



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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## NORTH GREENBUSH FARMS

One of the documents the Comprehensive Plan Committee looked at last year stated that there were only two farms in North Greenbush. Could that be right? This town was settled by farmers and for most of its history, farming was the exclusive industry.

I thought it might be interesting to list the farms we had 40-50 years ago and see what has been lost. The biggest were probably the dairy farms of David Phillips in Defreestville and the Ray Ottman along Rt 43 at the Sand Lake Town line. Ottman would have to stop traffic to get his cows across the road. You couldn't do that today with all the cars going by. Phillips had it a bit easier. There was a culvert under Rt 4 and he could herd the cows from one side of the road to the other.

There were several farms along Glenmore and Glenwood Roads extending into what today is the Tech. Park. John and Joe Kielb, William Wolosen, Peter Nizinkirck, the Sliters and Mannvilles were there for many years. The northern end of Bloomingrove Drive near the County Garage had the Kowalczyk and Ensign Defreest farms and both were milkmen.

State Senator Jack Williams and his brother George had a large farm where St. Michael's Church is now. The Williams' farm known for its prize racehorses also included land across the road which today is Hudson Valley Community College and the LaSalle School ball fields.

Further east on Williams Road is the Wilbur farm housed an extensive poultry business. This was the site of a spectacular 1964 fire which destroyed his barn (and the poultry).

Snyders Lake Road had several prominent farms 50 years ago. Arthur Sliter's farm, just past Lape Road, today is a residential development. Further east, the prestigious Pond Hill Development was where the Ed Susco and Red Herbert farms stood (across from Mary Jude Foley's present day farm). The Mohamed, Wilhelm and Groat (present day Lake Meadows) farms were also working farms in the 1960's.

There are many more farms to be covered in a future article. If you have names to add, please contact me at 283-6384.



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### NORTH GREENBUSH FARMS PT 2

I want to continue my survey of North Greenbush farms from a previous article.

Let's start with Rt. 43 going towards West Sand Lake. Where the Van Rensselaer Square property is located, used to be Ed Gallogly's farmland. Yates, Sherrell and John Hoffman, all had farms on Rt 43. Bob Albert lives in the farmhouse of Sherrell Hoffman. Yates' farmhouse was on the right-hand side of Rt 43 just before Albert's house. John Hoffman's farmhouse was on the left side of Rt. 43 across from Dell's Body Shop.

Joe Schriener's farm was the third house from Lape Road (on hillside). Further along Rt 43 were vegetable farms of Salisbury and John Brack. Glenn Ferguson's farm was just east of the Parker School. Next door was Arthur Traver's farm. He raised chickens, corn and hay.

At the corner of Rt. 43 and Geiser Road was Edward Barnes' farm. Charles Sager had a large farm on Mammoth Spring Road. Andrew Cytrynak, whose daughter Helen married Charles Sager, had a farm on Peck Road.

Lape Road has several modern developments on the north end, but the south end still has some farms including the Wilkes, Bolton and Crain farms.

No Hidley farms on Hidley Road any longer, but Harry Bockleslaugh currently has one in operation. Previously there were farms of John Kruczylnicki, Harrison Allen and John Alden (on Edwards Road).

There were a few more farms in Defreestville which have given way to commercial growth. Carrie Bradwell had a farmhouse and barns located where Aaron's, Agway Drive and the North Greenbush Police Station now exist. She also owned farmland across the street where Stewart's is. Adam Bonacker raised cattle and operated a meat market along Rt. 4 across from Thompson Court; his farmland and barns were where Greenbush Commons now exits.

One other farm to mention is the Joe Bayly farm off Valley View Blvd. Joe was Frank Herbert's nephew and ran the farm formerly owned by his uncle.

Are there many farms left in the town? Depends on what you call a working farm. The real question is whether there will be any left in the future. As they say "stay tuned".

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