



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Rysdorff Homestead

There is a new Historical Marker on Mammoth Spring Road in North Greenbush. This is the 12th marker placed since 2009 and it commemorates the Rysdorff house, one of the oldest dwellings in town. This house was originally built as a tenant house for the East Manor of the Van Rensselaer Patroonship. It appears on the 1767 Bleeker map of Rensselaerwyck as belonging to Laurens Rysdorff.

Dendrochronology sampling of the beams dates the house as being built in the mid 1750's. (Dendrochronology is the dating of wooden beams by comparing core samples to the known growth patterns of trees over the centuries.)

Under the patroons, farms were leased to tenants. Rysdorff's rent was the yearly payment of 23 ½ bushels of good winter wheat, 4 fat fowl, and several days of labor per year. The lease was for 185.6 acres. It was described in the lease as "well watered" which probably led to the naming of Mammoth Spring Road.

Laurens was the son of Johannes Rysdorff, a Palatine emigrant who

arrived from Germany in the Hudson Valley in 1710. Born in 1718 and living until 1812, Laurens was a prominent Greenbush early settler. and was a Road Commissioner in Greenbush for a time.

The original house was a story and a half, 2 rooms with a loft above. It must have been crowded since he had a very large family living there. Sometime, perhaps about 1780, an addition was added, and probably the roof of the original two rooms was raised at the same time to make it a full two stories, with a knee wall room over the added room. The addition had a fireplace with a bake oven.

Laurens wife Margarita predeceased him by two years. She made her will in 1805 and referred to leaving her new curtains with all the trimmings to her daughter. Textiles were very valuable at this time and the fact that she had curtains at all in a modest farmhouse was quite remarkable.

The house remained in the Rysdorff family until about 1850. Thanks to Linda Miller for the information about this house.