



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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North Greenbush Cemeteries

If you have driven by the Blooming Grove Cemetery recently, you may have noticed the nice new fence surrounding the property. This was the gift from the Sliter family in memory of their brother Chuck who as Superintendent took loving care of the cemetery for many years.

Blooming Grove is the larger of the two largest cemeteries in the town. Records indicate that the cemetery was incorporated in 1848. The original seven acres of land was deeded by Rinier Van Alstyne, a descendant of a prominent and wealthy family.

There are many bodies that were removed to the cemetery from private plots in the area. It was not uncommon to bury "grandpa" in the back yard since there were no official town cemeteries. Possibly if you hiked all the land at the RPI Tech you might uncover some long lost stones of early settlers.

As you might expect, the major families in the Defreestville area are well represented. There are 161 Defreests buried there. The Sharp family has several tombstones. George N. Sharp 1770-1852 was the second generation of this family in Greenbush. The lot containing members of the Heywood family is conveniently located just across Bloominggrove Drive from the house they once occupied. I was interested in seeing the Vandenburg lot with many early stones. I believe many of them were reburied from the homestead located across from Hudson Valley Community College.

The other major cemetery in the town is in Wynantskill. The Evergreen Cemetery was laid out in 1876 on land formerly owned by the Reformed Church. It originally contained about eight acres.

The first person buried there in 1876 was Henry Frazee. This seems fitting: he was an early resident of Wynantskill and Town Justice of the Peace from 1816 until he died fifty years later. Columbus Sharpe was another early burial. He probably died on his farm on Sharpe Road and is now resting with his kin in Evergreen. The Wynantskill Sharpes spelled their name with an "e" while the Defreestville families didn't. Go figure!

I noticed that a portion of the cemetery has stones with what looks like Hebrew letters. Does anyone know the story about this?

There are other cemeteries throughout the town and a future article will talk about them and some unusual inscriptions I've run across.