



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Pictures in the Attic or Basement?

In my role as historian, I received an unexpected Christmas gift. After a clean out of a local house, some old pictures, family Bibles and scrapbooks were dropped off at our town hall. We historians love “gifts” like this. The material concerned the Reynolds family who lived on Snyders Lake Road (and Reynolds Road near Bell Top School).

The Bibles contained inserts listing marriages and births of families; the photos circa 1926 included a young adults group from the Bloomingrove Reformed Church and the scrapbook contained several pictures of the old pavilion at Snyders Lake.

Why is this material important? It helps me learn about families in our town so I can provide information to people researching their ancestors and also give a sense of the community over its history. More importantly, this material could have just been thrown out and forever lost.

Earlier this year I had a similar experience. A woman with a Defreest and Sharpe heritage was leaving the area and contacted me. She had a trove of wills, property deeds and a mid-1700's Defreest family Bible. She allowed me to photocopy this voluminous collection and I am integrating the material into my files.

Last year, something similar occurred. Relatives were cleaning out the Wes Allen house on Hidley Road. I visited the home during the clean out and discovered a box of

family photos. Wes Allen's mother was a Hidley and there were several pictures of his Hidley ancestors. I asked if I could have pictures the family didn't want and would otherwise throw away and was given them. Several photos have appeared in my historical calendars.

Many of these photos didn't have names of the people. However they did have written on the back phrases like "grandma's father". From this information I was able to connect names to many of the photos.

I never put names of classmates on my grade school class photos even though my mother told me to. However 50 years later, I have forgotten many names and wished I'd heeded her advice.

The point of this article is that if you have any pictures or documents of local families you would otherwise throw out, please contact me (even if it's only to scan and return them). History is too important to just be thrown away. nghistory@aol.com