



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

Jim Greenfield Town Historian 518-283-6384

## IRV MILLER-LOCAL FARMER

Last year I interviewed a 100 year old man. He recently died, so I thought it would be interesting to share some of Irv Miller's reminiscences.

He was born, lived and died in Brunswick but one of the farms he owned was partially in North Greenbush and he knew a lot about our town from his delivery of milk and eggs from his farms.

The St. Jude's Horse Show was a big event in Wynantskill and Irv delivered hay for them. Both of his daughters took part in the horse show.

Irv remembered Houser's Store in Wynantskill -a general store where you could get most anything. Gas was 15 cents/gallon! He recalled the construction of the fire house in the 1930's and how they raised money by raffling off turkeys. Irv's mother used to take the trolley from Albia out to the various lakes in Rensselaer County. He remembers swimming at Snyder's Lake.

His father told him about a tollgate which used to exist on Church Street. The problem was that it was always locked and the operator never seemed to be around.

"The Russian Spy" is one of my favorite stories. Irv was tending his fields on Church Street when he noticed two men in suits with binoculars on the farmhouse. Irv asked them what they were doing. They in turn asked who he was and what your business is. He said he

owned the farm and they should get off the land. They showed him their credentials: it seemed that they were investigating a German living on the farm who was a professor at RPI. During WWII he had been working on development of a nuclear bomb for Germany and these government men feared he was now spying for the Russians. Of course it turned out not to be true and North Greenbush was saved from Russian spies.

Irv's life spanned 17 presidencies and two world wars. What a life! His grandson now operates the Miller farm. I hope his family shares the many stories he told them.