

NAME

Brenzel-Raymond-Interview II Side side A.mp3

DATE

October 6, 2026

DURATION

23m 4s

2 SPEAKERS

Raymond Brenzel

Roger Leonard

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:01] Raymond Brenzel

Okay, so Clara Cookingham was a teacher, and we used to play duck on the rock. Well, we had a big rock and then put a small rock on top of that big rock. And then we stood seven feet away and throwed another rock to knock that off the rock. That was cool. Well Clara didn't like that. She said it was too dangerous. And so on and so forth. She forbid us to play it any more. So George Clumb, that was lived over there where Ralph Mangum lives now. George Clum was trustee, and the church sheds at that time were right along cemetery there. So we went over to ask George Clum if we couldn't play duck on the rock under the church sheds. And George Clum said, oh, I don't care where you play duck on the Rock, he said. So we played duck on the Rock under the church shed for for a while. Well, then, finally, Clara forbid us to play it any more. So that was given up. We didn't play duck on the rock. And by the way, across there were. George Clem lived. I don't remember anybody who lived there before that, but George Clem wife, was a sister to Grace, my wife. And of course, they had one daughter, Ruth Clem. She lives up in Livingston now. She married and her husband died. She lives up in Livingston. She has two sons. They both live up there. Livingston. And after that, well, that Ralph Mangum bought the house from Mrs. Clem at that time. And that's the only two families that I ever knew lived there at that time. And of course, after that it was made 2 or 3 apartments, I guess. I don't know what it was. Now it's, I think, three apartments in the house, two downstairs and one upstairs, as I remember it at the time. Then, of course, the the cottage just a little ways over to the south. That was the George Club's what they call the wagon house. That's where he kept his wagons and so forth in there. And that was Ralph Mangum turned that into a cottage to a house.

[00:02:18] Roger Leonard

Now, you must remember when the batteries came to town, and.

[00:02:22] Raymond Brenzel

Arthur. Batteries.

[00:02:23] Roger Leonard

Yes.

[00:02:24] Raymond Brenzel

Oh, yes.

[00:02:24] Roger Leonard

Or Ward batteries, I guess, was.

[00:02:26] Raymond Brenzel

The name of a man by the name of pitcher Fred Pitcher owned that originally, as far as I know. That's as far back as I can go. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pitcher, and they had a boy and two girls, and the boy lived for a long time out in Pleasant Valley. But I think I remember a couple of years ago he died, and the two girls, I don't know what became of the girls. I saw one of the girls, Bessie. Oh, this was quite a few years ago. I met her in Poughkeepsie. Grace and I was in Poughkeepsie shopping, and we this lady came up to me in the store. Want to know if I was Raymond Brownsville? I said yes. She said, you don't remember me? I said, no. Well, she said, I'm Bessie Pitcher. She used to live up in up right hook. And of course, that's the first I seen him in years and years. You know, I often wonder of all those that went to school up there at that time I've lost track of most of them.

[00:03:32] Roger Leonard

Is that right?

[00:03:33] Raymond Brenzel

Of course. I know a lot of them have passed away. Of course. The pictures. I don't know where they went. And there was a colored family. Lived in a a little house next to Viola Mandel's next to the store. It was a little house there. A colored family lived in there by the name of John Irvis, and he had a boy, Frankie Harvest, who went to school, and they had a girl living with him. She wasn't their daughter. Her name was Jones. Alma Jones. She went to school with alma up there at the same time I did. But I never heard of anything. What become of alma? Frankie got married and lived down, oh, somewheres near New York. He turned out to be a chauffeur for some very wealthy man in New York, and he used to. Occasionally he would be taking this man somewheres by car, of course, and he passed through up Red hook, and he would stop at Mr. and Mrs. Ham's. That's Clara Cook and Ham's father and mother, because they. They practically brought up Frank Jarvis. Is that right? He took him in and he worked, worked in the store for him and went to school and everything. And of course, Clara knows Frank Jarvis very well and speak about him. And only a while ago I talked to Clara one day about Frank Jarvis, if she ever heard anything more from him. He used to ride her once in a while, and she'd seen him different times when he's passed through. But she said no. She hadn't heard anything for a long time now.

[00:05:11] Roger Leonard

But now, who was the First Minister that you remember at the church?

[00:05:16] Raymond Brenzel

Well, the First Minister, of course, his name was Doctor Maher. He was the one who baptized me. I don't think I remember him because he baptized me. And I presume he left before I was big enough to. I think the the the lydekker's. I don't remember any of them. The only the only one I do remember very vividly is Doctor Clapp and his wife. And they were, they lived in the past very nice, mister and Missus Clapp and they had a boy, they had two boys and a girl. Elizabeth was the girl. I can't tell you the boy's name. One of them was called. They always called him buddy. And one thing I remembered particularly, we had our Sunday school picnic and we were going on a horse. Horses in a big, big wagon with straw on it to listen to the Sunday school picnic. And we were all on the wagon going and just ready to start. Or maybe we had started from the church group. And out comes Mrs. Clapp from the parsonage with a little flag in her hand, and she waving, buddy, buddy, buddy, buddy, she said, and the man driving the horse stopped. Give him all she wanted, buddy, to have that little flag to wave as they went on the picnic. I remember little things like that. Yeah. Very plain. But I don't know anything about the Clapp family. I don't know anything about the boys or girl, where they went, where they never heard anything about them. And of course, after that there was. Doctor Mulford. Doctor Sherwood. Doctor. Hiroi. Chester McCann. French, then Roger Leonard.

[00:07:11] Roger Leonard

I guess you remember Lawrence French.

[00:07:15] Raymond Brenzel

Oh, yes. Yes. Yes. Lawrence. French. Yeah, yeah. Mrs. French. She was cremated. And her ashes are under that birdbath there on the porch.

[00:07:25] Roger Leonard

That's what I understand.

[00:07:27] Raymond Brenzel

Yeah. Mr. French went from here. He went down to new Jersey and. Well, I did know the name of it. Grace and I used to pass through whenever we went down to visit these friends of ours in Jersey. He lived there. He he had a little church there, I understand. And then later on, he went as, as a minister to some school down in around new Jersey someplace. I have never heard anything from them, particularly. Yeah. But yeah, Mr. and Mrs. Hiroi, they were elderly, couple more or less very, very in my mind, very, very lovely couple and very well, shall I say old fashioned sort of home people like. And Doctor Sherwood was never a regular person. He just supplied us. He lived in Rhinebeck, and he supplied us for quite a long time.

[00:08:42] Raymond Brenzel

Very nice man, Mr.. Mrs. Sherwood. Yeah. Quite a cherished my my attachment to Saint John's Reformed Church has been quite a long one.

[00:08:54] Roger Leonard

Yes, it sure has. Yeah. And very nice.

[00:08:59] Raymond Brenzel

For which I am very grateful. I love my church. I think about it and. I hope to be buried from it. I want my funeral there. But not that it do me any good. Maybe, but. But I was born and brought up in the church, and I went there when I was a baby with my father and mother to church, and baptized there, and been there ever since. President, I was superintendent of Sunday School for quite a few years. Taught Sunday school for a while, a deacon in the church for quite a few years, elder for quite a few years. In fact, I think I was was the longest term of deacon and elder in the church of anybody that's ever been there. Gene Bud is next to me. I think if I remember right, of course, I don't remember how many years my father was connected there, and some of those older men actually, I suppose they were a long time too. But this I mean, I'm speaking of my generation.

[00:10:12] Roger Leonard

Yeah. But when you moved to Red hook, that was quite a trip for you. Before the days of cars to go all the way up to upper Red hook to church. That was quite a trip every week.

[00:10:25] Raymond Brenzel

Well. Oh, yes, we drove a horse and wagon.

[00:10:27] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:10:28] Raymond Brenzel

Of course. Yeah. After my father moved down here, we still we still, still kept our horse and wagon. And we drove up to church and Sunday school every morning. Every Sunday morning. Wintertime, we had the horse and sleigh in the wintertime. Summertime wagon. And kept up our attendance pretty well.

[00:10:52] Roger Leonard

Roland mentioned to me that every time you. He didn't like it when you got to Cookingham Creek because it was so cold. Do you remember that being the cold spot of the trip going over cooking Hams Creek.

[00:11:05] Raymond Brenzel

I don't.

[00:11:06] Roger Leonard

Know. But anyway, how long did it take to go that from Red Hook to Upper Red hook in those days?

[00:11:16] Raymond Brenzel

Oh. I would probably say half hour. I don't know.

[00:11:21] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:11:23] Raymond Brenzel

I it wasn't too long.

[00:11:27] Roger Leonard

Took some effort though. You had to bundle up pretty warm in the wintertime.

[00:11:31] Raymond Brenzel

Wintertime we bundled up. We had two slaves. We had a cutter as they called it. That was just for two people. Then we had a two seater sleigh, Bob sleighs, they called them two seater. And of course, when the family got well, of course, the family was big and we moved down here. There was six of us children. And I suppose we got all six. And my father and mother in the sleigh. I don't remember that, but I suppose we did, because we only had one horse. So we never we never, you know, to go with. But he asked me. Used to drive up there or get on the sleigh. And we had what they used to call buffalo robes years ago. Big blankets, long hair, buffalo blankets. Put one right in the sleigh, set into it, and then pull it up over us and then pull it another one over us. All bundled up just so we could see. Yeah. But we went. Yeah. There were tribals, garages now down in South Road that, of course, in my early days was known as Chandler Park.

[00:12:45] Raymond Brenzel

And there wasn't any buildings there at all. The only thing there was on that whole tract of land was one, one house that the Chandlers lived in a very nice not too not no mansion, but it was a nice house. And Bob Chandler lived there and he was Dutchess County Sheriff for quite a few years, and he was a member of our Grange. He belonged to Grange and he enduring his political years. He was quite a man, Dutchess County, and he used to give old big barbecues and clambakes and everything on that property down there. And when he had his clambake every summer or fall, he invited the Grange to come down to the clambake free of charge. Grange members all went down there for clambake free. Well, of course, after he died, then from time to time the places was land was sold off, and it's been built up now so that the whole thing at that time, that house was the only house from. Well, you know where the office, the soap factory. Not the soap factory. Pie factory offices they built there. Now for that next farm. Next house was the farm owned by a man by the name of John Kuhn. And there wasn't any houses from there, with the exception of the Chandler House, which is in the middle till way down below, just below Bert Smith's garage that was all known as Chandler Park. They had a racetrack in there.

[00:14:29] Roger Leonard

Oh, they did.

[00:14:29] Raymond Brenzel

But they used to have horse races there. I never remember automobiles. Now, it's possible that they might have had some little skirmishes there with automobiles. I don't remember now, but yeah, there used to be a the old hooker railroad. They always called Hooker Bush. It went from rhinecliff out spring to Spring Lake, Hochatown, Leesville, Jackson Corners, Mount Ross. The railroad track crossed route nine right there below John Coons house. And when we went down to school there, the high school was where soap factory is, and on a cold morning we used to come on school and some of them used to say, well, pretty cold this morning I guess was way down below John Coons Crossing.

[00:15:16] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:15:18] Raymond Brenzel

Yeah, I remember him. Oh, Mr. Coon lived there. He had two daughters. My teachers at the high school Mr. Pals Willis pals was was principal for a long time there. And then Mr. Garwood, remember, the name of Garwood was principal. Those were the only two principles that I remember there. And this Florence Frost, who taught school there when I went the first, first year high school she is still living. She was Benson Frost, senior sister in Rhinebeck, and she taught school in Red hook here for a couple of years. And she is now living. She married Fredy Barth from Poughkeepsie and he died. And she's now living out at the Baptist home on 308. And I've been out a couple of times to see her since she's been there. And, you know, the first time I went there to see her, of course, she didn't know me, didn't recognize me, naturally. Lester.

[00:16:26] Roger Leonard

Lester Donnelly.

[00:16:26] Raymond Brenzel

Karen's father, Lester and Florence. Florence was a school teacher. I taught, but not when I went there. But of course, Lester worked with me. Painting?

[00:16:36] Roger Leonard

Yes.

[00:16:37] Raymond Brenzel

For 22 years, he and I worked together. And of course, he lived out there on Spring Lake Road and. Anna Moore was my Sunday school teacher for for quite a long time. I have a little Bible in there in my room. The animal gave me in 19 all I can look and tell you. 1907 I think It's got her name in it. My name in it. Written by her in late 1907. And she always spent my spelt the name with a TOBRENTZEL. That's why she has it in my book. Pretzel. Oh, yes, I remember Anna Moore. She lived in the where. Where McFarlane's live now? At the Potter house.

[00:17:24] Roger Leonard

Oh, I.

[00:17:25] Raymond Brenzel

See. She and her brother Bill Moore, and. And. Yeah. And they had two children. And Bill Moore had two children, Janet and Stewart. Janet. Janet Morrison, she her father and mother's name was Morrison. Their. Their mother was a sister to the Moores, and Janet married Harry Petrie. Harry Petrie was a native of Red hook. His father had a shoe store here in Red hook for years.

[00:18:07] Roger Leonard

And who was.

[00:18:09] Raymond Brenzel

That? Mary Harden's father, grandfather and grandmother was on her mother's side. Was Henry. Mr. and Mrs. Henry S Elting on picture Lane. That house just below Bob Griggs, the farmhouse, the big farmhouse there. That's where they lived. And then No. I'm wrong. Mr. and Mrs. Elting lived where? Bob. Greg. That was the eldest. And the one where I referenced to Bob. Greg's below. Bob. Greg's was Mr. and Mrs. Peter Potts. Oh, that's Mary Hart and his grandfather and grandmother on the mother's side.

[00:18:57] Raymond Brenzel

Peter Potts and Mary Bud. Her name was Mina. She married Jean, but he wasn't from around here. He was down southern part of the county somewhere. Yeah. Mr. and Mrs. Budd, they live with the Baxters lived there. That was their home?

[00:19:17] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:19:17] Raymond Brenzel

Jean's father and mother and. Oh, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Potts lived down the lane. I I can faintly remember Mr. Potts seeing him around. But Mr. and Mrs. Elting, that's Adelaide Arnolds, remember? Oh, speak of Adelaide Arnold, who died. And that was her father. Mother Elting. Arnold was her grandson. He's the one I saw that just left some money to the church. I understand.

[00:19:48] Roger Leonard

Yes. And the elmendorf's?

[00:19:54] Raymond Brenzel

Yeah. The elmendorf's. Oh. Where does that come in? There was some relation to Mary, but I think to. Hear, I think Mary was grandmother. Mrs.. Mrs. Potts, Mrs.. Peter Potts, mother. Grandmother. Mrs.. Potts mother. Was. Elmendorf.

[00:20:28] Raymond Brenzel

Now, I'm not sure where they lived, whether that. What they lived there and that place I don't that I don't remember. That's back pretty far.

[00:20:38] Roger Leonard

Arthur Bathrick bought the picture place you say Ward Bathrick. Mr. Ward Bathrick.

[00:20:44] Raymond Brenzel

Bought the place. Ward was Arthur Bathrick father. Arthur Bathrick was Aven and Irwin Braddock's father.

[00:20:53] Raymond Brenzel

And Irwin and Aven's mother was sister to my mother.

[00:20:59] Roger Leonard

Oh, I knew there was a connection there.

[00:21:01] Raymond Brenzel

Cousins.

[00:21:03] Roger Leonard

And their name. Their last name was Kilmer. Kilmer.

[00:21:07] Raymond Brenzel

My mother's name was Kilmer. They lived on a farm up in the town of Gallatin. Great. Strong. Methodist. Very, very strong. Methodist. They never would allow a pack of cards in their house.

[00:21:22] Roger Leonard

Oh, yeah.

[00:21:23] Raymond Brenzel

And the only thing we ever did up there was there was a game that used to call Parcheesi. I think it was. Oh, yeah, it was your board. And you had little sticks. And you you shot dominoes, like around something around the board. That's the only thing I can remember ever doing up there for pastime. My grandfather and my grandmother would never have any card now. Yeah. My mother was a musician. She played the organ in the Methodist church for quite a long time up in Jackson Corner Methodist Church. Oh, I see. Which that isn't there anymore. That's the house now turned in. And My father, a musician. My father played three different instruments in the band. He was in the Red hook band here for a long number of a number of years. He played my father was a musician and my mother was a musician or piano organ player. My father offered to buy us any kind of an instrument we wanted if we take lessons or six children. None of us ever took a lesson on a piano or an instrument of any kind.

[00:22:38] Roger Leonard

What do you know?

[00:22:39] Raymond Brenzel

It seems strange to you that somebody didn't take it up.

[00:22:42] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:22:43] Raymond Brenzel

My father was very fond of of his band work. He played the cornet, bass trombone and a slide trombone. Yeah. Yeah.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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