

NAME

Kerley-Albert-Interview-21-Jun-1989 side A.mp3

DATE

October 6, 2026

DURATION

46m 28s

2 SPEAKERS

Roger Leonard

Albert Kerley

START OF TRANSCRIPT

[00:00:00] Roger Leonard

1989 and the parsonage in upper Red hook, and we're having a glass of iced tea, as you can hear. And I just wanted to ask some questions about the Kerley family. Now, where did your family live? Was it originally right up on Kerley's Point?

[00:00:20] Albert Kerley

It's probably over in Tivoli with Captain James over there, who is buried in the graveyard in the Red road church or Red church? Oh. And he and his brother are there. And Elizabeth Kerley, who was the wife of one of the two, I can't remember how my records were. Also on the north side of the cemetery there is an Abraham Curl who was much later age than the originals, of course, who was a pharmacist in New York, and some of his children are still living alive, I suppose. I hope that you are living in new Jersey someplace. I don't. I've lost contact with their two sons.

[00:01:04] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:01:05] Albert Kerley

I don't know what became of them or their pharmacists or not, but a lovely story about Abraham, who was a very, very handsome. Probably the most handsome of all members of the family was when his brother Dudley, after whom I was named by my middle name, Dudley, on the. On the farms combines two families. Am I talking loud enough?

[00:01:31] Roger Leonard

Maybe a little louder. I think that's coming out.

[00:01:33] Albert Kerley

And being the farm. They've always had this magnificent produce, and Uncle Abraham would come up periodically and take the train back by tomorrow. Time to go back to work for the next week or whatever. And one time he carried a whole suitcase of fresh cut corn, because that's where he picked up on the farm. Brother gave him a whole case of fresh cut corn. Sweet corn. And as he was walking across Grand Central on the strap of the cord of the rope broke off the suitcase and the whole load fell out. Well, Uncle Abraham dropped the suitcase and kept right on walking. It never happened. He was that proud.

[00:02:13] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Isn't that.

[00:02:13] Albert Kerley

Something? And certainly someone had a feast or two after that if they ever picked up the corn. Oh, that was wonderful. Using the story of Abraham. Yeah.

[00:02:23] Roger Leonard

Well, I think the stories are really what make a family come alive. You can find the names, you can look up the dates, and you can get that all put together. But what what makes the different individuals come alive? When? When did the family move over to the corner, then? Do you know anything about that?

[00:02:40] Albert Kerley

Well, the date of that barn up there is 1841, as I recall. And it was John Curley's and Abraham Curley's and Dudley Curley's and Clifford and Charles Gilmore, the famous New York doctor, And a couple of others. Ned Curley, whose name was Edward, who lived next door, or Edith Michael lives now, or in their house. They were all born there. And I think their father, who was what was his name? James, I think, was James Curley. I'm not clear on that. I think that was 1840, that it was. He managed a farm there. The rest of them were all born in the 50s and 60s afterwards. So he might have been there first. Whether it was the homestead, I think probably as such, according to the James Curley farm, but it certainly wasn't for the ones over in the Red church at all. That was a. That was the earlier the predecessors of the of the Curley Farm or Homestead Group really over there? What records I have ever found to exist were the fact that the Curley came to the Dutchess County or Columbia County or wherever, by way of Vermont. And that was by way of Scotland. From Scotland. The name was KERLY. There a lot of people say the name Curley is Irish, but I have never found any source of that information in Irish. Doctor Curley, the famous paediatrician in New York who had died in 1948 or 49, had the oldest Curley Bible, being the wealthiest man in the family. He, of course, would buy out everybody else. And after he died, I got to know his daughter, Priscilla, very, very well because I was working in New York at the time, and she was a great help to me. I stayed there when I couldn't find an apartment after the war and all this. So I got to know the old family, the old family Bible, very, very well. And I went through that. And of all the other Curley KLYKERLEY and sometimes URLY.

[00:04:51] Roger Leonard

I'm.

[00:04:53] Albert Kerley

But no indication of being from Bell Island at all. It was all Scotland or England. Northern England.

[00:05:01] Roger Leonard

But of course, I think of the Irish mayor of Boston.

[00:05:05] Albert Kerley

Well, he was Jewish.

[00:05:07] Roger Leonard

Oh, I thought he was Irish.

[00:05:09] Albert Kerley

No, no. He might be an Irish Jew. But that's always been a wonderful laugh, because the mayor of Boston is a delightful man. And he also was governor for a while, too, you remember. And that was COLEY. But he was well known. He used to make fun of himself as being a Jewish Irishman. He was. Now he might be Jewish, but I never heard that.

[00:05:33] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Well, all of us. Who were those sons and daughters who were born at the homestead?

[00:05:42] Albert Kerley

Yeah. Let me see if I can put them in chronological order. Aunt May Mary, the youngest one, was the youngest one and she was the last to die. And she died when she was the last one to go. Prior to that was John being the next oldest. Uncle Abraham. Uncle Ned, uncle Dudley, who was my grandfather. Dudley. Dudley. Curly. Albert. Albert. Robert. Dudley. And I think Charles was the oldest. I think Charles was the oldest in the family. It should total to be about seven. Is that true? Plus or minus? Pretty close. And God, none of them really went away. Except Abraham. Uncle Charlie, the oldest one settled a private home in Sharon, but his business was in New York, whereas Abraham. His business was in New York as well as his home in Newark, new Jersey. As I recall. Yeah. They they all had children. Of course, Ned had two boys. One, one. Roy and I kind of forget what Roy did, but Hoyt was also a pediatrician who worked with Uncle Charlie for a while until he made a slight mistake and sent him on his own direction, which I always thought was kind of nasty.

[00:07:26] Albert Kerley

There was no help from the family in that respect. And then there was another Curley who was the son of of Abraham, who was a young fellow who let's see, Uncle Abraham was the was the pharmacist. And he had a son who became a school teacher when he was about two years younger than I am. He has since died. After coming back from a tour of duty in Europe all during the war, teaching English children English in Europe. I don't mean England, but I mean in France when they were there during the war. That's a very strange connection. But I didn't know. The U.S. government employed Americans to teach school for British students in England in the occupied areas that occupied the defending countries. It's always been. I've never been able to clarify that. And I can't ask him because he has died. His wife is still alive down in. Greenwich in that area. He has two sons in California, one in Santa Cruz, one in Los Angeles Quite a family spread, so we haven't died out completely. And they're all. There was a confusion about that for a while.

[00:08:55] Roger Leonard

So did we run through all the children who were born there?

[00:08:58] Albert Kerley

Well, yeah. Yeah, there are seven of them.

[00:09:00] Roger Leonard

Who they married?

[00:09:02] Albert Kerley

Who did they marry?

[00:09:03] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:09:04] Albert Kerley

Oh, boy.

[00:09:05] Roger Leonard

Then you. Then you pull in a lot of other family names.

[00:09:07] Albert Kerley

Yeah, but they don't mean much. Now, for example, let's start with the with the oldest one, Uncle Charlie, who married Beth McClanahan. She was a very wealthy girl from from from Long Island. And Long Island was chic and expensive. And Beth, as we knew her, was a delightful lady and very popular. But she loved the whole family. But she wanted to make her way in society, but could never quite do it. She wasn't blueblood quite enough, so she went into the Episcopal Church in New York and became a great lady in the Episcopal Church in Manhattan.

[00:09:40] Albert Kerley

And was always a great hostess, and I used to enjoy going there when I was going back and forth to college, back and forth, in and out of New York, from the Army and so forth. I always stopped in Sanford because I love Brooklyn very much. I meant a lot to me. Uncle Charlie, of course, wanted me to be a doctor after after two years of pre-medical, I went and said, I can't do it. I'm not chemically minded or something like that.

[00:10:03] Roger Leonard

So you became an architect.

[00:10:04] Albert Kerley

So he said, what do you want to do? And I said, I have no idea. Maybe the arts. And he said, like what? I said, I have no idea. He says, what does your father do? I said, he's a builder. I said, how about an architect? I said, that's it. So I became an architect.

[00:10:19] Roger Leonard

That's the way to find it.

[00:10:20] Albert Kerley

Yeah. And yeah, it was interesting. And I sometimes spend a whole evening with him there at dinner and so forth. Sometimes I met some fantastic people. Mrs. August Belmont. I got to know slightly. Well, which is unusual for me because Bess was a Benefactor of the of the opera as well as. That was her amusement. The great opera goer. And so forth. So instead of going alone, Uncle Charlie, that was beyond him. So he wouldn't go. And Mrs. Belmont would come up and they'd have dinner together. They'd go out and they go together with my aunt and Aunt Beth. You see that family? They had two daughters. One is Priscilla, who has died in the cemetery up here. Barbara. We've lost contact with all the other family. Could not find a trace of Barbara who married a a. What was a commander in the Navy when I was in when I was in Tucson, Arizona, in my cadet training for a bombardier. They were in Tucson. He was attached to the Navy. He was conducting some sort of a training session there for the Navy, and I had saw them a couple of times when I was with Barbara, and they had three children, Dana and Charles Gilmore. Curley Hutchins was a lovely name. And Barbara said, if it doesn't become a doctor, I'm going to kill him. She has to become a doctor with a name like that. We've all lost contact with that family, and God knows I've tried. I've tried when I've gone to LA and I've looked up in the in the proper books all over places like Pasadena, where they were supposed to have gone. At one time they said that Barbara was opening or had operated a scientific bookstore someplace down there. I couldn't find any relatives of that sort of idea. So I've given up on that branch of the family. And that's one for Charlie. Uncle, uncle. Uncle Abraham discovered my grandfather and Martha were. I'm concerned about now because of the feller farm.

[00:12:24] Roger Leonard

Yeah. So tell me about the feller family.

[00:12:26] Albert Kerley

Well, I don't know much about them, except they're really scattered.

[00:12:29] Roger Leonard

Okay. And their.

[00:12:30] Albert Kerley

House?

[00:12:31] Roger Leonard

Their house was located out on Spring Lake Road.

[00:12:34] Albert Kerley

Well, that Martha and her. Her father was Albert Feller. That's how I got the name of Albert. What? I'm about to send you to a more of history of that than I have been able to. Probably will be able to tell. Plus, there's much more much concern there is that the farm itself. But the fellows go back to. My God, they go back to 17 what was it, 1780 or something, when they came from Germany, from the Rhine River Valley, and went to Rhinebeck first, and sort of spread out from there. And Constance Schmucker, who was a fellow through her father, often says, well, there are lots of fellows around, but half of them don't belong to us. And it could be, it could be. But I think if you go back far enough, you'll find there's a there's a commoner someplace who's very distributed with many fingers, you know, I think you've given me constant schmucker.

[00:13:38] Roger Leonard

She's. Yeah. She died several years ago. About ten years ago.

[00:13:41] Albert Kerley

Maybe she died at 99.

[00:13:43] Roger Leonard

Yeah, she was very old.

[00:13:44] Albert Kerley

Valparaiso, Indiana, where her nephew was. But she was a great cousin, I should say, a friend of my father. She was his first cousin. She would be my first cousin once removed. I guess it would be. And her father was a schmucker who had had command of the old stone church for a while, and when Constance and her brother. Whose name was Robert Schmucker, were children, they lived in the old Stone church. Parsonage there, next door? Yeah. Constance was a great lady. I love cautions very much. She was a new ilk to me. She was something I'd never met before because she was a grande dame, as they say, and had gone down friends and and very proper and. But she didn't push it on to her. She was as much of a man sometimes. She was probably, according to my father, the best rifle rifleman in the whole Dutchess County. She had a tremendous garden, which dad would sort of help her with, and sometimes with things she couldn't do alone. And she never had a rabbit or a woodchuck in her garden, ever. Of course she sent up by the front door and she pop, pop, pop. And they'd be gone in no time because she could sort of smell them that far away, you know? Great God, great God. And miss Miss Russell, Stella, Estelle, Estelle Platt. And I can't forget Miss Russell's name, who had lived in the house.

[00:15:26] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Yeah. Were they deaconesses?

[00:15:31] Albert Kerley

No, not at all. I don't know the backgrounds of either Miss Russell or Miss Platt, but there were single ladies like Constance, who just had money and lived very well. It was Miss Russell who was the inaugural of the Northern Dutchess Historical Association, which was for ladies only, and they living in the area of upper Red hook. And there was an educational seminar every every other week or whatever it was in the individual homes. It's a great thing. And it made it gave the housewives something to do, something to culture. It's still going on, as you know, and I think it's probably if it's bigger, I would assume. Many more members now than before. My mother used to have to give every year because there were that many people. They had only so many. Was it Tuesday or Thursday afternoons to do? I think it was a Tuesday afternoon. They had the club. And as the club grew bigger, you see some women got left out because they didn't have that many weeks in the year to take care. They were gone for the whole summer, so it might be now once every three years. You are the hostess to a club. I used to love to come home from school and smell this wonderful Maxwell House coffee and a great big pot on the stove and all the different orders of women around.

[00:16:57] Roger Leonard

Oh, I know just what you mean. It was happened to me too. Oh, yeah. My mother.

[00:17:02] Albert Kerley

Enjoyed.

[00:17:03] Roger Leonard

That. Yeah.

[00:17:05] Albert Kerley

What part of the country were you in?

[00:17:06] Roger Leonard

I come from new Jersey.

[00:17:07] Albert Kerley

Yeah. Did they have that sort of thing down there? Oh, yeah. Well, now I understand. According to Mr. Thetford, there's another justice caring society, and I don't know. I have to I'm really curious to ask him about that when I see him this weekend. I'm quite, I'm quite sure, nothing to do with the Dutchess County Historical Club at all, but there must be something to do with animal husbandry, or that.

[00:17:30] Roger Leonard

Well, now he lives in the cellar on the. On the old feller farm which. Which has this burial ground there the feller burial ground. But that was only used for a certain for a short period of time. Yeah. And you wrote to me after the church history came out, that you had an inkling of why somebody in the family started their own private burial ground. Oh, yeah. What was what?

[00:17:56] Albert Kerley

I wanted to mention to that earlier today, but I thought, no, that will also be in that letter I'm sending you. But I'll.

[00:18:01] Roger Leonard

Tell you. Yeah.

[00:18:02] Albert Kerley

I'll tell you now. It's very funny. And I learned this from Constance. I didn't, I didn't finish on Constance. She and my father were very close because she and her mother, Delia, cousin Delia, my my father always called her because that's what she was. She was his cousin. Delia and his mother, Martha were were Sisters used to be a fellow and they were very, very close. The two mothers. And for some strange reason my father and Constance's first cousin were very, very close. Delia and Martha were very extravagant ladies, which is a sort of a little scandal in the in the Dudley Feller farm, because of because of very expensive Martha. Robert Dudley, that is. And Delia was perhaps the same way with her husband, who was the minister of the church down in the old churchyard. Yeah. But what was your question?

[00:19:00] Roger Leonard

Well, I'm interested in the starting of the burial ground. Oh, you said there was a story behind that.

[00:19:05] Albert Kerley

Hendrik Feller was one of the earlier brothers from her grandfather, who arrived back in the early 1700s. And he established established himself on the farm. It's the first time, I think, as far as my records show, he was the first feller to have that problem. Whether he built it, I don't know. But he had 11 children, which I think would have comprehended anybody in today's days. In those days there was always farm, a farm helper. Farmers always liked to have lots of children to help on the farm. It made matters easier and everyone was healthier and got along better, perhaps. Those who were stretched out later on, they wanted to do something else. But he had a son named Isaac. Who was the second or third son to be born to. Heinrich feller and his wife, Catherine Fulton. That's where the Fulton's come in. First time the Fulton's had married into the family. Isaac was was married and had a couple of children, but he died at eight at the age of 32. As I recall. And he was. His father was making arrangements for the minister here. Who was Mr. Kittel? Kittel.

[00:20:28] Roger Leonard

Andrew Kittel.

[00:20:29] Albert Kerley

And. And Reverend Kittel refused interment in the cemetery here because he didn't think that Isaac was godly enough or biblical enough or good enough to have gone into a Christian cemetery. Strangely enough, these are what parts of conscience inflicted upon himself. So his father will fix will solve that problem right now. So he decided to bury his son, Isaac on the farm. So he did. And he was so happy with the thing. And perhaps the whole family was very happy with the of the arrangement that Heinrich and his will wrote down, that maybe we should all be buried in our own little farmyard right over here under the apple orchard, and let it be where it is. And that's what happened. So 17 bodies have been buried there. And the last one to be buried, strange enough, was Isaac. The first burial was Isaac's son, who was buried in 1902. And that's when the last burial took place. There's lots more room there. Yeah. But it's rather nicely encased in the Royal Stonewall fence with a big slab slate top all around. Rather nice. Rather nice. It's under perpetual care protection now. At the moment. Apparently, it's not very handsome because someone has been goofing off and not taking care of it as it should be. There's money in the bank, supposedly, which has been re-establishing itself over the years. Interest? Yeah. And Betty Curly, who's coming this weekend to join the little group to go over there and talk about it, Had worked with her father in the bank for years and years. I used to call it jokingly, the curly Bank. And so she was aware of the fact that the fund is still in. And she knew who the former designees were who were supposed to be working on the farm, on the on the graveyard. So there might be money to take care of the whole village. The stones that have been removed are being returned by the man who has confessed to having taken them illegally. Yes. So that's all being straightened out?

[00:22:48] Roger Leonard

Well that's good. I'm glad to hear it's going to resume. Yeah. What other things? There are certain families around here that that names have, like Curly's Corners been used on roads.

[00:23:02] Albert Kerley

There's also Curly's Bridge, you know.

[00:23:03] Roger Leonard

Oh. Where's that?

[00:23:05] Albert Kerley

Well, if you know where the Curly's Corners is, the property is all south of the road, which goes east towards. And words and letters and all that. Well, you cross a little bridge over the stream. It's a very handsome stone bridge. There's a plaque on the north side. It's in curly bridge. It gives the date. So not only do we have corners, we have a bridge.

[00:23:30] Roger Leonard

Yeah. And I mean that. And the corners are well known. There's an East Kerley's Corners Road and a West Kerley's Corners Road.

[00:23:37] Albert Kerley

Is there an eastern.

[00:23:38] Roger Leonard

To East Kerley?

[00:23:39] Albert Kerley

I thought that was called Hubbard.

[00:23:41] Roger Leonard

No. Well, now it's East Kerley's Corners Road. It goes all the way.

[00:23:44] Albert Kerley

Oh, for goodness sakes.

[00:23:45] Roger Leonard

Yeah. So it's really famous. Were you related to the pictures?

[00:23:49] Albert Kerley

Yeah. Yes.

[00:23:53] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Because a picture lane here and now.

[00:23:55] Albert Kerley

Yeah. But that's a little bit more a little bit different than most of the trying to think now how the picture is one of the one of the kerley's married a picture lady. I don't I can't bring to mind enough of it to tell you about it now. I just couldn't do it. And I got into the mud bit because there was a lady let's see, down pit lane. The very last house that you old house on the north side. But you know, you know that.

[00:24:33] Roger Leonard

Well, yes.

[00:24:34] Albert Kerley

You know the Cookingham farm.

[00:24:36] Roger Leonard

Well, no, I thought I knew Pitcher Lane, but I don't know the Cookingham farm, so.

[00:24:40] Albert Kerley

I have no idea who owns it.

[00:24:41] Roger Leonard

Well, maybe it's the Greg farm or the.

[00:24:43] Albert Kerley

Greg was was the top of the hill up here. What's the highest monument in the graveyard as a name on it. What is it?

No, that's one of them. But that's not the one.

[00:24:56] Roger Leonard

And you're not talking about pots?

[00:24:58] Albert Kerley

No. Well, it was known as a family farm in my town. But the man before him had the name on that particular farm.

And then it became the Greek farm. But that's another story. West. From there, the next farm would be on the north side with the barns. On the south side would be the Cookingham farm.

[00:25:23] Roger Leonard

Oh, okay.

[00:25:24] Albert Kerley

The one after that is the Potts Farm.

[00:25:28] Albert Kerley

And this old lady. Potts. Potts. That's where Potts bud came from. I see I'm very vague on that. I don't want to say what I don't want. I'm not sure of.

[00:25:39] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:25:40] Albert Kerley

That's where the pictures came in. And also the Potts. And that's where I am related both to the pitcher family and the Potts family were very distantly.

[00:25:49] Roger Leonard

Okay. And I'll be talking to Gene Bud sometime.

[00:25:52] Albert Kerley

Well, I mentioned to Gene Bud years ago and I said, do you know we're related? He says, For God's sakes, how. And I said, your grandmother, old Lady Potts. He said, well, why not? You know, Gene.

[00:26:06] Roger Leonard

The last house on the right of the old houses.

[00:26:09] Albert Kerley

Yeah. Beautiful, big, wonderful two story house.

[00:26:12] Roger Leonard

Wasn't that the Elmendorf house?

[00:26:13] Albert Kerley

Elmendorf. Thank you.

[00:26:14] Roger Leonard

That's the name you're.

[00:26:15] Albert Kerley

Trying to think of. Yeah, but it doesn't help me because it doesn't mix in with the pots and pots and the pitcher.

[00:26:20] Roger Leonard

And the what's known as buds corners.

[00:26:24] Albert Kerley

His father was.

[00:26:25] Roger Leonard

Also in Elmendorf.

[00:26:27] Albert Kerley

That's right. Yeah. And she was named for that old lady who lived there. She might have been a pitcher. I can't I can't say for sure. Okay. And that was her family that named Pitcher Lane. That gave Pitcher Lane as well.

[00:26:41] Roger Leonard

There's a house just about in the middle of Pitcher Lane, which has a cupola on top.

[00:26:46] Albert Kerley

That's the.

[00:26:46] Roger Leonard

One. And that's the one you're talking about.

[00:26:48] Albert Kerley

Well, that could be. I think they both have cupolas.

[00:26:50] Roger Leonard

Okay.

[00:26:50] Albert Kerley

I think I think the cookingham and the house was cupola. Harry Fraley House does not have. The Greek house does not have as much to new.

[00:27:00] Albert Kerley

All right. Are you two young around here to be to have known Henrietta Fraley? Yes you are. Because prior to Grieg, it was a Greek. Wasn't the last one I know, but prior to that was a fairly any other fairly married Harry for that farm. But she owned the farm because she was a widow, her former husband, prior to my entire family who was from the Red hook phase had married this other man whose name I cannot recall, but it had nothing to do with my farm at all, just a connection to the other.

[00:27:40] Roger Leonard

And he teeters in your family. And what was this house around here? Vosburg.

[00:27:45] Albert Kerley

Vosburg.

[00:27:46] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:27:47] Albert Kerley

Yeah, but that was up on what I call Hubbard Road.

[00:27:51] Roger Leonard

I was thinking about what has now become Vosburg Road or Star Barrack Road right in the corner there. And it was owned.

[00:27:59] Albert Kerley

That's Tudor William.

[00:28:01] Roger Leonard

Oh, is that the teeter farm?

[00:28:02] Albert Kerley

That's a Tudor.

[00:28:02] Roger Leonard

Farm. Well, the road goes straight past. That's called Vosburg.

[00:28:05] Albert Kerley

Road. The right straight through a little tiny grass. Yeah, yeah, yeah. That goes out to the farm.

[00:28:11] Roger Leonard

Okay. And the Vosburg farm then is on East Curly Corners Road.

[00:28:15] Albert Kerley

Yeah.

[00:28:15] Roger Leonard

Would you call Hubbard Road?

[00:28:17] Albert Kerley

Yeah. And the Barnes probably are a complete set of collapse now. I would think that they had never been cleared. The house on the hill might have been restored because maybe the city bought it. Yeah. It's a beautiful.

[00:28:28] Roger Leonard

It's been owned by a lot of different families in recent years.

[00:28:30] Albert Kerley

Is it now lived in and.

[00:28:33] Roger Leonard

And but that's the first big old house on the right as you're going on East Kerley's corners.

[00:28:39] Albert Kerley

A little lane.

[00:28:40] Roger Leonard

Yeah. As you as you call Hubbard Road. And of course, the next house on the left is where the Hubbard Farm was.

[00:28:47] Albert Kerley

Unless they built some new ones in between. Well, in between there's a house.

[00:28:51] Roger Leonard

Yeah, there are other newer houses now, but the next old house on the left was Hubbard Farm. Yeah, and now there's a pond in the front and yeah.

[00:29:03] Albert Kerley

I didn't know that.

[00:29:05] Roger Leonard

I put a pond in there.

[00:29:06] Albert Kerley

And the old cow yard. Yeah, yeah. Now, on a metal or otherwise ornamental pond or what?

[00:29:16] Roger Leonard

Yeah. More or less. Yeah. Now, going back on Pitcher Lane again, the first house on the right is a gingerbread house. Little.

[00:29:24] Albert Kerley

What do you mean, coming up. Going. Going west. Going west.

[00:29:28] Roger Leonard

First house on your right is a little house with gingerbread on the front. Who lived there?

[00:29:35] Albert Kerley

The very first.

[00:29:35] Roger Leonard

House. Yeah.

[00:29:37] Albert Kerley

Sidney Delanoy.

[00:29:38] Roger Leonard

Still lives.

[00:29:39] Albert Kerley

There? Yeah.

[00:29:40] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:29:41] Albert Kerley

It's a nice little gingerbread house. Exactly. Yeah. You feel like an ugly. Which should live there.

[00:29:48] Roger Leonard

Yeah, but it's a it's a pretty little house.

[00:29:50] Albert Kerley

It certainly is. Beautiful little house. There's one in Rhinebeck. Quite similar.

[00:29:54] Albert Kerley

The

[00:29:55] Roger Leonard

The

[00:29:56] Albert Kerley

Delamater house? Yeah.

[00:29:58] Roger Leonard

Delamater house.

[00:29:59] Albert Kerley

Delamere house. Exactly. Yeah.

[00:30:02] Roger Leonard

And then Yeah, so.

[00:30:04] Albert Kerley

They call it the Hudson River style.

[00:30:06] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:30:07] Albert Kerley

Well, it's a period of architecture. Hudson River style architecture.

[00:30:10] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Tell tell me the. Now, who was that famous architect?

[00:30:16] Albert Kerley

Well.

[00:30:17] Roger Leonard

I know.

[00:30:18] Albert Kerley

Another one.

[00:30:20] Roger Leonard

That's right. Yes, you were right the first time. I want to say Alexander Davis. Jackson. What famous architect?

[00:30:31] Albert Kerley

Who did what? Frank Lloyd Wright.

[00:30:33] Roger Leonard

No. A hundred years ago.

[00:30:37] Albert Kerley

What did he do?

[00:30:38] Roger Leonard

He designed that house in Rhinebeck. The Gothic. An American Gothic house.

[00:30:46] Albert Kerley

I don't.

[00:30:47] Roger Leonard

Know. Well, anyway.

[00:30:48] Albert Kerley

I have to.

[00:30:49] Roger Leonard

I well, we'll remember that later. In upper Red hook as you go south here. Other houses, other families. What comes to mind?

[00:31:04] Albert Kerley

Well, I rather like what they're doing to my old schoolhouse. Looking less at school.

[00:31:09] Roger Leonard

Who's the teacher? What? Do you remember.

[00:31:10] Albert Kerley

That? Oh, well, a number of teachers. But as I say, I'm delighted about making something of the of the House now rather than as a workman's shop, because it's a handsome house. I don't particularly like the style of the additions to the South. It was easy as cleaning it up and the yard is sort of all splitting. Are they trying to make apartments there?

[00:31:28] Roger Leonard

I think they're apartments upstairs in their studio downstairs.

[00:31:32] Albert Kerley

The ceilings in there are about 15 or 20ft high ceilings. Oh, yeah. Yeah. There were always two levels. Yeah. And four classes in each one. And I spent my whole eight years there like everyone else did.

[00:31:44] Roger Leonard

Yeah. Who were your teachers initially?

[00:31:48] Albert Kerley

Downstairs would have been Laura Lawrence, principally. More than anyone else I can think of upstairs was Henrietta Fairley at two different times, because she left and came back again. Mr. Kronk a lovely gal from Rhinebeck who was a Gene Bud's cousin, Olive Bud. And another one of our wonderful district nurse was Marjorie Munger, who was a friend of everybody. Everyone loved Marge Munger, and I liked her because she always had a new Ford convertible, and they were rather rare in those days. Care of the nursing department, I suppose. Then the next house was the Shaw House, where people from England City down. His mother was a Shaw. The next house was Carrie Miner when I. When I first remember that. But right across the street from Carrie Miner and Shaw House, there used to be some big old fir trees. They originally had been cut down over the last ten years or so, and right there was a house called the. Herb Potts lived there. My mother was.

[00:33:03] Roger Leonard

In the house years ago. I mean, going back a couple hundred years ago, it was known as the Anderson House.

[00:33:10] Albert Kerley

Well, I never knew.

[00:33:11] Roger Leonard

Where it was, where. David Van Ness, who was one of the early settlers here, lived. And that house actually either burned down or was torn down. And then Herbert Potts built the house on that site.

[00:33:26] Albert Kerley

You're in complete reverse. The house? He built a house and burned the old one.

[00:33:32] Roger Leonard

Oh, okay.

[00:33:33] Albert Kerley

Okay. That was the sequence. That's why I never knew anything beyond what you just said. I never knew what I knew of the house. I never had any history before that. I didn't even recall the names you said at all about that house.

[00:33:46] Roger Leonard

Well, Clara Locey was the source of that. And we have a photograph of it.

[00:33:51] Albert Kerley

I have lots of photographs of it.

[00:33:53] Roger Leonard

Of the original.

[00:33:54] Albert Kerley

House. Of the original house. My mother in law dresses and so forth. Their boyfriends and. And high school class out in the front with guns and so forth. You have those two?

[00:34:03] Roger Leonard

No, that doesn't sound crazy.

[00:34:05] Albert Kerley

Well, I'm trying to think now what the name of the house was when I was there, but I know that my mother's father and his mother lived there with her 6 or 7 brothers and sisters. And my mother grew up there. She wasn't born there. She was born in Germantown, where the where the what was my father's grandfather's name? I don't remember.

[00:34:30] Roger Leonard

It'll come to you.

[00:34:31] Albert Kerley

Yeah. I got too much in my mind. But that's where my mother grew up as a young girl. And her. Her brother, her brother, Harriet Maud at Ida and who lived in Rhinebeck. Uncle Harry went to Seattle and came back many, many years later. But that house was one of the three oldest houses in the movie house. The tavern was a house, and the one I'm talking about, that name of company. I never knew anything beyond the name I knew. So you have some history, I don't know. Yeah. But.

[00:35:05] Roger Leonard

And it was the post office.

[00:35:08] Albert Kerley

That I heard about, but I had no record of it. Where did you learn all this? Where did she learn it all?

[00:35:15] Roger Leonard

I don't know, she just loved.

[00:35:17] Albert Kerley

You in her native. Was she?

[00:35:19] Roger Leonard

She just loves it.

[00:35:21] Albert Kerley

Yeah, but the house burned when I was in the first. Let's see, probably second or third grade over here in the schoolhouse. And the fire was so immense and so red, and the trees burned so beautifully that they decided to close the school. So we all were created fast, passed the schoolhouse, and passed the fire down below so the kids could go on home.

[00:35:46] Roger Leonard

So you saw the fire?

[00:35:47] Albert Kerley

Oh, yes. And at that time, my father and mother were running the general store next door where Mrs.. I can't think of her name neither, Mrs. Rosenbrock. That's pretty close, isn't it? It was running around the store, too, but my father operated that store as a butcher shop there in the store. And what kind of great. And I remember all the men of Alba were pouring water on the north side of my father's store roof, because the flames from the from the from the watch house was immense. Tremendously.

[00:36:19] Roger Leonard

What started the fire?

[00:36:21] Albert Kerley

Uncle herb, I shouldn't say that. But we always felt that way. But he had no use for that house anymore because it broke my mother's heart. Oh, yeah. I shouldn't say he started, but something happened that that did start the fire. But he was in residence there. Or he or he didn't occupy. He lived in the new house next door. But he was sort of using the other house for a sort of storage. No one lived there. Exactly. But it was fit for habitation. It wasn't. It wasn't falling down by any means. It was still a good house. But he just preferred living in a newer house.

[00:36:55] Roger Leonard

So is the house that's there now on on a different site?

[00:36:59] Albert Kerley

No, the little south wing wasn't added on until many, many years later. It was just the porch area and then the back part.

[00:37:06] Roger Leonard

Yeah. So what's there now is still on the same foundation?

[00:37:09] Albert Kerley

Oh, yeah. It hasn't been moved. Not at all. Not at all.

[00:37:13] Roger Leonard

Of the house that burned down.

[00:37:15] Albert Kerley

Oh, the house that burned down. There's no recollection. There's no foundation left. It's all.

[00:37:18] Roger Leonard

Been. Oh, I see. Well, where exactly was that?

[00:37:21] Albert Kerley

Well. It was closer to the existing house than it was in the store. But in between the two, next to the store was a road which went back to the barn farther back on the property. There's a hole back there. And the farm was on the south side of that north, up against the fence. And there wasn't much space between the property line fence in a barn almost on the on the property line, but you have to go up to the top of the knoll to get into the upper part of the barn. The horses and cattle were down below, so they all. Brenner, the Brenner House, BRENNER that I know. Do you recall that name, Brenner?

[00:38:03] Roger Leonard

Well.

[00:38:05] Albert Kerley

And why are they called the Brenner House? I don't know.

[00:38:07] Roger Leonard

Brenner, not Brenner.

[00:38:09] Albert Kerley

It might have been Benner, or there might have been a.

[00:38:12] Roger Leonard

Road down in the village. And. And there was a chalice. Two chalices given to our church by Henry Benner.

[00:38:19] Albert Kerley

I've also seen it used as BUE Brenner house. I've also seen that it might be, you know, typographical errors or it might have been a mistakes, but I think I've always seen it in any publication of the Brenner House or Brenner. Yeah. I remember years afterwards, after the fire cooled off, my mother and my Aunt Maude we're digging around the rubble because they were heartbroken when the old house burned. And my Aunt Maude, who had always been away from the town for years and years because she was she worked with a sort of a governess for large, rich families around the country, and she traveled with them on their vacations and Florida and Long Island and all this. And she at one time sent her memos back because she was too much on the on the road to be stored in the basement of the, of the of the old house. I mean the basement, I mean the, the downstairs bedroom in the southeast corner of what it was. And of course, when they, when they went to the rubble, they found tile. They found nothing of that noise, but they found tile from the old fireplace in the south living room, about 4x4 tile. And I saved them. And I had them framed a beautiful biblical scenes. I remember there was there was the Jonah and the. Yeah. There was I forget Adam and Eve. I think it was another one. Oh, yeah, I forgot the third. One was I remember that too. But when I decided to send a lot of these old family artifacts back home to the family from California, they went to my sister mostly, and she has died, as you know. And where those things are now, I don't know, I don't know.

[00:40:13] Roger Leonard

Things have a way of disappearing. Are you still going around? What what do you know about the Academy? Did you know anything about that? Yeah. Oh. You're smiling.

[00:40:25] Albert Kerley

I'm talking all this time from memory. You know me at all. And I may probably have made a lot of mistakes, and.

[00:40:33] Roger Leonard

Well, you see, I interview each other.

[00:40:36] Albert Kerley

Yeah, Well, the Academy was built as a private school. It wasn't always two stories to begin with. It had been rebuilt a couple of times, you know. And the last fire was, well, the last one was the final. But the one before that was one around.

[00:40:56] Roger Leonard

1915 or something.

[00:40:58] Albert Kerley

I was going to say around the second of the First World War, when it was rebuilt entirely as it was with a court in front, which you didn't have before. And Lizzie Pitcher was one of the first teachers there as a pitcher who was a relative of mine to the same pitchers with the buds and so forth. And bud. And. I'm trying to think of the other. There was a man who taught up here in the schoolhouse across the street. Who taught one Wonderwall and another person taught me. I think a man was the first instructor at the Academy. Now let's see. William's teacher was there. I had three great great uncles and a grandfather there who went to school there. Alive. Alive. According to teeter, married Floyd Cotton was there. Who was the sister of William Teeter, who had the farm over here? She went to school. There was a famous picture. Oh, you have a picture of that? You have a picture of that on the front? Yes, I went there and I think I wrote you that. What's his name? The orchestra played.

[00:42:14] Roger Leonard

There. Yeah. Rudy Vallee. Now, I've asked other people. You said Rudy Vallee played there and I've been. And other people don't remember that. Now tell me.

[00:42:22] Albert Kerley

Well, I remember that very well.

[00:42:24] Roger Leonard

Well, tell me what you remember about that when that was and why it was.

[00:42:29] Albert Kerley

Rudy Vallee used to tour the country, at least the East Coast, with his. What they call the Connecticut actors are all from the University of Maine.

[00:42:37] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:42:38] Albert Kerley

I don't know how they ever got to be called the Connecticut Yankees rather than the maniac, but I think the whole little musical combination started up in the University of Maine.

[00:42:46] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:42:47] Albert Kerley

Because he's written songs for the University of Maine, you remember, and certain times of the year, probably after he graduated or he maybe even during summer vacation, he used to tour around and at one time Red Grange, which held court up there on Friday evenings and decided to have Rudy Vallee come by and give a dance evening. And it was one Saturday night when I was too small to dance, so I must have been, what, 11 or 12 or something like that, which puts it around 1930. Yeah. Or before. Maybe even before. It wasn't much after that, that my mother and father went to the dance at \$5 a head, and I think they took my sister along. I'm sure they did. I did. I didn't, I didn't want to go. I wasn't that much into music, but I knew about it. My sister went because she was into it and that was it. Now, \$5 a head. That was a lot of money. Of course it was. You know, that was more than five nights of movies or more, you know. But I mean, people have questioned the fact that he ever played there.

[00:43:57] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:43:58] Albert Kerley

Not the old timers.

[00:43:59] Roger Leonard

Try to find somebody who can remember that, I guess. Not the old kind of thing that would impress some people and not others.

[00:44:05] Albert Kerley

I was I was never impressed by that because I grew up with it.

[00:44:09] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:44:09] Albert Kerley

But I'm impressed now, the fact that some people don't remember that. Yeah.

[00:44:13] Roger Leonard

Yeah. But that's that's a very interesting piece of

[00:44:18] Albert Kerley

I can think of lots of people who should remember it who live in the upper village here.

[00:44:23] Roger Leonard

Yeah. But that's that's great.

[00:44:27] Albert Kerley

You you did you know of them?

[00:44:31] Roger Leonard

Yes, I knew you.

[00:44:33] Albert Kerley

Well, they lived two blocks away. A block away?

[00:44:36] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:44:37] Albert Kerley

And I'm sure they went to the dance. They were dancing people. They were of that ilk, like Palmer Hart and his wife. Palmer. Hart and his wife weren't here then. Yes. Otherwise, you should have asked. But I don't think they were here. They might have been. I don't think so. Henrietta Fraley and her husband, Harry, must have been here at that time.

[00:44:57] Roger Leonard

Well, Frank Coombs told me about checker games that were played there. A master checker player came to the Academy Hall and played several games at once, going around the hall and defeating all of them. And so it's interesting to hear about the different things that took place at the Academy Hall.

[00:45:19] Albert Kerley

I don't recall checker games at all. Yeah, I do recall a bunch of lectures and movies and anti alcoholism.

[00:45:28] Roger Leonard

Yeah.

[00:45:30] Albert Kerley

And I remember it very, very well because the diagnosis for giving up alcohol, it was best activated by rattlesnakes because anyone who drank dreamed of rattlesnakes. And the pictures on the screen only showed an alcoholic with snakes crying. I'll never forget. It always impressed me. And that's one reason why I've always been deathly afraid of snakes of any kind. A garter snake, not deathly afraid, but I stayed clear of it. But that was when I was taught a real taught. I was a scared little kid at that time to have seen these snakes. I don't know if other people remember that either, but I certainly remember. And that was. Down with alcohol as well.

END OF TRANSCRIPT



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