



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Hidley Homestead

There is a new historical marker on Hidley Road in North Greenbush at the property originally owned by Johannes Hidley who built a home here in the 1770's. Born in Germany, Hidley settled first in Germantown, NY in 1754 before moving to Greenbush in about 1769.

The house has been modernized, but some of the interior is original: the wide floorboards and narrow stair with simple banister and newel post. Also located on the property is a small family cemetery where early Hidleys, their spouses and children were buried.

In 1797, Hidley subdivided his 244 acre property so that his three sons would each have their own land. My research seems to indicate that besides the original Hidley homestead, there may be three other Hidley houses still in existence on Hidley Road.

One of the immigrant couple's descendants merits special mention. Joseph Henry Hidley (1830-1872) was the great-grandson of the immigrant Johannes. Joseph was a noted folk artist,

generally know as a painter of landscapes and townscapes.

The current owners of the Hidley homestead property have recently completed the process of placing all their land in a Conservation Easement with the Agricultural Stewardship Association, so that the land is permanently restricted from any development. I think Johannes Hidley and his descendants would be pleased.