

RE: History of Farmhouse at end of Snyder Road

The earliest records show that this house was built during the 1790's. The land on which it was situated had been part of the Van Rensselaer Manor. John Lape later owned much of the property adjacent to the 80 acres of the 1790's farmhouse. Harvey Washington Snyder, son of Washington Snyder who owned a hotel in West Sand Lake, married a Lape. Since that time, descendants of the Snyder Family have resided on Snyder Road. An 1800's photograph depicts a member of the Lape Family, a neighbor of the 1790's farmhouse owner, using a plow. Several barns are shown in the photograph. By 1942, most of them no longer existed.

During the 1800's, the property went in and out of bankruptcy. Among those who have owned the house are:

Harmon Vanderzee; Tunis and Julia Vanderzee: from unknown date to 2/2/1890.

James B. Jermain: James B. Jermain was from Watervliet. Quite wealthy, he built the Jermain Memorial Church in West Troy at a cost of approximately seventy five thousand dollars. John McLaren, a resident and millowner in West Sand Lake, was a trustee of that church. Jermain acquired the farmhouse when its owners declared bankruptcy. He continued to live in Watervliet, though he owned other properties elsewhere. He died 7/12/1897, and left a considerable estate, willing money to a college, a church, and various charities as well as his family. The West Sand Lake property was left to his wife and children.

Thomas Warren: from 3/30/1904 to 8/1/1918.

Clyde D. Rescott: from 10/30/1920 to 2/23/1942. His wife was Josephine Rescott. They had 3 sons. Clyde D. Rescott died 8/20/1941.

Kimball D. Sprague and Marjorie B. Sprague: from 2/23/1942 until 1975. They paid six thousand dollars for the house, which included some 80 acres of land. They had 4 children. The 1941 sale contract specified:

"...All fixtures, apparatus, machinery, fittings, storm windows, and storm doors, screens, and other equipment contained in said premises used in connection with the heating, lighting, and general operation of said premises and farm...are included in this sale, particularly including one Rototiller, and some 40,000 gladiolus bulbs or roots in the ground... The seller is to retain possession of the premises until delivery of the deed except that the purchaser is to have the right to dig and sell the gladiolus bulbs and/or to store them in the sheds or in the basement of the house at his option, and to till and prepare the land for spring planting..."

Kimball D. Sprague was a chemist at Sterling Winthrop Pharmaceuticals in Rensselaer, NY. He died in 1975, leaving the farmhouse and 80 acres to his children.

History of 1790's Farmhouse on Snyder Road cont...

John K. Sprague Sr. and Beatrice Sprague: from 9/23/1975 to c. early 1990's. They had 4 children. By now, the property had been divided into 2 forty acre parcels.

William and Kathryn Hardy purchased the house c.1990. They had 2 children.

On 12/8/1979, a serious electrical fire broke out in the kitchen of the old house. Expert firefighting by the West Sand Lake Fire Department coupled with the solid construction of the house, which included several interior brick walls, were among the factors that saved the old house. After the fire, John K. Sprague Sr. restored the house. During restoration, it was discovered that there had been several major additions to the house, and that materials used in the construction had been cut from types of saws used in separate eras. The 1800's photograph includes those additions. Sometime before 1942, a garage and a new front porch were added.

Information provided by Michele Sprague and Peter Sprague
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