



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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## The Names of our Roads

The side street by my house is named Hosford. I often wondered where that name came from. This got me thinking about names of various streets and roads throughout our town, so I did some research which I will share.

First some history: Our town's oldest road is probably the one that runs from Rensselaer through Defreestville and up Route 43 to West Sand Lake. Records from the time of the Revolution note this road and call it the Albany Road or the Albany to Williamstown Road.

Another old road runs from Defreestville to Troy. In the 1790's it was called "the New City Road" (yes, Troy was a new city at one time). Until US Route 4 was built in 1931, it was called simply "the Troy Road. Now of course the name is Bloomingrove Drive.

Until highway numbers came into being in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, our major roads were known by their description: e.g. Troy-West Sand Lake Road; Albia-Poestenkill Road; Albia-Brunswick Road and my favorite "Shunpike Road". This was present day Mammoth Springs Road which enabled travelers to bypass the turnpike toll on West Sand Lake Road by going down to Best Road. The Albany-Sand Lake Plank Road signified that portions of the otherwise dirt road were "planked" to go over wetland spots.

Here are some of the "historical" names I've discovered: Hosford Avenue: It was named for Hannah Hosford, wife of John G. Sharpe (who lived where the Sharpe Apartments on Bloomingrove are now). Also nearby is Nicholas Avenue, named for John G. Sharpe's grandfather. There is a Defreest Drive in the Tech Park, commemorating that important name. However there is no Wynantskill Drive, so most people don't know that Wynant Vanderpoel lent his name to the hamlet and creek. Whiteview Drive signifies Peter White, overseer of the extensive properties of the Coon family, whose house sits at the corner of Brookside and Whiteview. Hidley Road helps us remember that 150 years ago there were several prominent Hidley families living there. Teliska Drive in Defreestville was once Sharpe Drive but it had to be changed because we have a Sharpe Road in Wynantskill. However that didn't stop the town from having a Sunset Boulevard and a Sunset Road. For that matter, we have Avenues A, B, and C West (in Defreestville) and East (near Snyders Lake). One had better know ones directions! Also, I always confuse Glenmore and Glenwood Roads. Why not just change Glenwood to Sliter and give some recognition to that family. While we're at it, let's change Snyders Lake Road back to "Vly" (Dutch for valley) Road.

We have a Winter Street and Spring Street, but no Summer or Fall. We have North Road and South Drive, and I believe we have an East and West Avenue in Wynantskill.

Finally, we have a Douglas Street in Wynantskill and a Douglas Avenue in Defreestville. Didn't that cause some confusion years back when the wrong road was repaved?

I'm sure there are other interesting street name origins; please pass them on to me at 283-6384.