



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Sharpes of North Greenbush

On February 16, 1734, Jacob Scherp of Livingston Manor, Columbia County had a very bad day. He drowned when his horse stumbled in the Livingston Creek. What was an unfortunate event for him brought good fortune to our area, because it began a chain of events that brought the Sharp family to Greenbush.

First a word about the spelling: the earliest records I've seen either are written "Scherp" which is the German spelling or "Sharp" which is the Anglicized translation. What stands out in the early handwriting is the "p" at the end of the name has a "tail" which could be read as an "e". Gradually that's how the spelling developed – some families wrote their name "Sharp" and other "Sharpe".

Getting back to Jacob: he was born in Laubenheim, Germany in 1680 and came to America via Holland in 1704. Soon after Jacob died, his son Juria (Anglicized into "George") moved his young family to what is now North Greenbush. Here he became a tenant farmer of the Van Rensselaers leasing 131 acres.

His four sons became prosperous farmers in Greenbush. Peter had 245 acres along what is now Sharpe Road leading into Brunswick. Nicholas occupied 332 acres in today's Defreestville, stretching from about the Bloomingrove Cemetery south and east to Route 43. George lived on 374 acres encompassing land from Wynantskill along Edwards Road nearly to Snyders Lake. The youngest son, Martinus inherited the homestead farm on Laura Lane, containing about 153 acres. Next time you're mowing your lawn, compare it to the acreage the Sharp brothers and their descendants leased and you'll have a sense of how large these farms were.

All the brothers served in the American Revolution. George and his son George claimed on a military pension application to have fought at the battle of Saratoga.

The early families were all members of the Dutch Reformed Church. However because of a schism in the membership in 1824, George Sharpe joined the dissidents and his tombstone reflects this, saying he was a member of the TRUE Dutch Reformed Church.

The family still has its roots in our area. I'm happy to report that the name Sidney Sharpe, first occurring in the mid 1800's has been carried on through the current generation of Sharpes in the Wynantskill area. 283-6384.