

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society



**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

Indian Hill Roads Reflect Estate Era

The formation of the Camargo Realty Company in 1924 changed Indian Hill from a farming community to a residential haven for some of Cincinnati's most prominent families. Fabulous homes were built with such outbuildings as stables, greenhouses, caretaker's cottages, kennels as well as gardens, gazebos, pools, and tennis courts. In 1928 a *Map of Camargo* was painted depicting the 80 properties, their locations, and symbols. Thus began the Estate Era of the Village. Several local roads are named for the former estates, and they evoke that unique time of grand living, as well as those families who resided on the hill during that time.



Named for its original owner, William Albers, this estate was majestically situated on 100 acres at 9200 Shawnee Run Road. The manor was designed by Bloodgood Tuttle of Cleveland; it was an expansive Tudor style house with 23 rooms. Notable features were the slate roof, liberal use of stained-glass windows, a 28' high cathedral ceiling in the living room, and a private chapel. Mr. Albers was president of the Kroger Company before he resigned and founded Albers Super Markets, Inc. in 1933. Albers was an innovative store which had self-service grocery carts for customers, wide aisles, a choice of nationally recognized brands, and cash registers with half cent keys. The chain was a phenomenal success. William Albers served on numerous local Boards, organizations, and committees. Mrs. Albers died in 1951, and he passed away in 1954. The manor still stands. When the property was subdivided in 1995, the lane was named for the edifice, Alberly Manor.



A self-made man, Bernard "Barney" Kroger created a business empire – the Kroger Company, and expanded it throughout the Midwest, thereby making himself a multi-millionaire. Kroger introduced mass marketing to the grocery business. In 1928, he purchased 150 acres on Cunningham Road, where elegant houses were constructed for his five remaining children. All four daughters (Gertrude, Lucille, Helen and Gretchen and spouses and children) lived on the south side, and his son Chester resided on the north side of the street. This created a family compound of closely knit relatives. Chester lived in a stone house upon a hill and used his land for agricultural purposes. He stabled polo ponies and raised prize winning Hereford cattle on the property. In 1975 the Kroger Farm subdivision was created on the north side of the road, and the original farm was venerated by the road's name. Former barns were converted into private homes and other new residences were built on the rolling countryside where cattle once were pastured. Chester's home and several of his sisters' homes still exist and are treasured landmarks.



This estate was a former tobacco farm of 165 acres when it was acquired by Benjamin Whitney Lamson. The 18-room house, designed by Edward Reed of Cleveland, was constructed in 1928 at 7550 Buckingham Road. Mr. Lamson was a founder and partner with the investment firm Haydock Lamson Company. Active in civic affairs, Lamson led the Community Chest of Greater Cincinnati, was involved with the Red Cross, and promoted the May Festival. He was one of the founders of the Commonwealth Club. A successful businessman, he owned houses in Miami Beach, Florida, and Neahtawanta, Michigan. Though the name of the estate is often thought to refer to the white gates at the entrance to the lane, it derives from two of the Lamson's ancestral family names: White and Gates. Mr. Lamson died in 1960. The property was subdivided in 1964. Fourteen acres went with the family homestead, and the rest was divided into five-acre parcels. The original home has been expanded and remodeled and is currently a private residence.