

NAME

Gallagher-Ethel-Interview-26-Feb-1976 side A.mp3

DATE

October 6, 2026

DURATION

46m 33s

2 SPEAKERS

Roger Leonard

Ethel Gallagher

START OF TRANSCRIPT**[00:00:00] Roger Leonard**

I'm Roger Leonard and this is February 26th, 1976, and I'm talking to Ethel Gallagher at her home, which is on Turkey Hill or nearby Turkey Hill. And you want to say something about Turkey Hill first?

[00:00:16] Ethel Gallagher

Well, the original Turkey Hill is on the farm above me, the farm, and that is one of the high points in Dutchess County. And as a child, I was told that the reason that it was called Turkey Hill, because it was the wild turkeys roamed this part of the country, and it was a good place to shoot the turkeys. Wow.

[00:00:44] Roger Leonard

And that's what's now known as the Doscher Farm. Now, this particular your home where we are now has always been in your family. Is that right?

[00:00:56] Ethel Gallagher

Yes it has.

[00:00:58] Roger Leonard

And so you want to say something as far back as you know about the house itself and the family having lived here.

[00:01:05] Ethel Gallagher

Well, my I, when I was born, my grandfather lived here and my aunt was my father and mother and.

[00:01:17] Roger Leonard

And what were their names?

[00:01:19] Ethel Gallagher

Fulton. Elisha Fulton was my grandfather. And Miss Jennie Fulton was my aunt. And I had another aunt, Miss Fulton, which was who was a school teacher. And of course, she spent her weekends here. This was her home.

[00:01:36] Roger Leonard

Oh, I see. Where did she teach?

[00:01:38] Ethel Gallagher

All around here. The little schoolhouse below. Here. Jackson corner. Elizaville, Rock city and all. And Mount Ross. I remember very well.

[00:01:51] Roger Leonard

At different times.

[00:01:52] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:01:52] Roger Leonard

She taught for a little while in one place and then moved on to another.

[00:01:55] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:01:58] Roger Leonard

And So how did this farm first become your family's farm?

[00:02:06] Ethel Gallagher

It was It has always been in the Fulton family. John Fulton was the first owner, and it has come down. I am the I am the sixth generation to live here. And my children were the seventh generation to be to live here. And my grandchildren were the eighth. And I have a little granddaughter, great granddaughter, which is a ninth generation to come here.

[00:02:37] Roger Leonard

On the sign outside, it says October 12th, 1785. Is that right?

[00:02:46] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. But that was when the deed was recorded.

[00:02:50] Roger Leonard

Oh, but it was in the family before then.

[00:02:52] Ethel Gallagher

It was. It came as a grant from Governor Clinton and before the days when deeds were recorded.

[00:03:06] Roger Leonard

Now, your husband's first name was Clinton. Was there any relationship there between Governor Clinton?

[00:03:11] Ethel Gallagher

No, I think not, no.

[00:03:14] Roger Leonard

Sometimes family names become first names. So then John Fulton was the first.

[00:03:20] Ethel Gallagher

John Fulton was the first owner, and it has been in the Fulton family ever since. My father's name was John.

[00:03:28] Roger Leonard

Any relationship to Robert Fulton?

[00:03:30] Ethel Gallagher

We have just been going through that, but not direct. We can't claim any. There may be a distant cousin. Other than that.

[00:03:42] Roger Leonard

You haven't been able to pin it down.

[00:03:43] Ethel Gallagher

No, no.

[00:03:49] Roger Leonard

Now, you said to me one time that you went to the little schoolhouse down here on the corner. The school which is on the corner of, what would you call it? Turkey Hill Road?

[00:04:00] Ethel Gallagher

No.

[00:04:01] Roger Leonard

What's it called?

[00:04:02] Ethel Gallagher

It's called Salisbury Road now. But the road going by this house on the old deeds is the original Salisbury Turnpike, which started in Connecticut and went to the Hudson River. And on all the old deeds. This is the Salisbury Turnpike. The road running by the house here.

[00:04:26] Roger Leonard

So then the schoolhouse was the one right on the corner of the road.

[00:04:30] Ethel Gallagher

It was called the Nelson Schoolhouse. I think originally someone had told me that the land that was on was owned by a Nelson at some time. But Mr. Phillips, the gentleman who lived the first farm at the north of the schoolhouse on the little road, gave some of the land that the school.

[00:04:57] Roger Leonard

What was his first name?

[00:04:58] Ethel Gallagher

Edmund Phelps.

[00:05:01] Roger Leonard

And what was that road called? What's the name of that road?

[00:05:03] Ethel Gallagher

Well, I. Another days there weren't named in earlier days, but now, since there they are named. It's called the Salisbury Road. But I can't see any reason why it's called Salisbury Road.

[00:05:19] Roger Leonard

Except that it comes into Salisbury Turnpike. What kind of things do you remember about what school was like when you went down there?

[00:05:27] Ethel Gallagher

Well, we walked a mile, my brother and I, each.

[00:05:32] Roger Leonard

Day a.

[00:05:33] Ethel Gallagher

Mile it is a mile. But in the winter time we would get on the sleigh up by the barn here when it was good coasting, and go all the way down to the schoolhouse with our sleigh, and the neighbors all were looking out for this, for the schoolchildren that were going in the morning and they were kind enough to pull their horses and sleighs off the road and let us go by.

[00:05:58] Roger Leonard

Oh, there was even dangerous traffic in those days.

[00:06:00] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:06:02] Roger Leonard

Yes. Couldn't do that today, could you?

[00:06:05] Ethel Gallagher

I guess.

[00:06:06] Roger Leonard

Not. Well, that must have been fun going down. And then you had a long walk back up again.

[00:06:09] Ethel Gallagher

We drew the sleigh back up with us.

[00:06:12] Roger Leonard

Yeah. How long did it take? That sleigh ride that couldn't have taken too long.

[00:06:18] Ethel Gallagher

Well, sometimes, if it was good slang, we could go down in ten minutes.

[00:06:21] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:06:22] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. Even less.

[00:06:24] Roger Leonard

That must have been quite a speed.

[00:06:25] Ethel Gallagher

We never stopped at the schoolhouse. We always went down on the flat below.

[00:06:30] Roger Leonard

Oh, yeah. Out in the field.

[00:06:32] Ethel Gallagher

Well, not in the road. No. We did this in the road.

[00:06:36] Roger Leonard

Yeah, but I mean, where you ended up.

[00:06:37] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. Well, we would stop down by where Mr.. What's his name? Archer lives.

[00:06:45] Roger Leonard

Oh yeah.

[00:06:45] Ethel Gallagher

On that flat.

[00:06:49] Roger Leonard

Who were your teachers? What do you remember about your teacher?

[00:06:51] Ethel Gallagher

Well, we we only had one teacher while my brother and I went to school down here. Mr. Willis Burnett. And he lived. He married in a young woman from this district. She was also a films, but they were cousins, her father and Edmund Phelps.

[00:07:11] Roger Leonard

Oh, I.

[00:07:11] Ethel Gallagher

See. And they lived at the end of the lake. The beautiful place at the end of Spring Lake.

[00:07:21] Roger Leonard

At the north end of Spring Lake.

[00:07:22] Ethel Gallagher

And he lived with the family, which was quite the thing to do at that time. After he was married at the Phelps home. And he taught as long as I remember going to school down here, we never had another teacher until we went to Rita.

[00:07:43] Roger Leonard

And how many grades was that?

[00:07:45] Ethel Gallagher

From one to, well, eight. We had to go to Red hook to to try the Regents examination.

[00:07:52] Roger Leonard

And how many children were in the school?

[00:07:54] Ethel Gallagher

Well, sometimes they would vary as the people moved in and moved out. The help that came in with and lived in the tenant houses. And sometimes we'd have 20 or so.

[00:08:11] Roger Leonard

Did they help teach each other that? You hear people say in one room schoolhouse, they used to teach each other.

[00:08:18] Ethel Gallagher

I don't.

[00:08:18] Roger Leonard

Think so. You don't remember that? Maybe that's one of the myths that's built up.

[00:08:22] Ethel Gallagher

No, I don't remember that at all. But he was a very good teacher. He was very strict. I remember we were all rather afraid of him.

[00:08:33] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:08:34] Ethel Gallagher

But he he was able to, to do good work. But he didn't teach here too much longer After Ralph and I left the school, he retired.

[00:08:51] Roger Leonard

Many stories about school days that are kind of interesting.

[00:08:56] Ethel Gallagher

Well, I we used to take our slaves to school and and ride down the hill. Well, we did skate quite often in the field below the schoolhouse that would overflow where the Archer barn is.

[00:09:15] Ethel Gallagher

And we would go down there and skate, but there was a very small playground just in front of us. And I remember my father and Aunt Jenny, they went to school there, and there was a large rock right in front of the schoolhouse, and it was a regular grooves in the rock where the children had had climbed around that rock. It was originally called the Nelson Schoolhouse.

[00:09:51] Roger Leonard

And I suppose somebody lives in it now.

[00:09:53] Ethel Gallagher

Well, it has been made into a dwelling. There's no one living there now but Mrs.. It's owned by a lady that lives with her sister. I believe she's living.

[00:10:08] Roger Leonard

And in your family it was you and your brother Ralph?

[00:10:12] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, we were two.

[00:10:14] Roger Leonard

What kind of farming did your father do?

[00:10:22] Ethel Gallagher

Well, everything really. We kep we kept sheep because the farm was hilly. And we had cows at one time. We were sold cream to the creamery, and the man would come from a bread hook and pick up our cream. We had a great big cooler down cellar, but we used our own homemade ice. After I.

[00:10:58] Roger Leonard

Where did you make the ice?

[00:10:59] Ethel Gallagher

On our own farm pond.

[00:11:01] Roger Leonard

Oh, there's a pond out back here.

[00:11:03] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, on a little pond.

[00:11:04] Roger Leonard

Oh, I see. How long would that keep?

[00:11:09] Ethel Gallagher

Oh, it would keep up until July.

[00:11:12] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:11:14] Ethel Gallagher

Anyway.

[00:11:15] Roger Leonard

How did you, how did you keep the ice?

[00:11:17] Ethel Gallagher

We had, we had an ice house right out here where the foundation is. Across from where your car is. And they of course, it was packed in sawdust and and bog hay or something, and it would last until July. We also had what we called a little cooler, a little room built in it, and we were in the spring while we take our apples and potatoes and put them there to eat.

[00:11:53] Roger Leonard

So they kept a long time that way.

[00:11:55] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, they.

[00:11:55] Roger Leonard

Did.

[00:11:56] Ethel Gallagher

And very good.

[00:11:58] Roger Leonard

And then your husband lived on a different farm then?

[00:12:03] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. He lived down here where Harriet and Doug, who are.

[00:12:11] Roger Leonard

On that side of the road?

[00:12:13] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, in the in the farmhouse. Doug's father bought that farm.

[00:12:19] Roger Leonard

So the the house with the eyebrow windows.

[00:12:22] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, yes. That was owned by Mr. Robert Teeter. For a long time. And then he became crippled and not able to farm. So he bought the place where Berniece now lives. And he sold it to Clinton's father. And so that's.

[00:12:44] Roger Leonard

Where Berniece lives. Is across the road.

[00:12:47] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:12:53] Roger Leonard

Now, when you went to high school, that was something different again.

[00:12:58] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. We had to drive our horse to the town station. Which is down by the asbestos factory.

[00:13:13] Roger Leonard

At the south, near the south end of Spring Lake.

[00:13:16] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. Well, the road goes right where the station did. The where? Mr.. Jennings, is it? A trooper lives down here and there. That was the road crossing of the railroad track, and the station was on the north side, right on the other side of the road.

[00:13:39] Roger Leonard

Right near the factory. Near. Right near.

[00:13:42] Ethel Gallagher

No, it was near the the road. This road.

[00:13:45] Roger Leonard

I see.

[00:13:46] Ethel Gallagher

You know where the gun club. Yeah. Well, that was the railroad track.

[00:13:50] Roger Leonard

I see.

[00:13:51] Ethel Gallagher

And the railroad came from Silver Nails. It was a branch of the New Haven Hartford, and it made. It went down in the morning at 7:00, and we would have to get up and get down there. And we drove and put our horse in the barn. Where the asbestos factory was at first before it burned.

[00:14:21] Roger Leonard

Oh, I see.

[00:14:22] Ethel Gallagher

See, this factory was built after the main one burned, and we put our horse there, and then we'd come back at 4:00 when the train came up at night. Our horse and come on home many nights in the winter we'd be coming home in the dark.

[00:14:43] Roger Leonard

Yeah. When you got on the train down there, the next stop was Red hook.

[00:14:48] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, yes.

[00:14:50] Roger Leonard

So it was just one stop.

[00:14:51] Ethel Gallagher

One stop? Yes. And it went through the Irving family farm and went down. And that went into Rhinecliff.

[00:15:01] Roger Leonard

Oh I see.

[00:15:02] Ethel Gallagher

And there when we went to Poughkeepsie we got off at the station and had to get on the New York Central. What rhymes with.

[00:15:11] Roger Leonard

So it was like a spur.

[00:15:13] Ethel Gallagher

It was it was a spur. And it came from Sylvan Hills, which was quite a railroad center, as I remember it as a young child.

[00:15:23] Roger Leonard

Where was the station? In Red hook?

[00:15:25] Ethel Gallagher

Right by the this factory where the co-op station is.

[00:15:32] Roger Leonard

So then you still had a little walk to.

[00:15:33] Ethel Gallagher

Oh we went, we used to cross the cemetery. The Lutheran cemetery, because the high school was where the soap factory is after. The present location is where we high school on. You saw that burned down in our lifetime.

[00:15:53] Roger Leonard

A high school that burned down, too.

[00:15:55] Ethel Gallagher

Well, that burned, and then the new high school was built.

[00:15:59] Roger Leonard

Yeah. When did the high school burn?

[00:16:03] Ethel Gallagher

I don't remember the year, but Harriet was in school. Because she had to go, they had the school, you know, at different places. She went to the old Huffman in. And they also used the Lutheran chapel. And the different grades were all around the village.

[00:16:24] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Was there anything else up here? Like the school? Any other public buildings? No.

[00:16:35] Ethel Gallagher

No. Everything. The nearest little place was upper Red hook.

[00:16:40] Roger Leonard

That was the village. That was the village.

[00:16:43] Ethel Gallagher

The nearest village? But in later years after. There was a young man that opened a store down here at Coker Town, where the railroad. And we used to get our groceries there. And then, of course, we. When you were going either direction, Jackson Corner was at east of us, and Upper Hook was. Was the next larger place where we'd stop there. We didn't go to Red hook very often. We'd go to. Red hook was quite a an occasion because it took us an hour to drive down.

[00:17:25] Roger Leonard

Took an hour to get there.

[00:17:27] Ethel Gallagher

Took us an hour.

[00:17:28] Roger Leonard

Well, isn't that amazing?

[00:17:29] Ethel Gallagher

You could drive it in in 40 minutes. You had a better horse.

[00:17:35] Roger Leonard

We forget how long it took to get places. How long did it take the train to get down there?

[00:17:42] Ethel Gallagher

Well You mean to Red hook?

[00:17:46] Roger Leonard

Oh.

[00:17:47] Ethel Gallagher

Well, I don't think it was over 15, 20 minutes.

[00:17:50] Roger Leonard

Of course, it took you a while just to get to Coker Town.

[00:17:53] Ethel Gallagher

Yeah, that was a that was a longer journey.

[00:17:56] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:17:57] Ethel Gallagher

And mornings, you know, in the winter time, there was no snowplows. Yeah. And we had to, to fight our own way to get through the snowbanks.

[00:18:08] Roger Leonard

And they didn't call the school often.

[00:18:10] Ethel Gallagher

No, indeed. There were no snow days. And the train always went. So we had to go.

[00:18:17] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:18:18] Ethel Gallagher

But I remember the. There were quite a few milkmen. The men that sold milk and delivered their milk to the Cocoa town station, where the railroad. For the railroad to pick up, and. They would usually wait until we went through in order to have a better track. But we had to go a certain time. Of course they didn't.

[00:18:41] Roger Leonard

So did you go horseback or sleigh?

[00:18:43] Ethel Gallagher

Oh, you go for horse and sleigh swing. Ralph and I went all together except the first year.

[00:18:51] Roger Leonard

That must be quite an experience to run sleigh.

[00:18:54] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, we used to upset sometimes, but it was a horse we drove was pretty dependable. So when we told him to stop, he stopped.

[00:19:06] Roger Leonard

You mean it's like the song? Yeah. He got upset.

[00:19:09] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, sir. We did.

[00:19:13] Roger Leonard

So upper Red hook was the nearest real village. What was there?

[00:19:16] Ethel Gallagher

Well, as you came in the village. Of course, miss. Mrs.. Miss Russell's home was always there. The on the hill there and the sheds as you go in to upper Red hook before you get to the. Just as you turn off to go up in the village. That was a store.

[00:19:42] Roger Leonard

I see.

[00:19:43] Ethel Gallagher

And Alvin Ham kept that store.

[00:19:47] Roger Leonard

Regular grocery store, general store.

[00:19:49] Ethel Gallagher

A general store, a grocery store. And then there was also a general store out here at Jackson Garner. Three miles east of us.

[00:19:58] Roger Leonard

Was Jackson Corners. Only three miles. Now that's here.

[00:20:02] Ethel Gallagher

That's right.

[00:20:04] Roger Leonard

So that was a lot closer.

[00:20:05] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. But the road was very bad. It was hilly and not in as good repair as it was going west.

[00:20:16] Roger Leonard

And then as you turned right and went north through upper Red hook on the old post Road. What stores were there? Or other buildings were there then?

[00:20:27] Ethel Gallagher

Well, there were for a long time there were none. Then later a store was opened by a man with a store there, and I believe. I don't remember, but I remember Mr. O'Brien, George O'Brien running that store.

[00:20:49] Roger Leonard

And that would be.

[00:20:50] Ethel Gallagher

And that was the post office at one time.

[00:20:52] Roger Leonard

Oh, that was also the post. That was a Red hook.

[00:20:54] Ethel Gallagher

That was the upper Red hook post office.

[00:20:57] Roger Leonard

And that's. That would be the first building on your right past the Episcopal Church north of the Episcopal.

[00:21:02] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. It was torn down. I think I had it torn down. Well, she and her husband ran it for quite a while in the store. I see.

[00:21:17] Roger Leonard

And then as you go farther north, then there would have been the blacksmith's shop on the left.

[00:21:23] Ethel Gallagher

There's where I always took the horse's shot.

[00:21:28] Roger Leonard

Henry.

[00:21:29] Ethel Gallagher

Henry Brenzel. Yes. He was a very good life. And I remember taking our colts. My father had raised a few colts. And I remember taking the Colts to be shot for the first time. It was quite an ordeal sometimes.

[00:21:48] Roger Leonard

And that where the blacksmith's shop was is where Eulalia Travers house is now.

[00:21:54] Ethel Gallagher

No.

[00:21:55] Roger Leonard

Fred Coombs house.

[00:21:56] Ethel Gallagher

Well, it's this side of Fred Coombs house.

[00:21:59] Roger Leonard

South. Just south of there. Yes.

[00:22:01] Ethel Gallagher

That was theirs. Where? Right across from the large white House.

[00:22:06] Roger Leonard

I see. So it would have been about two buildings south of the left hand turn onto Pitcher Lane.

[00:22:12] Ethel Gallagher

That's right. Yes. And that was a blacksmith's shop. And on the on the South side. It was a wagon. A man by the name of Peter ran a wagon. I don't know what you'd call it, but he made wagons and he would retire wheels. That had to be done on a wagon.

[00:22:41] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Even on a wagon?

[00:22:42] Ethel Gallagher

Yeah. Even on a wagon, you had to have new tires put on.

[00:22:46] Roger Leonard

And that was connected to the south end of the building.

[00:22:48] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, yes, that was all in one building.

[00:22:52] Roger Leonard

Yeah. I've seen a picture of Raymond standing there next to his father. When Raymond was just a little boy.

[00:22:59] Ethel Gallagher

And I remember sometimes a horse would pull a shoe going from here to upright hook. And many a time Mr. Bernsen would come out and put the shoe back on. And we wouldn't even have to ask the horse. Oh.

[00:23:14] Roger Leonard

So it wasn't a major production.

[00:23:15] Ethel Gallagher

Well just to have the horse shoe put back on. But when their shoes were really changed and they had new shoes, that was a different procedure.

[00:23:27] Roger Leonard

Yeah, I can remember watching that myself.

[00:23:29] Ethel Gallagher

Put them on. They used to put them in the forge and get them red hot and put them up against the horse's hoof.

[00:23:35] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Of course, now the blacksmiths go around and travel themselves instead of having you come to them. Yes. Where the where Mrs. Cook's bakery is now. Was that a store then, or was there anything there?

[00:23:47] Ethel Gallagher

Not until later years. Clifford Curley built a building there and had a store there for a while, but And then. Mr.. What was his name? Oh, I can't remember his name, but there were two stores in Red hook for a while. And of course, Mr. Ham closed his is starring retired. He. Just retired and that was closed.

[00:24:25] Roger Leonard

And then we come to a school and upper Red hook to.

[00:24:28] Ethel Gallagher

Now that was quite a a good sized school with two rooms. That was a real.

[00:24:36] Roger Leonard

Two.

[00:24:36] Ethel Gallagher

Story brick school. Yes, that was a two story school. And at one time I think I heard my aunt tell there were two teachers. But evidently my father or aunt must have gone down here to school. They went to the, the old academy at upper.

[00:24:57] Roger Leonard

Yeah. We didn't mention the Academy.

[00:24:59] Ethel Gallagher

Oh I guess that was quite a.

[00:25:01] Roger Leonard

That was. And where was that located?

[00:25:03] Ethel Gallagher

Where the Grange Hall used to be. You don't remember the Grange?

[00:25:07] Roger Leonard

No. That burned before I came. Now, if you can describe it so that well, listening to the tape who aren't familiar with.

[00:25:14] Ethel Gallagher

That, you went in the little lane where Raymond Burns used to have his car.

[00:25:23] Roger Leonard

And right across from the sage house.

[00:25:25] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. To the west.

[00:25:26] Roger Leonard

To the west of the sage house.

[00:25:28] Ethel Gallagher

And there.

[00:25:30] Roger Leonard

Built straight toward where route nine is.

[00:25:33] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. And it was built on a hill. On this hill. And my father and Aunt Jenny went to school there.

[00:25:42] Roger Leonard

And I believe the hill is just behind the store, which is on route nine now.

[00:25:46] Ethel Gallagher

Well, where it used to. No, not It was this way for.

[00:25:52] Roger Leonard

A little ways east of there.

[00:25:55] Ethel Gallagher

Mr. Beck bought the land. The Grange. The Grange bought the building. The Grange?

[00:26:05] Roger Leonard

It was originally an academy.

[00:26:07] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. It was.

[00:26:10] Roger Leonard

And who went to the. What kind of an academy was it?

[00:26:12] Ethel Gallagher

I don't know. I couldn't tell you. I was too young to. Really?

[00:26:17] Roger Leonard

Was it the equivalent of a high school?

[00:26:19] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. I would think so. Yes. Yes. Yes. And it was considered to be a very good school. Most of the young people from around here went.

[00:26:33] Roger Leonard

Now, I understand that the building looked almost identical to the one standing in Claremont today.

[00:26:39] Ethel Gallagher

Well, yes. Yes. It was two story, and it had a cupola on the top. And the four rooms had a hole in the middle and two rooms on either side.

[00:26:57] Roger Leonard

And then it burned twice in this century. It burned very early in the 20th century.

[00:27:03] Ethel Gallagher

Well, after the Grange bought it for a long time. There was nothing. It just stood and wasn't occupied. But the Grange bought it and then remodeled it. And we were in the. They were there for a long time, and all of a sudden it was struck by lightning and burned. Well, then they built another building on the same foundation, and that burned.

[00:27:33] Roger Leonard

The second time it burned was in the early 50s.

[00:27:36] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:27:37] Roger Leonard

But the first time it burned was maybe around the First World War or something.

[00:27:41] Ethel Gallagher

Well, I would think about that. Yes.

[00:27:43] Roger Leonard

Yeah. I have the exact date of that in the church records someplace. Yes. And then the church also used the Grange Hall. Is that right? Was there a joint agreement or something?

[00:28:02] Ethel Gallagher

I've forgotten just what it was.

[00:28:04] Roger Leonard

By the church, I mean the Saint John's Reformed.

[00:28:07] Ethel Gallagher

Well, we used the hall for Well, I think we had meeting our suppers or something of that kind there. Something get togethers and different things, because this, the Grange had a great a good auditorium upstairs. And in order to have a space, they'd go there.

[00:28:34] Roger Leonard

Were there two auditoriums or were there rooms downstairs?

[00:28:37] Ethel Gallagher

No. There were there were there were two rooms downstairs, one on the north side and one on the south side.

[00:28:45] Roger Leonard

And a.

[00:28:45] Ethel Gallagher

Hallway.

[00:28:46] Roger Leonard

Between them.

[00:28:46] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. And then there was a main building, a large hall upstairs. But as the when the Grange remodeled it or when it was built the second time after it burned down, the staircase was put up along the south side of the of the building. And then there was a large hall.

[00:29:13] Roger Leonard

Which was one story, then two. It was the second time.

[00:29:16] Ethel Gallagher

No, there were always two stories.

[00:29:21] Roger Leonard

What were the two rooms downstairs used for then?

[00:29:24] Ethel Gallagher

Well, we used one for our kitchen and one for a dining room. When the Grange had it, you see.

[00:29:31] Roger Leonard

And then the upstairs.

[00:29:32] Ethel Gallagher

The upstairs was our our meeting.

[00:29:34] Roger Leonard

Regular meeting room. You didn't use that as a dining room?

[00:29:37] Ethel Gallagher

No, no. We had our dances and things like that.

[00:29:41] Roger Leonard

It was a regular assembly room.

[00:29:42] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:29:45] Roger Leonard

Frank mentioned to me one time about checker games that used to be played there and all kinds.

[00:29:50] Ethel Gallagher

Of other activities. Well, that it was used at different times for. It was a public building. And the nearest one this side of Red hook.

[00:30:03] Roger Leonard

You don't remember those checker games particularly?

[00:30:07] Ethel Gallagher

No. No I don't.

[00:30:09] Roger Leonard

Where someone famous from out of town would come in.

[00:30:13] Ethel Gallagher

And.

[00:30:14] Roger Leonard

Play 20 games at once or something.

[00:30:16] Ethel Gallagher

Oh he did. Well.

[00:30:20] Roger Leonard

Then. Well as I'm sort of mentally going north on Old Post Road. So we come to Saint John's Reformed Church. Yes. And I remember you telling me one time that one of the ministers there, Lydecker.

[00:30:32] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:30:33] Roger Leonard

My uncle was your uncle?

[00:30:35] Ethel Gallagher

Yes, I remember.

[00:30:39] Roger Leonard

What was the connection there?

[00:30:41] Ethel Gallagher

Well my mother came from Nyack, and she.

[00:30:48] Roger Leonard

And what was your mother's name?

[00:30:49] Ethel Gallagher

Lydecker.

[00:30:50] Roger Leonard

What was her first name?

[00:30:51] Ethel Gallagher

Serena.

[00:30:52] Roger Leonard

Serena.

[00:30:54] Roger Leonard

And she came up from Nyack.

[00:30:56] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. She studied voice in New York City. She had a very nice voice and sang well, and she came to visit her uncle or her brother, and she sang a solo in our church. Dad was downstairs and he met this Miss Linaker. And that's how the romance started.

[00:31:19] Roger Leonard

I see. So what was the minister's first name?

[00:31:23] Ethel Gallagher

George.

[00:31:24] Roger Leonard

George Lydecker. So that was your mother's brother?

[00:31:28] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:31:29] Roger Leonard

And he came from Nyack.

[00:31:30] Ethel Gallagher

He came from Nyack?

[00:31:33] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Well, tell me about some other things at the church there that would be of interest, you know, particularly some years ago.

[00:31:47] Ethel Gallagher

Oh, what can I tell you that would be of interest?

[00:31:51] Roger Leonard

Well, he would have been the First Minister that you remember there then. Was he still there that.

[00:31:55] Ethel Gallagher

No, he didn't remain here too long. I don't think. As I remember it. And but I think you were there. I think you were baptized. Well, we were both baptized while he was here. But I remember the old church horse sheds which were down along the road as you go. Starr Barrack Road. And I remember each man had his own horse stall. It was worse than your pew in church.

[00:32:38] Roger Leonard

Oh, yeah, it was.

[00:32:39] Ethel Gallagher

It was somebody else was tying his horse in the wrong place.

[00:32:47] Roger Leonard

Did they unhitch the horse? No, no.

[00:32:51] Ethel Gallagher

They were blanketed in the winter, two blankets apiece and tied under that shed. Mrs. Potts. Mary Harden's grandmother, was right next to us. I remember on one side, I've forgotten who was on the other.

[00:33:09] Roger Leonard

It must have been quite a long shed.

[00:33:11] Ethel Gallagher

It was. It was the whole. The whole length of the old cemetery before the. The east side was was. And then, instead of repairing it, it rather went down with a roof and things. And instead of repairing it they built over on the the over by the schoolhouse. But that by that time the cars were coming and that was never used very long.

[00:33:48] Roger Leonard

So it just fell into disuse.

[00:33:50] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. It was sold. They sold, I think they sold the sheds and was torn down. But many of our church affairs we kept had their hour long fetes and different things on the school grounds because there was no place you see on, on our church.

[00:34:13] Roger Leonard

And that that would be where the present church parking lot.

[00:34:15] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:34:16] Roger Leonard

Yes. Yeah. It was a lawn. Is that right?

[00:34:23] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. Well, as I remember it, with a field. I don't remember. I don't think it was ever taken care of other than that, it was a pasture.

[00:34:42] Roger Leonard

What other ministers do you remember there?

[00:34:46] Ethel Gallagher

Oh dear.

[00:34:47] Roger Leonard

Me.

[00:34:48] Ethel Gallagher

I see. Well I remember Mr. Moore. And Mr.. Moffat. Moffat. And from there on up I remember.

[00:35:07] Roger Leonard

And. Smith.

[00:35:08] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. Smith. And yes, he was there. And for a while I remember we were without a minister and then we had a supply ministers, and Raymond Burns's uncle came from out here at Jackson Garner or his wife Kilmer. He preached for us.

[00:35:33] Roger Leonard

Oh, what was his name?

[00:35:34] Ethel Gallagher

Kilmer.

[00:35:36] Roger Leonard

His first name.

[00:35:37] Ethel Gallagher

First name. What was his first name? Willard.

[00:35:46] Roger Leonard

Willard.

[00:35:48] Ethel Gallagher

And he. In between our ministers coming and going, he would be coming supply for us.

[00:35:57] Roger Leonard

What exciting things happened that you remember in Red hook or the towns around that were sort of town wide? Important events that happened that sort of stand out in your memory.

[00:36:09] Ethel Gallagher

Well, to tell the truth, I don't remember too many.

[00:36:15] Roger Leonard

But not much excitement.

[00:36:16] Ethel Gallagher

Not much excitement? No. Of course, I we were usually pretty busy.

[00:36:27] Roger Leonard

You were busy on the farm?

[00:36:28] Ethel Gallagher

On the farm? Here we weren't.

[00:36:30] Roger Leonard

And Red hook seemed an awful long ways away.

[00:36:32] Ethel Gallagher

We went to Red hook once a week.

[00:36:35] Ethel Gallagher

And it took us nearly an hour to drive there. Did the shopping that we had to do, which was usually in the hole where Clifford Alcott now is, which was the Allcock Building originally. I know his father and uncle ran it and they kept dress goods and threads and things that we would need and calicoes and.

[00:37:05] Roger Leonard

And where was that located?

[00:37:06] Ethel Gallagher

Right where?

[00:37:08] Roger Leonard

Right on the.

[00:37:08] Ethel Gallagher

Corner. Right on the corner.

[00:37:09] Roger Leonard

That's on the.

[00:37:10] Ethel Gallagher

North.

[00:37:11] Roger Leonard

East corner.

[00:37:12] Ethel Gallagher

That's the original building. His father and his uncle ran two brothers. Oh, I suppose there were things. We had Sunday school picnics and things like that that we attended.

[00:37:33] Roger Leonard

Where were they held?

[00:37:34] Ethel Gallagher

Well, we used to go to Hartman Pond here up at Elizaville, where Holiday Inn is. As you pass go to Elizaville.

[00:37:47] Roger Leonard

Oh, yes.

[00:37:48] Ethel Gallagher

And go and go up along the Columbia County line.

[00:37:53] Roger Leonard

When you said Holiday Inn, I was picturing the chain of holiday.

[00:37:58] Ethel Gallagher

No, no, no.

[00:37:58] Roger Leonard

It is called.

[00:37:59] Ethel Gallagher

That. Yes, it was at one time. It's changed hands many times.

[00:38:03] Roger Leonard

Yeah. On that lake or pond.

[00:38:06] Ethel Gallagher

There were two lakes. A man by the name of Leech owned one. And Mr. Hartman on the other. William Charles Hayden, I think, was the owner of.

[00:38:17] Roger Leonard

That was a long ways to go in those days for a picnic, wasn't it?

[00:38:20] Ethel Gallagher

Well, yeah, it was only it was three miles. You see, we were, we were it was three miles to Jackson Corner, three miles to Elizaville.

[00:38:31] Roger Leonard

I mean, from the church itself.

[00:38:33] Ethel Gallagher

Oh, from the church?

[00:38:34] Roger Leonard

Yes.

[00:38:34] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:38:35] Roger Leonard

Yeah. But it was only about three miles for you folks. Yes.

[00:38:38] Ethel Gallagher

Well, they would come up and go up the pond. Road around the pond here. That would be the nearer way for them.

[00:38:47] Roger Leonard

You mean past Spring Lake?

[00:38:48] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. Yes.

[00:38:51] Roger Leonard

Yeah. What sort of things happened at the church? Picnics. Same kind of picnics. Well, there were.

[00:39:01] Ethel Gallagher

Just about the same. Oh. Only they, we had I remember. Homemade biscuits about three inches high. Fried chicken.

[00:39:13] Roger Leonard

Homemade ice cream.

[00:39:14] Ethel Gallagher

Oh, yes. Yes. Homemade ice cream.

[00:39:19] Roger Leonard

That must have been a real treat in those days.

[00:39:21] Ethel Gallagher

Well, no, it wasn't for us, because we had the milk and ice.

[00:39:24] Roger Leonard

So you.

[00:39:25] Ethel Gallagher

Had eggs? So we had ice cream?

[00:39:28] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:39:28] Ethel Gallagher

The only thing, the only drawback was turning the freezer.

[00:39:32] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Right.

[00:39:33] Ethel Gallagher

And the one that turned it the longest got the Dashers at the.

[00:39:47] Roger Leonard

If we were to think of the houses that were in existence. Between the Fulton Farm and Upper Red hook and the families who lived there, that these would pretty much have remained in the same family for a number of years.

[00:40:07] Ethel Gallagher

Well, if the

[00:40:10] Roger Leonard

There wasn't much change.

[00:40:11] Ethel Gallagher

There wasn't much change. No, because the owners remained in these houses.

[00:40:19] Roger Leonard

Passed it on to their children.

[00:40:20] Ethel Gallagher

And passed it or else. Yes, mostly. Or else they were sold. But they, it was more or less if the daughter, the older daughter got married, why that her husband came to help the, the, the father in law.

[00:40:42] Roger Leonard

Which is as this was, the Fulton farm became the Gallagher.

[00:40:45] Ethel Gallagher

Farm. Yes.

[00:40:46] Roger Leonard

Yes. Now, going from here and then the the changing population. Were not the owners of the farm so much.

[00:40:55] Ethel Gallagher

They were the the help that came in to work on these farms. And when the 1st of April came, what would be a regular moving day, because that was the day that the new hired men went to work and his family would have to be moved in this tenant house on the farm that he was to work on.

[00:41:16] Roger Leonard

So the 1st of April being because it was spring. Yes. Was just about considered moving.

[00:41:23] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. That was the moving day. I remember seeing the wagons with all the furniture and everything on. Even the cookstove going down or where? Up wherever the man went to work.

[00:41:36] Roger Leonard

And they'd just maybe be moving from one farm to.

[00:41:39] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. Moving from one farm to the other.

[00:41:42] Roger Leonard

Why would they be moving? Because they didn't get along.

[00:41:45] Ethel Gallagher

No. Sometimes they didn't get along with the owner, and sometimes the owner wasn't satisfied with the hired man. So that's the way they changed. And sometimes they went for other reasons. They could better themselves in other other vicinities and so forth.

[00:42:04] Roger Leonard

Now, if you were to think of starting with the Fulton farm and moving toward upper Red hook you've already mentioned your husband Allen's family living on the farm at the foot of the hill. And then let's move on toward upper Red hook

[00:42:20] Ethel Gallagher

Well.

[00:42:21] Roger Leonard

Past the schoolhouse where the archer's live.

[00:42:23] Ethel Gallagher

Now, that was that was a farm. And the daughter.

[00:42:28] Roger Leonard

You want to spell that?

[00:42:29] Ethel Gallagher

Pellsl.

[00:42:34] Ethel Gallagher

And the daughter married Henry Elkins, and Henry Real kids went to live with his mother in law and ran the farm, and it became his farm. It was the farm.

[00:42:49] Roger Leonard

And then you move on up the hill toward Coker Town.

[00:42:51] Ethel Gallagher

Well, no, I'm going down the road from schoolhouse.

[00:42:55] Roger Leonard

From the schoolhouse? Yeah.

[00:42:56] Ethel Gallagher

And then. Then there was a where the Overbrook farm. Our home is, was a farm and that was owned by a teacher. And his daughter owned that farm for a long time. And that was it. When the father died, she had ran it with help of men that came and lived in the Senate house and theirs were. Overbrook started. The little office at Overbrook was a tenant house. And then the next place was the same place As far as I remember it.

[00:43:38] Roger Leonard

And he spelled that please HAINO.

[00:43:42] Ethel Gallagher

I think it is. And he and Agnes. The trooper was born, lived in that house that was the. Hannah was his grandfather.

[00:43:53] Roger Leonard

I see.

[00:43:57] Ethel Gallagher

And the next farm was Milton best farm, where we kept the horse.

[00:44:04] Roger Leonard

That's where the trips used to live.

[00:44:05] Ethel Gallagher

No, there's where the They're building now. The Harkins on it now where they're building a house there by the Spring Lake.

[00:44:15] Roger Leonard

I see.

[00:44:18] Ethel Gallagher

And the farm, of course.

[00:44:21] Roger Leonard

And where was that?

[00:44:21] Ethel Gallagher

Well, that's where Tom Tripp used to live.

[00:44:24] Roger Leonard

Yeah, that's the trip.

[00:44:25] Ethel Gallagher

One trip for.

[00:44:26] Roger Leonard

Him.

[00:44:27] Ethel Gallagher

And that was run well until Mr. Curley died. And even after that. And the next farm, the Tatton Farm, was a Nelson farm.

[00:44:40] Roger Leonard

Theodore Nelson was he related to Samuel or Arthur?

[00:44:45] Ethel Gallagher

I think he was. No. He was related to miss Sarah Nelson that lived right there.

[00:44:54] Roger Leonard

At the.

[00:44:54] Ethel Gallagher

Crossroads where Oh. I know just about me. Well, that was at the junction of the nine as we went on route nine.

[00:45:11] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:45:12] Ethel Gallagher

And And then afterwards, the milk was the best place was where the schroeders lived now.

[00:45:24] Roger Leonard

Oh, yes. So that's on the right hand side just before we get back to Red hook.

[00:45:29] Ethel Gallagher

Yes.

[00:45:30] Roger Leonard

Well, there's a place on the left after you pass the house you mentioned.

[00:45:34] Ethel Gallagher

Oh, the Forbes place.

[00:45:37] Roger Leonard

On the left.

[00:45:38] Ethel Gallagher

William Forbes on that. And he he owned that until. Well, he sold it to Fred Schultz.

[00:45:49] Roger Leonard

And then the father on what you were just telling me about just before you get.

[00:45:53] Ethel Gallagher

The best the yes.

[00:45:56] Roger Leonard

Was the best family. And then you get into upper Red hook.

[00:46:01] Ethel Gallagher

Yes. It was the the were no houses after you left the trailer place until you got the house on the left. The white House, as you go into Red hook, come from this way. And as I remember, it was the name by a man by the name of Gardner. And his daughter was our Milner in Red hook. Oh.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



Automated transcription by Sonix
www.sonix.ai