

WIDOW SUSAN ROAD LEGEND OF SUSAN DEGRAFF

Please join the TOWN OF AMSTERDAM on Wednesday, August 28th at 11 a.m. at the Corner of Widow Susan & Cemetery Road, Amsterdam, NY for an unveiling of a Legend of Susan DeGraff Roadside Historical Marker.

The Town of Amsterdam received a Legends & Lore Marker Grant from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation along with the assistance of Montgomery County Historian Kelly Yacobucci Farquhar, Town Historian Lestra Vertucci, Montgomery County Deputy Commissioner David Soulia, and Town Highway Superintendent Bart A. Tessiero.

Widow Susan Road runs from Chapman Drive up a steep hill to NYS Route 67. It is the focus of many reputed hauntings in the Town of Amsterdam. History has it that a woman named Susan along with her husband Harmanus DeGraff and several children lived at their farm located at the bottom of the Widow Susan Road. Harmanus died in 1848, leaving Susan a widow. Susan raised her children and cared for the farm on her own until she moved to Michigan, where she died in 1892. Sources to where she is buried vary with some saying she is buried in Michigan and others stating she is buried next to her daughter in Green Hill Cemetery located in Amsterdam, NY.

Legend has it and this is verified by many witnesses, that the ghost of Susan is seen in an old fashioned white dress, crying and searching endlessly up and down Widow Susan Road. Although Susan's ghost has been seen all along the road, she is most often seen around St. Michael's Cemetery, Saint Casimir's Cemetery, and Saint Nicholas's Cemetery. Many believe she is looking for the grave of her husband, for its exact location is unknown. On top of her road wanderings, it is also said if you say "Widow Susan" three times her apparition appears or unusual things happen.

There is also a cemetery located on Widow Susan Road strangely called Widow Susan Cemetery - Is it possible that Susan DeGraff is searching for her lost love; endlessly pacing Widow Susan Road?

The Town of Amsterdam is excited to unveil this piece of history and hope residents will join in on this celebration.