

IMAGES

...THEN AND NOW

From the Indian Hill Historical Society

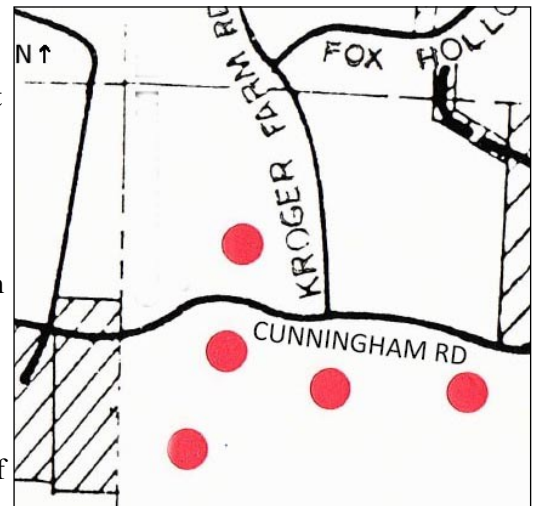


**Buckingham Lodge
1861**

A Family Compound of Indian Hill (Part I)

Family compounds wherein multiple family members are grouped on one contiguous property are part of America's social history. Several of them are famous. The Kennedy Compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts on six waterfront acres of Cape Cod started with Joseph Kennedy's purchase of the main house in 1928. Later two other neighboring homes were added. The Rockefeller estate in Westchester County, New York encompasses over 3400 acres. In 1893 John D. Rockefeller attained the land, and since then it has been home to four generations of the family. The main house, Kykuit, is open to visitors. Other Rockefellers still reside in private homes on nearby inherited land. The Bush compound of about 1600 acres, also known as Walker's Point, was established in the late 1800s by President George H. W. Bush's great-grandfather and his son, David and Herbert Walker. These men built mansions on the peninsula which juts out into the Atlantic Ocean at Kennebunkport, Maine. It continues to be a summer retreat for the Bush families, as there are eight houses on the point. The Kennedy Compound and Kykuit are both National Historic Landmarks.

Indian Hill once had a Kroger family compound, similar to those of the three families mentioned above. The group of residences was on Cunningham Road. Bernard "Barney" Kroger, founder of the Kroger Company and known as the "millionaire grocer" created it. He and his first wife had seven children – four girls and three boys: Raymond, Gertrude, Lucille, B.H. Jr., Helen, Chester, and Gretchen. Raymond died at the young age of 13 of diphtheria, and B.H. Jr. (known as Henry) passed away at age 42 after an automobile accident. Barney Kroger never lived in the Village, but in 1928 he purchased more than 100 acres of land on both sides of Cunningham Road with the intent of giving all his married children a house. He commissioned architect Guy Burroughs to design all five houses for the remaining Kroger offspring.



Covelly Farm - 1978

Chester's house "Covelly Farm" (where he lived with his wife Jane) was located on the north side of the road, across the street from those of his four sisters. A magnificent stone house in the Colonial Revival style, it is situated atop a hill. He raised Hereford cattle and housed his polo ponies in a barn located on current day Kroger Farm Road. The former caretaker's house and small barn nearby have been converted into

residences. In the 1970s the Kroger Farm subdivision was created with 36 five acre lots on the acreage. The original residence caught fire in 2007 and sustained massive damage – but has since been reconstructed and preserved by its owners.

To be Continued Next Month ...



Barney Kroger and family, 1931, in front of his daughter's home (Gertrude Kroger Pettengill)