



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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The Kinney Home and Family in Wynantskill

As you drive east out of Wynantskill on Main Avenue/Route 66 on the north side of the road you will see a new historical marker commemorating the Kinney family and the house they built over 200 years ago.

The house was constructed in the 1790's perhaps as early as 1791 when the family settled here. Over the years there have been several additions to what was a modest wood framed house and most of the original elements have been replaced. However the house stands as a testament to the Kinney family.

Henry Kinney came here from a place in Dutchess County the history books refer to as "the city". I haven't been able to determine exactly where that was. He probably purchased land rights from one of the Barringers who along with the Van Iverens owned what is now Wynantskill.

At the time of settlement there were trees in the orchard which were said to have been set out by Indians in the mid 1700's.

Although Henry was a farmer by trade, he operated a tavern in Wynantskill around 1800. It was located at the corner of Main Avenue and Church Street. The site has an interesting history. Currently it's the home of the town's EMS services. Before that it was the Fire House. Earlier it was the Odd Fellows Hall which was built on the site of the above mentioned tavern.

Henry died in 1846 and willed the farm to two of his sons: Alonzo N. and Lewis. Both

were given approximately 100 acres and became prosperous Wynantskill farmers. Lewis inherited the homestead and Alonzo had a house at the corner of Sharp Road.

Lewis was an active member of the Reformed Church in Wynantskill and served as deacon for many years. His will had several codicils which either gave money to the church or forgave previous loans.

When Lewis died in 1882 only two of his seven children were living, Henry who was a physician in Lima Peru (wouldn't that make an interesting story) and Sarah who married Josiah A. Wait. They were the last family owners of the house in the early 1900's.

If you drive east toward the Kinney house you will pass another Kinney house which served as a toll gate up until 1900. But that is another story.