bartonvalleyfarm.com. Riding lessons, boarding.
- Dryden Lake Golf Club**, 430 Lake Rd, Dryden. 607-844-8330.
- Ellis Hollow Nature Preserve**, Ellis Hollow Creek Rd.
- Etna Nature Preserve**, Rt 366 near Etna corners.
- Genung Nature Preserve**, Rt 38 & Brooklyn Rd.
- Hammond Hill State Forest**, Irish Settlement Rd, Dryden.
- If Only Farm Riding Stables**, 460 Wood Rd, Freeville. 607-347-4615. www.susanlow@ifonlyfarm.com. Riding, training, lessons.
- Kelviden Farm**, 330 West Dryden Rd, Freeville. 607-844-9222. www.eqsites.com. Riding lessons, boarding.
- Monkey Run Preserve**, between Rts 366 and 13, near Varna.
- Montgomery Park**, Elm St, Dryden. Bandstand, courts, playing fields.
- Von Engeln Preserve**, W Malloryville Rd.
- Yellow Barn State Forest**, Yellow Barn Rd.

Cemeteries

- Ellis Hollow**, 1800 Ellis Hollow Rd, north of Peaceful Dr.
- Etna**, 581 Main St, Etna.
- Green Hills**, 19 Highland Dr, Dryden.
- Pioneer**, 41 E Main St, Dryden.
- Robertson**, Baker Hill Rd.
- Snyder Hill**, 600 Snyder Hill Rd.
- Willow Glen**, see #3.

Historical Markers

- Birthplace of John McGraw**, 1815, Cornell benefactor, Ringwood Rd, 4 miles S of Rt 13.
- Birthplace of John Miller**, 1843, first governor of ND, Ringwood Rd, 3 miles S of Rt 13.
- Birthplace of William (Daddy) George**, 1866, West Dryden Rd.
- Dryden Center House**, first town meetings, Rt 13, 2 ¼ miles W of Dryden.
- Dryden Village Green**, two markers, one for veterans.
- Dryden Village Historic District**, SE area of village.
- Etna, First Baptist Church** in town, see #6. Two additional markers on Lower Creek Rd, Underground Railroad sites.
- First Road (Bridle Rd)**, 1795, Rt 13.
- George Junior Republic** roots here, 1895, ¾ mile W of West Dryden.
- Indian Campsite**, W side of Dryden Lake.
- Malloryville**, two markers: Invention of Barrel-Making Machine; Settlement of Malloryville c. 1826.

For more information – The History House, 36 W Main St, Dryden. 607-844-9209. Susan Olmstead, Town of Dryden Historian, 607-844-5343. Joan Manning, Village of Freeville Historian, 607-844-9334.

Credits

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Touring the Towns of Tompkins County, New York



Destination Dryden



TOWN OF DRYDEN

Dryden, organized in 1803, was township #23 of the Military Tract. It is among the state's largest towns, with 94 square miles and a current population of 13,500. Settlers engaged in agriculture, and by 1835 the town had 53 sawmills that depleted the white pine forests. The Dryden Fair flourished between 1856 and 1917, featuring a distinctive 12-sided building. Important 19th-century town enterprises included a glass factory in Freeville, the Dryden Springs Sanitarium, and the George Junior Republic, founded to educate disadvantaged New York City children. Today Dryden has a few large dairy farms, some crop farms, and several horse ranches. Many residents are employed in area educational institutions.

1 Dryden Village – Incorporated in 1857, the village remains the town's largest community, with many handsome homes. The **Dwight-Gutchess Homestead**, 12 E Main St, is a striking Italianate-style residence built in 1865 by US congressman John W. Dwight. It was owned by his family until its 1938 purchase by the Gutchess family, whose third generation occupies it today. The house is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP). The **Dryden Village Green** is on the NE corner of the main intersection. The Romanesque Revival-style Methodist Episcopal Church on the corner was built of wood in 1874. The original fountain, erected in 1894, deteriorated over the years and was melted down in 1941. A second fountain was placed in its footprint in 1997 to commemorate the town's Bicentennial. Several memorials are also located on the Green. **H** At 14 North St is the **Southworth Homestead**, a Federal-style home built in 1836 from local brick and listed on the NRHP. On the NW corner of the intersection is **Time Square Park**, created in 2003. **Southworth Library** at 24 W Main St was designed by Ithaca architect William Henry Miller in Romanesque Revival style and completed in 1894. Jennie McGraw Fiske, who gave Cornell University its chimes, bequeathed the idea and the funds for this library. The building is on the NRHP.

2 Dryden Lake Park and Jim Schug Trail – The lake covers half of this 200-acre wildlife area managed by the state. In the 1700s this area was Indian campgrounds and summer hunting lands. **H** The park is a great place for viewing wildlife, flora, and especially land and water birds. The Jim Schug Trail, named for the late town supervisor, runs from Dryden Village to the lake and on to meet the Finger Lakes Trail.



3 Willow Glen Cemetery – The largest cemetery in the town was started c.1815 on the first road cut into the town, known as the Bridle Path because in many places it was passable only on foot. The cemetery has a

raised center section where a majestic 200-year-old silver maple tree stands, measuring 19'3" around the trunk.

4 George Junior Republic – Founded in 1895 by William R. (Daddy) George, the complex is now a private service agency. **H** On the hill is the school's **Christ Chapel**, completed in 1900 and a rare example of Shingle style. It is listed on the NRHP.

5 Village of Freeville – Incorporated in 1887, the village at that time was an important railroad exchange. At 2 Cook St is the **Temple of Truth**, the smallest church building in the town, erected in 1952 by the Central New York Spiritualist Association in a 10-acre park, first developed in 1895 as a campgrounds. The association still holds gatherings here. **Turtle Walk Labyrinth**, at 22 Main St, is free to the public May through October. Dedicated in 1999, it has seven circuits containing more than 60 varieties of herbs and flowers.



6 Etna – A small community on the banks of Fall Creek, Etna features the **First Baptist Church**, organized in 1804, built in 1830, and completely remodeled in 1880. **H Houtz Hall**, constructed by the Methodist Episcopal Society in 1878, later served as a community center and auxiliary school building. Today it houses the Post Office and a meeting hall with exhibits and historical photographs. 607-347-4763. Several notable historical houses are at #2 and #3 Lower Creek Rd, and at #2 Etna Rd.

7 Eight Square School – The county's oldest existing school building, it was in regular use from 1827 until 1941. Listed on the NRHP and owned by The History Center of Tompkins County, it is the location of the center's Living History Program.

8 Sapsucker Woods – The Cornell University Lab of Ornithology is a nonprofit membership institute. The center's 2003 building has informational displays, observation decks, exhibitions, and a gift shop. It is surrounded by 225 acres with four miles of trails. 607-254-2453. www.birds.cornell.edu.

9 Ellis Hollow – This small community was settled c.1800. **Headwaters**, at 1735 Ellis Hollow Rd, is a fine example of Federal style. At 1780 stands the handsome **John Ellis House**, in Gothic Revival style.

10 English House – One of several noteworthy houses on Snyder Hill Rd, this Second Empire home has been beautifully maintained and features highly decorated multicolored slate shingles, a cupola, and brick outhouse.