



# NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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## The Weatherwax Home and Family in North Greenbush

As you drive east on Route 43 about a mile from the West Sand Lake town line, you will see a house on the left hand side (across from Deanna's Country Store). In the front lawn there is a historical marker denoting the Weatherwax homestead. Both the house and the family have interesting histories.

The first house on this site was built by Zachariah Feller(s) previous to 1794. This home was torn down in 1794 and replaced by a house which burned down in 1804 and the present house was erected in 1805. The Weatherwax family came to own the property the traditional way - they married into it. Elizabeth Fellers, granddaughter of Zachariah married Samuel Weatherwax and this family owned the property from about 1830 until recently when Dorothy Weatherwax Markussen died.

Although remodeled over the years, the house retains traces of earlier times, from the attic and basement beams to what may be original doors.

The Zachariah Feller(s) story is an interesting one but his story will await another day. I want to outline a little bit of Weatherwax family history.

The family's origin trace back to an area in southwestern Germany and north and eastern France called the Palatinate. Religious wars between Protestants and Catholics led to a migration of German Protestants to England in hope of religious freedom. Ultimately these

Palatinates became part of a large migration New York in the early 1700's.

The Weatherwaxs and other families settled in what was called East Camp (Germantown) on the Livingston estates. This is also where the Snyder family for whom the Lake is named lived before migrating north. Unfortunately the Weatherwaxs received little land as tenant farmers and moved to the Schaghticoke area by the 1760-70's. By 1788, tax records show two Weatherwax families, Andreas and his son Laurenz leasing land from the Van Rensselaers and living in Greenbush.

There is an interesting piece of information concerning Andreas. He was a slaveowner and in his will dated February 1824, he freed his slave Jacob.

Although the new historical marker commemorates the North Greenbush home, there were several other families in the area. There is a Weatherwax Road in Poestenkill and a Weatherwax family cemetery in East Greenbush. Also there are still Weatherwaxs who live just down the road from this historic house.