



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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CHURCH STREET IN WYNANTSKILL

Many of the streets in our town have interesting histories. Previously I wrote about Glenwood and Whiteview Roads. This article continues with Church Street.

The Reformed Church of Wynantskill stands at the "bottom" of Church Street. Established in 1794, the congregation originated when former members of the Reformed Church in Albany desired their own church near where they lived. Across the street is a brick building which houses the E.M.T. and town ambulance operations. Built in 1939 for the Wynantskill Fire Department, the space was formerly the Odd Fellows Hall which was razed to construct the firehouse. Originally in this space the Kinney Tavern served thirsty customers in the area beginning in the late 1700's.

Going up the street on the left hand side once stood the first school house in Wynantskill. When a larger building was built on Main Avenue in 1905, the old schoolhouse became a private residence. In the 1960's it was moved to Main Avenue and turned into the Jack and Jill Day Care. Further up the street is the "new" firehouse built in 1981. Adjacent to this property, stood "The True Dutch Reformed Church". In the 1820's, some members of the Reformed Church seceded from the congregation over doctrinal issues. It was known as the "Bellinger Church" named after a charismatic preacher of the mid-19th century. The building, abandoned in the early 20th century, survived until the 1960's when taken down and its pieces moved to Columbia County.

On the right hand side of the street there are several substantial homes which in the 1800's were owned by the Vanderzee and Ketchum family. Sanford B. Ketchum first worked in and later owned Ketchum's store and post office which stood at the corner of West Sand Lake Road and Main Avenue.

I'm told that there was toll gate on Church Street near the Brunswick boarder. The gate keeper was often absent and the gate was locked, much to the annoyance of travelers.

This is my 100th article. Thanks to the Advertiser for publishing them and thanks to you readers.